

South Sudan Joint Stabilization and Recovery Programme

**2017 Progress Report**

January – December 2017

Prepared For: Aweil JRSP donors

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## **Table of Contents**

[**1. Executive Summary 4**](#_Toc505006723)

[**2. Programme Background 6**](#_Toc505006724)

[**3. Programme activities and progress during the inception period 7**](#_Toc505006725)

[**4. Programme operational issues 11**](#_Toc505006726)

[**5. Cross Cutting Issues 11**](#_Toc505006727)

[**5.1 Gender 11**](#_Toc505006728)

[**5.2 Partnerships 11**](#_Toc505006729)

[**5.3 Environmental Considerations 12**](#_Toc505006730)

## **Acronyms**

|  |  |
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| BSFP | Blanket supplementary feeding programmes |
| BRACE | Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement |
| CSO | Civil society organizations |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FFA | Food Assistance for Assets |
| FFE | Food for Education |
| HeRY | Help Restore Youth |
| ICF | Interim Cooperation Framework |
| IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification |
| JRSP | Joint Recovery & Stabilization Programme |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| NBeG | Northern Bahr el Ghazal |
| SMEs | Small and medium enterprises |
| SRSG | Special Representative of the Secretary General |
| TSFP | Targeted supplementary feeding programme |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| UNMISS | United Nations Mission in South Sudan |
| WASH | Water sanitation and hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |

## **Executive Summary**

**Intended outcome and outputs of the programme**:

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| **Interim Cooperation Framework Outcomes** | **Corresponding Outputs** |
| **Outcome 1:** Building resilience of communities | * Livelihoods and food security of selected communities enhanced |
| **Outcome 2:** Strengthened social services for the most vulnerable | * Improved outreach, quality, and equity of basic social services |
| **Outcome 3:** Peace and Governance Strengthened | * Local peace processes and formal and informal institutions are strengthened |
| **Outcome 4:** Local Economy Reinvigorated | * Livelihoods and food security of selected communities enhanced * Small scale enterprise, productive infrastructure, income opportunities and employment created |
| The programme also contribute to ICF Outcome 5: Improvement of the status of women and youth | |

**Programme objective and approach:**

Aligned to the ‘new way of working’[[1]](#footnote-1), the programme complements humanitarian investments in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) through implementation of the United Nations Joint Recovery and Stabilization Programme (JRSP) whose overall objective is to contribute to the progressive transformation of South Sudan towards sustainable peace, stability and development in a step-by-step manner. The JRSP has four mutually reinforcing pillars; building resilience of communities; reinvigorating the local economy; enhancing the provision of basic services; and supporting peace building and social cohesion. Implementation of the JRSP in Aweil is based on the principles of “joint action for collective results” through co-location, collaboration and coordination amongst participating agencies and other relevant actors on the ground. This multi-sectoral and integrated approach enables partners concerned to capitalise on programme synergies and deliver enhanced and concentrated development impact on the ground. The impact will be translated to increasing individual and community resilience while also decreasing their vulnerability.

