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Reporting and Evaluation Form

Dear grantee,

We are happy to partner with you in the meaningful work you are doing! As we strive to get to know you better and to evaluate our grant making, your input is valuable to us.

- Use the questions that are relevant to your organization and to the project that was funded.
- If any of the information is already available in your own reporting format there is no need to duplicate.
- Let us know if there is any area that you would like to discuss.

Name of Organization: Solidarity with South Sudan

Date/period : Project period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026. Here below the Final Year Report

Project: Sustainable Agricultural Project in Riimenze, South Sudan – Food Security for Post-war Affected Rural Communities and Environmental Protection

1. **Was the grant for general operations, a specific project, or expansion of an existing project?**

The grant from FIDINAM supports a specific project within the broader multiannual Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP) strategic plan (2024–2027). The funded phase focuses on improving food security, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods for rural families in Riimenze, Western Equatoria State, through enhanced crop production, poultry keeping, and farmer training.

2. **Were the funds utilized as described in your proposal? If not, what are the changes and why?**

Funds have been utilized as planned, in full alignment with the approved proposal. The grant from FIDINAM has been dedicated to enhancing the productive model farm and strengthening the farm productivity of smallholder farmers, to improve household food security, nutrition, income, and asset development in a sustainable and balanced agro-ecological system in Yambio County.

The main project components and achievements so far include:

- **Nutrition Training and Malnourished Children Nutritional Programme:** The nutrition component progressed according to the phased approach established in the approved proposal. During the reporting period, the project expanded nutrition education to the second cohort of 270 households, building on the 270 households already reached during the first year of the SAP Strategic Plan bringing cumulative coverage to **540 households**. The two nutrition modules were delivered across the six project locations, covering food and nutrients, food groups, balanced diets and child feeding, maternal and child nutrition, supplementary feeding, and household food and nutrition security. In addition, 48 beneficiaries who had missed the second nutrition module during the previous training cycle were reached through additional sessions organised in April and May 2026. This operational adaptation ensured that beneficiaries who had been unable to participate in the original sessions were not excluded from the complete nutrition-training cycle.

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- An important development during the reporting period was the progression from nutritional screening and provision of supplements towards systematic follow-up of children's nutritional status. **Since the beginning of the current SAP strategy, 465 children have been screened for malnutrition and 431 children identified as being at risk or affected by malnutrition have received locally produced nutritional supplements**. Among 132 children reassessed during the reporting period, 101 showed an improvement in nutritional status, representing approximately 77% of those reassessed (find details in Annex 1 - M&E Officer Monitoring Report). The project continues to monitor children who have not yet shown sufficient improvement. This represents an important progression towards the longer-term nutrition outcome established in the approved proposal, which combines household nutrition education with assessment and follow-up of vulnerable children and access to locally produced nutritional supplements.

- **Agricultural Production:**

  Extensive training on land preparation, cultivation, and sustainable farming methods was conducted for farmer groups in all six project locations. **A total of 27,730 kg** of diversified crops **were harvested** on the SAP demonstration farm, including maize, groundnuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sweet potatoes, bananas, pineapples, and papayas. Approximately 12,950 kg were used for consumption and livestock feed, 1,285 kg were retained for seed multiplication and approximately 13,170 kg were sold in local markets. The increase in production and the allocation of part of the harvest for seed multiplication and sale represent an important progression towards the project's objective of developing the Farm as both a learning facility and a productive model capable of contributing to local food availability and generating income.

  The Demonstration Farm continued to provide practical learning opportunities, while extension services and regular field follow-up supported beneficiaries in transferring the techniques demonstrated at the Farm to their own household production. This combination of demonstration, practical training and household accompaniment is central to the approved project approach.

- **Livestock and Poultry Programme:**

  The first phase of livestock support was consolidated into a comprehensive training and distribution session. 60 households received pigs and goats (three per household: two females and one male), while 2,430 chickens were procured and are now fed in order to be distributed among trained farmers. Veterinary kits and training on animal housing, feeding, and disease prevention were provided, and continuous follow-up is being carried out by the project's Community Extension Workers (CEWs). The livestock integration has significantly contributed to protein availability and improved soil fertility through the use of manure as organic fertilizer.

  The 60 participating households, 30 supported with pigs and 30 with goats, continued to receive technical support in indoor livestock keeping, integrated livestock management, animal nutrition, animal health and hygiene. As envisaged in the approved proposal, Community Animal Health Workers provided household-level follow-up and basic veterinary assistance, reinforcing the practical application of the knowledge acquired through training.

