



COALITION FOR HUMANITY

Improving Community Resilience

**PROTECTION ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND
RIGHT VIOLATION MONITORING
END OF YEAR REPORT 2020**

MAIWUT COUNTY UPPER NILE STATE

July 2020 - November 2020 Findings

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Coalition for Humanity is a National NGO (NNGO) with its headquarters in Juba. Coalition for Humanity's mission is to save lives, alleviate suffering, built resilience of the vulnerable people, through programmes in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, Protection/GBV, WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition through strategies like community capacity building, Social Behavior Change Communication, market linkages, advocacy and governance to enhance contextualized innovative solutions for service delivery in Emergency Response and Sustainable development in South Sudan.

Coalition for Humanity was engaged by South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) to implement protection project from June 2020 to May 2021. The projects objective was to assess the general protection concerns in Upper Nile Maiwut County. As part of protection monitoring and risk analysis, Coalition for Humanity conducted 6 FGDs every month. The FGDs targeted Women, girls, boys, men, teachers and local authority. The main objective of the FGDs was to assess the protection concerns in the community, and find a redress mechanism on how the concerns and the risks can be minimized. A total of 60 focus group discussions were held between July 2020 and November 2020. A total of 720 people of different gender and age groups participated.

The findings of the FGDs are documented in this report. This report has 8 sections. The first section outlines women protection concerns, the second section outlines girl's protection concerns, the 3rd section outlines the boy's protection concerns. The fourth section outlines the role of men in protection, the 5th section outlines the role of teachers in child protection while the 6th section outlines the role of local authority and community leaders in protection and community risk analysis. The 7th section outlines conclusions and recommendations while the 8th section is a set of annexes for individual FGD reports per Payam per group of participants.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maiwut County is insecure, in 2020, the county experienced communal conflict between Jekow and Maiwut Payams. The conflicts are as a result of cattle raiding, revenge killings, fights over women and other politically related conflicts. Children were also reported to be kidnapped at the borders on South Sudan and Ethiopia. The rivers also flooded during rainy season and are a risk to school going children. The county has a shortage of schools, no enough classrooms, the teachers are not qualified, most parents do not appreciate the importance of education, and do not provide scholastic materials.

The county has a serious water challenge, this has led to increased rate of diarrheal diseases. Women too walk long distances to access water. Most households practice open defecation. The schools do not have proper sanitation facilities. The rate of Gender Based Violence is high, this is acceptable within the culture, not even local authority can interfere with family matters. Wife beating is acceptable, girls are forced to get married at a young age. Customary laws are gender biased, they do not allow unmarried women to own land, housing or property. Based on protection concerns raised and findings from the assessment and monitoring. Coalition for Humanity recommends further interventions focusing on the following areas.

1. There is need for peacebuilding and alternative conflict resolution and governance project to build capacity of the community in conflict management.
2. There is need for a WASH project focusing on drilling of boreholes, water treatment and construction of latrines
3. There is need for an education project focusing on construction of classrooms, provision of scholastic materials and school feeding program
4. There is need for a food security and livelihood project promoting household's cultivation of crops
5. There is need to review the outdated traditional/ customary laws that are gender biased.

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

1.1 Women Protection Concerns

The women in Maiwut County are feeling unsafe following the internal conflict between sub clans in Maiwut and Jekow. The parties to the conflict who are armed were mentioned severally as the perpetrators of rape, armed youth were also mentioned. Food and Non-food Items distribution has not been fair, women believe that one must know someone in order to benefit. Elderly, people with disability are left out with no one to fight for them. There is a serious water challenge in the community, the main river in Jekow is infested with snakes, the wells have limited water and women fight on the queue to fetch water.

Domestic and Gender Based Violence is rampant in the area, most women have no place to report. The community believes women are bought in exchange with for cows, and they are a man's property. In case of rape, girls are forced to marry the man who raped them, this is meant to conceal the shame and the fact that no one wants to marry a girl who the entire community knows that was raped. This level of stigmatization makes women and girls not to report rape. Only ICRC can handle rape cases, elsewhere there is no facility that can handle case management of rape.

Women are not involved in decision making. They are given minor roles in the community. Most roles are inconsequential. Women are preconditioned to fear decision making, lest they make the wrong decision, they would be beaten by men. Women are also not allowed to own land or property.