**Notable achievements and synergies in the reporting period:**

* Joint planning and strategy development has allowed for the identification of new ways of working in which agencies deliver complementary outputs and services to populations in need to generate transformative and positive impact on their lives and livelihoods.
* The Aweil Vocational and Livelihoods Training Centre, which was constructed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is training 150 vulnerable women and youth in market-aligned trades and supporting them towards self-employment and sustainable income generation. The World Food Programme (WFP) is supporting the trainees with cooked meals on the days they attend training sessions, while the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is considering developing agriculture and farming training courses to be delivered at the center. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is considering potential support on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
* UNDP constructed the Women’s Hai Salaam Vegetable market together with water and sanitation facilities. The market which provides potential for a community business hub is fully functional and currently serving 96 traders. It is expected to encourage increased vegetable production to support nutrition requirements and promote exchange towards revitalizing the local economy. The programme is assessing with FAO the possibility of providing agricultural inputs, seeds, tools and training to local communities, and with UNICEF and WFP the possibility of supplementing the current drinking water point built by UNDP to supply water for irrigation in the dry season to ensure uninterrupted vegetable production and supply to the market, improve nutrition and foster dietary diversity.
* UNICEF rehabilitated a women and girls centre to support vulnerable women and girls on gender based violence (GBV) response. The centre offers life-skills training women and girls, and by December 2017, 76 women and girls had completed a three-month skills training.
* UNDP is strengthening local peace committees to foster social cohesion and peaceful resolution of disputes. UNDP, FAO and UNMISS have supported pre-migration conference of the different Arab pastoralists from Sudan and the communities of Aweil to prevent conflict over pasture and water, during the migration season.
* UNDP established a justice and confidence centre and launched its legal aid services in November 2017, holding legal aid awareness activities that reached 353 community members (181 female).
* UNDP held six community rule of law outreach activities reaching 504 (347 female) community members; four community policing outreach activities reaching 1,238 people (431 female), and six police community relations committee meetings reaching 255 people (135 female).
* WFP has harmonized its nutrition intervention with UNICEF by ensuring that they all both select the same partners and harmonize centres for moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) services. UNICEF, WFP and other nutrition partners have agreed on the days of targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP) and outpatient therapeutic programmes) to minimize ‘double dipping’ in the programme and to enhance efficiencies.
* UNICEF supported the provision of birth notifications in health facilities and outpatient therapeutic programmes. In 2017 alone, 47,370 children (24,887 boys and 22,483 girls) received birth notifications.
* WFP and UNICEF continued their strong partnership to support child education. Through WFP’s school meals programme and UNICEF’s ‘back to learning’ campaign, the two agencies jointly assisted 76 schools. In 2018, an expansion of the school meals programme will be coordinated with UNICEF so that the same schools are targeted and receive assistance. Additionally, UNICEF carried out GBV awareness and provided psychosocial support programmes in schools.
* In response to the growing level of food and nutrition insecurity, WFP continues to provide live-saving support for populations facing acute hunger. General food distributions were linked with blanket supplementary feeding programmes (BSFP) to prevent acute malnutrition in children under five including pregnant and nursing mothers. The linking of the two programmes helped to ensure that households had minimum dietary intake while nutritious foods helped to prevent a further deterioration of the nutrition situation.
* For the past two years, FAO and WFP have been working in partnership to implement BRACE II, a multi-year programme which is supporting vulnerable communities to increase their food production, protect themselves from climate shocks, and to improve access to markets, schools, health facilities through construction of community access roads. Through agriculture extension services, training, and cash assistance, FAO and WFP are helping to build community resilience and reduce food insecurity.

## **Programme Background**

The NBeG region is inhabited by mainly Dinka, Lou and other tribes. It is estimated to have a population of approximately 1.3 million[[2]](#footnote-2). Latest evidence has shown heightened vulnerability of the NBeG region to multiple shocks of severe food insecurity and acute malnutrition coupled with livelihood disruption and depletion of community coping mechanisms. It has been estimated, for instance, that more than 60 percent of the population in NBeG are severely food insecure and global acute malnutrition rates have stayed above the 15 percent emergency threshold for decades, often unresponsive to crop harvests. The region is characterized by progressive erosion of community resilience, severe livelihood disruption and increasing youth unemployment in the region. In the NBeG region, much like the rest of South Sudan, the deterioration of justice services, law and order, and the perceived and real need for personal safety and security amongst diverse communities, has diminished reliance on the formal and/or customary systems of justice. Justice and law enforcement services are scarce and, where they are available, the knowledge and capacity of rule of law officials is often under par. The creation of 32 states has also impacted the capacity of the state and local governments to carry out their responsibilities.

Despite the above challenges, the region continues to be one of the most peaceful areas in South Sudan. However, the region borders the disputed area of Abyei and is in proximity to conflict areas in East Darfur and South Kordofan. A major source of insecurity is the seasonal movement of Reziget and Missriya nomads, crossing the border from Sudan looking for food and water for their livestock.