  Regular monitoring during the reporting period recorded livestock reproduction as well as emerging household-level economic benefits from livestock and livestock products. Importantly, the revolving livestock mechanism also began to operate, with some beneficiaries returning offspring to SAP-R for subsequent redistribution to other vulnerable households. This represents a significant transition from the initial provision of productive assets towards a mechanism through which the original

investment can progressively benefit additional households. (more details are in Annex 1 - M&E Officer Monitoring Report)

At the same time, animal health emerged as an important challenge during the reporting period, particularly as a result of African swine fever and other livestock health problems. Animal losses highlighted the need for continued preventive veterinary measures, stronger biosecurity, early identification of disease and close technical follow-up at household level. These challenges did not change the livestock strategy but provided important learning for strengthening its implementation. The main challenge encountered related to the distribution of chickens and was due to factors beyond the project's control. A higher-than-expected mortality rate occurred during transportation, beginning with the shipment phase. Almost 100 birds died upon arrival, and additional losses were recorded during the initial brooding period. By the time of distribution, 1,878 chickens were available and were successfully distributed to 626 households: 1,500 chickens across five locations (100 households per location) and 378 chickens in Riimenze to 126 households.

The primary cause of mortality was transport-related stress, linked to the long-distance air shipment from Uganda to Yambio and the high-altitude conditions during the flight. These factors were external to the project's operational management. Some additional losses occurred during the brooding phase; however, these were promptly addressed through enhanced husbandry practices and close supervision, stabilizing the situation and preventing further impact on project outcomes.

Lesson learned: The experience confirmed the importance of carefully assessing transport modalities for live animals in contexts characterized by long distances and high-altitude routes. For future intervention strengthened pre- and post-transport protocols will be considered in order to further reduce stress-related mortality. This will help enhance resilience while maintaining the effectiveness and sustainability of livestock-based livelihood activities.

- **Training and Extension Services:**
  The seven CEWs continue to play a central role in field monitoring and capacity building, ensuring constant technical support to all beneficiary groups. They conduct at least four visits per month to each farmer group, providing on-site guidance on best practices, post-harvest handling, and livestock management.
- **Farm Management:**
  The SAP demonstration farm in Riimenze remains the heart of the project. It functions as a productive and educational hub, where farmers receive hands-on training in organic farming, integrated pest management, and small livestock care. The farm also serves as a model for replication in surrounding communities, producing enough food to sustain the training center and generate modest income through local market sales.

Overall, the FIDINAM funds have been used efficiently to advance the project's objectives, improving nutrition, increasing food production, strengthening local livelihoods, and demonstrating environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. No significant deviations from the original plan have occurred; minor scheduling adjustments due to seasonal rains were effectively managed without affecting results.

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3. **Briefly describe the implementation, what worked well, any unexpected outcomes, challenges, modifications.**

Implementation has progressed smoothly.

Implementation was completed successfully despite a demanding operating environment. A major strength was the integrated nature of the project: productive assets were combined with practical training, demonstration, household follow-up, nutrition support and continuous technical assistance. The SAP demonstration farm remained the central productive and learning hub, while Community Extension Workers (CEWs) ensured regular support directly within the six communities.
What worked particularly well was the translation of training into practice. Women's horticulture groups applied nursery-bed preparation, row planting, mulching, organic pest control and early weeding; produce was used for household consumption and sale, with income shared, saved or reinvested. Livestock beneficiaries adopted improved husbandry practices, and the revolving livestock mechanism began to operate as offspring were returned to SAP for future redistribution.
The nutrition component also produced encouraging measurable results: 101 of 132 reassessed children showed improved nutritional status. Continuous follow-up by CEWs and mothers' participation in nutrition training were important contributors to this result.
Challenges included high inflation and transport costs, poor road conditions during the rainy season, unexpected dry periods affecting horticultural production, and animal-health problems including African swine fever. The most significant quantitative shortfall was the poultry mortality during transport and brooding described above. These factors affected the pace or scale of some activities but did not require a fundamental redesign of the intervention.
The project also continued to operate in a context of displacement and insecurity. Collaboration with the Riimenze parish and local authorities enabled SAP to provide practical support to displaced families, including food, seeds and tools, while encouraging families to rebuild their livelihoods through cultivation alongside the host community.

