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South Sudan

Jobs Creation & Trade Development Project

Implementation Progress Report

1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

EU Contribution Agreement
T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-93-01 (T05.1288)

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1. Background

The South Sudan Jobs Creation and Trade Development (SSJCTD) project has been under implementation since September 2020 with a total cost of about USD 5.72 million, funded by the European Union to a maximum of EUR 4,825,000 (estimated at USD 5,67 million) under the European Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). It is implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) over a period of four years under the Contribution Agreement (T05-EUTF-HOA-SS-93-01) signed between the European Union and ITC in August 2020.

The project has specific objectives of improving the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and increasing employment opportunities for the South Sudanese labour force, with a focus on youth and women. In particular, it aims to provide an integrated and holistic assistance for the development of MSMEs in the fruits and vegetables value chains to create economic and employment opportunities for South Sudanese population targeted under the project.

It addresses the main challenges of the fruits and vegetables subsector along the value chains by improving production, processing and handling practices; building capacities of MSMEs to comply with mandatory market requirements and standards for enhanced access to markets; enhancing human skills as well as strengthening producer cooperatives. It will also address the employment problems of youth and women by building entrepreneurship and business management capacities and implementing innovative schemes to facilitate access to finance for youth entrepreneurs and youth-owned businesses.

The project has two phases of implementation which consist of inception and main implementation phases. The inception phase was planned to take place over the period of the first six months of the project's duration.

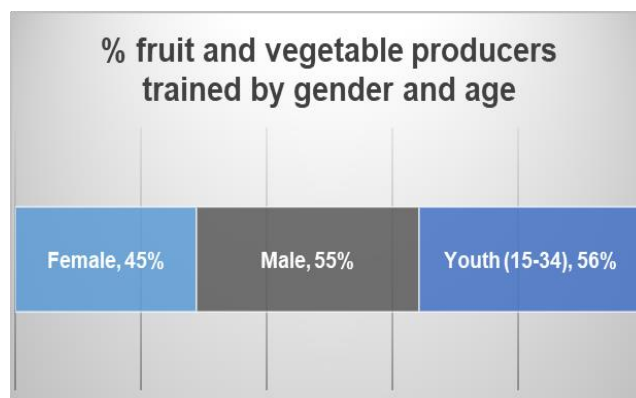
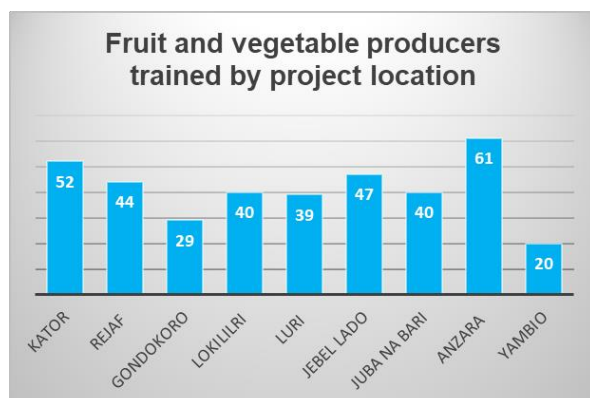
This document provides a narrative and financial progress report on the execution of planned activities and achievements during the first-year implementation period of the project, covering 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The details are presented below.

2. Implementation Progress and Achievements

2.1. Summary of Results Achieved

In view of the nature of the first-year action plan, project interventions during the first-year implementation period had substantially focussed on inception phase activities and preliminary main phase activities whose importance was as good as paving the way for subsequent execution of substantive interventions. As a result, the results achieved during the first year are predominantly intermediate in nature. The key outputs are summarised below.





7 Reports produced

- Project Baseline Assessment
- Conflict Sensitivity Analysis
- National Quality and Sanitary & Phytosanitary Infrastructure
- New draft National Quality Policy for South Sudan
- A handbook on food safety & good hygienic practices
- Draft entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping & network analysis
- Preliminary horticulture sector strategy

▪ A database of 3,711 registered potential beneficiaries compiled.

MSME competitiveness baseline data and roadmap for the development of the target value chains established

Two of the expected outputs under this result area (namely, SMECs competitiveness assessment and sector development strategy and roadmap) have been under progress. A preliminary horticulture sector strategy was drafted to guide the development of the sector. The strategy is expected to be completed through a series of stakeholder consultation processes while the competitiveness assessment of enterprises engaged in the horticulture sector has been pending the completion of a survey exercise to compile data on the competitiveness of enterprises.

Improved productive capacities and compliance to standards for MSMEs

During the first year, 372 fruit and vegetable producers were supported through training and practical demonstration of deploying climate smart agricultural practices in soil preparation and management, planting techniques (including transplanting, spacing, intercropping) and water management. The climate smart practices equipped the producers with skills that help them conserve soil and water as well as prevent overflooding. The producers were also exposed to techniques of rainwater harvesting to enable them capture and store water for agricultural use. In addition, the producers were exposed to an integrated pest management in mixing and spraying pesticides. The training and exposure would enable producers to improve their farm productivity and profitability by adapting to effects of climate change. Of the total beneficiaries supported, youth producers that benefited from the coaching and demonstration account for more than 50 percent while women producers account for about 45%.

Enabling producers of fruit and vegetables to comply with food safety and quality standards is a key aspect of improving productive capacity. As part of preliminary intermediate outputs, the quality and sanitary and phytosanitary infrastructure has been identified, a new revised National Quality Policy for South Sudan was developed and a handbook on food safety and good hygienic practices was produced to guide capacity building for producers.

Increased market linkages for MSMEs in the targeted product sectors

Activities under this result area were not targeted during the first year and hence progress on expected results would be reported during the next implementation period.

Improved employability and entrepreneurship capacity for South Sudanese labour force, focussing on youth and women

Interventions during the first year were preliminary focussing on identifying and understanding the existing institutional landscape and ecosystem for entrepreneurship development. A draft entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping and network analysis was completed. Potential young entrepreneurs have been identified along the fruit and vegetable value chains. Training for the first cohort of young entrepreneurs was delayed pending the completion of the ecosystem mapping exercise.

The status and progress of achievement of results as measured by project indicators is provided in Annex I.