Recommendations

1. The next project should be integrated, Protection, GBV and Case Management of Rape (CMR)
2. To create a safe environment for women, they suggested construction of more protection community centres, treatment facilities for rape victims as well as justice; the arrest and judgement of the perpetrator
3. Provide a WASH project focusing on hardware, to increase number of boreholes in the county
4. Integrate emergency response with long term social behaviour change communication strategies, with specific focus on sensitization of men, community leaders and local authority on human rights.
5. Initiate a policy that makes it compulsory for gender balance in hiring and leadership positions by percentage within the local authority.
6. Initiate a policy against any form of GBV, follow through policy implementation at grassroot level.

1.1.1 General Security

Due to the internal conflict that had erupted between Maiwut and Jeckow, women didn't feel safe walking in the community, since there were revenge killings and, in the case, where their family members were involved, in attacking the neighbouring communities they were at risk of being killed. The process of distribution of food took too long hence women's safety was a concern since they would be assaulted on their way back home in the late evening hours. Most women, elderly and people with disability missed out on food and non-food items, this is because they were not prioritized and could not fight on the queue. According to the women, water points were only in Jeckow Ethiopia side. They however feared going to fetch water there because of big snakes in the area that were dangerous. During dry season, wells were a major source of water though a lot of crowding that resulted into conflicts and fighting at water points. Women generally faced a lot violence in the community, they were sexually assaulted during collection of firewood and fetching of water by the army and youths who hid in the forests. Unfortunately, they had no designated places to report their grievances and hence they proposed the need for a women's centre where they would be counselled as well as share their challenges with ease. Women are also victims of intimate and emotional violence from their husbands. Women experience trauma and hunger due to war that leave them in pain and no food.

1.1.2 Gender Based Violence

Women felt that they encounter more violence in the community as compared to men. Domestic violence is common, occurs mostly when women try to defend their daughters from early marriages and forced marriages planned by fathers. Women reported that they frequently got beaten up by their husbands though some of them believed it was cultural to be beaten. Despite the violence, women persevere because they don't have anyone to report to. Community elders mostly solved the issues only when they involved divorce and men were still favoured. Some women would commit suicide when it gets out of hand and others have been reported to kill the husbands. The community believed men had rights over their wives. Parents often warn their daughters never to report their husbands anywhere about conflicts at household level. It is believed that women are bought with cows and once a woman is married, she was supposed to be a man's property. In most cases, women would keep quiet more especially because of fear for the fact that no one would actually stand up for them not even their own relatives but instead they would accuse them of being the problem. Another reason is that the culture of the communities and South Sudan at large does not condemn such acts. The men in the community tend to bully women just because they are women and have no right to say about anything, so they are not allowed to object or propose anything because the men get angry and end up beating the women. In case of rape, girls are forced to marry the man who raped them, this is because rape is a shameful act and no one would want to marry the girl.

1.1.3 Role of Women in Leadership and Decision Making

The community has had a belief since time immemorial that women could not lead. As a result, the local authority did not involve women in Jeckow in any leadership position other than the Boma Women's Leader. Culture is a barrier towards effective women participation in meetings and including leadership positions for example, they said that their husbands would never allow them speak in any public gathering or talk in front of the people. Women are not allowed to participate in any decision-making process in the family. Perhaps when it comes to food and taking care of the children at home. They therefore would never attempt to make any critical decisions in the household because they already knew their limits and consequences when they go overboard. They were also not allowed to participate in decision making and or give their opinion concerning certain issues such as revenge killings or marriage. Despite most women having not been educated, they believed they had good ideas that would help the community if they shared in public gatherings. However, this was not possible because they would never be allowed by their husbands to speak in any public gathering or in front of people. Women suggested frequent women empowerment trainings on leadership skills to improve their standards in the community.

1.1.4 Housing Land and Property

According to the culture of the community, women were not allowed to own any property; house, land or even cows. Culturally they should be under the men who oversee everything including resources. Women can only benefit from family resources but they can never claim ownership. This had resulted into high levels of poverty because men would often decide to add more wives using the same resources and the women would have no authority to talk about it. In cases where a husband passes on, everything is put under the control of a brother in-law. The most frustrating and worse situation came about when a brother in-law inherits the woman. The children drop out of school and getting even a meal a day becomes a problem. A few said they would attempt to inform the brother in laws their frustrations but nothing much came out of it. They also suggested the need for capacity building men leaders, local authorities, opinion leaders, chiefs and church leaders including women on the rights of women. Even if they own land and cows, they do not even have a say on what happens to the property.

