



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WORKSHOP REPORT

Wau County

May 2022





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Wau County

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Acronyms

ACTED Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development

APM Area Program Manager

CARB Complementary Action for Resilience Building in South Sudan

CEC Civic Engagement Center

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

DAI Development Alternatives Incorporated

DRC Danish Refugee Council

DG Director General

FBOs Faith Based Organizations

IFDC International Fertilizer Development Center

IPs Implementing Partners

JWP Joint Work Planning

MELS Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Support

NRC Norwegian Refugee Council

Policy LINK Feed the Future Policy Leadership, Interactions, Networks, and Knowledge

RASS Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan

RRC Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

RFZ Resilience Focus Zone

USAID United States Agency for International Development





Introduction to the Community Feedback Workshop

In South Sudan, USAID integrates humanitarian and development assistance to promote household and community resilience. USAID's goal is to strengthen the foundation for a more self-reliant South Sudan. The USAID Policy LINK Activity supports the achievement of this goal by promoting collaborative governance, facilitative leadership, evidence-based decision-making, and the convergence of community and donor resources for joint work planning in five of the 13 counties encompassing the USAID Resilience Focus Zones (RFZs): Akobo, Budi, Jur River, Kapoeta North, and Wau. The key to achieving this goal is an evidence-based community-driven participatory planning process.

From March I - 3, 2022, Policy LINK successfully convened a Joint Work Planning (JWP) Workshop for Wau County that brought together community-selected representatives across the county, implementing partners (IPs), and county and state government representatives.

As a follow-up to the JWP Workshop, Policy LINK convened a three-day community feedback workshop from March 29 – 31, 2022 for 25 community and state-level stakeholders. The main aim of the workshop was to prepare community representatives to conduct awareness raising and sensitization of the outcomes of the JWP workshop to the broader community.

The two specific objectives of this workshop were: I) To prepare community representatives to conduct an awareness-raising campaign using a diverse set of existing community forums; and 2) To facilitate the development of key messages through collaboration among representatives of the five payams, local government, and IPs.

The workshop was expected to achieve the following outputs: I) Consensus on the key messages meant to be disseminated to the citizens of Wau County; 2) Talking points for the community representatives to be used on radio and in community meetings; and 3) A tentative schedule for sharing information with the communities. The workshop equipped community representatives with key messages and tools for awareness raising across Wau county. During the workshop, participants reached consensus on identifying the key resilience-building messages and talking points through dialogue.

This report details the process of developing key messages around themes such as community-led resilience; shifting community mindset; envisioning a better future for Wau community; community ownership, responsibility, and resource commitment; most impactful shocks and stressors; and resilience action plans and collaboration. It also describes existing forums identified by community representatives that will be used to share key resilience messages within their payams, and a tentative timeline of when community representatives will be reaching out to their wider community members in Wau county.

Participation

The three-day workshop was officially opened by the Wau County Commissioner. In his opening remarks, the Honorable Commissioner underscored the significance of giving the community an opportunity to come up with ways of doing things according to their context. He thanked Policy LINK and other IPs for their continuous support to the people of Wau county in the past and ongoing difficult times. He stressed





that as government, they are grateful for the selection of Wau County as part of the USAID focus areas, and specifically for this project.

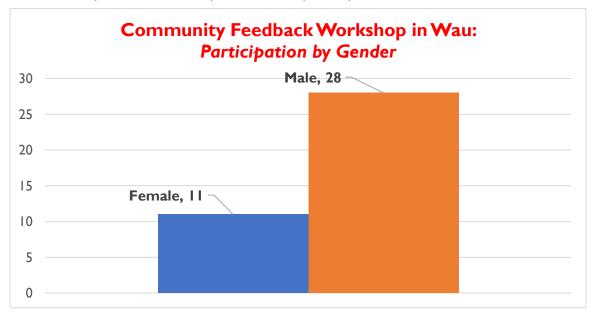
As depicted in the tables below, participation in the Community Feedback Workshop was slightly below the expected number. The total participants registered were 39 individuals (11 female, 28 male) over a period of three days, representing traditional authority, women, youth, persons with disability, private sector, civil society, implementing partners, and local and state government representatives.