2.2. Detailed Description of Achievements

2.2.1. Inception Phase Achievements

The first six months of the project have been dedicated to completing inception phase activities and outputs. The main accomplishments of the inception phase include the following:

- *The Jobs Creation and Trade Development project has been validated by the government and private sector stakeholders of South Sudan.*
- *Ten project locations in the Central Equatoria State and the Western Equatoria State have been identified and validated.*
- *Specific fruit and vegetable products have been identified and validated for value chain development support.*
- *Project baseline assessment has been completed, detailing the status, needs and recommended solutions for the development of the fruits and vegetable subsector as well as target beneficiaries of the project.*
- *On the basis of the assessment, some project baseline data have been established along the relevant indicators of the project*
- *3,711 potential beneficiaries (producers, processes and traders) have been identified and registered in a database.*
- *Conflict or context sensitivity assessment has been completed, providing important information and recommendations on the risk and mitigation strategies that need to be considered in due course of implementing the project.*
- *The project has been officially launched on 2 July 2021.*

Inception phase activities accomplished

Validation of the SSJCTD Project:

- Prior to the validation process of the SSJCTD project, potential government and private sector stakeholders and non-governmental and international intergovernmental organisations have been identified in close collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) of the Republic of South Sudan. The key partners have been bilaterally briefed about the SSJCTD project and involved in the consultation process of the project's validation.

- A series of preliminary stakeholder consultations were held with key government ministries and private sector actors to facilitate the review and endorsement of the project document as well as the identification of project locations, specific products as well as relevant partners along the fruits and vegetable value chains. After the series of consultative meetings, a validation workshop was organised at the Juba Grand Hotel on 17 December 2020 in which the project document was validated for implementation.



- The preliminary consultation processes were instrumental to create a better understanding of the project and build consensus by the different stakeholders on the objectives and intended results of the project. The process has also enabled full ownership of the project approval process both by the Government and the private sector participants, the Ministry of Trade and Industry taking a key role in coordinating the stakeholders for the consultation process. The First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade led one of the several preliminary consultations in which he urged the participating institutions to take ownership as well as cooperate and provide inputs and comments, and closely work with ITC to realise the implementation of the project.



- More than 30 officials from about 15 institutions convened to validate the SSJCTD Project. These included Agak Achuil Lual, First Undersecretary for Trade and Industry of the Republic of South Sudan, representatives of the International Trade Centre and the European Union Delegation to South Sudan. In his remarks, the First Undersecretary emphasized that the Ministry would do anything possible within its jurisdiction that will ensure successful implementation of the SSJCTD project. The First Undersecretary underscored that the project provides opportunities for most of the South Sudanese youth and women engaged in micro, small, medium-sized enterprises along the fruits and vegetable value chain who are badly affected by existing economic challenges.



Official launch of the SSJCTD Project:

- The SSJCTD project was officially launched on 2 July 2021 in a workshop held at the Palm Africa Hotel in Juba in the presence of the First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to South Sudan, the ITC Director of Country Programmes, and the Undersecretaries of a number of other Ministries, including the Ministry of Sport and Youth, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The event was attended by more than 70 participants representing a diverse group of government and private sector stakeholders, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations as well as the local media.



- Speaking on the occasion of the project launch, the First Undersecretary for Trade and Industry, Agak Achuil Lual, said “This project is one among many other important projects that benefited from EU funding in the country and the Ministry will do all that is possible within its jurisdiction to ensure a successful implementation of project.”

- The Ambassador of the European Delegation to South Sudan, Christian Bader, said “The EU is glad to launch this very timely initiative. Investment in modern agriculture could contribute significantly to poverty alleviation and food security, and boost income and jobs generation in a moment where once again the people of South Sudan are facing a possible famine crisis.”



- The ITC Director of Country Programmes, Ashish Shah, said: “ITC is honoured to provide technical support to the government and private sector where the need for economic and trade development is felt the most. ITC will deliver the needed support to enable MSMEs develop their operational capacities and business performance, to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth and women as well as improve capacities of business development services.”

- The Executive Director of the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards, Mary Gordon Muortat, said “The project provides an opportunity to improve the quality and food safety compliance capacities both at the level of institutions and operators along the fruits and vegetables value chains. It will train advisers on Quality and food Safety and assist MSMEs in the fruits and vegetables value chains for compliance with market relevant standards.”



Selection of project locations and specific products

- The following specific target locations and products have been identified for the SSJCTD project to focus on. They have been endorsed during the validation workshop of the project after a thorough debate on the reasons and criteria for selection.

Project Locations & Target Products

State	Specific location	Value chains	Specific products
Central Equatoria	Gondokoro	Fruits:	Citrus, grapefruit
		Vegetables:	Cabbage, Egg plant
	Jebe Lado	Fruits:	Bananas, watermelon
		Vegetables:	Jute (kudura), okra
	Juba-nabari	Fruits:	Mangoes
		Vegetables:	Tomatoes
	Kator	Vegetables:	Kale, cabbage, eggplants
	Kworijik	Fruits:	Mangoes, guavas
Vegetables:		Jute, okra	
Lokiliri	Vegetables:	Cowpeas, tomatoes	
Luri	Fruits:	Mangoes, guavas	
Rejaf	Fruits:	Mangoes, guavas	
	Vegetables:	Cucumber, okra, tomatoes	
Western Equatoria	Anzara	Fruits:	Pineapples, mangoes
		Vegetables:	Tomatoes
	Yambio	Fruits:	Mangoes, pineapple

- The selection of commodities was based on different consultative meetings with government and private sector stakeholders. It was also in line with the priorities of the Comprehensive Agricultural Master Plan (CAMP) and the South Sudan Agriculture Sector Policy Framework (ASPF). Specifically, the CAMP indicates that the “cultivation of fruits and vegetables allows for productive employment, especially for women, youth and vulnerable groups” while the ASPF has a policy objective of achieving sustainable increase in the production of fruits and vegetables for both domestic and export markets.
- Several criteria have been considered in the selection of the target fruits and vegetables products and locations. These included water availability, market accessibility and connectivity, cultural factors, favourable climatic conditions and security issues. All the target project locations in Central Equatoria State are along important water points, such as White Nile river or streams of Luri and Lira. Due to a relatively good roads in the Juba County, the project locations are easily connected to markets in Juba as well as to regional markets through the Juba airport. The selection of Anzara and Yambio in the Western Equatoria State was also due to the climatic favourability of the region, water availability and potential for surplus production.
- Most farmers around Juba County are multicultural. This was considered as an asset when it comes to political support toward the successful implementation of the SSJCTD project. Other factors considered include, cultural practice and beliefs. For example, in Gondokoro and Kator, vegetable farming is practiced predominantly by female compared to male. The communities around these areas believe that vegetable farming is not a men job and is left for women. The vegetables markets are dominated mostly by women compared to men. Hence, these locations would provide the potential for women focused interventions. In Rejaf, there are more male who are engaged in farming compared to female. This is because of cultural beliefs of communities around the area, who consider that farming is a job done by men. The communities also do not allow their women and especially young girls to do what they perceived as men’s work.
- In addition, in the selected locations, insecurity is considered to be relatively low in terms of violence that arises from cattle raiding and inter-communal clashes as well as from the actions of the holdout rebel groups that are not part of the current peace agreement.

