



Annual Learning Forum 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ALF	Annual Learning Forum
ARG	Area Reference Group
ART	
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEC	Civic Engagement Center
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
F2F	Face-to-Face
IA4R	Institutional Architecture for Resilience Survey
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
JAMMG	Joint Analysis Measurement and Monitoring Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MESP	Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project
MSI	Monitoring Systems International
NNGO	National Non-governmental Organization
NSDIO	Nile Sisters Development Initiative Organization
PA	Partnership Area
PfRR	Partnership for Recovery and Resilience
Policy LINK	Feed the Future Policy Leadership, Interactions, Networks, and Knowledge
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REDDI	Resilience Evidence for Decisions in Development Initiative
SGBV	Sexual/Gender-based Violence
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

Foreword from the Facilitator, Larry Cooley

The 3rd Annual Learning Forum (ALF) on April 14 and 15, 2021 had a new dynamic partially explained by COVID-19 and by the need to conduct the event virtually. But neither the migration to an online format nor the shifting pattern of vulnerabilities in the country explain the most profound of these changes.

Most obvious were the changed dynamics and roles among of the various participants in the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR). Also significant was the change in the nature of the information that was available and exchanged at the event.

The first ALF in 2018 was dominated by donor voices and characterized by strong and visible roles by USAID, the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), and the Monitoring Systems International (MSI) Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP) team. South Sudanese participation was active, engaged, and constructive, but the information flow and major targets of the information were international. Within South Sudan, there was no role played by the national government, and the local role was confined mostly to remarkable examples from Yambio.

By the time of the second ALF in late 2019, roles had evolved somewhat to include more collaboration on the donor side, with notable roles played by the British, the Dutch, several UN agencies, and the Steering Committee composed of these organizations and others. There were also active voices from representatives of the four partnership areas and significant new information encapsulated in the Resilience Profiles that had been developed for these and other communities. Also notable was the enhanced willingness by the World Food Programme (WFP) to engage on nexus issues related to resilience. The learning and the most prominent voices still focused primarily on data, analysis, and donors.

The recently completed ALF was very different in tone and in substance. Local voices were prioritized; “learning” featured real examples of community vulnerabilities, resilience, prioritization, and action; the national government played a modest role; the focus on community initiative, leadership, and cohesion was decidedly more prominent; and the burden shifted more obviously to donors to keep pace. If acted upon, this represents a new phase of the PfRR and a de facto shift of the power dynamic. Less clear are the capacity of localities to maintain and build on this momentum and the capacity of donors to respond.

One feature of the recent ALF, which was an artifact of its virtual format, also bears special mention. In contrast to the in-person format, the virtual format allowed for multiple participants to share their views and questions at the same time. That same process allowed for pauses in the proceedings to allow for additional participant input and made it possible to keep the channels open for additional input at the end of each day and after the close of the event. Those changes broadened and deepened the participation and added to the perception of authentic listening and learning.

The impact of these changes will be realized—or not—based on what happens following the event. If action returns to normal with no tangible policy or programmatic impact from the event, benefits and shifts in participation and insights will be short-lived and perhaps even counter-productive if communities draw the inference that their insights and inferences have limited ability to affect outcomes. This event could be a significant contributor to building trust.

Preface

The first Annual Learning Forum (ALF) in 2018 presented the guiding vision of the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR) and its foundational principle reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience. For the 2020 ALF, the guiding vision was: **Community First but not Alone**. The principle means that the international community should not substitute for, but rather **reinforce a local community's voice and strengthen their internal capacities for resilience**. At the ALF 2019, the PfRR was challenged to harmonize, contextualize, simplify, and communicate **evidence to empower local-level decision making**, and to **“go to the communities, ask them what they need, and help them amplify their voices and agency.”** This year's ALF demonstrates the application of this advice with the aim to reinforce the leadership, aspiration and ownership of local communities.

COVID-19 is a shock that was not foreseen at the beginning of 2020. From the perspective of the PfRR, it is a shock that both community groups and the international community had and must continue to cope with and adapt to. While communities have struggled with lock-downs, constrained movement of people and goods, limited access to commodities and food supplies, donors and implementing partners had to adjust to providing support to local communities with much of their staff working in places far from Juba and the field. Furthermore, COVID-19 has forced the PfRR to rethink how it implements the concept of “community first, but not alone.”

COVID-19 highlights the necessity and urgency of resilience programming, particularly the role of local actors and how the international and local communities work together. The Partnership had an opportunity to redouble their focus on the PfRR, recalibrate their technical approach as necessary, and ensure PfRR activities produce value within a COVID-19 response that is based on the South Sudanese reality. At the same time, the political situation in South Sudan has improved with the establishment of the Revitalized Transitional Government and the appointment of new governors, state ministers, and the entire local government structures making the activities of the PfRR increasingly relevant.

The rationale to organize a smaller and digital ALF was to stay consistent with strict COVID-19 protocols. The ALF aimed to be a platform for joint discussion with a broad group of PfRR stakeholders—international, national, and local—to assess the incremental progress the Partnership has made, how communities have responded to COVID-19 in complex shock environments, and where additional attention is needed in 2021.

The Annual Learning Forum (ALF) 2020¹ was an attempt to deliver against ALF 2019's challenge to the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR) to **empower community**. The PfRR ALF Task Force accomplished this through **fundamental community engagement activities** that were successful despite COVID-19 and its related restrictions, the remoteness of the Partnership Areas (PAs), technical difficulties of poor internet, and the complex conflict environment in South Sudan. It also demonstrated the capacity of the Partners to utilize the PfRR structures to cooperate in organizing and executing a technical engagement process. Organizational questions within the PfRR around community engagement, and coordination issues in general, surfaced and were successfully managed. In some cases, dynamics were transformed, in a manner that has strengthened the PfRR and advanced its building blocks.

The process this year has been community-led, field-based, and evidence-driven through the coordination of the Task Force, chaired by the Netherlands, with support from the PfRR Secretariat. In line with this year's objectives, PfRR went to the community, listened to their aspirations and are amplifying their voice and agency so that partners can more easily converge their resources and efforts around community resilience priorities.

In the lead-up to the event, Policy LINK leveraged the preliminary findings of the Community Mapping survey through facilitated evidence-based deliberations with the local communities to produce community aspirations for responding to shocks and stressors, asset-based conflict mitigation, resource-sharing, and collaboration between institutions. To do this a **sense-making approach** using Town Halls, which consisted of plenary and breakout group sessions was utilized. To prepare for the ALF 2020, four Face-to-Face (F2F) meetings were

¹ This event was originally scheduled to take place in 2020, but was delayed until April 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions and delays.

organized to further deliberate upon the community aspirations coming out of the town halls and prioritized them, while nominating two community delegates to give presentations at the main ALF event. Policy LINK and the Area Reference Groups (ARGs) organized orientation workshops in each partnership area to prepare the community delegates for their participation in the ALF 2020 by focusing on increasing the delegates' understanding of the PfRR Partnership Framework, resilience, and convergence. During the process, delegates received technical guidance on clustering F2F priorities using the PfRR pillar-based outcomes. Concrete outcomes of the meetings were the voicing of one example of their community's story of resilience and convergence of community efforts and resources; selection of their top priority per pillar and the most important priority for convergence of efforts and resources by both the local community and international partners. Additionally, delegates were supported to prepare and pre-record their presentations in audio format. Both community representatives and Implementing Partners (IPs) participated in five dry run rehearsals of their presentations and panel discussions in advance of the ALF 2020. As a result, they presented well thought through ideas that were fully justified, clear, precise, strong, and compelling.

