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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Community Engagement Fundamentals Milestone 3 Report

PFRR INCLUSIVE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP CONSULTATIONS

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Community Engagement Fundamentals Milestone 3 Report

PFRR INCLUSIVE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP CONSULTATIONS

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Acronyms

ARG	Area Reference Group
CEC	Civic Engagement Centre
ICG	Inclusive Championship Group
TCEC	Torit Civic Engagement Centre.
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
Policy LINK	Policy Learning Interactive Network and Knowledge Project
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
PLDs	Person Living with Disabilities
PfRR	Partnership for Recovery and Resilience
SUCCESS	System to Uphold the Credibility and Constitutionality of Elections in South Sudan
COVID-19 SOP	Corona Virus Disease of 2019, Standard Operating Procedures
USD	United States Dollar
UN	United Nations

Background

In August 2020, USAID Policy LINK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Democracy International that manages USAID SUCCESS project. The purpose of the agreement is to formalize technical collaboration and build synergy between USAID Policy LINK and SUCCESS projects by closely co-locating and coordinating the efforts of DAI Global LLC and Democracy International. The agreement helps DI and DAI to align their technical approaches in support of USAID South Sudan Mission's strategic priorities. To do this, both organizations have agreed to leverage their respective resources to achieve impact that could not be achieved alone.

Further, USAID/DAI Policy LINK signed a nine-month Community Engagement Fundamentals fixed award grant agreement with Torit Civic Engagement Centre (TCEC). Under this agreement, Policy LINK is providing capacity building and technical guidance to the TCEC as it represents the four corners of local community in Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR) stakeholder and community engagement activities.

The overall goal of Policy LINK is to provide backbone support to cross-sectoral, multi-donor, multi-agency partners in select PfRR areas to build resilience and reduce vulnerability. The fixed award grant mechanism between Policy LINK and TCEC is attached to six illustrative milestones. Milestone 3 activities focus on producing a detailed report on strategy for activating and or establishing an Inclusive Champions Group (ICG).

Introduction

This report documents stakeholder consultative meetings conducted by the Torit Civic Engagement Center (TCEC) to seek perspectives of the local community on activating an Inclusive Champions Group (ICG). The ICG is intended to be the PfRR structure at the community level that will facilitate an enabling environment for PfRR engagement, mobilization of resources, and resolution of community engagement challenges.

The stakeholder consultative meetings provided forums for the four corners of community – i.e. local government, private sector, civil society, and traditional authorities to voice their opinions to inform the formation or reconstitution of the ICG and its structure at all levels. Moreover, the meetings ensured participation and inclusion of disenfranchised and marginalized groups of people, including persons living with disabilities, women, and youth by placing their voices at the forefront.

To carry out the consultations, TCEC developed a detailed workplan for community outreach and formed two activity teams. The TCEC conducted 24 focus group discussions and 10 key informant interviews in five rural payams and one town payam in Torit County namely: Nyong, Ifwotu, Bur, Imurok, Himodonge, and Kudo. A total of 161 participants (95 males, 66 females) participated in the meetings.

Objectives of the Consultative Meetings

The main objective of the consultative meetings was to seek opinions of relevant stakeholders from the four corners of community on activating an Inclusive Championship (ICG) at all levels. The consultative meetings also ensured the inclusion of the voices of disenfranchised and marginalized groups e.g., youth and women in the ICG formation or reconstitution process.

Policy LINK provided technical oversight and developed a guide that enabled the TCEC to successfully carry out the consultative meetings. They were guided on six dimensions or scopes upon which the ICG will be formed or reconstituted as below:

1. Dimension 1: Level of formation or reconstitution of the ICG
2. Dimension 2: Composition of the ICG
3. Dimension 3: ICG Terms of Reference (ToRs)
4. Dimension 4: The level of engagement of the ICG in the PfRR
5. Dimension 5: Mutual accountability and reporting

Area Coverage of Consultation

The activity teams carried out the consultative meetings in five rural payams including Bur, Ifwotu, Imurok, Kudo, Himodonge, and in Nyong payam which is within the Torit municipal council. These payams were randomly selected during the outreach activities, however, the team also considered critical contextual security related risks given the recent complexities of insecurities related to road ambushes, cattle raiding, inter-communal fighting in some of the payams. Emphasis was placed on reaching the last mile payams and bomas to ensure all the accessible payams were reached during the consultative meetings.