Project Baseline Assessment

- A project baseline assessment was conducted during the inception phase, covering all the ten project locations identified. During the assessment, benchmark information and data against which the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of the project can be monitored and assessed have been collected. The data was collected on the basis of a survey of a sample of producers, processors, traders and cooperatives along the fruits and vegetable value chains. A mixed methods design was used for the assessment, whereby field data was collected through individual household surveys, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews.

- The main findings and key recommendations of the baseline survey include the following:
 - **Socio-demographics:** A total of 686 respondents have been engaged in the baseline survey. The actors approached included farmers, traders, traditional leaders, women groups, youth, local authorities/government officials, and MSMEs members. The major socio-demographic characteristics considered among the farming communities were gender, age, education level and target crop grown. More than half of the respondents were female since they are mainly involved in self-employment activities. The stakeholders in vegetable and fruit sub-sectors were mostly youth and these were heads of households, thus lead decision-making concerning production and marketing. Education levels were generally low among the different age categories. A large proportion 68.4% of the actors were involved in vegetable production and marketing.
 - **Employability and entrepreneurship in South Sudan:** The majority (97%) of the youth and women are self-employed. They derive their livelihoods from self-initiated and operating income generating activities. This is attributed to limited knowledge and skills required for gainful employment in the formal sector. However, the youth aged between 18 to 25 years dominated the formal and informal sectors equally. Involvement of the different age categories of youth, women and men varied between fruit and vegetable sub-sectors. There is relatively small (at least 1 to 2 persons) representation of across all age group across the sub-sectors.
 - Regarding entrepreneurial skills, the majority of the youth and women lack business management and entrepreneurial skills. They rarely received entrepreneurship and business advisory services let alone benefiting from these services. This calls for the need for inclusivity in training on business management and entrepreneurship.
 - Overall, the individuals in the project target areas have limited business management, postharvest handling and processing, compliance and marketing skills. This partly contributes to poor business practices, decrease in transaction and overall poor business performance. The results indicated at least two male or females across the age groups of 15 to 54 years (productive age bracket) had some skills in business management, postharvest handling and processing and compliance to quality, standards and regulations. The limited skills were attributed to limited capacity training in the thematic areas: business management, postharvest handling and processing and compliance.
 - **MSME competitiveness and roadmap for the development in the Vegetable and Fruit Sub-sectors:** Mostly, there were fewer female entrepreneurs in the vegetable and fruit sub-sectors, and most of them were in the youth age bracket. As opposed to their counterparts, the entrepreneurial acumen among the men was fairly distributed across the productive age groups between 15 to 44 years. The assessment of the performance of MSMEs revealed that the majority (83%) of the MSMEs were performing poorly, characterized by low production, poor compliance, low sales and poor networks; and the limited technical assistance they receive did not help improve their business practice and performance. There is no strategic roadmap for the development of the vegetable and fruit sub-sectors in Central and Western Equatoria, despite the existence of one national roadmap, which was not widely implemented through South Sudan. The findings of the baseline study also revealed the absence of MSME assessment reports and strategic plans that support the development of the sub-sectors.
 - **Market linkages for MSMEs in the Vegetable and Fruit sub-sectors:** Although the different age groups among the MSMEs operators had limited knowledge on marketing of vegetable and fruit produce, they were capable of organizing market linkage activities to attract customers and other support actors to their businesses. About 60% of the groups indicated that in previous activities, they have either organized or participated in business matchmaking events, while 48% organized either contractual business events or market arrangements. The MSME operators also have relative skills in market identification.
 - **Gender and Youth Empowerment:** Most of the decisions regarding engagement of household members in production and marketing of vegetables and fruits are made by the adults in the households. The findings revealed that there is a balance between participation of adult men

and women in the targeted sub-sectors. Strikingly within the households, the adult men and women made the decisions related to production, consumption, postharvest handling, processing, and marketing as well as utilization of incomes from produce sales. In most of these activities, there is limited participation of the youth in decision-making. Therefore, it is imperative to mainstream youth and women participation along the vegetable and fruit production, consumption, processing and marketing continuum.

- **Key recommendations of the baseline assessment:** The baseline study recommends the following for consideration in the implementation of the Jobs Creation and Trade Development project: (1) provide an inclusive training on income generating activities to improve employability; (2) increase skills on business management, entrepreneurship, standards and regulations for youth, women and men involved in the development and management of MSMEs especially skills in identifying profitable fruits and vegetables for production as well as how they be delivered to buyers efficiently and economically while maintaining product quality; (3) develop, implement and monitor roadmap and strategic plans for developing and managing MSMEs; (4) institute appropriate policies and regulations for the integration and coordination of MSMEs in the various ministries, departments and to support better access to entrepreneurs and SMEs, integration of the MSMEs into ministries sectorial plans including establishing SME focal points in all relevant ministries and agencies; (5) mainstream participation of youth and women in trainings, decision-making and development and management of MSMEs, and (6) Monitoring and evaluating on the performance of the MSMEs to improve sustainability.

Revision of Project Baseline Target

- Based on the assessment, project baseline data have been established for the relevant indicators of the project. These have been used to revise the baseline data in logframe of the project.

Beneficiary Database

- To fill the gaps in data and facilitate the identification of final beneficiaries for the project, a compilation of basic data on the contact details and number of these potential entities across the target locations of the project has been completed. Accordingly, a database of potential beneficiaries has been established, registering 3,711 producers, processes and traders of fruits and vegetables across the ten project locations. The registration of the beneficiaries was conducted by a lead consultant supported by assistant enumerators.

Conflict sensitivity assessment report

- One of the important activities during the inception phase was to conduct a conflict sensitivity analysis for the project in order to identify existing and potential risks that may affect the interventions of the project as well as the potential negative impact the project may bring about. Accordingly, the conflict sensitivity analysis was conducted and an assessment report was completed on this.
- The sensitivity analysis examined the current socio-political dynamics in the Republic of South Sudan, which could potentially affect the implementation of the SSJCTD project. It identifies the causes and interplay of recent conflict and its impact. It presents the main issues, risks and opportunities that the project must address. For the complete account of the risks, conflict factors and approaches, refer to the assessment report.