This ALF 2020 served both as a **capstone** to five months of technical engagement and a **launching pad** for the PfRR activities to come – a phase that will focus on advancing the PfRR building blocks in the four Partnership Areas (PAs). This report details concerted planning to achieve optimal results through a steady incremental buildup. It shows that the PfRR goes beyond the ALF, and the implementing work throughout the year should be executed as the organization of the ALF: reducing vulnerability and building resilience through productive deliberation facilitated through a participatory design approach.

Annual Learning Forum 2020 Summary Report

Introduction

Over two days, participants in the ALF discussed the community priorities for resilience programming that emerged from a field-based, community-led and evidence-driven process of engagement by the main actors in the PfRR. Looking forward, the Partnership's intention must be to continue and deepen this process to strengthen area-based resilience programming and promoting the Community First, but not Alone tenant of the PfRR. Throughout, both community delegates and the international partners that are working day in and out to reinforce these efforts voiced their ideas.

A total of 333 people participated in the two-day ALF. The first day drew 224 total participants of which 75% attended the Digital ALF from locations within Africa and the Middle East, 19 % from the Americas and 6% from Europe. While the majority (63%) of participants attended the meeting from South Sudan, participants attended the Digital ALF from a total of 17 countries. Participants included members of PfRR Structures, such as the Steering Committee, ALF Taskforce, Technical Engagement Group, Joint Analysis Measurement and Monitoring Group, Donor Working Group, and Area Reference Groups. The learning forum also included distinguished guests from the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, USAID/Washington, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the European Delegation, the United Nations, and International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs), National Non-governmental Organizations (NNGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community-based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-based Organizations (FBOs), Private Sector, Local Government, and Traditional Administration representatives from South Sudan, and participants from Italy and Kenya. A full breakdown of participants by region, institutional affiliation, age, and gender can be found in [Annex I](#).

Participation in ALF 2020 was equally split between the local community and the international community (UN agencies, INGOs, donor agencies). Local community participants featured more prominently in the agenda this year. Delegates from the four PAs gave presentations on their county's priorities for resilience programming and participated in moderated panel discussions.

The Road to ALF 2020

Since a community functions as a system, activities within a community should build from foundational institutional architecture and systems 'flow'. Accordingly, the PfRR Steering Committee endorsed Policy LINK to carry out an Institutional Mapping survey to generate a bird's eye view of the critical institutions, structures, processes, and capacities relevant to the PfRR. The Institutional Architecture for Resilience Survey (IA4R) equips all partners with a bird's eye view of the critical institutions, structures, processes, and capacities relevant to the PfRR per pillar and their current functional status (see Figure I, next page). The results of this survey allows partners—both international and local—to:

- **Strengthen** their internal collaboration and coordination with IPs;
- **Evaluate** institutional architecture, institutional relationships, and capacities in supporting resilience in South Sudan;
- **Understand** who community members turn to or depend upon when affected by shocks and stressors; and
- **Visualize** the institutional network map, which displays connectivity, collaboration, and areas of opportunity for leverage in building resilience.

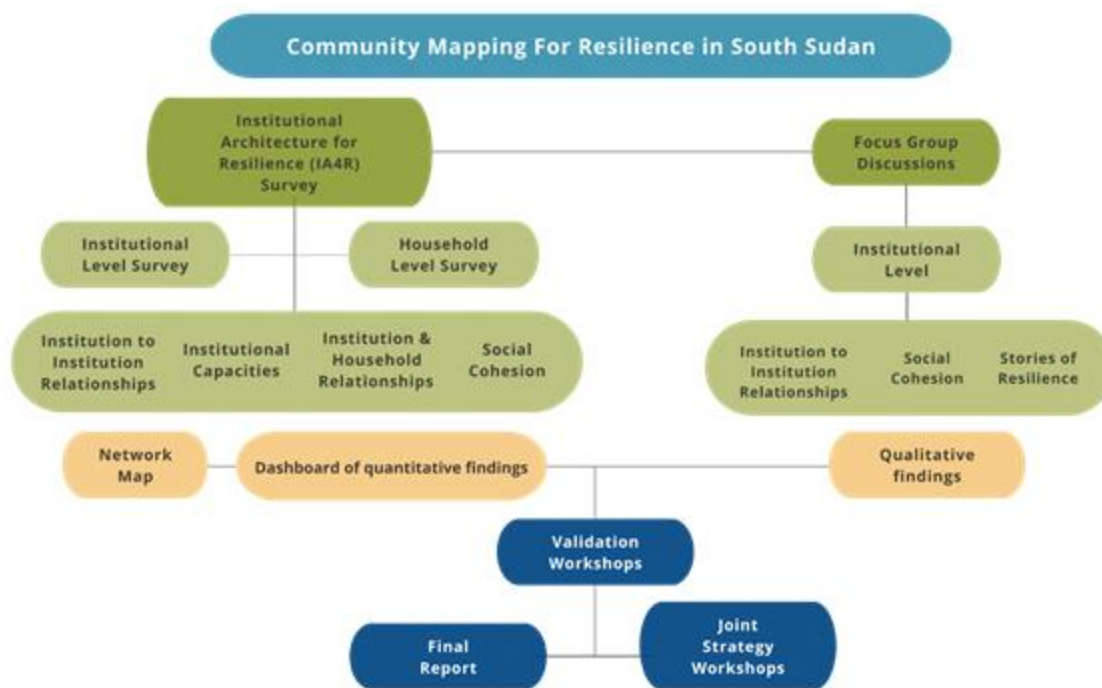


Figure 1. Community Mapping

This approach uses a mixed method of data collection, both quantitative and qualitative data, to allow for triangulation and validation of data collected. The approach engages communities at both the institutional and household level. This approach integrates multiple co-creation and validation workshops with community members from the Civic Engagement Centers (CEC's), UN Agencies, USAID, PfRR Joint Analysis Measurement and Monitoring Group (JAMMG), and the local enumerators.

The IA4R Plus Tool combines the Institutional Architecture for Resilience (IA4R) survey with a systems approach to expand our understanding beyond a singular institution's capacities to a systems perspective which looks at capacities and interactions across the network. The systems perspective allows us to understand how institutions and households are connected, if they collaborate, and how they contribute to resilience across the four pillars of the PfRR: (1) Building Trust in People and Institutions, (2) Restoring Access to Basic Services, (3) Strengthening Productive Capacities, and (4) Nurturing Effective Partnerships.

Policy LINK conducted the computer-based, quantitative Institutional Mapping survey in Aweil, Torit, Wau, and Yambio over the course of six weeks. **605** total respondents representing **349** institutions across the four partnership areas participated in the survey, which mapped **3092** institutional relationships in response to **8** categories of shocks and touched on a total of **683** institutions. Policy LINK carried out another **69** focus groups across the four counties. The results and evidence of the survey were communicated back to the respondents focusing on four buckets of evidence: shocks, their frequency and their severity; the impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 restrictions; assets as drivers of conflict; and institutional access to resources.

Policy LINK with support from the CECs organized 30 town hall meetings over the course of six days in Aweil, Torit, Wau and Yambio, in which more than 490 of the original survey respondents participated. In the town halls, community participants representing traditional administration, private sector, local government and civil society through plenary and breakout sessions engaged each other to make sense of the evidence from the Institutional Mapping survey. Together, they voiced aspirations for preparing for and recovering from shocks, reducing the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions, mitigating asset-based conflicts, improving collaboration, and sharing resources.