While increased humanitarian interventions are necessary, they need to be complimented by resilience building initiatives to have lasting effects. Relative political stability and peace in NBeG present immediate and credible opportunities to invest in resilience projects to complement humanitarian actions. To this end UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, and WFP developed a UN Joint Recovery and Stabilization Strategy that is being piloted through a multi-sector, area-based, recovery and stabilization programme in NBeG. The four agencies have worked in most of the targeted areas and thus the programme is building and expanding on previous experience, as well as introducing new initiatives based on assessed community needs. To ensure value for money and results in this programme, the participating agencies have pooled their comparative advantages to guarantee that interventions around water, value chains, food security and nutrition, among many others, are complementary and synergetic, as well as by working simultaneously in the targeted communities and, to the extent possible, with the same implementing partners.

## **Programme activities and progress during the inception period**

**Output 1: Livelihoods and food security of selected communities enhanced**

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| Planned activities and targets for the period | Progress against planned activities |
| Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations (General Food Distribution): 531,684 beneficiaries targeted. | WFP delivered approximately 18,100 metric tons of emergency food assistance to nearly 570,000 people including three periods of intensified distribution through the peak of the hunger season. |
| Provide preventative nutrition assistance (BSF[[3]](#footnote-3)) to children under five and pregnant and lactating women: 230,128 beneficiaries targeted. | General food distributions were linked with the BSF programme, reaching 144,966 children under five and pregnant and lactating women with more than 2,000 metric tons of specialized nutritious foods to prevent acute malnutrition. |
| Provide Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSF) to treat moderate acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women: 50,948 beneficiaries targeted. | 35,867 children under five and pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition received specialized nutritious foods as treatment. |
| Provide conditional in-kind or cash-based transfers to households who participated in asset creation activities to build their resilience to shocks (Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)): 165,533 beneficiaries targeted. | 141,044 beneficiaries in households that are food-insecure and vulnerable to climate-related shocks received support through FFA, either in kind or through cash based transfers. |

**Output 2:** **Small- scale enterprise, productive infrastructure, income opportunities and employment created**

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| Planned activities and targets for the period | Progress against planned activities |
| Provide income generating opportunities. | Ninety-six beneficiaries and members of the market management committee were trained in business management and entrepreneurship skills. These beneficiaries (80% women) have since settled in the Women’s Hai Salaam Vegetable market and are generating their own income as a result of improved business management skills acquired through the training.  The training at the Aweil Livelihood Skills and Vocational Training centre has commenced[[4]](#footnote-4). The trades covered by the centre include, tailoring, carpentry, welding, computers and mechanics. Classes have started with20 participants for each of the different specializations. |
| Provide emergency employment through cash-for-work schemes. | Emergency employment was created for a total of 60 residents in Aweil (48 males and 12 females) who engaged during the construction of Women’s Hai Salaam Vegetable market, skilled workers were paid a daily average rate of SSP 800 (Approx. US$4) while the unskilled workers were paid SSP 500 (Approx. US$2.5) on average. |
| Support the construction and management of community markets. | In Aweil, the Women’s Hai Salaam Vegetable market construction was completed as well as addition two meat shops. The market has since been operational and handed over to state authorities. A number of open-air market vendors have moved to the new market and continue to sell their wares there. |
| Support Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises development for youth and women entrepreneurs. | The programme has begun planning an entrepreneurship skills training workshop in Aweil that will take place in Q1 of 2018. The training is expected to have 75 participants and is designed to support youth and women in areas such as self‐employment and growth of micro, small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs). Participants of the workshop will further receive business advisory services and half of those trained will have their businesses formalized and registered[[5]](#footnote-5). |