2.2.2. Progress under Output 1

Output 1 (R1). MSME competitiveness baseline data and roadmap for the development of the target value chains established

The main deliverables expected under this result area were the completion of the MSME competitiveness survey (baseline report for MSMEs engaged in the fruits and vegetables sector), and the development of a sector strategy and roadmap for the horticulture subsector with specific emphasis on fruits and vegetables. However, due to COVID19 measures taken by the Government at

the beginning of 2021 which necessitated to delay engagement of stakeholders, the deliverables were not fully completed during the reporting period. The progress of implementation for the reporting period includes the following:

- *The MSME competitiveness assessment questionnaire has been developed and readied for deployment.*
- *The sampling of 164 agriculture firms has been prepared, with 37 agriculture firms for the replacement list.*
- *Twelve enumerators have been trained on the administration of the SME Competitiveness Survey.*
- *A preliminary value chain baseline analysis and sector diagnostics has been carried out, leading to the drafting of an initial horticulture sector strategy document based on desk research.*

Detailed activities accomplished

SME competitiveness survey report

- Substantive preparation for undertaking a full sector-level MSME competitiveness assessment has been completed. These included: a) the customisation/completion of a detailed survey questionnaire comprising a diverse thematic areas of competitiveness assessment, such as level of employment; sales; capacity to compete, connect and change; and business recovery from COVID-19 and environmental issues; b) Based on the beneficiary database compiled under the inception phase and interactions with government and private sector stakeholders, the population list of firms operating in the horticulture has been compiled, and a representative sample of companies to be surveyed has been prepared; c) the survey questionnaire has been set up on the online Survey Solution platform; d) a local institution has been identified to conduct the collection of the firm level data, and the process of contracting the institution is under way; e) data enumerators have been identified and a training on the administration of the baseline survey questionnaire has been delivered to the enumerators; f) to facilitate the data collection process, tablets which will be used by enumerators have been acquired and the survey questionnaire has been deployed on the tables.

Horticulture value chain development roadmap and strategy

- Relevant stakeholders for the sector strategy engagement have been identified. An extensive desk research has been conducted and existing policy and strategy documents have been reviewed. Based on the results of the desk research, an initial value chain and sector diagnostics has been undertaken for the fruits and vegetables subsector and a preliminary horticulture sector strategy document has been drafted. The draft is being finalised for consultation and further refinement with contributions from relevant government and private sector stakeholders through a participatory approach. A series of participatory stakeholders' engagements to deliberate and jointly review the draft sector strategy are scheduled to take place early in the second year.

Next steps related to Output 1

- In terms of MSME competitiveness survey, the most important activities that will be undertaken early in the second year of project implementation include: a) deployment of the survey questionnaire and gathering of data, b) analysis of the collected data, and c) production of the SME competitiveness survey report.
- In relation sector roadmap and strategy: a) organisation of a series of stakeholder engagements, b) revision and finalisation of the draft document with an action plan and a management structure, c) endorsement of the strategy by government, and d) strengthening the implementation management structure and developing a communication plan.

2.2.3. Progress under Output 2

Output 2 (R2). Improved productive capacities and compliance to standards for MSMEs engaged in targeted product sectors

Most of the planned activities relating to food safety and quality have been completed and training activities that were not initially planned for the period have been delivered as part of expediting direct support to beneficiaries. The main achievements during the first year include the following:

- An assessment of the National Quality and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) infrastructure of South Sudan has been completed and validated.
- A new draft National Quality Policy and its implementation plan have been developed.
- A taskforce for the review of the draft National Quality Policy has been constituted.
- A handbook on food safety and good hygienic practices and training materials on food safety have been developed.
- 372 producers of fruits and vegetables in 9 project locations have been trained on good agronomic and water harvesting practices. 45% of the trainees represent female participants while youth below the age of 35 represent 55.6% of the total participants trained.
- Through an expression of interest, 28 South Sudanese candidates have been selected for training of trainers on food safety and quality.

Detailed activities accomplished

Assessment of National Quality and SPS Infrastructure

- As part of initial activities in the compliance to standards component of the project, ITC conducted an assessment of the National Quality and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Infrastructure of South Sudan. The assessment was carried out from April 2021 to May 2021. The objective was to assess South Sudan's capacities and capabilities relevant to standardisation, accreditation, metrology, conformity assessment and SPS infrastructure and to provide baseline data in support of national efforts to reform and improve quality infrastructure. The assessment work included a review of a variety of information sources including Acts/laws, technical regulations, policies, technical reports, and consultation with the main quality infrastructure stakeholders and responsible institutions.
- The assessment identified discrepancies in the quality infrastructure, which include the absence of legislations that govern regulatory framework, lack of effective regulations, poor coordination and incoherent collaboration, lack of SPS strategy and poorly defined roles among collaborating ministries and agencies presumably charged with the responsibility of national quality and SPS infrastructure.
- In addition:
 - Laboratories which are key functionary in providing information regarding public health risks, mainly the characterisation of biological, chemical and toxicological hazards are poorly developed in terms of qualified personnel and adequate resources to perform effectively. This in turn implies the lack of meaningful national data necessary for key decision-making processes, including risk mitigation efforts.
 - The study found out that there are significant risks to health in South Sudan from specific commercial products such as food related hazards whether they are biological, physical, chemical or allergenic. The lack of competent conformity assessment infrastructure would also have an impact on regional and international market access for South Sudanese products. There is no national body in charge of accreditation of laboratories, inspections, and certification. South Sudan has approximately 300 standards largely East African standards and there is no gazetted list of these standards. The adoption rate of regional and international standards has been found to be very low.
 - Also, with the exception of dimension, volume and mass calibration, all the services of metrology in South Sudan are limited in scope, which can be attributed to lack of qualified human resource and testing equipment.

- The key recommendations of the infrastructure assessment include the following:
 - There is need for the development and completion of the legal and regulatory framework,
 - Enhance the national quality infrastructure to develop and implement standards and regulations as well as adopt regional and international standards on the national priority products,
 - Strengthen metrology to provide calibration services to laboratories and companies with traceability to the international system of measurement (SI),
 - Promote the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards' (SSNBS) quality and certification marks,
 - Strengthen the capability of testing services,
 - Strengthen and upgrade the capacities of institutions dealing with inspections, SPS and supporting institutions and agencies,
 - Improve food safety and food control system,
 - Improve market access for crops/crop products and livestock /livestock products,
 - Support the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) to operationalize the industrial and private sector strategy, and
 - Set up within the MTI coordination and networking in the areas of quality promotion.