1.1.5 Redress Mechanisms

To create a safe environment for women, they suggested the need for construction of more protection community centres, treatment facilities for rape victims as well as justice; the arrest and judgement of the perpetrators. There is also need to create awareness in the community on human rights targeting men, women, boys, girls, leaders and local authorities would help sensitize the community to understand the important of women involvement in leadership positions. Women also suggested need for frequent women empowerment trainings on leadership skills to improve their standard in community. They also believed that a review to some of the negative cultural believes and practices would help improve on the rights of women. They also suggested on the need to capacity build the local authority on the rights of women. An RI facility in Jeckow helped those who were badly injured though it has no capacity to treat victims of rape. The facility is also very far and most patients are required to use a boat or swim to access services. In case of any rape or physical assault (Relief International and ICRC) stepped in but cannot cover the entire county.

1.1.6 Conclusions

Most rape cases remain private and are never reported due to the shame that came with it. Women therefore took no action on issues related to violence or sexual assault. A few would get a break by visiting their parents' homes. Women have no one to talk to in the community when they have problems apart from very close friends or parents who most of the time urged them to persevere. This has led to many cases of unresolved domestic violence and assault which makes women choose not to report similar occurrences because nobody cared or took them seriously when they reported. Only ICRC handles rape cases and can not cover the entire county.

1.1.7 Recommendations

- 1 The next project should be integrated, either protection, GBV and Case Management of Rape (CMR)
- 2 Provide a WASH project focusing on hardware, to increase number of boreholes in the county
- 3 Integrate emergency response with long term social behaviour change communication strategies, with specific focus on sensitization of men and community leaders on human rights.
- 4 Initiate a policy that makes it compulsory for gender balance in hiring and leadership positions by percentage.
- 5 Initiate a policy against any form of GBV, follow through policy implementation at grassroots level.
- 6 Initiate a policy that protects widows who do not have an elder son.
To create a safe environment for women, they suggested construction of more protection community centres,
- 7 treatment facilities for rape victims as well as justice; the arrest and judgement of the perpetrators.

2.0 Girls Protection Concerns

The safety of girls in Maiwut County is not guaranteed during cattle raiding, revenge killings and communal violence, the girls are sexually abused. It is believed that the rainy season and floods that cut off roads has improved the security situation because criminals are unable to pass. The community is also facing challenges due to lack of food and access to water. Girls are forced into marriage at an early age in order to raise dowry for brothers who want to marry and have no cows. Some girls are forced to get married early because parents fear that they can either be raped, or impregnated which is a shame. Parents don't want to be associated with this type of shame. Early marriages have led to complications during child birth, some girls die on their way to hospitals because the only hospitals that can handle emergencies and rape cases are in Ethiopia.

The parents have been accused to be unfair to girl child. Girls believe their brothers are favoured and taken out of the country for further studies but girls are forced to drop out in primary six and wait for Marriage. The fathers and uncles make decision about the education of girl child, most of the time girls are withdrawn from school to concentrate on house chores like fetching water, firewood and taking care of siblings. Other barriers to girls accessing education were long distances to school, which was not safe for the girls and lack of basic needs provision by parents for example shoes, school uniform, pens. The girls are also forced into marriage as early as 12 years of age

Girls lack sanitary pads and other dignity items; this has led to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Some girls have no option but to take the gifts because parents are not able to provide them with pads. The humanitarian partners have not supplied pads in a long time. When girls refuse gifts from traders and men, they are hunted down and raped. The gifts included money as well as material items from the shop e.g. Clothes, shoes, underwear, sandals among others. Perpetrators were mentioned to be armed and unarmed youths, alcoholic men, traders and teachers. Lack of sanitary pads has been mentioned as one of the challenges facing girls. Girls depend on well-wishers for such items. There are no sanitary pads in the market, unless one goes to Ethiopia. The lack of pads has made most girls not to attend school. Girls stay at home until the period is over.

Recommendations

1. The next project should be integrated, Child Protection, and Education
2. There is need for a WASH/ GBV project to provide dignity kits to the girls
3. There is need for construction of more schools in Maiwut County
4. Initiate a policy and law enhancement against forced marriages for children under the age of 18 years
5. There is need for psychosocial support to encouraging girls who are frustrated as well as helping victims of rape to cope

2.1.1 General Safety and Security

The security was bad at the beginning of the year 2020, but in June 2020, there was a cease fire between Jeckow and Maiwut communities which normalized the situation. The girls believed that the long rain season and floods that had cut road networks prevented movements of criminals in the two communities. They were worried that their safety was not guaranteed due to possible incidences of revenge killings and rape from the attackers. The girls are also sexually harassed by soldiers and other men on their way to school, while collecting firewood and when fetching water. They also face risks such as snake bites on their way to school and when collecting firewood. The community has a shortage of water, and food.