**Output 3:** **Improved outreach, quality, and equity of basic social services.**

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| Planned activities and targets for the period | Progress against planned activities |
| Management and prevention of severe acute malnutrition. 47,700 beneficiaries targeted. | UNICEF supported a therapeutic programme for severely acute malnutrition for children under 5 in 122 nutrition sites, with more than 480,000 children screened for malnutrition, 32,000 admitted into a nutrition programme and 88 percent recovered. |
| Provision of life saving WASH interventions. 185,000 beneficiaries targeted. | Supported improving water and sanitation with over 90 percent nutrition programme treatment centres reached with WASH services; more than 100 hand pumps rehabilitated and functional; over 25,000 girls received dignity kits; and more than 6,000 beneficiaries reached with key WASH messages through varied communication channels. |
| Provision of basic health care and prevention of common diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases and malaria. 102,000 children under 5 years and 18,000 pregnant women targeted. | UNICEF supported capacity building of 27 health workers on ANC/MNH and PMTCT service delivery and more than 6,000 pregnant women attended ANC clinic 4 times or more.  More than 240,000 children were vaccinated against measles in health facilities, outreaches and nutrition treatment centres. 62,000 children under five, and pregnant women received long lasting treated mosquito nets in the nutrition treatment centres, and health facilities.  Over 80,000 people were treated for malaria in nutrition treatment centres and health facilities, as well as through mobile clinics and outreach campaigns. Approximately 27,000 children completed vaccination (penta 3). |
| Provision of Protection services. 110,000 individuals targeted (85,000 children and 25,000 adults) | UNICEF supported birth notifications in health facilities and the locations of outpatient therapeutic programmes, prioritizing locations where UNICEF and WFP are supporting severe acute malnutrition. services. In 2017 alone, 47,370 children (24,887 boys and 22,483 girls) received birth notifications. 76 women and girls received support in GBV awareness activities. |