Validation of the National Quality and SPS Infrastructure assessment

- The National Quality and SPS Infrastructure assessment was validated in a workshop held on 2 July 2021 at the margins of the project launch event at Palm Africa Hotel in Juba. A diverse group of national institutions represented by about 70 participants convened to review and deliberate on the report. Participants were drawn from various public and private institutions, including from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and SSNBS. A detailed presentation of the findings and recommendations of the assessment work was provided by the ITC National Quality and SPS Consultant, Dr Kuorwel Kuorwel.
- After thorough deliberations on the findings and recommendations of the assessment, the National Quality and SPS Infrastructure assessment report was validated in its entirety by the participants.



Formation of a taskforce to review of the draft National Quality Policy

- During the validation workshop of the quality infrastructure assessment, the need for reviewing the existing draft National Quality Policy of South Sudan was discussed and agreed with the stakeholders. The ITC Senior Adviser on Export Quality Management, Mr Khemraj Ramful, presented an outline of the steps that will be taken to review the draft National Quality Policy leading to the development of new draft. To facilitate technical contributions from key institutions, the participants agreed to form a taskforce comprised of experts from different relevant agencies, ministries, private sector actors and academia. Accordingly, a taskforce for the review of the new draft policy document has been formed, constituting 24 technical experts from 19 different institutions.

Review of the National Quality Policy

- The draft National Quality Policy has been reviewed by members of the technical taskforce in a three-day retreat organised at the Panorama Portico Hotel in Juba from 26 to 28 August 2021. In the review process, members of the taskforce held thorough deliberations and improved different components of the policy document. The session had thematic reviews split into various working groups, as well as reviews and discussions of chapters of the new policy.



- A new draft of the National Quality Policy of South Sudan has been finalised along with proposed implementation plan. The finalised policy document is scheduled to be validated by high-level representatives of the various stakeholder institutions early in the second-year implementation period after which it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers of South Sudan for endorsement. The technical review of the quality policy marks an important milestone after the validation of the assessment report of the National Quality and SPS infrastructure.

Identification of trainers or advisers on Quality and Food Safety Systems

- An expression of interest was advertised in local newspaper soliciting interested candidates to apply for a training of trainers on quality and food safety systems. 28 applications were received and all of the candidates have been considered and mobilised for the first round training.
- A training concept note, programme and materials were developed on food safety and quality for use during the training of trainers. A 10-day training of trainers for the selected candidates has been scheduled to take place from 6 to 17 September 2021. The training aims to capacitate trainers and advisers on both technical (food safety & quality) and pedagogical ability to enhance their knowledge and skills thus affording them the needed capacity as food safety trainers and advisers. The ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of local service providers on matters related to food safety and quality to enable them to provide support to producers, processors, retailers and consumers along the fruits and vegetables value chains.

A handbook on food safety and good hygienic practices

- To aid the capacity building efforts in food safety and quality along the fruit and vegetable value chains, a comprehensive guide on food safety and good hygienic practices has been developed for use by South Sudanese micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The guide demonstrates the importance of actively and alertly planning and implementing food safety in food production, processing, packaging, storing, and distribution. It is intended to inspire South Sudanese MSMEs to adopt and implement a food safety and quality-based excellence approach to their food business endeavours and contribute to their success. The guide extensively addresses issues related to food safety concepts, good agricultural practices, good hygienic practices, and food safety management systems.

Enhancement of skills in good agricultural practices

- Fruit and vegetable producers from the ten project locations (namely: Gondokoro, Jebe Lado, Jubanabari, Kator, Kworijik, Lokiliri, Luri and Rejaf in the Central Equatoria State; and Anzara and Yambio of Western Equatoria State) have been selected for capacity building training in good agricultural practices (GAPs). A training programme on good agronomic and rainwater harvesting practices was customised and delivered from 12 to 31 August 2021 in nine of the project locations, with the exception of Kworijik where the training was suspended at the last-minute owing to a violence that erupted in the area. A total of 18 separate training events were organized, each training accommodating about 40 participants. This represents two training events in each of the nine project locations.



- A total of 372 producers of fruits and vegetables were trained on the application of better agricultural and rainwater harvesting practices. This included 167 women and 207 youth from all locations where the training was delivered. The training was intended to impart knowledge and skills on improved agronomic practices for land preparation, production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables as well as efficient ways of harvesting and managing rainwater.



- In delivering the training, a participatory approach was employed, consisting of presentation sessions, discussions, interaction through asking questions and answers; and practical field demonstrations. Also, as part of the training package, a training guide containing step-by-step instructions on good agricultural practices in vegetable and fruit production was provided for the participants. The following table summarises the participants by project location.



Distribution of training participants by age group, gender and project location

Project Location	Age group						Gender		Total
	15 - 24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female	
Kator	12	18	10	6	6	0	29	23	52
Rejaf	8	10	18	4	2	2	23	21	44
Gondokoro	3	14	7	3	1	1	15	14	29
Lokililri	5	13	14	5	2	1	25	15	40
Luri	1	14	9	10	4	1	18	21	39
Jebel Lado	13	12	8	8	4	2	34	13	47
Juba Na Bari	20	6	6	7	1	0	33	7	40
Anzara	22	25	8	5	0	1	21	40	61
Yambio	3	8	8	1	0	0	7	13	20
Total	87	120	88	49	20	8	205	167	372

- Most participants of the training were aged 25-34, accounting for 32% followed by age group 35-44 (24%) and 15-24 (23%). Overall, youth under the age of 35 represent about 56% of the participants. Gender wise, female producers of fruits and vegetables account for 45% while male producers represent 55% of the participants. In terms of product sector, 56.7% of the participants were vegetable producers while 43.3% were both vegetable and fruit producers.

Agronomic training sessions in pictures



Photo 1: ITC Consultant demonstrating on how to establish a nursery bed for vegetable raising before transplanting during practical exercise in Kator Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria State.



Photo 2: Participants in agronomic practice group discussion in Rejaf Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria State.



Photo 3: On the left is the chair lady of the Riaboro Vegetable Groups in Anzara making remark during the training session.



Photo 4: Training participants in Anzara County, Western Equatoria State after the close of the capacity building training.



Photo 5: Anzara County Director of Agriculture and Forestry, introducing the Job Creation and Trade Development project.