Out of this, nine (2 female, 7 male) were USAID IP representatives. The IPs in attendance included Integrity Global - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Support Project (MELS), ACTED, MOMENTUM, CARE, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), DT Global Shejeh Salam, DT Global AFIA WASH and RASS. It should be noted that though the attendance was good, five community representatives from Bazia/Kpale Payam and two representatives from Besselia Payam did not attend for unknown reasons.

Table I: Community Feedback Workshop Participant Data Disaggregated by Category and Gender

Participant Category Attendance red			orded
	Female	Male	Total
Civil Society Organizations (Women, FBO, Youth)	5	8	13
Private Sector	0	2	2
Traditional Authority	0	2	2
Government (Sub-national or State)	4	9	13
USAID Implementing Partners	2	7	9
Total number of participants	П	28	39

Figure 1: Community Feedback Workshop in Wau: Participation by Gender







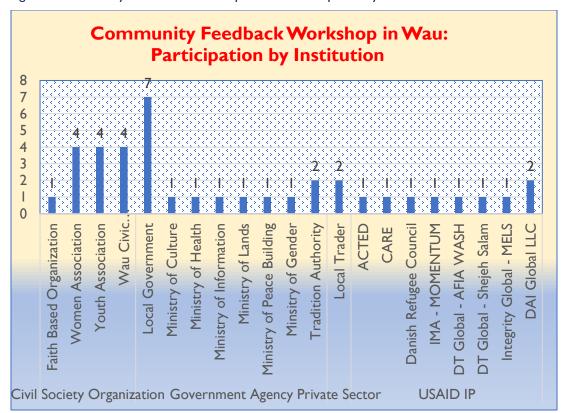


Figure 2: Community Feedback Workshop in Wau: Participation by Institution

Workshop Structure

The agenda of the workshop was divided into ten main sessions over a span of three days. Two Policy LINK facilitators used a mix of presentations, small working groups, and plenary discussions to optimize participation. In every group session, participants were guided into five small discussion groups, consisting of five to seven persons while adhering to the COVID-19 prevention protocols.

Within each group, participants identified a moderator, note-taker, and presenter. Following each activity, the small groups shared the outcome of their deliberations with the larger group, where they would consolidate their conversation and conclusions with additional suggestions from the larger group. Each session was guided by specific discussion questions led by the facilitators and translators (co-facilitators).





Day I discussed four main concepts in four sessions i.e., community-led resilience, shifting community mindset, envisioning better future, and community ownership and responsibility and resource commitment by the community. In each session, participants reflected on the concepts as discussed in previous workshops and were guided to develop simple key messages that will be used during awareness raising sessions to the wider community members.

Critical to these sessions was the opportunity for IPs and government representatives to contribute to the development of the key messages that were agreed by all stakeholders in the participatory planning process for building community-led resilience in Wau county.



Day 2 conversations centered on three main sessions, including the most impactful shocks and stressors (payam-based), resilience action plans for Wau County, and meaningful and effective collaboration between community and implementing partners and county/state level government. Like Day I, the Day 2 sessions also elicited a common understanding of key themes and their applicability in community-led resilience. Participants were tasked to identify key messages based on discussion questions provided.

Some of the questions discussed included: why we (as a community) selected and prioritized these shocks and stressors; why it is important that we address these shocks and stressors together as one community of Wau County; steps we took in developing our resilience action plan for Wau County, and what it means to us; and why it is important for community, local government, and implementing partners to come together to address community problems.