2.1.2 Menstrual Hygiene

Sanitary towels were not easily available, the ones available in the shops are however too expensive for them to afford. Consequently, most of the girls opt for thick rags and clothing during their periods. Nile Hope, ADRA and ICRC, had been distributing the pads sometimes back but they stopped. The girls therefore do not go to schools, churches during menstruation but only do household chores until after the periods were over. They said they had been pushed into receiving gifts from men so as to get what they needed most, the pad. They however believed that provision of (reusable sanitary towels) by organisations or well-wishers would help them perform their daily activities with ease. They also requested for soap, small light, basin, and underwear because not all parents afforded to buy for their daughters. With this, they suggested to be taken through a training that would help them understand how to use the dignity kits and keep themselves clean during menstruation period.

2.1.3 Access to Education

Parents are not fair according to the girls, as they favoured boys by taking them for further studies in other countries while it was not the case for girls. Most girls ended their education at primary six (highest level of education in the county) where parents declined to support them. They would be forced to stay at home helping their mothers with household chores until their time to be married off came. There were also other barriers that affected the girls' education and this was the lack of resources in certain families that would be willing to take the girls for further studies. Some girls also became pregnant which brought their education to an end because parents would not be willing to associate with the shame that comes with pregnancy. Local culture attributed a lot to girls not accessing education. Culturally, girls were a source of wealth for their fathers and they would do anything possible to keep the girls around including denying them education and marrying them off. There are few schools and the population of the students are high, this makes it very hard for anyone to get admitted early, so because of this some of them have to take an option of going to schools that are 3 to 4 hours away from home. Girls said apart from the problem of schools some parents or 95% of the parents wouldn't allow them to go to school because they expect them to stay home and do the house chores, their parents believe school is not safe for a girl child, and would rather concentrate on marrying them off.

2.1.4 Forced Marriage

The girls in Maiwut county lived in fear in their own homes because the probability that their fathers would decide that they should get married was very high. Most girls are forced to get married in favour of a brother who wants to marry but has no cows, so the sister has to be married off irrespective of age, in order to raise cows. Culturally, forced marriages are a norm and are acceptable by the community. Girls had no option of determining whom and when they would marry. The father, brothers and uncles are key decision makers on who and when girls were supposed to get married to. Parents would force girls to get married early due to a number of reasons; get resources from dowry that is paid, to avoid shame when the girl gets pregnant at home and enable an elder brother acquire his own wife through the cows that will be paid from marrying off the girl. The right age for marriage was however 18 years according to them or after accomplishing education. A 14-year-old girl was the youngest age they had witnessed of late being married off to an old man of 60 years. This was done to help get more cows for the brother who was also getting married but had less cows. The decision makers were fathers with support from uncles and mothers and daughters had no right to speak about it in the community. Early marriages had challenges which the girls mentioned that it would lead into birth complications due to undeveloped reproductive systems of the girls. Due to long distances to hospital for operation (in Ethiopia) most girls would die before getting them to hospital. They also added that the responsibilities that they would be given were overwhelming and most girls developed stress due to frustrations. Unwilling girls were said to have run away with the boy friends whom they loved. Some committed suicide while others divorced after a short while and moved on with their lives either by remarrying or getting out of the county. Despite all the frustrations, the girls had no one to talk to for help. They however believed that advancing the level of education in Maiwut county from primary 6 to secondary level and college would help many girls complete their education. They also suggested on the need to sensitize parents on the importance of education to the girl children.

2.1.5 Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Girls said most of the men that abuse them, first get to their parents or close relatives like uncles because these are the decision makers, so it's only in rear cases that the girls are approached and when this happens, they always tend to agree because of the favour they get from the men, it's a village setting and most of the people here are from the unprivileged background. Gifts were given by men for sexual favours. The gifts include money as well as items from the shop. Perpetrators were mentioned to be armed and unarmed youths, alcoholic men, traders and teachers. However, this had negative consequences which included; pregnancy, dropping out of school and getting Sexually Transmitted Infections such as HIV. According to the girls, resisting some of the advancements and gifts from men was difficult because some of the basic needs they most needed were not being afforded by their parents. They recommended awareness raising in the community against SEA and its effect.