Photo 6: Mr Pious Seconded, Director for Horticulture in the National Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, facilitating group discussions.

Next steps related to Output 2

- Mobilisation and formation of producer groups and cooperatives
- Identification, acquisition, and provision of agricultural inputs to producers
- Providing further training on agronomic practices and water harvesting
- Conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of fruits and vegetables processing and market centres
- Supporting the establishment of processing and market centres in selected project locations
- Training of trainers and advisers on food safety and quality system
- Validation of the National Quality Policy and submission to the Council of Ministers for endorsement
- Identification and sensitization of selected MSMEs on food safety and quality
- Conducting a diagnostic (gap assessment) of selected MSMEs and developing an action for compliance with relevant food safety and quality standards
- Implementing a quality and food Safety sensitization campaign
- Provision of support to MSMEs to enable them implement food safety and quality system
- Provision of training of trainers on Quality management systems (ISO 9001: 2015) and audit course for ISO 9001.
- Supporting establishment of food safety and quality association.
- Strengthening the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards (SSNBS) and technical regulatory bodies in developing, promoting and enforcing standards and technical regulations.

2.2.4. Progress under Output 4

Output 4 (R4). Improved employability and entrepreneurship capacity for South Sudanese labour force, focussing on youth and women

Implementation of planned activities started slightly later than expected due to COVID 19 measures of the Government that were in place till April 2021, which necessitated to delay social gatherings and consultative processes. The main progress under this result area includes the following:

- An assessment of the business ecosystem for entrepreneurship has been conducted.
- Potential institutions supporting entrepreneurship development have been identified and mapped.
- A draft of entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping and network analysis report has been completed.
- Young entrepreneurs have been identified based on the inception phase assessment findings.

Detailed activities accomplished

- An extensive engagement of stakeholders was conducted both virtually via teleconferencing and Zoom meetings and in person meetings. Substantive information was gathered from the various support providing institutions. National consultants were deployed to support the data compilation and consultation process in person.
- Based on the consultation process and the data gathered, ITC conducted an assessment and mapping of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in South Sudan. The purpose of the assessment was to identify institutional arrangements and resource endowments leading to productive entrepreneurship. This entailed examining whether existing institutions in South Sudan effectively function with the available infrastructure, talent, knowledge, leadership and financial resources to adequately respond to demand for goods and services and support productive businesses.
- The ecosystem analysis identified existing entrepreneurship support and institutions, gaps in the ecosystem as well as the efforts of networking and connectivity among institutions in terms of support provision and working together for business development. The key findings and recommendations of the ecosystem assessment include the following:
 - *Alignment of policy:* Current policy does not specifically address entrepreneurship, and this is a serious hurdle to the development of the ecosystem. Aligning policy and introducing a specific agenda for entrepreneurship will help provide guidance to the support ecosystem and provide a path forward for all actors.
 - *Providing Access to Finance:* access to finance is a recognized issue, and the government is planning to address this through the formation of a Youth Enterprise Development Fund. The management of this fund must be proactive to address the actual needs of young entrepreneurs. Conditions for loans need to be clear and attainable, and the fund should be promoted widely to galvanize youth and drive excitement for entrepreneurship.
 - *Better, deeper connections between institutions:* There is a clear need for better coordination between institutions. Many overlaps exist in the ecosystem, and many more gaps in services. Institutionalizing the regular alignment and knowledge-sharing meetings between institutions could be an important first-step in addressing this concern to help coordinate planning between institutions and act as a nexus for service delivery.
 - *Make agripreneurship attractive to youth:* currently, there is a lack of interest in agricultural entrepreneurship (agripreneurship) amongst youth, with most young South Sudanese seeing agriculture as only a subsistence activity, not an avenue to prosperity. A communications campaign should be introduced to promote and highlight the profit-earning potentials of agribusiness. Moreover, a youth platform to foster exchanges and peer-to-peer learning could be introduced to develop an enabling environment.
 - *Better training, coaching and mentorship:* Current trainings focus on theoretical, basic knowledge such as marketing and customer relations. There needs to be more advanced skills training in business management and operations.

Next steps related to Output 4

- Finalisation and validation of the draft ecosystem mapping
- Provision of training to young entrepreneurs on entrepreneurship, business management and access to finance
- Establish a consultative steering committee on youth entrepreneurship
- Designing and implementing specific support to women businesses
- Assessing and strengthening or establishing entrepreneurship training and incubation centres

3. Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken

Extended project validation process and inception phase duration

- The project validation process had to be carried out in a series of consultation processes to ensure the key stakeholders fully understand and own the project. Although this process had commenced immediately upon the start of the implementation period of the project, several bilateral meetings had to be carried out with the different government and private sector actors to provide briefings, deliberate on the overall aspects of the project as well as identify project locations and specific products. The consultation process for the validation of the project along with the identification of project locations and specific products took a bit more than two months given the then circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic; and subsequently, the project baseline assessment commenced only after the project was validated by local stakeholders in December 2020.
- Between February and April 2021, the Government through its COVID19 Task Force had put in place restrictive measures, banning all social gatherings, including political events, requiring closure of all schools and universities and all businesses that attract crowds and recommend private and public sectors to allow non-essential staff to stay home or alternate their staff in shifts. Accordingly, the effective commencement of the survey activities of the baseline assessment work was further delayed by about two months following the new government COVID19 measures. These challenges overall forced inception phase activities to go beyond the original plan of six-month duration, automatically affecting the start date of the different project components.
- In compliance to the new COVID19 measures, some of the project activities that required extensive stakeholder consultations (sector strategy development, institutional ecosystem mapping, quality infrastructure assessment missions) had to be delayed until the measures have been relaxed. As a result, some of the activities were deferred to the next year.

Absence of basic data on enterprises

- In addition to a delayed start, the other factor that caused the delay in the assessment of the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises (SMECs assessment) and the sector strategy development process was the absence of data on enterprises engaged in the horticulture sector. Although the project focuses on fruits and vegetable value chains in the selected project locations, the sector strategy focus is national at the horticulture level. Obtaining data on the sector from the different government Ministries and private sector actors was not feasible as they did not have the desired data on enterprises. To respond to data challenges, a registration of fruits and vegetable producers, processors and traders was conducted in ten of the project locations in which basic data on more than 3 thousand potential beneficiaries was gathered and documented. The data was used for selection of sample enterprises that will be interviewed for the purpose of the SMECs assessment.
- Also, during the first year, ITC had started implementing the South Sudan National Export and Investment Strategy (NEIS) development project funded by the African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank), which also required national level data on enterprises along the different sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing and services. In this regard, ITC's efforts under the two projects have been coordinated to ensure coherence and effective interventions.