Key achievements include:

- **Crop production:** The SAP farm produced **27,730 kg of food** (maize, sorghum, groundnuts, rice, soybeans, pineapples, papaya, etc.). Approximately 12,950 kg were used for consumption and livestock feed, 1,285 kg were retained for seed multiplication and approximately 13,170 kg were sold in local markets.
- **Livestock and poultry:** 2,430 chickens were purchased to be distributed to trained households. Unfortunately, almost 100 birds died upon arrival, and additional losses were recorded during the initial brooding period. By the time of distribution, 1,878 chickens were available and were successfully distributed to 626 households enhancing both nutrition and income opportunities. In addition 90 goats and 90 pigs were purchased and distributed to 60 HH (30 for pigs and 30 for goats. Training are being conducted as well as constant CEWs practical training and monitoring visits to each beneficiary HH. In addition, support has been given for the building of pigsty and goats shelter for each beneficiary HH and veterinary kits have been distributed. An expansion of the goat-rearing component is also planned for the next project year in order to further strengthen the project's sustainability dimension. Beyond providing immediate nutritional benefits, goats represent a long-term asset for households. The reproductive cycle of goats allows for organic growth of livestock assets, while the structured system of returning offspring to the project for redistribution creates a multiplier effect, progressively extending benefits to additional families.

- **Nutrition support:** 432 children under five already assessed; they were at severe risk of malnutrition and received locally made nutritional supplements (soy paste, moringa powder, peanut butter). The great news is that when the reassessment was done on 132 children, 101 showed an improvement in nutritional status, representing approximately 77% of those reassessed (find details in Annex 1 - M&E Officer Monitoring Report).
- **Community empowerment:** Women's participation remains strong (over 61%), showing increased confidence and leadership in agricultural decision-making. By providing training in sustainable agriculture and poultry keeping, access to improved farming inputs, and practical demonstrations on the model farm, the project is empowering women to increase productivity and income. This approach enhances food security, supports better nutrition, especially for children, and fosters women's leadership in community resilience and sustainable development (Please see Annex 4 - SAP Change Story - Nazenti Mbavungu)

Unexpected positive outcomes: stronger collaboration with local authorities and the Riimenze parish, who helped host internally displaced families who arrived to the project area due to the ongoing insecurity in South Sudan that continues to put civilians, especially women and children, at extreme risk of violence. SAP provided emergency food, seeds and tools to more than 40 displaced households and now is continuing to stand beside the South Sudan internally displaced families as they rebuild their lives with courage and perseverance. We are happy to celebrate the first harvesting that the IDPs that we are supporting in Riimenze with seeds and tool, were able to have. Some families managed to gather up to one and a half sacks of groundnuts and several sacks of maize, while others, even with smaller harvests, proudly set aside seeds for the next planting season. Today, thanks to the parish's commitment, the IDPs have been relocated to a larger area of farmland, about one feddan per household, where they now work side by side with the host community.

Despite their progress, challenges remain; hunger while waiting for the next harvest, cases of malaria among children, and a lack of cooking pots and watering cans. We are now committed in working on that and we look forward to give you more positive news. We are proud of these community, we saw something powerful in their faces: hope. It is this hope that your generosity keeps alive transforming suffering into resilience, and despair into new beginnings. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and for the love that sustains so many lives.

Challenges: high inflation and transport costs affected procurement prices, but early planning and bulk purchases mitigated major delays.

4. **What are the learnings from this project? Will it be repeated, is it ongoing, does it need to be modified?**

The project confirmed that food insecurity in Riimenze cannot be addressed through food production alone. The combination of production, practical knowledge, nutrition, income generation, community-based extension and environmental sustainability proved more effective than a single-sector approach.
The demonstration farm and CEW model remains highly relevant: the farm provides a permanent site where techniques can be tested and demonstrated, while CEWs support their adaptation at household level. At the same time, the experience showed the value of progressively expanding Farmer-to-Farmer Learning so that successful farmers become local knowledge multipliers through peer exchanges, practical demonstrations and exposure visits.
The programme is ongoing. The next phase retains the integrated SAP approach while strengthening climate-resilient practices, preventive animal-health management, nutrition follow-up, post-harvest management and the livestock multiplier model. Particular attention will also be given to reducing risks associated with animal transport and disease.