Table 2: Summary of Key Messaging

Building Community-Led Resilience in Wau County: Summary of Key Messages Developed

Theme	Sub-Theme	Key Messages or Talking Points Identified by Participants
Community-led Resilience	What resilience means to us	 Resilience means the "ability of individuals, households, and community to overcome, recover from shocks and stressors, and be able to find positive alternatives of dealing with problems they are faced with." It also means "the ability to, or the means which an individual, household, or a community, drawing upon local resources/experiences, creatively resolve shocks or stressors in a manner that reinforces community, individual, and household strength and harmony. Resilience is not a "new thing." It has been with us and in us for very long time. It recognizes that an individual, household, or community has an existing capacity to mitigate, adapt, and recover from shocks.
	What we mean by "community-led resilience"	 We mean individuals, households, and our community can identify shocks and stressors that affect us, prioritize, plan, implement, and monitor resilience priorities in our community.
Shifting Community Mindset	Why it is important for individuals, households, and the community to change from being a recipient to active community resilience champion	 We can do things for ourselves and become self-reliant instead of waiting for relief. We can realize our own potential and achieve better life if we choose to become active community resilience champions. We can become producers of our own food, instead of waiting for food from elsewhere. We become more engaged in agricultural production the way we want and be able to feed our families. It will reduce our food and economic vulnerability but will increase our abilities to do things for ourselves. It is another way of avoiding conflicts, especially those over scarce resources, livelihood assets, etc. By becoming more engaged and productive, we will reduce scarcity, reduce conflict, and increase reconciliation and peace.

Envisioning a Better Future for Wau County	Why it is important for individuals, households, and the community to have a vision despite the shocks or challenges	 No vision, no future. Allows an individual/household/community to assess its current situation, identify challenges or shocks and stressors, identify opportunities, and make informed decisions about a better future Helps individuals, households, and community to determine the "community we want." It provides individuals, households, and community with a road map of what resources or efforts will be required to reach there, who will do what (sharing roles and responsibilities), how each aspect of the desired change will be achieved, when, and by whom.
Taking Community Ownership and Collective Responsibility and Making Better Use of Local Resources The Most Impactful Shocks and Stressors	Why these shocks and stressors were selected and prioritized	 It allows us to start community initiatives that are otherwise more sustainable because they are led and owned by us. It enables us to solve our community problems by ourselves, where individuals and households take active roles and responsibilities while government and implementing partners come in to complement our efforts as a community. We can be able to identify our own local resources in our community, for which we can all commit to achieving our desired change. It helps promote mutual accountability and community participation. Seasonal Cattle Movement shock: Has increased community conflicts, insecurity, and violence, leading to population displacements, loss of livelihoods and lives. Food Security/Livelihoods and Economic shocks: Have led to malnutrition, hunger, price instability, high cost of living, and increased economic vulnerability. Health-related (Diseases/WASH) shocks: Have increased poverty, mental health issues, trauma, and disease outbreaks, leading to low productivity, high economic burden, and loss of lives. Land Grabbing or Encroachment shocks: Have created conflict, inter-personal and inter-communal violence, leading to break down of social bonds among people, displacements, and loss of lives. Insecurity/Conflict Shock: Has increased impunity and incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls, lack of trust and freedom, fear, trauma, and eroded previous peace dividends.

	Why it is important that we address these shocks and stressors together as one community of Wau County	Seasonal Cattle Migration shock: Helps decrease violence in the community, promote peaceful resolution of community conflict, facilitate increased food production, reduce land degradation, boost the economic condition of farmers, and protect local construction materials from being destroyed. Food Security/Livelihoods and Economic shocks: Reduce malnutrition-related diseases, increase farm production, enhance economic stability through vertical growth in the farms' output /production and reduce taxes on imported commodities. Health-related (Diseases/WASH) shocks: Save lives, reduce or stop disease outbreaks among the community, reduce poverty and improve the economic situation of people by increasing productivity. Land grabbing/encroachment shock: Promote peaceful coexistence among the people. The community leader should be consulted, awareness raising, using the media to sensitize people about land grabbing. Insecurity and conflict shock: promote peace and harmony among people, reduce rape and	
Resilience Action Plans for Wau County	Steps we took in developing our resilience action plan for Wau County	 Insecurity and conflict shock: promote peace and harmony among people, reduce rape and GBV cases against women and girls, reduce cases of robberies in the state, and enhance reconciliation among communities. Payam-level meetings were done with 35 participants from different bomas from November to December 2021. Shocks and stressors were reviewed and ranked according to the most impactful. Identification and ranking of payam shock responsive priority actions was done. Local resources were identified at payam level and resource commitments were made by community representatives. Five community representatives were selected in each payam to represent the payam in the county-level planning. At the county level, a review of the Payam Local Action Plan was done in Wau in February 2022. A consensus was reached on the Wau County Resilience Priority Actions. Wau County Resilience Action Plan was developed by 25 community representatives government, and IP representatives in Wau in February 2022. A dialogue between 25 community representatives, local and state government, and USAID IPs took place through joint work planning in March 2022 in Wau. 	

