

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 a Mid-term Report – January to October 2025

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:** Training sessions on nutrition (Modules 1 and 2) have been completed for the first 270 beneficiary households, and is ongoing for a second group of 270 HH focusing on improved dietary diversity, food preservation, and the use of locally available ingredients.
A total of **432 children under five** were screened for malnutrition. Locally produced nutritional supplements (soya paste (80 kg), moringa powder (34.8 kg), and peanut butter (80 kg)) were distributed to support their recovery. These activities not only improved child nutrition but also empowered mothers with knowledge and skills to sustain better feeding practices at home.

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- **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 17,415 kg of diversified crops were harvested on the SAP demonstration farm, including maize, groundnuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sweet potatoes, bananas, pineapples, and papayas. About 60% of this production was consumed locally (supporting household nutrition and livestock feed), 3% was reserved for seed multiplication, and 37% was sold in the market, generating income and reinforcing the farm's self-sustainability.
- **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.
- **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.

Key achievements include:

- **Crop production:** The SAP farm produced **17,415 kg kg of food** (maize, sorghum, groundnuts, rice, soybeans, pineapples, papaya, etc.). About 60% was consumed locally or used for livestock feed, while 37% was sold in the market, generating additional income for sustainability.
- **Livestock and poultry:** 2,430 chickens were purchased to be distributed to trained 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.
- **Training:** 150 households (133 women and 17 men) completed the first horticultural training module on sustainable farming. Nutrition modules 1 and 2 were completed for 270 households. Now, we have already started the nutritional training for an additional group of 270 HH and, regarding the Horticultural training, tailor-made training based on the first year's monitoring results and the specific needs identified from the participating households are being implemented
- **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).
- **Community empowerment:** Women's participation remains strong (over 61%), showing increased confidence and leadership in agricultural decision-making.

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.

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

Key learnings highlight the importance of integrating training, production, and nutrition within a single, community-based approach. The demonstration farm continues to prove essential as a practical learning site and income generator. The project is ongoing and the model will be replicated in other nearby communities through lead farmers trained under this phase. Some logistical aspects, especially seed transport and poultry vaccination, will be reinforced next cycle to ensure smoother implementation.

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's success. Beneficiaries were selected with the support of local leaders and Community Extension Workers, ensuring inclusion of the most vulnerable households (especially women, widows, and families with malnourished children).

During implementation, beneficiaries actively participate in training sessions, farming, livestock rearing, and monitoring visits. Periodic community meetings and focus group discussions are used to assess progress, collect feedback, and shape future plans.

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. Even within the first months, positive change is visible:

- Beneficiaries have diversified crops and improved yields using organic techniques.
- Families report increased food availability and reduced dependency on market purchases.
- Women are more engaged in income-generating activities and savings schemes.
- The local market in Yambio has started receiving products grown in Riimenze, showing early signs of local economic revitalization.
- Community solidarity has strengthened—especially evident in the collective response to internally displaced families earlier this year.

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

We are deeply grateful for the precious support that FIDINAM is giving in support of the second year of the new SAP 2024–2027 Strategic Plan.

Continuing the support to the programme also in the coming project year (July 2026 – June 2027) will allow us to reach the full target of 810 beneficiary households with nutrition training, while also continuing the horticultural and livestock training programs that began in 2024 and have already shown strong community impact.

Importantly, FIDINAM's support will contribute to continue the nutrition assistance to undernourished children, ensuring they receive ongoing monitoring and locally produced nutritional supplements (such as soy paste, moringa powder, and peanut butter as described above in this report).

Moreover, FIDINAM's contribution strengthens the SAP demonstration farm, allowing it to further increase production, diversify crops, and reinforce its role as a learning and income-generating center for the entire Riimenze community.

The project is also playing an increasingly important role in supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs). Ongoing insecurity in South Sudan continues to put civilians, especially women and children, at extreme risk of violence. Since February 2025, local conflicts in Western Equatoria State have escalated, and in Riimenze the number of displaced families has been rising steadily.

Solidarity with South Sudan, through the SAP project, is actively supporting the local parish in its efforts to provide assistance. With project resources, we have been able to distribute food to the most vulnerable families, in addition, in order to promote resilience, we have distributed seeds and farming tools to enable them to grow their own food and regain a sense of stability and dignity. Under the FIDINAM contribution, we were also able to purchase and distribute mosquito nets (to protect children from Malaria) water can and cooking pots.

FIDINAM is helping rural families in Western Equatoria build food security, improved child nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods, while also offering hope and concrete support to displaced families seeking safety and renewal in Riimenze. This collective effort is paving the way for a more resilient and self-reliant future for the entire community. (Photo report attached to this report)

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 structure. No major organizational changes have occurred.