Participant Profile and Disaggregated Data

During this exercise, a total of 161 participants (95 males, 66 females) were consulted. The participants represented the local government, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), traditional authorities, persons living with disabilities, and youth and women groups, including the monyemiji.

State and local government institutions were represented by director generals, directors from state ministries, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), payam and boma level administrators, whereas the traditional authorities were represented by chiefs and community elders. Different CSOs and the private sector were represented by traders, farmers etc.

Table 1: Participant Data

Participants' Category	Male	Female	Total
State Government (directors, director generals, etc.)	4	1	5
Local Government (payam administrators, boma administrators, county officials, etc.)	8	0	8
Traditional Authorities (community leaders, chiefs, etc.)	30	4	34
Private Sector (businessmen, farmers, etc.)	3	6	9
Civil Society Organizations	5	5	10
Youth Groups	20	2	22
Women Groups	0	35	35
People with Disabilities	25	13	38
Total	95	66	161

Methodology Employed for the Consultative Meetings

Policy LINK helped with the design of the ICG guide to help unpack perspectives from the local community regarding formation or reconstitution of the ICG. After developing the guide, the Torit CEC participated in a review process to capture feedback on the guide and to ensure the CEC User Committees familiarized themselves with the guide.

Using the guide, the team employed two main methodologies to gather perspectives from the relevant stakeholders:

- In the rural payams, local community representatives were organized into different focus group discussions. It was ensured that women, persons with disabilities, and youth were consulted in different groups to allow for active participation.
- Key informant interviews were administered with high level government and other relevant stakeholders to capture their perspectives during the process.

The team conducted meetings with 24 focus groups and had meetings with 10 key informants.

LOE of Torit CEC User Committee

This table below summarizes defined roles and responsibilities played by TCEC User Committee members. They have a well-structured membership that contributes to a coordinated level of efforts to ensure Policy LINK activities, including the consultation meetings on the ICG’s formation/reconstitution, are always implemented in a timely fashion.

S/N	Name	Gender	Roles played before and during the consultations on ICG formation/reconstitution
1	Ochan Dominic Otto	Male	Coordinated level of efforts of the User Committee members, logistics, organized and facilitated the ICG virtual planning and review meetings, mobilized the key informants and consulted the key informants in the ministries and private sector, the monyemiji and the CSOs
2	Ohoro Leo Jacob	Male	Made consultations with the monyemiji as a note-taker and translator, participated in both virtual planning and review meetings, and supported the organization of the review meeting.
3	Ajok Grace Rispher	Female	Coordinated logistics and catering services during the consultations, note-taking, and participated in the consultation in Kudo and Bur.
4	Oduho Joseph Aliardo	Male	Ensured effective mobilization of participants for the consultations in all the six payams of Bur, Kudo, Himodonge, Ifoutu, Imurok, Nyong and the private sector. Participated in the consultations of all the payams and the business community.
5	Oduho Jackson Atilio	Male	Supported mobilization of the participants, note-taking, conducted routine market price monitoring, and provided situational updates to Policy LINK Area Program Manager

6	Angeyo Joyce Okech	Female	Supported the mobilization of participants in the payams and consultations on the ICG.
7	Pastor British Noel	Male	Supported mobilization of participants especially persons with disabilities in Nyong and supported their consultations.
8	Ihure Gloria	Female	Supported note-taking and translation during the consultations.

Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities of the TCEC User Committee members

Perspectives on ICG Formation and/or Reconstitution

Dimension 1: Level of Formation or Reconstitution of the ICG

When asked about the steps to be followed, the participants said there should be a guideline for the formation of the ICG, mobilization of the members, and awareness or sensitization within all the bomas should be thoroughly done. They also said every member of the community should be involved in the formation of the ICG, with guidance from the chiefs, Policy LINK, and government.

On the structure to be used, they said there should be a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, secretary for information or mobilization, secretary for finance, trainer, and some members to make a complete committee.

Dimension 2: Composition of the Inclusive Champions Group (ICG)

When asked about the composition of the ICG, participants asserted that CSOs, women, youth, elders, chiefs, persons with disability, FBOs, government, private sector members, landlords, and police should be part of the ICG.

The average response on the number of people that should constitute the ICG was 5 members. On the number of women, they said at least five or the 35% as provided for in the R-ARCSS, while the number of persons with disability should be two or more depending on their capabilities.