Collaboration	What it means to us	 Collaboration means community members, government, and the NGOs/donors coming together to work jointly to address community-identified shocks/stressors. It also means that community members, households, individuals, NGOs, and government cooperatively identify shocks/stressors, plan together to propose key actions to address those shocks/stressors, commit resources to meet the costs of those actions, and share roles and responsibilities in a manner that builds on individual strengths/expertise and context.
	Why it is important for community, local government, and implementing partners to come together to address community problems	 Coming together builds trust among community, government, and implementing partners because everyone is important in the development process. Problems will be identified, and solutions proposed together. By coming together, ideas can be shared by all, and everybody will have an opportunity to participate in the development of our community. Local resources can easily be mobilized if people come together. The limited available local resources will be put to better use. Community problems will be addressed jointly because roles and responsibilities are distributed and shared. Coming together strengthens coordination, communication sharing, and mutual accountability. It helps empower the community with the skills needed for building a resilient community.

Day 3 focused on generating ideas for disseminating the draft key messages. During the session, community participants were grouped and asked to identify common means of sharing information in the community. It also tabled for discussion the tentative timing and schedule for sharing key messages to the broader community. A major part of the post-lunch session was dedicated to practicing community meeting by selected group representatives using the key messages. At the end of the presentations, groups were allowed give feedback on how each group presented. Later, IP representatives and government participants were also given an opportunity to make their observations.

Means of Sharing Key Messages

This session was an assessment of available means in each payam for information sharing. Community participants were grouped according to their respective payams and were guided to reflect on how information is relayed in their payam. After deliberations and report out by each payam representative, plenary discussion was held to validate points of agreements on the existing fora that will be used to share messages across all payams.

Table 3: Summary of the Available Avenues for Sharing Information by Payam

Payam	Common Avenues for Sharing Information	Schedule
Baggari	 Baggari Payam Courts Boma Courts (Brinji, Ugali, Bussere, Ngoku, Ngodakala, Farajalla, Ngovendego, Ngovar A & B, and Momoi) 	Mondays Mondays
	 Churches Mosques Markets Women groups (Ngodakala, Ngosarni) Youth groups (Baggari, Faragalla, Ngisa) Farmer groups Social gatherings e.g., funerals, cultural events Media Houses in Wau Town 	Sundays/Saturdays Fridays Daily TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD
Besselia	 Churches Mosques Youth Centre Social gatherings Farmer groups Youth associations Women Groups 	Sundays/Saturdays Fridays TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD TBD
Wau North	 Churches Mosques Women groups meetings Prayers in the residential areas Cultural events (by different ethnic groups) Community Management Committee Meetings Youth centers Local radio 	Sundays/Saturdays Fridays Sundays Thursdays/Fridays Saturdays Thursdays/Fridays Tuesdays/Thursdays TBD
Wau South	Chiefs meetingsChurchesMosques	Saturdays Sundays/Saturdays Fridays





