



# Impact Report: a closer look at the WPP Intervention in South Sudan

Bentiu, South Sudan © IOM 2015

## OVERVIEW

The Women's Participation Project (WPP) is a global initiative implemented by IOM and other organisations in different displacement contexts and settings to support equitable and meaningful participation and representation of displaced women and girls. Initiated in 2015, the WPP is part of the 'Safe from the Start' Initiative funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM).

**The Women's Participation Project has helped amplify the voices of displaced women and girls in 12 countries worldwide and has contributed to mitigating the risk of gender-based violence in these locations.**

IOM began its WPP operations in South Sudan in 2015 to support displaced women affected by the continuing conflict, strengthen their leadership and participation and equip them with livelihood skills that would help their confidence and economic independence.

Since 2015, IOM has trained 46 IDPs in South Sudan on conducting a participatory assessment to measure the understanding of participation and the main barriers to women's and girls' engagement and representation in displacement sites. Based on the assessment's findings, IOM designed community-led strategies implemented throughout seven consecutive phases.

More than 965 displaced women in South Sudan, 112 with a disability, received livelihood training, leadership and communication support, and literacy courses, and 153 have received livelihood kits to support their economic independence.

This document explores the impact of the intervention during the sixth phase of the project, which took place in the year 2020 and 2021 and focused on training women in leadership, and communication skills and equipping them with income-generating skills.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



**10,032**  
Women  
reached  
globally



**965**  
Women  
reached in  
South Sudan

- Explored a new partnership with the Wash sector, expanding the scope of the WPP, applying its methodology to WASH activity design and bringing in new perspectives on participation from outside CCCM.
- Brought together actors from various sectors focused on measuring participation, leading to a mapping of relevant tools and guidance under the Participation in Displacement Working Group.
- Designed and administered a Pre-Mid-Post implementation survey to monitor and evaluate the impact of project activities in different areas of the life of the women involved. The tool, piloted in South Sudan, contains a technical guidance note for its implementation.

# WPP Phase 6: Pre-Post intervention methodology

The WPP intervention mainly aims at enhancing women and girls' participation in camp decision-making processes, engaging community structures to transform traditions which negatively impact women's and girls' rights, and addressing challenges of limited capacity and insecurity. These adversely affect women's and girls' ability to voice their concerns, claim their rightful space in camp life, and enhance their access to resources and opportunities. Building on activities conducted in previous phases, beneficiaries of phase six were selected through a participatory approach based on their interest in developing small-scale tailoring and sewing businesses. In addition to capacity-building trainings on leadership and GBV awareness, participants from both targeted Hai Masna and Naivasha IDP sites benefited from technical skills trainings related to tailoring bedsheets.

## PRE AND END IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY RESULTS COMPARISON

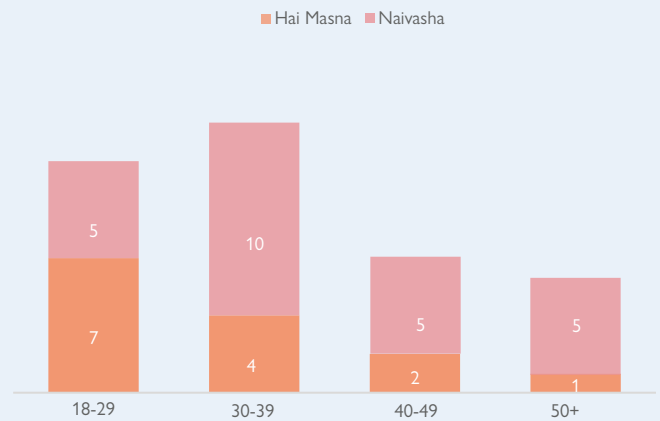
A pre-implementation survey for Phase 6 of the Women's Participation Project was conducted in April 2021 in the two project sites: Hai Masna Collective Centre and Naivasha IDP Camp. Before the survey, the CCCM team selected 15 beneficiaries in Hai Masna and 25 in Naivasha to participate in the project. The participants, of whom 26 are heads of households, were chosen from different age ranges, marital statuses, and education levels.

At the end of October 2021, the end-line survey was conducted again with the same group of participants to understand the project's impact in addressing the marginalisation of displaced women and adolescent girls through the provision of livelihoods support, training and skills-building activities, and awareness-raising. The comparison between pre and post-implementation survey results will be provided in this document, as well as general conclusions, way forward and lessons learned.



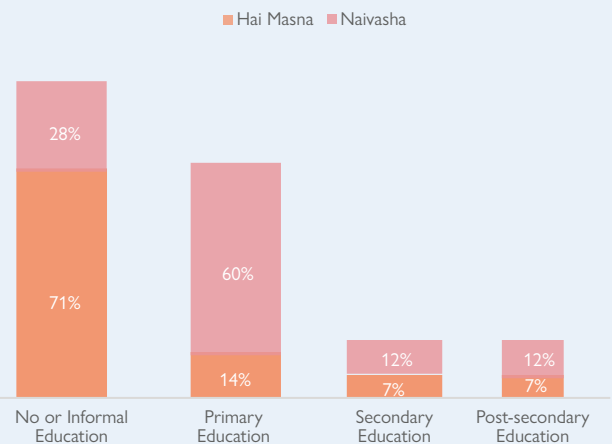
## PROFILE OF PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

### Age range per project site



\*6 participants in Hai Masna are heads of household compared to 20 participants in Naivasha.