**Output 4:** **Local peace processes and formal and informal institutions are strengthened[[6]](#footnote-6)**

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| Planned activities and targets for the period | Progress against planned activities |
| Capacity building of civil society, local peace committees, women, youth and traditional leaders to resolve conflicts peacefully. | Three peace committees were established as local mechanisms for addressing conflict. A peace committee was established in Gomjuer in Lol state after a community dialogue to discuss peace and conflict related problems in the community. Two additional peace committees were reconstituted in Aweil East and Southern Kordofan in Sudan, which are essential in managing cattle migration related conflicts between Dinka Malual (Aweil) and Misseriya Arabs (Kordofan). 60 members (3 female and 57 male) of the two peace committees acquired skills in a peaceful method of resolving conflicts as well as in integrating gender issues in community peace processes in preparation for the annual Misseriya Arabs and Dinka Malual pre-migration conference. |
| Conduct community level dialogues, consultation and mediation conferences to manage local level conflicts including on migration. | Two community level dialogues were conducted to strengthen peace and social cohesion among communities of the larger Aweil. The dialogues resulted in the identification of mutually agreed action points and recommendations to foster peaceful coexistence. For example, a dialogue conducted among the greater Gomjuer community with 49 participants (eight females, 41 males) provided space for the community to deliberate on issues that affect peace in their communities such as conflict over borders, use of community resources (water, pasture/grazing land), decay of cultural norms and family values as well the mushrooming of chieftaincies.  The newly formed peace committee in Gomjuer successfully mediated a border dispute in Pantit between the communities of Gomjuer west and central. The border dispute was a result of the newly created 32 states, which have divided communal water and pasture resources, which were previously shared by communities.  It is also worth highlighting that a new agreement was signed governing pastoral migration issues between the Dinka Malual of Aweil East State and the nomadic Misseriya community of Southern Kordofan during a peace conference held in November in Wanyjok. |
| Undertake community work on youth (male and female) empowerment and employment issues and peacebuilding. | Youths in Aweil centre, Aweil east, Aweil west and Aweil north counties have learned the importance of self-reliance through agriculture and small-scale trade as an alternative to engaging in conflictual and violent behaviour to ear livelihood. 90 youths –are practicing agriculture and are involved in small-scale trade as a result of training received and provision of start-up kits, (including seeds and farming tools) received from UNDP civil society organization (CSO) partners. |
| Undertake small socio community infrastructure/community interdependency projects to promote social cohesion such as peace markets, cultural centres, boreholes, cattle markets (including small grants for women). | 700 women involved in small scale business and farming activities have improved household income and better livelihood as a result of loans received from a revolving fund which was established as part of the programme. Six women groups with a total of 700 women were trained and awarded the first round of loans, (SSP1.85 million) to improve their small-scale businesses.  45 women and 20 men have strengthened community relations and improved livelihood as a result of income from vegetables farms they are managing in groups. The groups were trained on how to pull resources together in groups to enhance relationships, on modern ways of vegetable farming, and were provided with inputs to improve the yield in the group vegetable farms. |
| Improve functionality of Aweil state and local government offices. | A Harmonised State Revenue Bill was enacted in Aweil to regularise and enhance local revenue management for improved public service delivery. This will allow the local government to establish a tax collection mechanism for non-oil revenue sources.  Increased capacity of the ministry of local government and law enforcement to provide services to communities in Aweil through provision of solar power and Information Communication Technology equipment. The items included 2 photocopiers, 12 desktop computers, 4 printers and 2 scanners. The programme also supported renovation of 1 community centre in Aweil. |
| Train state and local government officers. | Increased management capacity in Aweil Ministry of Local Government and Law Enforcement by improving e-governance literacy, UNDP supported training of staff of Aweil state Ministry of Local government and Law Enforcement in basic computer package (application. 17 males and 1 female local government officers were trained. |
| Support civil society and social accountability. | Increased community level leadership and management skills in 45 youth and traditional leaders (17 women) were trained in leadership and project management skills on 15-17 Nov 2017. 45 women were trained in leadership and project management skills on 22-24 Nov 2017.  Enhanced capacity of local CSOs in social accountability mechanism in Aweil. 30 representatives (9 women) of CSOs and community-based organisations were trained as Trainers of Trainees in community social accountability mechanisms on 8-10 December 2017.  In addition, the project supported establishment of functional social accountability mechanisms in 3 locations in Aweil: 1. Naivasha with 23 members - Aweil Centre; 2. Maduany with 18 members - Aweil West; 3. Maper Akot with 31 people - Aweil Centre. |
| Reduce sexual and gender-based violence | Special Protection Units provided support to 103 women. Special Protection Units are located in police stations and provide specialist services to women and children experiencing violence. |
| Provide support to the Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary of South Sudan, the South Sudan National Police Service, and the National Prison Service of South Sudan | Three trainings were held to support local rule of law and justice actors. The trainings covered: principles of law, human, and women’s rights; community policing; and trauma management. In total there were 105 participants in the trainings, 32 of them female.  Seven rule of law forums were held reaching 91 (19 female) rule of law officials.  Six community rule of law outreach activities were held reaching 504 (347 female) community members; four community policing outreach activities were held reaching 1,238 people (431 female), and six Police Community Relations Committee meetings were held, reaching 255 people (135 female). |
| Ensure legal representation | The project contracted Help Restore Youth South Sudan, a civil society organization, to deliver legal aid services. Help Restore Youth South Sudan established one Justice and Confidence Centre in Aweil and launched its legal aid services in November, holding legal aid awareness activities that reached 353 community members (181 female). The project provided legal aid services to three women. |

## **Programme operational issues**

UNICEF and WFP have been operational as resident agencies in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and have vast experience working in the region. These agencies have fully functional offices with a wide range of partnerships, with both government and non-governmental organizations. UNDP however, faced delays in operationalizing its field presence through the first part of the year. By the end of 2017, these challenges were addressed with a fully functional office within the UNICEF/WFP compound. In the first quarter of the programme, FAO focused on assembling its programme team. In this regard, FAO appointed three staff to become part of the Juba-based technical team. In addition, five consultants were contracted as technical programme staff, including international and national experts in livestock, agronomy, natural resource management and value chain and agribusiness.