The outputs of the town halls served as inputs for a next round of F2F deliberations that brought together more than 180 community members and IPs within the ARGs for two days in each partnership area. The F2F deliberations focused on reviewing, ranking and prioritizing the community aspirations from the town halls. Additionally, the F2F deliberations nominated 10 community delegates to represent each partnership area in the Digital ALF 2020.

Policy LINK, the CECs, and the ARGs organized ALF Orientation Workshops over three days aimed at increasing the community delegates understanding of the PfRR partnership Framework, key concepts such as resilience and convergence, and their expected roles within the ALF 2020 Agenda. The delegates were asked to further narrow down the priority lists from the F2F meetings. Delegates received capacity building training on how to articulate their community’s resilience story and top priorities per PfRR Pillar-based outcomes during the ALF 2020.



IA4R Townhall in Torit.

ALF Day One: “Community First, But Not Alone”

Opening Speakers – Alain Noudéhou and Ros Cooper

Opening remarks were given by the co-chairs of the PfRR Steering Committee. Alain Noudéhou, PfRR Steering Committee Co-Chair and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, opened the meeting with a description of the complex and challenging environment in South Sudan where he emphasized that stability on all levels is key for engaging in area-based programming with local communities for them to build their own systems. He reminded the partners that no one single partner can address all the issues faced in South Sudan, and thus the importance of the Partnership. “We need each other and we need each other more than ever,” he stated. Mr. Noudéhou closed his remarks with six challenges to the ALF participants to consider throughout the discussions and presentations of the ALF:

“We need each other and we need each other more than ever.”

-Alain Noudéhou

1. How do we increase our joint advocacy for better area-based recovery and resilience?
2. How do we optimize opportunity for increased joint funding for area-based programming?
3. How to apply common monitoring and evaluation tools for responsive programming?
4. How can we measure the impact of our partnership and coordination?

5. How do we maximize our collective actions and approaches that reflect the community's aspirations?
6. As we move forward, how do we keep the PfRR as an agile mechanism that remains relevant in the changing context in which we are operating?

In her opening remarks, Ros Cooper, PfRR Steering Committee Co-Chair and Deputy Head of Office, South Sudan, UK's Department for International Development, remarked on the impressive process leading up to the two-day event. She also echoed Mr. Noudéhou's assessment of the challenges and shocks facing South Sudan and thus the continuing need for the PfRR and the broad-based response that the Partnership supports. An emphasis on increasing and maintaining access to basic services, the restoration of productive capacities, rebuilding trust in institutions, and nurturing the partnership will remain important focus areas for PfRR efforts. Ms. Cooper also warned of potential challenges to the PfRR, which include the way South Sudan is organized politically and administratively, the change from 32 states to 10, and the change in political leadership and administration. However, she pointed to the broad base of the PfRR as being an advantage when dealing with these sorts of challenges. She also noted the shift in ALF discussions over the last three years from theory and data to a focus on what is happening on-the-ground and the voices of the community. She closed her statements by encouraging participants to be honest about what needs fixing with the Partnership and what is good that can be built upon.

Community Experiences in a complex shock environment – Faces of Resilience

Boiketho Murima, Chief of Field Offices Greater Equatorias at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) South Sudan, introduced the Faces of Resilience, which are video stories directly from members of communities across four counties— Torit, Aweil, Yambio, and Wau— where multiple partners are working together to support recovery and build resilience. These individuals share their stories of how they have been bent but not broken by the shocks that were highlighted in the opening remarks. Through their stories the participants heard how their households, the communities they live in and even systems in their environments have resisted, absorbed, accommodated, adapted to, transformed and recovered from the effects of shocks.

In Aweil, Achan Tong Kuan, member of psychosocial support group and single mother to four children, told her story. Achan owns a tea shop at the local market, but was unable to work due to illness. Her aunt, who is also vulnerable due to her husband being a soldier that has been away for many years, stepped in to help continue the tea shop and they now share profits. Achan's story demonstrates the resilience of households through social safety net and familial support networks.



Achan Tong Kuan with her family in Aweil.

In Yambio, Kumba Victor, Medical Director for the Yambio State Hospital, told the story of how the hospital was dilapidated and in need of basic resources. The hospital advisory board formed a committee to raise funds and resources to renovate the hospital. With initial financial support from World Vision many community members volunteered and contributed in-kind support, such as sand and water for tiling the floors. Today the hospital has a functioning medical ward that the community can be proud of.

In Wau county, Suleiman Ramadan Geti, community elder and farmer, told the story of how he has returned to Bussere after years of conflict to rebuild and re-establish his farm. His modest farm provides basic needs for his family and has helped them to be self-reliant. Through his actions, he hopes to encourage others to return to Bussere.



Suleiman Ramadan Geti tends to his farm in Wau.

In Torit, Elizabeth Ilam, member of the Orieu Women’s Group, told her story of how after conflict she banded together with fellow women to start a liquid soap making enterprise. With support from CARE, the women started a savings group, then ART and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helped the women to purchase supplies and taught them to make soap to sell in the local market. They have been able to use the profits to help the members of the group when necessary and the rest has gone to build up their savings.

By listening to these experiences, one is able to understand what resilience looks like in rural South Sudan from the household and community perspective. It also provides an interesting perspective that allows the visualization of some of the needs required to build resilience capacities in vulnerable communities. These four videos can be viewed online in the [Resilience Marketplace](#).



Elizabeth Ilam and members of the Orieu Women's Group displaying their liquid soap for sale.

Participants at the ALF stated that the Faces of Resilience were “beautiful... great... interesting... encouraging”. They showed “people doing a lot to improve the community... life changing bringing benefits to the vulnerable and the community... Well produced... true evidence of the power that lies within the communities to achieve their own resilience - a power/capabilities we need to leverage. They are worth learning from and adopting. Our collective approaches are justifying the resilience building processes!”

Presentation: “Community First, But Not Alone” – The Community Engagement Process for Data Collection, Analysis, Sense-making and Decision-making

Daniel Deng, Buy-In Lead, USAID Policy LINK, explained the community-driven priority setting process followed by Policy LINK and the Area Reference Groups to identify resilience programming priorities in the

four PAs. The findings from the survey focused on four buckets of evidence: perception of shocks and their severity; drivers of conflict; impacts of COVID-19 and COVID-19 restrictions; and institutional access to resources. Respondents identified economic shocks as the most frequent shock they experienced. Findings from the survey indicate that land is the primary driver of conflict followed by livestock and forests. Conflict around land, cattle, and forests constitutes a primary security shock and also prevents people from utilizing these resources. Although most respondents did not report many COVID-19 cases in their communities, they did agree that COVID-19 increased economic challenges and other risks. These findings indicate that COVID-19 restrictions are having a huge negative impact in South Sudan, hitting vulnerable communities where it hurts most - in the household economy and their social relationships, which is where resilience is rooted. Respondents felt that there were adequate human resources and adequate evidence in place to respond to all categories of shock, however, they felt that financial and material resources were lacking.

In addition to the four buckets of evidence, the institutional mapping exercise also produced detailed shock response maps, which illustrate how the PfRR, as a shock response system to guide programming, can be strengthened through targeted investments in institutional capacities. The full findings from the survey as well as the shock response maps can be viewed in the [presentation from this session](#).

The central story line emerging from the data is:

Communities are built upon a social fabric that underlies resilience. In South Sudan, persistent and reoccurring economic shocks are tearing this fabric with devastating ripple effects on households and communities. The COVID-19 restrictions have intensified an already desperate situation for many households. The PfRR is trying to build household and community resilience within this current reality.