Accordingly, the data gathering activities for the SMECs assessment required for the two projects have been synchronised to source an appropriate local consulting company to gather the necessary data at the national level. This synchronisation has to some extent affected the planned schedule of completing data gathering for the horticulture sector under the Jobs Creation and Trade Development project as the process of identifying and engaging a data collecting company required additional time given the scale of the expanded engagement and the apparent need for coordination of ITC's efforts under the two projects.

External factor

- In August 2021, a training on good agronomic practices scheduled to be delivered to producers of fruits and vegetables in Kworijik was cancelled due to an intra-communal violence in Kworijik-Luri and Jebel Teman areas of Juba, which caused the displacement of local communities. The training was accordingly postponed until a time when the situation settles down and normalcy returned. Although this is beyond the control the project, the Government has taken measures to control the situation. It is expected that project activities that target Kworijik will continue early in the second-year implementation period.

Focus on inception phase and preparatory main phase activities

- Given the nature of the inception phase activities in particular and the first-year action plan, in general, substantial activities that lead to the inducement and attainment of key project results were envisaged for subsequent years. As a result, the first-year implementation activities focussed mainly on preliminary and preparatory interventions. This, coupled with the delays encountered due to the COVID19 pandemic and data availability issues, was the reason for substantial intermediary results not being recorded during the first-year implementation period. In view of these circumstances, substantive interventions are scheduled for the second-year implementation period to provide concrete capacity building support to the beneficiaries identified along the fruit and vegetable value chains. In this regard, an extensive second year action plan has been prepared. The second-year action plan envisages the following strategies to intensify implementation on the ground.

Strategies to advance implementation in the second year

- Given the limited progress and intermediate results achieved during the first-year and the challenges experienced, a number of strategies will be deployed to advance implementation and scale-up substantive interventions. These will include the following:
 - Strengthen local project support by deploying additional experts to deepen and widen interventions across all project locations. This will involve:
 - consolidating support structure in Central Equatoria where 80% of the project locations are located. This will be in terms of local technical experts that would advise and support producers, processors and traders of fruits and vegetables along the value chains.
 - hiring local coordination and technical support staff in Yambio and Anzara as it will be instrumental to closely implement and follow up activities in the Western Central Equatoria State.
 - Rent and operate a project office within a UN compound to better respond to the routine logistical needs of field personnel as well as to facilitate the mobilisation and organisation of beneficiaries, stakeholders, project events and workshops by providing the requisite logistics and related services in a faster and more accessible manner.
 - During the first year, it has been experienced that project activities required frequent and immediate provision of logistical inputs to respond to plans and these have been acquired and provided as and when required by reaching out to potential suppliers. Frequent administrative processes of sourcing logistical inputs and supplies, however, had not only partly contributed to rescheduling of project events but also to delays to some extent. Therefore, it is envisaged to deploy longer term supplier arrangements to resoundingly facilitate access to logistical inputs within a shorter administrative process and lead time.

- Forge partnership with local partners
 - The project envisages to work with and through local partners in order to intensify implementation. Relevant partners will be identified and engaged to scale up interventions and expedite achievement of results. For example, the entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping and network analysis identified a number of institutions, including non-governmental organisations, governmental and private sector institutions, which can be engaged during the second-year implementation period. Initial engagements have been held with potential partners during the entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping and network analysis.


4. Project Management

- Upon signature of the EU/ITC Contribution Agreement, an official communication was sent to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) to inform the commencement of implementation of the project. A Local Project Coordinator has been installed to support the coordination and facilitation of project activities in the field. In collaboration with MOTI, a series of project briefings have been provided to different government and private sector stakeholders. This has created a sense of ownership, involvement and guidance from the government as well as the private sector from the beginning. Different consultative meetings have been held with key government and private sector institutions to expedite the selection and validation of project sites, specific products, target beneficiaries, partner institutions, and the commencement of the baseline assessment work.
- To constitute a Project Steering Committee (PSC), member institutions have been identified and the terms of reference for the Committee have been developed. The PSC consists of representatives from the Ministry of Trade & Industry; Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security; Ministry of Youth & Sports; Ministry of Gender, Child & Social Welfare; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; South Sudan Bureau of Standards; South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture; European Union; and International Trade Centre. The first meeting of the PSC is scheduled to take place early in the second year.
- Quarterly project reports have been prepared and submitted to Altai Consulting company based in Nairobi to facilitate the reporting of project achievements as part of EUTF Monitoring and Learning System for EU funded projects in the Horn of Africa.
- The importance of having a field vehicle has been identified to facilitate project implementation and coordination and an order has been made for a four-wheel drive vehicle whose delivery is expected toward the end of November 2021.
- As part of efforts for ensuring synergy with other projects in the country, ITC held consultations with different organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme and the International Labour Organisation to deliberate on existing initiatives and potential areas of collaboration.

5. Communication and Visibility

- To ensure the dissemination of information and visibility of the project, events and its partners, different communication materials have been developed and deployed. These included: project flyers, press releases, news articles and promotional banners. These communication materials have been deployed at different project events, including project validation and launch events, technical workshops as well as different project briefing meetings.

- In addition, different project briefing sessions were held with local stakeholders with a view to enhance awareness and buy in for the project. Project briefings about the project and its partners have also been provided at different stakeholder meetings and workshop organised under the project.
- A project webpage (<https://www.intracen.org/JCTD-South-Sudan/>) for the project has been created under the ITC corporate website as part of communication and visibility strategy.
- Press releases and news articles produced for project validation and launch workshops as well as for the workshop for the Review of National Quality Policy have been disseminated using different media, including the Dawn Newspaper, Juba Monitor, The Mail, No1 Citizen Newspaper, Sudans Post, and the corporate websites of the Delegation of the European Union to South Sudan and the ITC. Some of the newspapers and links where press releases have been published include the following:

Event	Link	Newspaper
Review of National Quality Policy	ITC: The new draft of the National Quality Policy for South Sudan reviewed	
Project launch:	<p>EUD: EU invests €4.8M to develop trade and create jobs</p> <p>Sudans Post: EU announces €4.8 million for job creation plans in South Sudan</p> <p>Juba Monitor: EU injects EUR 4.8 million to boost trade development</p> <p>The Mail: EU invests 4.8 million euros to develop trade and create jobs (Arabic)</p>	
Project validation:	ITC & MOTI hold a validation workshop for SSJCTD Project	

Flyers

- Project flyers have been produced in English and Arabic languages and distributed at the different project events.