### Education level per project site



\* The notable difference between education levels reported among participants in the two sites is most likely due to the profiles of IDPs generally within the site. Most IDPs in Hai Masna are from Ju River and come from more rural, pastoralist communities with less access to education than those who come from Wau.

**“The training and the sewing machine offered by this project have made me become a breadwinner in the family; I am participating in the household expenses and sending my three children to school.”**

- Victoria, a displaced woman in Naivasha IDP Camp.

# WPP Phase 6: Summary of findings

	HAI MASNA	NAIVASHA
Availability of income sources other than humanitarian aid	6% increase between the baseline (73%) and the endline results (79%).	The percentage (92%) did not change between the baseline and end-line assessment.
Type of income-generating occupations	Firewood collection and sewing/clothing repair to bread baking and market stalls in the endline results; this confirms that the new skills taught in the project have helped participants generate income.	Participants still referred to bread baking as one of the primary sources of income, but also, in a higher proportion, they mentioned sewing/clothing repair.
Frequency of raising concerns	33% in the baseline reported that they never raise concerns, while 13% raise them once per month, 27% raise them once per week, and 27% raise them when they see their leader. 64% of online survey participants indicated that they raise concerns and questions whenever they have them, while 29% mentioned raising these concerns occasionally. 7% refused to answer.	36% in the baseline reported that they never raise concerns, while 28% said they raise them once per day, 12% said they raise them once per month, 12% said once per week, and 12% said when they see their leaders. 20% in the endline survey indicated that they never raise concerns, while 40% expressed that they do it every time they have a concern/question, 20% said they raise them once daily, and 16% said occasionally. 4% refused to answer.
Perception of self-pride and self-sufficiency	93% of respondents strongly agreed that everyone should feel proud of who they are, while 7% during the baseline reported feeling like they did not have much to be proud of. Most participants (57%) disagreed with the statement that a woman without a husband or children has little to be proud of.	80% of respondents strongly agreed that everyone should feel proud of who they are, while 16% during the baseline reported feeling like they did not have much to be proud of. 48% of participants disagreed with the statement that a woman without a husband or children has little to be proud of.
Perception on women's ability to run a household	100% of participants now strongly believe that women can effectively manage a family compared to only 33% that expressed the same at the baseline.	100% of participants in Naivasha now firmly believe that women can effectively manage a household compared to only 72% that expressed the same at the baseline.
Perception on women's ability to represent the community and make decisions	93% of endline survey participants strongly agreed that women could contribute to community decisions in a way that helps the community compared to 47% in the baseline. This is also applied to the following statement: A woman can be an effective community or camp committee chairperson.	96% of endline survey participants strongly agreed that women could contribute to community decisions in a way that helps the community compared to 36% in the baseline. There has also been an increasing belief that women can be effective community or camp committee chairpersons (92% vs 52%).
Role of men in ending violence against women	82% of women surveyed now believe that men have a role to play in ending violence against women, while at the baseline survey, only 60% of participants expressed the same.	72% of women surveyed now believe that men have a role to play in ending violence against women while at the baseline survey only 64% of participants expressed the same.
Perception of women with disability's capacity to contribute and lead the community	86% of participants surveyed reported believing that a person with a disability can positively contribute to the community. In contrast, 93% indicated that a woman with a disability could be an effective community or camp committee chairperson (chairwoman).	64% of participants surveyed reported believing that a person with a disability can positively contribute to the community. In comparison, 96% indicated that a woman with a disability could be an effective community or camp committee chairperson (chairwoman).
Confidence in women participating in family and community decisions	Since participating in the activities, 71% of participants feel they have more confidence, skills and capacities to participate in decisions affecting their families. However, only 14% feel they have more confidence, skills and capabilities to take part in decisions affecting what happens in the camp.	100% of participants strongly feel they have more confidence, skills and capacities to participate in decisions affecting their family. In comparison, 40% believe these new skills allow them to feel confident to participate in decisions affecting what happens in the camp.
Overall project satisfaction	79% of participants considered participating in the project activities positively impacting their daily lives.	88% of participants believed that participating in the project activities positively impacted their daily lives.

# WPP Phase 6: CONCLUSION

## AFTER THE WPP INTERVENTION, WOMEN:

- ✓ have learned an income-generating skill
- ✓ rely less on humanitarian aid & more on their income
- ✓ decide where they spend the income they earn
- ✓ raise complaints, concerns & questions regularly,
- ✓ are prouder of themselves & their roles
- ✓ Believe that they can effectively manage a household,
- ✓ feel strongly about contributing to their community,
- ✓ can take decisions and represent their community

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The evaluation shows that participants from both sites, Naivasha and Hai Masna, have increased their income generation activities after the implementation of the project by relying to a lesser extent on humanitarian aid.