While it is not known how long the COVID-19 restrictions will last, it is clear that economic solutions, if creatively designed, can strengthen the social fabric and strengthen resilience in the process. This makes supporting resilience programs and collaboration that strengthen household and community economics a strategic anchor for convergence that cannot wait for COVID-19 to disappear.

Convergence, like resilience, has a technical definition, but is also a very basic concept. The popular story of stone soup can help us unpack what it means in practice.

The Story of Stone Soup

Hungry and weary, two travelers pass through a village, but rather than welcome them, the villagers shut their blinds and close their doors, conscious that they must conserve what little they have in a time of scarcity. So, the travelers cook a stone in a pot in the town square. Eyes peep through blinds as villagers become curious about the soup. Word goes around the village – there is a feast in the making. One by one, they come out with a carrot here, a radish there, some potatoes, some salt – whatever they have to share so they too can participate in this great feast.

And before you know it, the stone soup turns into an actual stew as all the resources of the village converge.

This story can be applied to the challenge before the PfRR. It's true, when looking at the scale of the resilience challenge in South Sudan, the available resources held by any one institution, community, or individual look scarce and insufficient. But when the systemic power of cooperation, recognizing the vast human and institutional resources that communities actually have, is factored in, a mindset of abundance that turns competition into collaboration can be adopted. In simple terms, this mindset shift is the first value of the PfRR.

“Community Experiences in Complex Shock Environments”

Christopher Muchiri Murenga, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Head of Field Offices and Chair of the Yambio Area Reference Group, moderated a panel discussion on community experiences in a complex shock environment. To begin this session, we heard from community delegates about their stories

of resilience and the priorities each community developed through the priority setting process, which was community-driven and evidence-based.

The **Aweil** story of resilience and priorities were shared by Ms. Agau Kun Kuol. On June 6, 2019 a devastating flood impacted several neighborhoods in Aweil. The severe flooding overtook 3,236 houses, drowned four children and one adult, caused heavy losses to property, and displaced thousands of people. This tragedy ignited a spontaneous response that brought together the four corners of the community to aid the victims. Young people helped to rescue women and children. Community members dug water drainage to ease the flooding. The government deployed an excavator to divert the floodwaters and trucks to move people to higher ground. Meanwhile, the police protected civilian property from theft. The private sector and general public donated food and non-food items to support those who were displaced. The international community, including South Sudan Red Cross, WFP, and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), provided emergency food assistance as well as non-food items such as shelter and seeds for recovery.

The **Torit** story of resilience and priorities were presented by Dr. Margaret Itto. Torit also faced devastating flood impacts and complexities for COVID-19. Farmers could not access markets for seeds or tools because of COVID-19 restrictions. Some farmers formed groups to respond to flooding by digging dykes and consulted private sector companies for advice, seeds and tools. Through this initiative farmers were able to not only mitigate the potential impact of the flooding, but also increase their agricultural production, which led to a surplus. Unfortunately, the farmers lacked the capacity to transport their goods to a regional market, lacked access to good storage facilities and roads, and lacked the skills to upgrade their produce to valuable products.

The **Wau** story of resilience and priorities were shared by Joseph Luka Akuar. Wau was impacted by conflict in 2013 and again in 2016, which resulted in displacement among communities in the state and across the country. More than 36,000 internally displaced persons took refuge in UN camps, as well as collective sites at churches and other places. The conflict also spilled over into intensified violence between farmers and cattle keepers in Jur River County, further increasing displacement across the state. This conflict has resulted in the loss of lives, property and basic means of livelihood. The 2018 peace agreement created an opportunity for the community where people began returning to their homes and rebuilding their livelihoods. Many took up farming and some enterprising women even developed a new source of income and self-reliance by sewing and selling face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Women make facemasks in Wau.

The **Yambio** story of resilience and priorities were presented by Justine David Baki. Every year during heavy rains, a key bridge over the Yubu River gets flooded and prevents access to farmlands, markets, education, and health facilities. When this happened in August 2020, the youth and community leaders mobilized local resources to fill sandbags that formed a water barrier to allow temporary passage for people who were trapped. The government also provided security and regulated movement across the river. However, the bridge is still in dire need of reconstruction, for which the communities seek support from international donors.

PfRR Pillar-based Resilience Priorities

The following were the presentations of community-based priorities for resilience programming:

Aweil Pillar-Based Priorities

Pillar One: Re-built Trust in People and Institutions.

Dissemination of South Sudan Land Act 2009 to the community at grassroots so that people understand their land rights and responsibilities in order not to infringe someone else's rights.

Pillar Two: Re-establish Access to Basic Services.

Schools should be re-opened while adhering to Ministry of Health and World Health Organization COVID-19 guidelines and protocols, and learning done in shifts (morning and afternoon) to avoid overcrowding.

Pillar Three: Restore Productive Capacities.

To increase agricultural productivity, improve food security and livelihood employment opportunities in Aweil Center County, the government and partners should support irrigation farming. For instance, restoration of The Aweil Rice Scheme.

Pillar Four: Nurture Effective Partnership.

To enable joint planning and implementation of the PfRR, regular joint collaborative meetings with stakeholders should be held at the county level.

Torit Pillar-Based Priorities

Pillar 1: To re-build trust in people and institutions.

Implementation of the existing rule of laws at all levels to protect civilians and their properties, address crimes and human rights violations.

Pillar 2: To re-establish access to basic service

Provision of social and legal protection to gender-based violence survivors, construction and rehabilitation of learning spaces, hospitals, Primary Health Care Centers/Units and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

Pillar 3: To restore productive capacities

Economic empowerment of women, men, and youth, through provision of market-led technical vocational trainings and provision of startup kits, business grants, and micro-finance soft loans.

Pillar 4: To nurture effective partnership

Promote private and public sector partnership and increase access to evidence-based data for effective information sharing and decision making.

Wau Pillar-Based Priorities

Pillar 1: To re-build trust in people and institutions.

Strengthen the relationship between the organized forces and the community so that there is mutual trust amongst them. This will in turn lead to the community reporting criminals hiding or residing within the populace. As part of relationship building, the community needs to be sensitized on the importance of working in collaboration with the organized forces to apprehend the law defaulters. This would result in reduction of sexual/gender-based violence (SGBV) cases, harassment of civilian, robbery, banditry, and encourage voluntary return and integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Pillar 2: To re-establish access to basic services

Lobby for and implement an integrated service delivery program that will provide capacity building and financial support which cuts across all sectors e.g., health (including COVID-19 awareness), education, water, sanitation and hygiene, food / nutrition security and livelihoods and SGBV.

Pillar 3: To strengthen productive capacities

Support and invest in modernization of farming system to improve agricultural productivity (improved crop varieties / early maturing and farm mechanization), agro-processing, agriculture, fishery and livestock value chains, post-harvest management and market development.

Pillar 4: To nurture effective partnership

Invest in human resources, institutional and infrastructural capacity development of the national staff and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and establish stakeholder coordination mechanisms for sharing information, implementation and monitoring of multisectoral programs and projects.

Yambio Pillar-Based Priorities

Pillar 1: To re-build trust in people and institutions.

Ensure social cohesion and reconciliation through more dedicated efforts and resources to peacebuilding programming, establish and strengthen traditional mechanisms and structures to ensure practical engagements in conflict mitigation and transformation at community and state levels.