Banners

- Project banners have been designed and deployed at project events.



6. Financial Report

Further to the signature of the Contribution Agreement by both the European Union and ITC, the first-prefinancing instalment of USD 1,164,024 was received in September 2020. For the reporting period, total expenditure of the project was USD 403,958.71, representing 34.7% of the funds made available through the first pre-financing instalment. The low utilisation rate of the budget is a direct reflection of delayed implementation, the grounds of which have been discussed under the Challenges section above. The table below presents the breakdown of expenditures in line with the structure of Annex III of the Contribution Agreement.

Output	Description	Year 1 Total Budget (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD)	Commitments (USD)	Total Expenditure (USD)
Inception Phase	Establishment of project baseline data, 1st Year workplan, sustainability strategy	137,473	68,800.84	3,348.00	72,148.84
Output 1	R1. MSME competitiveness baseline data and roadmap for the development of the target value chains established	225,119	17,585.32		17,585.32
Output 2	R2. Improved productive capacities and compliance to standards for MSMEs engaged in targeted product sectors	272,273	6,242.52	88,673.00	94,915.52
Output 3	R3. Increased market linkages for MSMEs in the targeted product sectors	-			
Output 4	R4. Improved employability and entrepreneurship capacity for South Sudanese labour force, focussing on youth and women	110,832	26,132.97	6,200.00	32,332.97
Management	Management and Coordination	342,175	154,548.85	6,000.00	160,548.85
Subtotal in USD		1,087,873	273,310.50	104,221.00	377,531.50
Remuneration/indirect eligible costs (7%)		76,151	19,131.74	7,295.47	26,427.21
Total in USD		1,164,024	292,442.24	111,516.47	403,958.71

ANNEX I – Status and Progress of Implementation

	Results	Project Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Progress made Year 1 (Sep 2020 – Aug 2021)	Percentage of completion (%)
Overall Objective	Impact: <i>Improved livelihoods of the South Sudanese population targeted under the project.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in average household and/or individual income of people (youth and women) employed in the target product sectors of the project ▪ Number of beneficiaries with increased income as a result of the project ▪ Number of female beneficiaries with increased income as a result of the project 	Overall: SSP67,672 Youth: SSP22,408 Women: SSP44,644 Overall: 230 (33.5%) Youth: 167 (24.3%) Women: 118 (17.2%)	10% T: 2000 Y: 1,380 W: 627	In progress, intermediate results that lead to this objective are at very preliminary stage.	0%
Specific Objective	Outcome: <i>Increased MSME competitiveness and employment opportunities for the South Sudanese labour force, with a focus on youth and women.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of newly employed people (youth and women), including self-employment, in the target product sectors of the project ▪ Number of new entrepreneurs (youth and women) engaged in the target product sectors of the project ▪ Number of jobs created along the target value chains ▪ Number of MSMEs that reported improved business practices and performance (production, compliance, sales, and networks) ▪ Number of women owned MSMEs that reported improved business practices and performance (production, compliance, sales, and networks) ▪ Number of MSMEs that reported increased transactions ▪ Number of women owned MSMEs that reported increased transactions 	Overall employed: Men: 11; Women: 7 Overall self-employed: Men: 293 and Women: 375 Youth employed: 12 Youth self-employed: 463 Entrepreneurs: Female Youth: 176 Adult Women: 125 Male youth: 132 Adult men: 110 #Jobs: 1,428 Business practice: 141 Transaction: - Overall: 109 - Women: 39	Emp: 1000 Ent: 500 Jobs:1000 Business: 200 W.business: 112 MSME: 150 W.msme: 84	In progress, intermediate results that lead to this outcome are at very preliminary stage.	0%

Outputs	Output 1. MSME competitiveness baseline data and roadmap for the development of the target value chains established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of baseline MSME assessment reports produced ▪ Number of sector strategy document developed ▪ Number of roadmap produced 	<p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>1</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>In progress, only a preliminary sector strategy was drafted.</p>	<p>0%</p>
	Output 2. Improved productive capacities and compliance to standards for MSMEs engaged in targeted product sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of operators or individuals skilled in business management, processing, harvesting and handling practices, compliance to standards and market requirements as well as in marketing ▪ Number of female operators or individuals skilled in business management, processing, harvesting and handling practices, compliance to standards and market requirements ▪ Number of capacity building trainings organized ▪ Number of guides on improved production methods and harvesting practices developed ▪ Number of cooperatives strengthened or created 	<p>171</p> <p>83</p> <p>28</p> <p>0</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>1120</p> <p>100</p> <p>1</p> <p>10</p>	<p>372 producers trained on climate smart agriculture practices</p> <p>167 women producers trained on climate smart agriculture practices</p> <p>9</p> <p>1 a handbook on food safety & good hygienic practices,</p> <p>1 draft national quality, quality,</p> <p>1 quality and SPS infrastructure assessment</p>	<p>18.6%</p> <p>14.9%</p> <p>9%</p> <p>100%</p>

	<p>Output 3. Increased market linkages for MSMEs in the targeted product sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of operators or individuals skilled in marketing, negotiation, and market identification and data analysis ▪ Number of female operators or individuals skilled in in marketing, negotiation and market identification and analysis ▪ Number of capacity building trainings organized ▪ Number of business match making events and contractual arrangements organized ▪ Number of market identification and opportunity assessment reports produced 	<p>954</p> <p>419</p> <p>0</p> <p>34</p> <p>3</p>	<p>200</p> <p>112</p> <p>10</p> <p>30</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Not targeted during the first year.</p>	<p>0%</p>
	<p>Output 4. Improved employability and entrepreneurship capacity for South Sudanese labour force, focussing on youth and women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of youth and women skilled in business management and entrepreneurship ▪ Number of women skilled in business management and entrepreneurship ▪ Number of capacity building trainings organized ▪ Number of youth and women benefiting from entrepreneurship and business advisory services and support ▪ Number of entrepreneurship and business advisory services provided to young people and women ▪ Number of youth and women entrepreneurs that have accessed finance for their business as a result of the project 	<p>20</p> <p>10</p> <p>136</p> <p>61</p> <p>55</p>	<p>1000</p> <p>560</p> <p>30</p> <p>1000</p> <p>30</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1st cohort of training postponed to next period.</p> <p>1 report on entrepreneurship ecosystem mapping & network analysis completed.</p>	<p>0%</p>