When asked about the criteria to be used in electing the ICG's members they said they should be people who live within the community, who are literate or experienced in community issues, sound minded, influential, eloquent, faithful, committed, active, and innovative. They also recommended that the ICG be led by someone from government.

Dimension 3: ICG Terms of Reference (ToRs)

On the terms of reference, participants gave the following feedback:

- Sensitizing the community member on PfRR concept,
- Organizing meetings and mobilization of community members,
- Monitoring, supervision, and evaluation of community initiatives,
- Quickly planning and responding to any kind of shocks in the community,

- Coordinating the community, ARG and government, and PfRR Juba Office,
- Consultation and lobbying on behalf of community and reporting to the community, ARG and PfRR Juba.

When asked about the term limit of the ICG, majority said two years on average.

Dimension 4: The level of Engagement of the ICG in the PfRR

On the level of engagement, the respondents said the ICG must strongly engage with the community especially during planning and consultation with the ARG and government.

They also said they should strongly engage with the ARG and the chiefs as well as ICGs in other external partnership area.

Dimension 5: Mutual Accountability and Reporting

Majority of participants responded that the ICG should report to both community and the ARG. This is because it is the community that will elect them.

Challenges

- There had been a series of workshops in the state that coincided with the consultation period, and it interfered with the schedules made with the key informants. The workshops, organized by the UN and Eastern Equatoria State Government, attracted participants from all the counties, including commissioners and county planning officers.
- The community members had high expectations for transport reimbursement and refreshments, both of which the TCEC could not provide.
- Lack of COVID-19 PPE since engagement with the community was under the threat of the pandemic.
- Rain in Kudo, Imurok, and Bur payams caused the delay of the consultation exercises.
- The consultation meetings came at a time when many community members are busy with their farming activities. This delayed the meetings despite the effective mobilization that had been conducted prior to the meetings.

Annex I: Voucher, certificate of completion, and signed participants attendance sheet



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Certificate and Attend

Annex II: Participant attendance sheet and disaggregated data



Torit CEC
Consultation on ICG p



Diaggregated Data
for ICG Consultations.

Annex III: Inclusive Championship Group Consultation Guide

Stakeholders Consultation on Inclusive Champions Group (ICG) Formation/Reconstitution

Discussion Guide

Date	
Partnership Area	
Location	
Note-taker Name	
Facilitator Names	
Translator Name (s)	
Names of participants in the group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.
Community section	<i>(i.e. CSOs & CBOs, FBOs, Traditional Authority, Private Sector, Local Government)</i>

Please remember.... be precise but concise! Actively listen and summarize the feedback from speakers and participants. Ask for clarification from the speaker if required.

Dimension 1: Level of Formation / reconstitution of the Inclusive Champions Group
<p>What steps or processes should be followed when establishing or reconstituting the ICG? <i>Only include final or agreed points here</i></p>

Who should be involved in the formation or reconstitution of the ICG, and why? *Only include final or agreed points here*

How should the leadership structure of the ICG look like? *Only include final or agreed points here*

Dimension 2: Composition of the Inclusive Champions Group (ICG)
Capture key points from the responses from the discussion.

1. Who should be part of the Inclusive Champions Group (ICG)? *Only include final or agreed points here*

2. What number should constitute the Inclusive Champions Group (ICG)? *Only include final or agreed points here*

3. How many women should be part of the ICG? *Only include final or agreed points here*

4. How many persons with disability should be included in the ICG? *Only include final or agreed points here*

5. What specific criteria should qualify someone to be part of the ICG? *Only include final or agreed points here*

5. Who should head the ICG? *Only include final or agreed points here*

Dimension 3: ICG Terms of Reference (ToR)

What should be included as the main ICG terms of reference (ToR)? *Only include final or agreed points here*

What should be the Term limit of the ICG? *Only include final or agreed points here*

Dimension 4: Level of engagement in the PfRR

What should be the level of engagement or influence of the ICG in the PfRR? *Only include final or agreed points here*

Dimension 5: Mutual Accountability and Reporting

Who should the ICG be accountable to? *Only include final or agreed points here*

Annex IV: Photos



Figure 1: Women of Nyong Payam during consultation



Figure 2: Ifoutu payam women with disability consulted



Figure 3: A woman with disability among those consulted at Ifoutu payam



Figure 4: Youths of Imurok payam during consultation



Figure 5: Kudo participants during briefing before the consultation



Figure 6: Nyong Payam persons with disabilities during consultation