ETHNIC GROUPS IN CDD

A Case from South Sudan

VARA VEMURU

Local Governance and Service Delivery Project

Context

- 'Independence dividend' - improve welfare, citizen confidence, strengthen state legitimacy

- National program (all 10 states) with results for all citizens - regardless of location, political affiliations or ethnic identities

- Sub-national resource allocation and management extremely weak and fragile

- Delivery of local services using CDD through the intergovernmental fiscal transfer system

Project

- To improve local governance and service delivery in participating counties in South Sudan.

- Identification late 2011, Board 2013, and Effectiveness 2014; first phase of five years

Scope and Components

Scope:

- Started with 4 states and 8 counties; to expand into 9 states and 40 counties by 2016 (project currently deferred in two states and 4 counties).

- To cover all states and 50 percent of counties in Phase 1

Components

- Component 1: Payam Development Grants

- Component 2: Community Engagement

- Component 3: Institutional Strengthening

- Component 4:Project Management

South Sudanese Policy on Ethnic Groups

- Article 4 of the 2011 Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan states that the Republic of South Sudan "is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious, and multi-racial entity."

- Article 33 explicitly affirms the rights of ethnic and cultural communities to their beliefs, language, religion, and customs (Republic of South Sudan 2011a).

- The 2011 Nationality Act states that members of "indigenous ethnic communities of South Sudan" are considered South Sudanese nationals (Republic of South Sudan 2011b).

- However, neither document specifically defines criteria a group must meet to be classified as an *indigenous* group.

Ethnic Groups

- Screening by World Bank - a majority of the 65 ethnic groups (59) fully and 4 partially meet the OP 4.10 criteria; with two unknown

- OP 4.10 triggered for the entire population because the vast majority of the people in the country meet the policy's definition of *indigenous peoples*.

- Elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan included in overall project design, the project approach and implementation process:

  - Free, prior, and informed consultation, with broad support for the project in the community;

  - Identifying and reaching out to the most vulnerable social groups, including ethnic, tribal, or kinship minorities giving due consideration to their needs and priorities;

  - Ensuring equitable benefits; and

  - Providing accessible feedback and grievance redress mechanism.

Ethnic Landscape
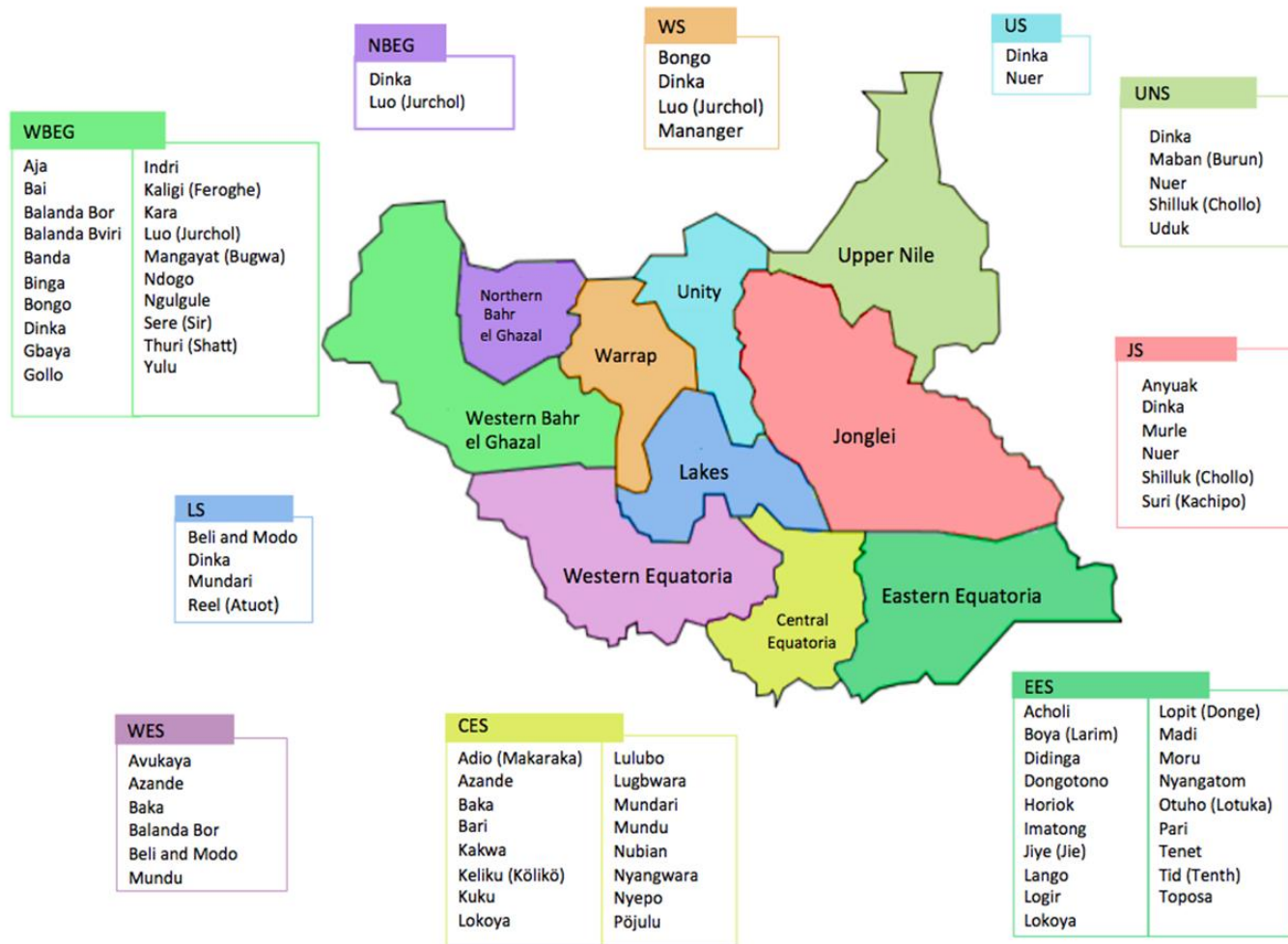
Free, Prior, and Informed Consultations

- Systematic information dissemination at all levels of program implementation.
- Use of appropriate modes, medium and language for community level dissemination.
- Engage traditional leaders including subchiefs and village headmen to enter Payams and Bomas.
- Specific efforts to engage women and youth, and other disadvantaged groups like minor ethnic groups
- Boma resource person – key interlocutor; acceptable and cognizant of local customs, social structures and languages/dialects

Inclusion

- Mapping of social groups especially vulnerable groups like IDPs, returnees, disabled, women headed households
- Spatial mapping of resource and infrastructure to determine underserved areas
- Localized conflict analysis about possible flash points such as power dynamics, political patronage, scarce resources, and large influx of IDPs.
- Using data and maps to prioritize the type of investment and location to better address potential conflict due to perceived exclusion
- Greater emphasis on investments that meet immediate community needs, simple to implement by community with limited technical and material inputs, address drivers of conflict

Community Institutions

- Transparent process of establishment with clearly defined composition and process of election/nomination that provides representation to the more marginalized social groups – women, youth, disabled, IDPs, returnees, minor ethnic groups, etc.
- Orientation of members on project processes and their roles and responsibilities
- Key role in planning, implementation and oversight

Grievance Redress

- Training on inclusive and conflict sensitive planning for all stakeholders
- Identification of *prevalent practices and arrangements for dispute resolution and conflict management*
- Establishment of grievance redress mechanism, building on traditional system, with clear responsibilities and service standards for registration and redress, simple and multiple access/uptake- points