Pillar 2: To re-establish access to basic service

Improve access to and deliver quality essential services, with a deliberate emphasis on quality education, health, nutrition, and WASH services, through strengthening capacities (training, material, and resources) of the state relevant institutions, traditional authorities, civil society, and faith-based organizations.

Pillar 3: To strengthen productive capacities

Support a shift from subsistence to market-oriented farming and value-added production through climate-smart agricultural and agro-industrial business development and modeling, promotion and support for vibrant cooperatives, and provision of access to microfinancing to women and youth groups, farmer organizations, and the business community through village savings & loans as well as small and medium enterprise funding schemes.

Pillar 4: To nurture effective partnership

Strengthen coordination structures at and between institutions through capacity building of local and traditional authorities, civil society and faith-based organizations, private sector and representatives of youth, women, and people with special needs, to engage effectively in planning, development, and implementation of socio-economic recovery and resilience-building programs.

Technical Focus on Cost Benefit Analysis of Resilience Programming in South Sudan

At the end of Day One, presenters from the Resilience Evidence for Decisions in Development Initiative (REDDI), including Mark Conostas, Chair and Professor at Cornell University shared their work on cost-benefit analysis of resilience programming in South Sudan. This in-depth and informative session included a

provided suggestions for how the Partnership could work together to help the communities advance their chosen priorities.

The presentation from **Aweil** was given by Mr. Santino Deng Ngong, Executive Director, Aweil Community Based Organizations Forum. Aweil's highest priority fell within Pillar 2. They requested that schools should be reopened and learning done in shifts. Access to education was interrupted for more than a year, which led to many unwanted pregnancies, boys joining gang groups and migrating to cities and across the border. This has contributed to a breakdown in social cohesion in Aweil.

Aweil had clear suggestions for how partners could help. Civil society can advocate for school reopening. The government can issue an order to reopen schools and to fumigate school facilities before reopening, and also enact a COVID-19 monitoring mechanism at the school level. Partners can conduct cluster condition planning meetings for the school reopening; provide face masks and handwashing facilities; increase school benches to ensure adherence to social distancing; provide posters on COVID-19 in class learning; promote awareness on health education in the schools; conduct workshops on COVID-19 guidelines and protocol for parents, teachers, and students; and provide temperature guns at the entrance for each school.

The presentation from **Torit** was given by Stephen Ihude Oduho, Founding Member and Board Member, Torit Brank of Afrogenics Company Ltd. Torit prioritized the economic empowerment of women, men, and youth through provision of market-led technical vocational training and provision of startup kits, business grants, and microfinance loans. Torit proposed that donors can help in the provision of grants, loans, and technical expertise, as well as the provision of manufacturing equipment for value addition in production and distribution.

Ann Daniel Ali, Director General for State Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, presented **Wau's** highest priority, which was provision of basic services. Schools, hospitals, clean water, nutrition, and farming were all disrupted by conflict and COVID-19 has compounding these challenges. Therefore, Wau determined that basic services were of the highest priority for convergence in their PA.

Victoria Wamite Yotoma Jacob, Executive Director, Nile Sisters Development Initiative Organization (NSDIO), shared the priority for **Yambio**.

Their highest priority is shifting from subsistence to market-oriented farming and value-added production. Donors can help Yambio achieve this shift through support for agricultural human resources development, production skills and technology. The donors can also help with facilitation support to local and regional markets for their agricultural produce through by opening feeder roads to connect markets. CSOs can sensitize community members on this initiative and organize them in two groups: associations and cooperatives. Traditional leaders can help in mobilizing community members to participate in this initiative. Local government can provide technical support through community extension workers. Private sector can support market access for local farmers. Partners and donors can provide support to establish a farmer training center, community agricultural extension training services, and establishment of seed bank location center.



Yambio Farmers Union

State Governor's Perspective on Resilience

After the four PAs shared their highest priority and their suggestions for how the Partnership can work together to help them advance their priorities, the Hon. Sarah Cleto gave her perspective of resilience. She began her presentation by underlining the importance of stability in order to achieve resilience. It is a requirement to be able to address community shocks and support collective efforts towards recovery and sustainable development. She noted that the civil population is facing two challenges that will impact negatively on the community resilience efforts if not addressed. First, the civil population does not have sufficient confidence in the government or security institutions. It is imperative to create a situation where women feel safe to go to the field to cultivate, a child feels safe to walk to school, a farmer feels safe to take his or her produce to the market, the youth feel safe to interact and engage with each other without fear of retaliation. Second, population displacement needs to be addressed. People who are displaced are barely surviving and do not have the capacity to engage in recovery or sustainable development activities. The Governor mentioned one additional area that is critical to ensuring a resilient population—building local capacities. Skills development, including human resources and institutional capacities are needed across the board for CSOs, women's groups, youth groups, small business traders, and local government personnel.

International Partner's Reaction to Community Priorities

Providing the voice for international partners and donors, Brian Hilton from USAID and Kuach Tutkuay from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) shared their thoughts on the priorities shared by the communities. Brian Hilton acknowledged the challenges created from the COVID-19 restrictions, saying that it has made an already tough situation even harder for youth in South Sudan. He also noted that donors often face constraints such as earmarks that may dictate where and how funding is spent, as well as an aversion to risks, which may restrict the geographies a donor is willing to work in. He also praised the PfRR as being a great structure for new, smaller donors entering South Sudan to help them get oriented to the needs and partners.

Kuach Tutkuay agreed with Aweil that education is central to resilience. He also remarked that he was impressed by the consideration of the different roles of different groups and the different elements of the community, as well as the partners and donors, which speaks to the importance of convergence in building community resilience. He also agreed that stability is key to resilience building and was reassured to hear the Governor state its importance. He noted that the private sector is important to resilience building as well, by providing robust financial institutions that can help fund new business ventures. Kuach echoed Brian's comments about risk being a limitation of donors, as well as limitations of funding agreements that typically include multi-year financing where there is a need for longer-term investment to achieve resilience efforts.

Luca Scarpa from AVSI spoke about the importance of community commitment, saying that “when communities are proactive, the seeds of resilience germinate.” He suggested that PfRR can help by having people on the ground talking to the community. This enables the international community to understand the processes that are taking place on the ground and to then translate the available tools in a way that can be useful to the community. Resilience cannot come from above; it has to be within.

“When communities are proactive, the seeds of resilience germinate.”

-Luca Scarpa

Pauline Carreon-Murimi, representing UNDP, addressed how the PfRR can work in the conflict-affected communities. Fundamentally, there is a need to build an enabling environment for basic services and livelihoods; to restore trust in people and institutions and to rebuild the social fabric and build social cohesion. Donors can support this by working through local modalities and mechanisms where the communities already collectively identify and can articulate their needs. UNDP is a partner in empowering communities to reduce and mitigate community level conflicts through peace committees, supporting access to justice and strengthening the rule of law through sensitization of communities on their rights, transitional justice, judicial processes, among others and supporting community policing efforts, community based victim

support groups which tie-up to holistic support including livelihoods and traditional leaders and traditional mechanisms for conflict mitigation and resolution.

The last panelist, Russom Habtegabriel from WFP, was asked about how UN agencies can promote collective action to respond to community aspirations in the four PAs. He noted that each partner has a unique context for where they operate, and they can exchange these experiences amongst themselves and get a regional perspective from the neighboring countries, this would help with convergence across different partners and projects.

Panel Discussion: Convergence Opportunities and Challenges

The moderator, Julie Kiwanuka, then opened up for questions and comments from the participants. Participants posed questions on strengthening local actors, financial inclusion, natural resource management, and conflict and security concerns. A sample of those questions and answers are listed below.