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5. **How is the community where the work is done involved in the ideation, implementation, and evaluation of the work?**

Community participation is central to SAP. Beneficiaries are identified with the involvement of local leaders and CEWs, with priority given to vulnerable smallholder households, particularly women, widows, single mothers and food-insecure families. Participation continues through practical training, demonstration activities, crop production, poultry and livestock management, nutrition sessions and regular household monitoring.
Beneficiaries are not only recipients of support: they increasingly replicate acquired techniques in their own gardens and farms, generate and reinvest income, and participate in the livestock revolving mechanism. Feedback is gathered through CEW visits, community interaction, monitoring exercises and meetings, allowing the project team to identify difficulties and adapt technical support.

6. **What evaluation method are you using to measure outcome and impact?**

SAP employs a structured Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework managed by the project's M&E Officer in collaboration with the Project manager, the Livelihood Officer and the Farm Manager.

Methods include:

- Baseline and follow-up surveys;
- Training attendance lists and final evaluation;
- Monthly field reports from CEWs, Farm Manager, M&E Officer and Project Manager;
- Farm and livestock production and sales data;
- Household nutrition, children nutritional status and production tracking;
- Case studies and photographic evidence.

7. **Have you noticed any change over time in the communities or regions you are working in?**

Yes. At the end of the project year, the changes observed at interim stage had become more concrete. Beneficiary households increasingly applied sustainable agricultural and horticultural techniques, and the demonstration farm substantially increased its production from 17,415 kg at interim stage to 27,730 kg by project completion.
Families reported greater availability of home-produced food, improved knowledge of food preparation and child feeding, and reduced reliance on market purchases. Horticulture and poultry activities also generated income, while some livestock beneficiaries used proceeds for needs such as school fees and household assets.
Nutrition outcomes were particularly encouraging, with approximately 77% of reassessed children showing improvement. Women continued to play a central role in productive activities, representing more than 61% of training participants, while gender equality and shared decision-making were reinforced throughout the programme.
Environmental practices also became more embedded, including mulching, organic pest control, crop diversification, improved soil management and more sustainable use of natural resources. At community level, knowledge extended beyond direct beneficiaries through outreach and radio programmes, while solidarity between host communities and displaced families remained an important feature of the local response.

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8. **Going forward how can we best support your work?**

We are very grateful for FIDINAM's continued support. This continuity is very important because it allows SAP to build on the results already achieved and help families become more independent and resilient.

During the new project year, from July 2026 to June 2027, SAP will continue to support 810 households. The project will strengthen sustainable farming, household nutrition, post-harvest management, market access and the work of the demonstration farm. Nutrition training will be completed for the remaining 270 households, while SAP will continue to follow up with the 540 households already trained.

An important new activity will be the expansion of goat rearing. Twenty-four vulnerable households will each receive three goats: two females and one male. They will also receive training, veterinary support and help to build suitable shelters. When the goats reproduce, some of the offspring will be given to other vulnerable families. In this way, more households will benefit over time. Goat rearing will help families build assets, improve their nutrition and earn additional income.

SAP is also starting a small pilot project in the very remote Naangere village. The project will initially support 20 vulnerable households through horticulture and nutrition activities. The families will receive vegetable seeds and basic farming tools, such as hoes, pangas, axes, rakes and watering cans. A Community Extension Worker selected from the village will support and follow the families. Community leaders are involved in choosing the beneficiaries in a fair and transparent way, with attention to women and persons with disabilities. If the pilot is successful, it may later be expanded to support more families and include other activities, such as livestock.

The project is also continuing helping internally displaced families who have arrived in the area because of insecurity and violence. Women and children are especially at risk.

SAP has distributed food to meet their immediate needs. It has also provided seeds and farming tools so that displaced families can begin growing their own food and become more independent. Thanks to FIDINAM's contribution, SAP has also distributed mosquito nets to protect families from malaria, as well as water containers and cooking pots for basic household needs.

FIDINAM's support therefore allows SAP to respond to urgent needs while also helping families build a better future. Families can produce more of their own food, improve their nutrition, develop new sources of income and become better prepared to face future difficulties. Through this support, FIDINAM is helping both rural and displaced families in Riimenze and Naangere move towards a safer and more independent future.

9. **Please let us know of any major change in your organization, your philosophy, your strategy that might impact how grants are used.**

Solidarity with South Sudan maintains the same mission and overall programme strategy. No major change has occurred that would alter the purpose or use of FIDINAM's grant. SAP remains firmly focused on sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition, women's empowerment, environmental protection and community resilience.