2.1.6 Conclusions

The safety of girls in Maiwut County is not guaranteed because of incidences of cattle raiding and revenge killings. There are many sexual coercion cases in the county, most cases are not reported. Girls commit suicide for lack of redress mechanisms. There is lack of affordable sanitary towels, lack of livelihood, which makes adults take advantage of girls and exploit them sexually. There is need for an integrated PROTECTION/GBV/WASH project to address the challenges

2.1.7 Recommendations

1. The next project should be integrated, Child Protection, and Education
2. There is need for a WASH/ GBV project to provide dignity kits to the girls
3. There is need for construction of more schools in Maiwut County
4. Initiate a policy and law enhancement against forced marriages for children under the age of 18 years
5. There is need for psychosocial support to encouraging girls who are frustrated as well as helping victims of rape to cope

3.0 Boys Protection Concerns

Apart from the cattle raiding conflicts between Maiwut and Jekow that took place in June 2020, there were no major conflict reported. During the cattle raiding and other communal conflicts, the boys were forced to arm themselves in order to protect their communities against attacks. The situation in Maiwut County was calm as at November 2020. There are no major security concerns affecting Boys in Maiwut County. The boys in Maiwut are involved in labour, employed by local traders to sell items in the market. Boys are also sent by parents to sell cattle in the market. The involvement into business at a young age exposes boys to money and has been linked with the increase in the rate of drug abuse and school dropout. Most boys are not able to advance academically because the parents cannot afford to take them to school. Boys are victims of forced marriages, young boys who are first born, or only son are forced to marry at an early age so that they don't pass on without an offspring.

Recommendations

1. The next project should be integrated, Child Protection, and Education
2. There is need for policies and law enhancement to make sure traders don't employ children under the age of 18 years.
3. Initiate a policy and law enhancement against forced marriages for children under the age of 18 years
4. There is need for psychosocial support to encourage parents to have an income generating activity to support family so that they can allow boys to go to school.

3.1.1 General Safety and Child Abduction

In June, 2020 there was increased insecurity which was as a result of conflict that erupted between the community in Maiwut and Jekow. Due to cases of revenge killings, the situation was not safe for the boys and going to school was impossible. Abduction was not common in South Sudan though cases had been reported in Pibor, Jekow in Ethiopia. The boys were therefore fearing that there were possibilities that they would come for them. The boys joined the army during conflicts to protect the community though the situation was calm and they had not been taken into the army by force. The Boys were volunteering to join the army and other militia groups at the expense of education although in June 2020, most of them were forced into joining the army to prevent their community from attacks

3.1.2 Child Labour

A lot of boys engaged themselves in income generating activities (IGAs) especially those who were first born in their families. These responsibilities had negative impacts to the boys including dropping out of school, engaging in abuse of drugs and sometimes being victims of crimes. Instead of schooling, some had been hired by local traders. The boys also helped their parents in taking the goats and cows for grazing. Most of the boys would drop out of schools due to lack of support that has lower their ability prioritise and concentrate on education.

3.1.3 Access to Education

The boys knew the need to be educated. Parents, especially fathers were responsible for the education of their children, and for those who did not have fathers, their mothers were responsible. Most boys did not have access to education due to lack of resources. As a result, most of them lost hope because their parents were not able to afford education outside the country. This is because the system of education was still very poor in the county and most schools would barely offer education up to primary five and six. Apart from most of them going to school, a few boys had not gone to school and some had just dropped out at some point. Those from poor families lacked support from their parents in terms of meeting their basic needs. Boys who lacked education resorted to crimes while others engaged in income generating activities.

3.1.4 Forced Marriage

Forced or child marriages were common in the community. Fathers and mothers made decisions on behalf of their children to get married and they usually arrange such marriages without consulting their children because they always thought they had the best choices for them. Most boys found themselves in such situations and because they respected their parents, they had no other options other than abiding by it. Recently, a boy had brought home a girl whom he loved for marriage. The parents told him that they had arranged a different option of a girl whom they liked to be his wife. According to the boys, the young man ended up marrying two wives that is one for himself and the other one for the parents. In such situations, uncles intervene to bring harmony though most of the time parent's decision is respected. The boys however believed that some of these issues can stop only if parents are sensitized on the importance of boy and girl child's education so that they don't push them into marrying the boys. Some boys who had not been comfortable with the marriages escaped from their homes and sort refuge from their friends, aunties and uncles.