Q: How do you see partners working together to be able to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development initiatives?

A: Pauline, UNDP – Envisions convergence as the intersection of the four C's in a Venn diagram, an ideal state of partnership. One of the ways we could bridge this is to utilize existing platforms of engagement to bring the partners together, to have a dialogue, to have an engagement, to build relationships. We need a platform for engagement but in the meanwhile we can use the existing platforms.

Comment: The Yambio community delegate made a request for sub-grants to the community groups (farmers, business community, civil society, and women's group) as a way to build capacity for these groups. She also called for strengthening the coordination system on the ground so that the flow of information from bottom to top is more effective. Need for mutual accountability from all partners and monitoring from the government. Also need to engage community stakeholders in all the structures, example – Technical working group doesn't have representation from the state ministry nor does the ARG have members from the community – this means that the community does not fully own the program.

Q: What can be done to limit the volatile relationship with pastoralists and farmers?

A: Wau representative - Invest in dialogue. Bring local capacity to bear, then look for support that can be solicited from outside partners. Also, government allocated and dedicated lands (gazette) for cattle grazing, and awareness building of the importance of cattle and agriculture.

Key Takeaways on Convergence Points for 2021

The communities are very clear in what they want and there is a need for the Partnership to really engage actively with the communities and listen to them to be able to meet their changing needs.

Coordination has been emphasized between all the stakeholders including engaging amongst the international partners, but also engaging the partners on the ground together with the communities who are the beneficiaries.

PfRR has already provided a forum to converge on all the priorities within the pillars, but the most important thing is to engage bottom up and share information as much as possible, including trying to work more in synergy and complementing each other's comparative advantages, especially in a period that is so resource constrained.

There is a need to build local capacities and for international partners to address the identified needs of the communities.

Discussion & Feedback from Participants

Throughout Day One and Two participants were very active in engaging through the chatbox feature. (See [Annex 2](#) for highlights from the chatbox comments.) It was clear that the audience was very engaged and highly informed on the subject of resilience and the challenges being faced. There was concurrence all around as to what these priorities are and a lot of affirmation for what came from the communities. Through the comments there was also a clear affirmation of the many important concepts within the PfRR and the presentations starting with the community first, but not alone principle. The comments also affirmed the importance of the four pillars as well as the 3C – coordination, co-location and collaboration.

Since this year's ALF was designed to set an agenda for 2021, with a clear path forward for the PfRR, it's appropriate that the discussions focused on the four PfRR pillars.

"Putting Food on the Table cannot wait".

-Chatbox participant

Pillar 1: Building trust in people and institutions

The commentators in the chat pointed out the Government's role in building resilience. One comment pointed out the importance of the Revitalized Agreement to Resolve the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). PfRR is premised on the idea that strengthening local community resilience is a complementary effort to national peace efforts. Ensuring the participation of local government at the state level is therefore key to the success of PfRR. Hearing Hon. Governor Sarah Cleto speak of her own resilience efforts and how she has aligned them with the PfRR was very encouraging and points in the direction the Partnership need to move in 2021.

The audience advised that a conflict-sensitive approach would ensure community-led resilience initiatives do not become a source of contention. One of the important strategies for conflict mitigation is a continued deep commitment to community engagement so that we truly put community first, in designing, implementing and monitoring resilience activities.

Pillar 2: Restoring access to basic services

As the presentation of the institutional mapping evidence illustrated, respondents almost uniformly felt that school closures were the biggest compounding shock across all four Partnership Areas. Whereas in other more economically advanced countries, children are continuing education online, this is not happening in South Sudan. Rather, the closure of schools is having devastating impacts, including an increase in early teenage pregnancy, conscription into violence, and other forms of social deviance.

This is an area that all need to converge upon to save this generation of children before they are disadvantaged for life.

Pillar 3: Strengthening productive capacities

Under Pillar 3, participants in the chat comments stated that "Putting Food on the Table cannot wait".

The institutional mapping showed that economic shocks were seen as the most frequent, and most impactful, with the longest-term impacts. It was also, by far, the pillar that received the greatest number of comments. It is clear from both the presentations of priorities and participants' comments that agro-pastoral development is the frontline of economic resilience.

Economic activity is the fiber of community resilience, but COVID-19 restrictions are decreasing productivity. The question was asked what are the main enabling actions that can realize private sector development?

In response, the chat participants said conflict-sensitive programming is required to unlock the productive potential of South Sudan's community, particularly in the areas of providing solutions to cattle-raiding and conflicts between agriculturalists and herders. In this challenge, women and youth were highlighted as possessing particular resilience capacities around which the partners can converge. The question was asked, is the PfRR a platform supporting women to expand and grow their businesses?

A private sector initiative in Yambio, focused on distribution of coffee seedlings to the local farmers and providing a market for the farmers, was recommended as a convergence opportunity to reduce wildfires and

improve livelihoods of the local community. Ideas like this help conceptualize how quality production and market access, including infrastructure support, can be expanded in practice.

In the productive sector defining and measuring resilience of communities to climate change impact is important as is protecting wildlife and natural resources.

Pillar 4: Nurturing effective partnerships

All of these ideas for resilience activities lead to Pillar 4 - nurturing partnership.

The Chairperson of the ALF Task Force helped unpack the concept of convergence. People shared simple ideas like working together, mutual collaboration and meeting together. Others said convergence is an integration of activities by partners working together at one location for a common benefit of beneficiaries/communities. It was noted that the ALF is itself an example of resilience and convergence despite the difficulties. It also was noted that the PfRR is becoming more resilient.

Still, participants were concerned with how the PfRR platform can help each of these partnership areas gain support from the donors. In response to this question, it was noted that the design of the PfRR is meant to support the organic coordination of all the partners so they are on the same page, pursuing aligned results, and communicating a similar message to the donors.

Hon. Governor Sarah Cleto made clear the importance of capacity strengthening of the local actors to become self-reliant.

Much of the commentary focused on how to strengthen the M&E system. People seemed to appreciate how through the Faces of Resilience, the stone soup story, and the town halls, complex findings and concepts were made accessible. If the Partnership can keep extending the last mile to the boma level, capture key information and feed it back into local dialogue, then it will be possible to more effectively monitor and evaluate progress on building resilience. For this approach to work, the Partnership needs to build upon the cooperation between partners and communities. The participation by local governments in the process leading up to this year's ALF is a testament to the potential of cooperation on the ground. The institutional mapping session also referenced mutual accountability, and the audience asked, "what mechanisms, procedures or tools are needed for communities to monitor and assess IP delivery and alignment with community priorities?" As we built out this strategic M&E framework, we were advised to capture the 4 pillar themes and ensure that through them, the community-based priorities are aligned with the joint program plan. With a good approach to M&E that connects design to monitoring and evaluation, we could achieve a consolidated 2021 action plan.

This brings us to the question of commitments. Clearly, the partners don't want to raise expectations. But the bar must be set high enough that it forces the partners to continually improve.

Perspective from PfRR Taskforce Chair – Michiel Smet

Michiel Smet from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands gave a donor's perspective on the discussions of the day. He noted that this ALF has shown that the communities and their leaders are champions of convergence. Donors want to see this type of leadership coming from national and state governments and Michiel applauded the Hon. Governor Sarah Cleto for her leadership in this area.