Regarding their perception, in the endline survey, women from both sites feel prouder of who they are than before the implementation of the activities.

The great majority of women participants from Naivasha and Hai Masna, at the endline evaluation, expressed they now strongly believe that women can effectively manage a household, that women can contribute to community decisions in a way that helps the community and that a woman can be an effective community or camp committee chairperson.

Moreover, more respondents from both sites at the endline survey than in the baseline one indicated that they believe men have a role to play in ending violence against women. Participants in Naivasha reported a higher understanding of gender-based violence after implementing the activities. More than half of the participants from Naivasha disagreed with the idea that a man can be violent with his wife if he suspects she has been unfaithful or has spent money without permission.

In terms of perceptions of women with a disability, in both sites, the great majority of participants expressed believing that a person with a disability can positively contribute to the community and become an effective community or camp committee chairperson (chairwoman).

Overall, 79% of participants from Hai Masna and 88% of participants from Naivasha considered that taking part in the project activities has had a positive impact in their daily life. In both sites, the great majority of participants reported feeling more confident regarding their skills and capacities to take part in decisions affecting their family and what happens in the camp.

## ADDRESSING SHORTFALLS

The data shows that there has been an incline after the project was implemented; less women reported earning income and that their decision-making power on how to spent the money they earn has decreased. Moreover, less women indicated that their husband/male family member would undertake domestic tasks to allow them to participate in meetings or camp activities.

More work still needs to be done in order to change these opinions and perceptions, especially in Hai Masna, where a higher proportion of participants at the endline survey than at the baseline, expressed that it is acceptable for a man to be violent with his wife if she disobeys her husband (35%) or neglects the children (64%).

The vast majority of participants strongly agreed with the fact that a person should compare herself to others to determine her value in the community.

In both sites, after the implementation of the activities, a higher percentage of women strongly agreed with the idea that only men can take important decisions for the community (50% for Hai Masna; 36% Naivasha).

These abovementioned lessons learned have been addressed in the seventh phase of the project, which was implemented between 2021 and 2022.



# WPP Phase 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

**“When we leave the IDP site, we can come together and form women-led cooperatives putting to use the business management and craft-making skills we learnt. We can make some real changes in our lives.”**

- Adut, a disabled woman in Hai Masna IDP Camp

The project has undoubtedly empowered and improved the lives of displaced women and girls in targeted South Sudan IDP sites; however, more extensive efforts are required to reach the desired goal of the project.

Many barriers still exist to overcome, including low literacy levels for women and girls, imbalanced cultural norms, and particular religious sensitivities. Other obstacles include limited awareness of gender equality, the alarming number of women accepting inequities and normalising violence as a natural reflex to male disobedience.

Below we highlight the main recommendations to improve women's empowerment and engagement in camp settings in South Sudan—as their contribution to camp life is equally important as that of men.

## IMPROVE THE ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

There is a need to boost sensitisation activities for men, religious leaders, and other stakeholders to understand the inequalities that women face and include women in site decision-making as it deepens creativity and reduces conflict. Creating an educational space for males and females on gender equality and GBV-related issues could help bring genders together. Using the Western Bahr al Ghazal State State Governor as a female activist for gender equality could also help in engaging relevant government agencies in the cause.

## ENHANCE TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS

The prolonged conflict and instability in South Sudan have deprived most women, especially those taking refuge in Hai Masna and Naivasha IDP Camp, of the opportunity to receive a quality education. Investing in women and girls' friendly spaces within the IDP site and enrolling them in traditional literacy and digital literacy programs will contribute to a more stable, resilient environment that reduces inequalities and allow women to fulfill their potential and obtain work opportunities.

## PROVIDE IN-KIND SUPPORT TO LIVELIHOOD TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Providing skills training is beneficial but not enough for a woman to start her income generation activity, especially with the financial conditions displaced women face at the site. There is a need to provide a startup kit and/or a centre equipped with tailoring machines within the IDP site where tailoring machines, bread ovens, and other equipment are available for the project trainees and site residents.

## RAISE AWARENESS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Providing training to both men and women on GBV is vital as it ensures that GBV is not seen as a women's issue but a community issue. There is a need to pay special attention to women in the IDP site with training that can equip them with the knowledge to prevent GBV within their community. The training should be tailored towards developing strategies for increasing the level of women participating in daily camp activities, leadership, and providing support to GBV survivors.

## INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN CAMP ACTIVITIES

There is a need to provide mobility aid/assistive devices to persons with disabilities within the sites to enable them to participate in camp activities actively. It is also essential for women with disability to access women-friendly spaces, participate in livelihood training and engage in income-generating activities.