Youth and women associations/groups	TBD
Social gatherings	TBD
Local radio	TBD

Key Challenges Encountered

- Attendance was slightly less than expected: As noted, five Bazia payam community representatives and two Besselia payam community representatives failed to make it to the workshop due to unknown reasons despite follow-up communication. The implication is that views from Bazia payam could not be heard. However, Policy LINK and the Wau Civic Engagement Center (WCEC) have resolved to convene a separate workshop in Bazia payam that will bring all the community-selected representatives together. This workshop is expected to take place in the coming month or so.
- Language barrier: The majority of the community-level participants expressed themselves more confidently in Arabic, yet the key messages were documented in English. The workshop resolved that a copy of the messages will be translated by Policy LINK from English to Arabic, and shared with each community representative. Policy LINK plans to undertake this task in May 2022.
- State government reconstitution: The community feedback workshop coincided with the reconstitution of the state legislative assembly, where some of the community selected representatives who initially engaged in the participatory planning process were appointed to the state assembly in different capacities. The implication of this is that the commitment and time to participate in organizing and leading community-led efforts could be affected due to their engagement in the state government activities. However, prior consultation was made with the respective payams where there was an agreement for those representatives to continue for the meantime, as they are still viewed as community leaders.
- On a similar note, the workshop coincided with an abrupt reshuffle in the state government where key persons who were initially invited to officiate and take part in the workshop such as the Wau County Commissioner, State Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement, and State Minister of Cabinet Affairs were decreed out of office and new officials appointed. However, Policy LINK and WCEC engaged the new officials in the workshop, where the new County Commissioner of Wau County participated across the three days. The new State Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement officiated the official closure of the workshop on the third day of the workshop.
- Market price fluctuations: Community participants from within Wau Municipality noted that
 the rise in fuel prices in the market led to the rise in local transportation fares, therefore, the
 amount paid to facilitate their movement to and from the workshop venue was no longer sufficient
 to cover their transportation. However, there was agreement that this should particularly be
 considered for future planning.





Key Lessons Learned

 More targeted participant mobilization: In areas where road access and telecommunication services are a challenge such as Bazia/Kpale, Baggari and Besselia, future participant mobilization efforts could be directed to individuals (targeted) rather than generalized. This could help bridge any potential communication breakdown in the process. In addition, logistical support could be set ahead of time to allow for early visits to the field where direct engagement with the participants can happen.

Furthermore, it is important that selection of community representatives in the future should include alternative participants (backups) to ensure that no gaps are allowed in the event of relocation of community leaders or appointment into political roles.

• More targeted engagement with technocrats: While it is important that all stakeholders are involved in the participatory planning process for building community-led resilience, deliberate efforts should be made to engage government stakeholders who are civil servants as any political changes do not have a huge impact on them.

Next Steps

This table illustrates the next steps to be taken or considered. They are summarized below.

Table 4: Summary of Next Steps

Institution	Next Step (Action)	Tentative Timeline
Policy LINK	Synthesize information and develop Community Feedback Workshop Report	April 2022
	Translation of key messages from English to Arabic	April 2022
	Socialize Community Feedback Workshop Report with the MELS	May 2022
Community Representatives	Take part in a radio show in Wau as part of community feedback	May 2022
	Convene payam-level meetings at respective payams to carryout awareness raising	May 2022
IPs	Reflect on and pursue opportunities for collaboration with communities, where appropriate	TBD





Annex I: Workshop Agenda

DAY I - WAU COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WORKSHOP

Time	Session	Content	Duration	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00am	Arrival	Welcoming of guests, hand-out facemasks and sanitizers, and registration	30 mins	Logistics
9:00 – 9:30am	Opening	Opening Prayers – Christian / Muslim Introduction – guests take turn to introduce themselves	30 mins	
9:30 – 10:15am	Welcome	Empowerment Promise - What will participants learn or gain from participating in this workshop Framing and overview of the workshop Objectives of the workshop Official opening remarks	45 mins	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers Guest of Honor
10:15 -10:45am	Expectations	Plenary – Participants share their expectations	30 mins	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
10:45 – 11:15am	Break	Tea / coffee	30 mins	Logistics
11:15 – 12:00pm	Community- led Resilience	Participants break into five groups to develop one key message for explaining the meaning of community-led resilience. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall for voting. Participants place a checkmark next to the message they believe is most impactful for community to hear. How would you explain community-led resilience in simple words to your household or another member in your community?	15 mins – Group 15 mins – Report out 3 minutes per group. 10 mins to vote for the most powerful messages 5 mins for facilitator summary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
12:00 – 1:00pm	Shifting Mindset	Participants break into five groups to develop one key message per group that would communicate the importance of shifting mindset in building community-led resilience. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall. Facilitator will bring the group to consensus on one key message.	15 mins - presentation 20 mins - small group 25 mins for facilitator summary in plenary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers

1:00 – 2:00pm	Lunch	Lunch	I hour	Logistics
2:00 – 3:00pm	Envisioning Better Future	Participants break into five groups to develop two messages per group that would communicate the importance of Envisioning a Better Future in building community-led resilience. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall.	15 mins – Presentation 20 mins – small group 25 mins for facilitator summary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
3:00 – 4:30pm	Community Ownership and Responsibility and Resource Commitment	Participants break into five groups to develop key messages to communicate the importance of Community Ownership, Community Responsibility, and Community Resource Commitment in building community-led resilience in Wau County. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall.	20 mins – Presentation 30 mins – small Group 40 mins for facilitator summary in plenary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
4:30 – 5:00pm	Recap	Facilitators remind participants of the key messages selected for each session. Facilitators invite participants to provide any personal testimony or feedback on day's sessions	30 mins	Facilitators and notetakers

DAY 2 - WAU COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WORKSHOP

Time	Session	Content	Duration	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00am	Arrival	Welcoming of guests, hand-out facemasks, sanitizers, and registration	30 mins	Logistics
9:00 – 9:10am	Prayers	Christian and Muslim Prayers	10 mins	
9:10 – 10:30am	Explaining the Most Impactful Shocks and Stressors		20 mins – Presentation 20 minutes – Group work	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
		Why is it important that we address this shock together as one community?	40 mins – Facilitator summary	
10:30 – 11:00am	Morning break	tea / coffee	30 mins	logistics

11:00 – 1:00pm	Resilience Action Plans	Participants break into five groups to develop key messages that describe the Resilience Action Plans for addressing the assigned shock. Each group is assigned one shock. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall. How would you explain the participatory planning process in simple words from payam local action planning to joint work planning with USAID implementing partners and local government resulting in community resilience action plan? How should we address this shock together as one community?	30 mins – presentation of priority actions 60 minutes – Group work 30 mins – Facilitator summary in plenary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
I:00 – 2:00pm	Lunch break	Lunch		logistics
2:00 – 4:30pm	Collaboration	Participants break into five groups to develop key messages that describe: What would you tell a member of your household or fellow community members about the meaning and importance of collaboration between stakeholders (the community, local government, and implementing partners)? What would you tell a member of your household or fellow community about the identified collaboration opportunities? Each group is assigned one shock. Each group is given flip chart paper to write their message. Messages are presented by group spokesperson and then fixed to the wall.	30 mins - presentation 60 minutes - Group work 30 mins - Facilitator summary	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
4:30 – 5:00pm	Closing	Facilitators remind participants of the key messages identified for the sessions. Facilitators invite participants to provide any personal comments or feedback on the day's sessions.	2 mins each participant	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers

Day 3 - Wau Community FEEDBACK WORKSHOP

Time	Session	Content	Duration	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00am	Arrival	Welcoming of guests, hand-out facemasks, sanitizers, and registration	30 mins	Logistics
9:00 – 9:10am	Prayers	Christian and Muslim	10 mins	
9:10 – 10:30am	Means of Sharing Key Messages	Plenary discussion of the existing forums that will be used to share messages within the payams	90 mins	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
10:30 – 11:00am	Break	Morning Tea / Coffee	30 mins	Logistics
11:00 – 1:00pm	Timing and Schedule	Plenary discussion of the most appropriate timing and schedule for sharing key messages to the community	60 mins	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
1:00 – 2:00pm	Lunch	Lunch	I hour	Logistics
2:00 – 4:30pm	Practice Community Meeting	Participants break into five groups to practice holding a Community Meeting.	15 mins – Presentation of most impactful shocks per Payam 30 mins – organize presentation of key messages 15 mins practice per group 30 mins – plenary feedback led by facilitator	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers
4:30 – 5:00pm	Closing / Wrap-up	Facilitators remind participants of the key messages identified and action points for the sessions. Facilitators invite participants to provide any personal comments or feedback on the day's sessions.	3 minutes per person	Facilitators / Translators / Notetakers