Perspective from Government of South Sudan - Hon. Pia Michael Phillip, Undersecretary, Ministry of Peacebuilding

The Hon. Philip Michael Pia, Undersecretary, Ministry of Peacebuilding made the closing remarks for Day Two. He remarked that he was pleased to see the progress of the PfRR, noting that in April 2016 he drafted a document that led to the thinking around the PfRR. He made two suggestions for areas where the PfRR could do more. First, in building partnership structures from the state to the county and the local level, as well as at the national level. Second, engaging on consistency, especially at the lower levels. He gave the example of the partners monthly forum in Yambio as a model to consider replicating in all the PAs. He issued a reminder that, "no one donor, no one partner can do it all, but when we work together, we can

achieve what we are thinking about and our dreams can be realized. The more difficult the challenges, the more we need to stand together.” Undersecretary Pia spoke of the importance of working together and converging efforts to achieve progress in sustainable peace, security and development in South Sudan. He also shared that, at the national level, they are pushing for the PfRR to be part of the pillars of the national development plan, thus ensuring the longevity of the Partnership.

“No one donor, no one partner can do it all, but when we work together, we can achieve what we are thinking about and our dreams can be realized. The more difficult the challenges, the more we need to stand together.”

-Hon. Pia Michael Phillip

Perspective from USAID - Antoinette Sullivan, Acting Deputy Director, South Sudan Mission

Antionette Sullivan, Acting Deputy Director USAID/South Sudan, shared closing remarks from the donor perspective, noting that COVID-19 has impacted the donors’ ability to get out in the community and hear community voices. She mentioned that earlier this year USAID approved a new strategy that emphasizes its partnership with South Sudan’s communities and includes funding new partners who will work in various areas of South Sudan and the PAs. She finished her remarks by recognizing the value of the communities to advise and push donors to do the work that needs to be done.

Perspective from PfRR Leadership - Alain Noudéhou, PfRR Steering Committee Co-Chair, DSRSG, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

The final remarks closing out Day Two of the ALF came from PfRR Co-Chair Alain Noudéhou. He remarked on how proud he was of how far the PfRR has come, noting that the PfRR itself is showing a lot of resilience. He appreciated the presentation of the Faces of Resilience as a helpful way to understand what is happening in the community because it’s difficult for the partners to go out into the community to hear these stories firsthand right now. Alain also noted areas where the Partnership could do more going forward, including around food security and agriculture; gender and youth empowerment; issues on disaster risk reduction (DRR); economic diversification and entrepreneurship, and peace and stability. He also made a commitment that the discussions from this ALF will be continued in the PfRR.

Moving Forward

The ALF 2020 can launch the next feedback loop where PfRR will take outputs back to the communities to produce results frameworks, guided by a community-based theory of change, and accompanying measurements. In the upcoming year, the PfRR will start to align these local action plans with the joint work planning process. By unlocking the local contribution of the community and quantifying it, the community can represent their contribution to donors and IPs using a methodical approach. Through activity mapping, communities can document resource availability, geographic focus, and target beneficiary groups of existing mechanisms. With this knowledge, effective budget advocacy will be based on understanding the donors, their implementing partners, and existing mechanisms for convergence.

Evidence shows that the community's contribution concerns of data and human resources, in the form of service and compensated work, can complement the contribution of partners, including physical and material resources, financial resources and tools and technologies. From a resilience lens, the IPs have an opportunity to focus more on tools and technologies because these may include things that need to be brought in from the outside, co-designed, or co-created in the field, starting with expansion of the information and communication technology (ICT) that enabled the ALF 2020 despite challenges of remoteness, conflict and COVID-19.

Larry Cooley, the ALF's Lead Facilitator, suggested some potential actions that would further opportunities for progress identified at the ALF. These include:

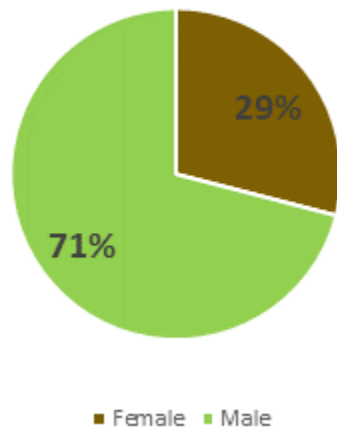
- Issue a public report on the Partnership website summarizing the meeting, providing meeting materials linking the videos and the resilience profiles.
- Post on the website a curated summary of the comments and questions received through the Chatbox and website along with selected responses endorsed by the Task Force and/or the Steering Committee
- Develop and issue a follow-up statement endorsed by the Steering Committee that includes a one-to-two-page statement of insights the Steering Committee took from the ALF and actions its members collectively pledged to take in its aftermath. This statement could also include a statement of commitment to the PfRR, and a restatement or updating of Partnership principles, pillars, and/or priorities.
- Encourage individual donors to issue communiqués indicating actions they plan to take in the aftermath of the ALF deliberations.
- Make fully available (if this hasn't already happened) to the leadership groups in each Partnership area their respective Resilience Profiles and other relevant data along with relevant portions of the ALF report.
- Convene leadership meetings and/or town halls in each of the Partnership areas to discuss the findings, conclusions, and next steps from the ALF. These community-level sessions should include facilitated discussions and decisions by each Partnership community on the way forward, focusing on priority actions they can take to enhance recovery and resilience in the absence of additional donor efforts and to further clarify their priorities for external support. Donor representatives should be invited/encouraged to attend these sessions or should be briefed on the results by Policy LINK and by the lead donor for each PA.
- Consider establishing additional mechanisms for periodic interaction among community leaders from the four PAs to discuss emerging lessons and priorities.
- Explore additional mechanisms for discussion and learning at the national level, including enhanced communication with the national government.
- Identify and endorse at the Task Force and Steering Committee levels a learning agenda for the next 12 months, building towards a 4th ALF during the first quarter of 2022.
- Make adjustments to metrics and procedures used by the Partnership based on these plans.

Some of these actions require additional resources committed to the collective agenda of PfRR. The willingness and ability of donors to support these efforts should be explored as an early and essential action.

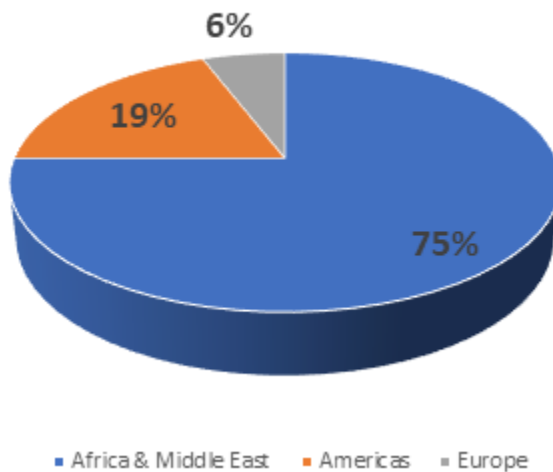
- A chapter missing on the outcomes of the PfRR SC-meeting and their endorsed recommendations.