The JRSP upholds the values of working with local government, local and international organizations and local community structures to ensure programme ownership and sustainability. In this regards, different methods were used during the identification of programme stakeholders, for example UNICEF used evidence-based targeting for vulnerable children and women targeted in this project (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, food security and malnutrition assessments).

The respective agencies utilise their own-agency monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools. Moving forward, agencies will develop joint implementation and M&E plans with support from the agency level M&E personnel and the UNCT M&E working group.

## **Cross Cutting Issues**

## **Gender**

Gender considerations were carefully considered from programme design to implementation, and are reflected in all coordination mechanisms and activities. The differential needs both women and youth were assessed to determine appropriate programme component to address their needs. For example, selection of market beneficiaries was skewed towards women given their key roles in providing for their families. To ensure sustainability of their businesses, market management committees were formed and these are mainly composed of women as they are the main participants in the market.

Based on needs, the exact targeting of beneficiaries may evolve over time. The programme will strive to ensure that gender considerations are included at all levels of analysis and are reflected in all coordination mechanisms and activities; and that gender equality is promoted within communities, during distribution of community assets, ensuring access to basic services and lessening the double burden of care on women wherever possible. In addition, some of the programme’s partners including FAO and WFP deployed gender technical capacity at field level with backstopping capacity at Juba level, reinforced with support from respective regional offices.

## **Partnerships**

JRSP partners were selected based on their respective comparative advantages and appropriateness of their areas of work in relation to identified needs and suggested response mechanisms. UNDP works closely with the State Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Physical Infrastructure, as well as with the office of town mayors whilst UNICEF, WFP and FAO have implemented the joint programme activities through their existing NGO partners that have demonstrated capacity and new ones based on gap analyses. NGO partners’ primary role is implementation and monitoring of the activities while UN Agencies continue to provide oversight, training and capacity building, and technical assistance to the relevant government partners, both at field and country offices.

In terms of synergies, UNICEF works with both WFP and FAO on integration of nutrition programmes with food security and livelihoods interventions. For example, in nutrition, WFP and UNICEF have harmonized partnerships and maintain joint targeting of project beneficiaries and project locations. UNDP, WFP, FAO have worked in synergy to provide various types of vocational and livelihoods skills and enterprise development.

## **Environmental Considerations**

The JRSP has been conscious of the local environmental to realise programme results and sustainability at minimal costs to the environment. For instance, during consultations with the state government for the construction of the vegetable market in Aweil, environmental concerns were raised resulting in a relocation of the site originally selected for the market. Under the Sustainable Agriculture for Economic Resiliency Programme, FAO acts in accordance with its relevant environmental policies, procedures and guidelines, in particular all applicable environmental impact assessment and monitoring procedures.

1. OCHA 2017 The New Way of Working: Working over multiple years, based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors, including those outside the UN system, towards collective outcomes. Wherever possible, those efforts should reinforce and strengthen the capacities that already exist at national and local levels.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Data set [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UNHCR/WFP Guidelines for Selective Feeding Programmes in Emergency Situations: “The main aim of a blanket SFP is to prevent widespread malnutrition and to reduce excess mortality among those at-risk by providing a food/micronutrient supplement for all members of the group.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Both the Women’s Hai Salaam Vegetable market and the Vocational and Livelihoods Training Centre are key economic and productive community infrastructures which are expected to contribute to increase the space for doing business in Aweil. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Currently most the business entities in Aweil are struggling on their own to gain legal operation status. Those that were already operational mostly operate in congested open-air spaces and are incapable of generating incomes that can sustain daily subsistence levels of most households in Aweil. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Supporting peaceful coexistence including the boarder with Sudan, enhancing the capacity of the local government authorities and law enforcement to provide services to communities in Aweil including training local government officers, law enforcement, traditional leaders, establishment of social accountability, livelihood alternative have contributed to strengthening community resilience to shocks (such as conflict) and also led to building self-reliance among the youth and women, help facilitating peace processes is key to building resilience of community to conflict [↑](#footnote-ref-6)