Annex I: Breakdown of ALF 2020 Participants

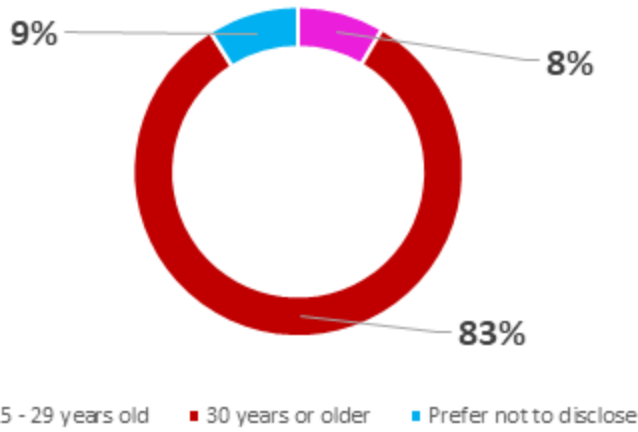
Participants by Gender



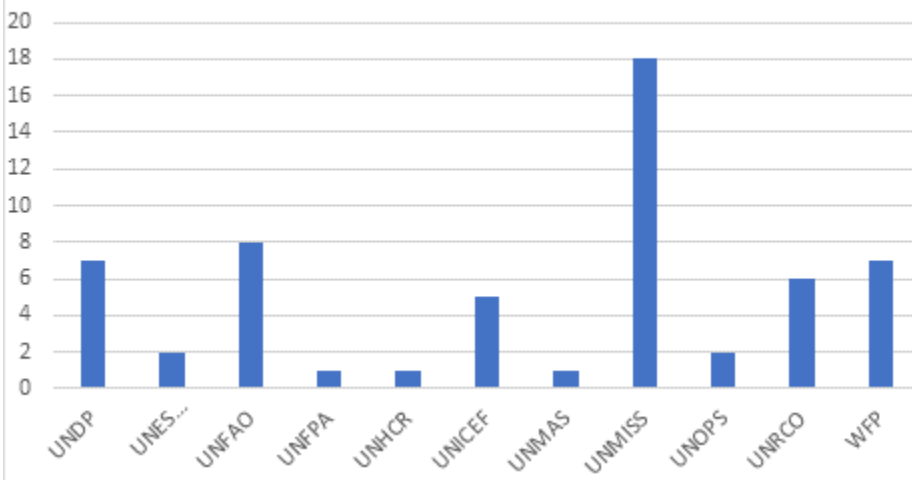
Participants by Region



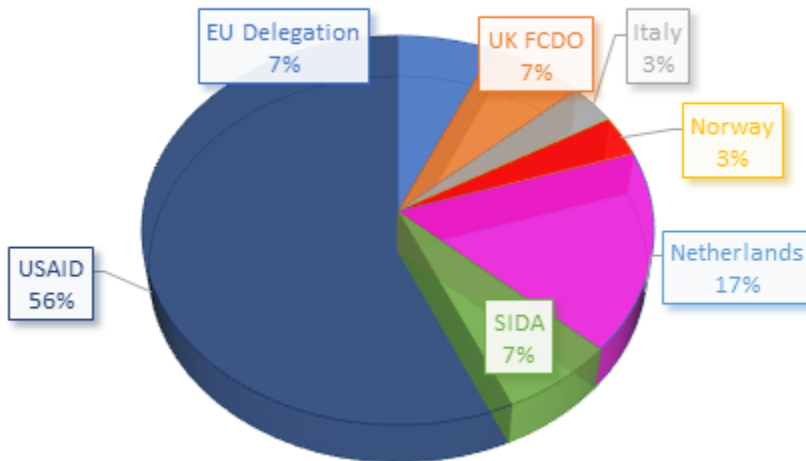
Participants by Age



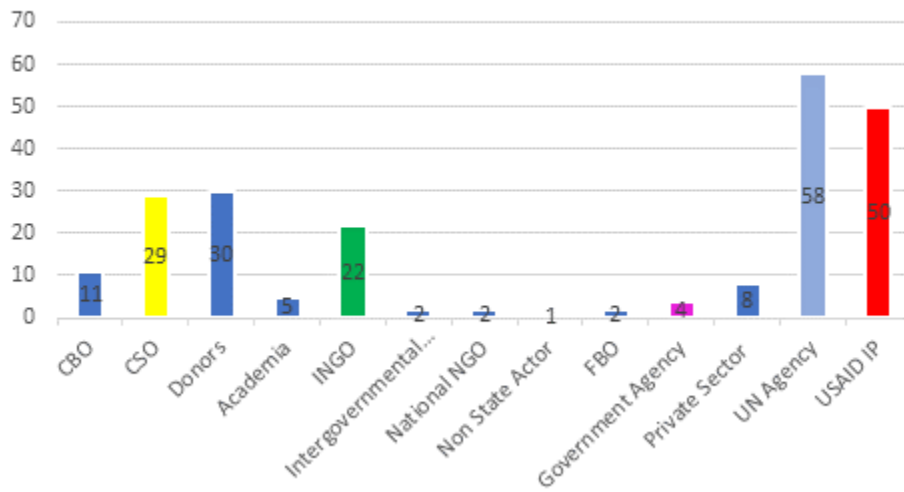
UN Agencies' Participation



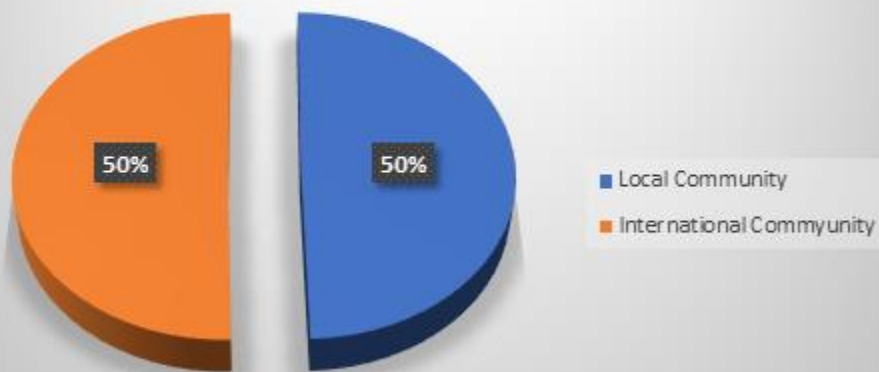
DONOR PARTICIPATION



Participation by Organization Type



Overall Participation



Annex 2: Chatbox Comments

Throughout Day One and Two participants were very active in engaging through the chatbox feature. It was clear that the audience was very engaged and highly informed on the subject of resilience and the challenges being faced.

A sampling of comments from the chatbox are shared in this annex.

“How to introduce resilience in humanitarian areas: At the onset of humanitarian crisis; resilience efforts need to be started day one of giving humanitarian assistance by all partners (whether humanitarian or development or peace initiative) and support structures and gradually introduce cost recovery response strategies for scaling resilience in a period of 3 months. This will reduce dependency syndrome. Some key priority areas could include self-food production and introduce wide range of livelihood options and have a clear exit strategy.”

“Close monitoring and working with communities lead to long-term resilience of community projects. A great example is BRACE II results in Aweil North County where each year, beneficiaries are able to produce vegetables during dry season. It's one great example of cost benefit from yesterday's discussion where cast for assets is being employed.”

“Resilience is a galvanizing concept across multiple sectors, and thus, efforts that build resilience are inherently multisectoral. This complexity requires a creative and concerted efforts and commitment to advance new initiatives and to recognize successes and failures. Therefore, activities that support education, economic growth, public health care, social connectedness. All these convergent activities would build community resilient.”

“Wau participants are enquiring Yambio to share their experience of how they came up with the idea of PfRR coordination structures e.g., PfRR secretariat in Yambio and how they are sustaining that structure/office so that Wau and other PAs can learn from their initiative and experience”

“The PfRR should take into account capacity strengthening of local actors to become self-reliant.”

“A quick feedback would be to revisit the joint program plan document and ensure these priorities are consolidated and draw the 2021 Action Plan moving forward aligned with the local community priorities.”