3.1.5 Conclusions

Cattle raiding and intercommunal conflict is one of the main reasons to why boys arm themselves to protect their community. Lack of education is one of the major protection concerns facing both boys and girls in Maiwut county.

3.1.6 Recommendations

1. The next project should be integrated, Child Protection, and Education
2. There is need for policies and law enhancement to make sure traders don't employ children under the age of 18 years.
3. Initiate a policy and law enhancement against forced marriages for children under the age of 18 years
4. There is need for psychosocial support to encourage parents to have an income generating activity to support family so that they can allow boys to go to school.

4.0 Role of Men in Protection

Cattle raiding and fights over women and girls is one of the major causes of conflict in Maiwut County. Revenge killings take place when victims believe justice is delayed or justice has been denied. Community leaders, church leaders, local authority, chiefs have a greater role to play in ending conflict. The culture in Maiwut, is gender biased, women are not allowed to own land because they are supposed to get married elsewhere. IDPs and refugees are given temporary land, returnees are allowed to take back their original place of residence. Domestic violence is culturally acceptable, couples are not allowed to expose such issues in public domain. Children are not given equal opportunity to go to school, the boys are favoured. According to feedback from the men during our FGDS, they believe this mentality of denying girls education will change with time. Girls are forced into marriage at an early age because they are believed to be a source of wealth. When the need for cows arises, a girl is married off. Communities resorted to revenge killing due to unfair ruling in the courts of law. It was believed that the cycle of revenge killings would stop if quick actions were taken to arrest and prosecute culprits in the court of law in accordance with relevant laws. Possible ways to resolve this habit were suggested as; disarmament of the youths and deployment of police at inter-communal borders for border patrols. It was also proposed for church leaders to be in the forefront to preach against revenge killing from the Biblical perspective.

Recommendations

1. There is need for peace building and conflict resolution mechanisms integrated in protection projects.
2. There is need for further advocacy for equal opportunity for both girls and boys to access education.
3. There is need for law enforcement in dealing with cattle raiding by punishing the perpetrators
4. Integrate emergency response with long term social behaviour change communication strategies, with specific focus on sensitization of men, community leaders and local authority on human rights.
5. Initiate a policy against any form of GBV, follow through policy implementation at grassroot level.

4.1.1 General Security

According to the men, their safety was not guaranteed due to communal conflicts, revenge killings and cattle raiding. From the discussions, youths above 20 years facilitated the cattle raiding. The local authorities had never addressed the issue. The youths are motivated to raid cattle because they desire to have more cows to pay dowry because most youth lack resources. This has led to intercommunal violence and displacement of communities. From the discussions, communal violence had been witnessed including the most recent in June 2020 between Maiwut and Pagak. The most common causes of communal violence were however said to be as a result of; leadership tussles and men fighting for girls. The issues surrounding communal violence were however being resolved by community elders, local authorities, local chiefs and religious leaders.

4.1.2 Housing Land and Property

The men believed there was no any other system of land ownership other than what the culture prescribed. Men were entitled to inheritance of the ancestral land which was not the case for the women. They believed women would be married somewhere else and there was therefore no need of allocating them land. Conflicts around HLP had not been witnessed. However, in such cases the local authority had the power to resolve the conflicts. IDPS and refugees were only given temporary settlement lands but would not be allowed to own any land. However, Returnees were entitled to land provided they reported to the local authority and are able to trace their ancestral land and property.

4.1.3 Gender Based Violence

All Bomas had cases of domestic or intimate partner violence almost on a weekly basis. Nothing is done because domestic violence issues were culturally considered as family affair that were normal and needed not interference from outsiders, except, the extended family members from the side of the two partners. To minimize cases of domestic violence, the men suggested the need for husbands to treat their wives with love and respect.

4.1.4 Children access to education

Children are not given equal rights to go to school. Boys receive more support towards education than girls do. Girl's education was not important according to the local setting. They were a source of wealth and would be married off by parents when they deemed appropriate. Schooling of children was said to be more of a fathers' responsibility. The men however said that the mentality that boys needed education more than boys did was changing and they hoped with time it girls will receive education just as boys do. It was recommended that it would be good for parents to motivate their children through provision of basic school needs such as uniforms, and girls to be motivated through cash programming and school feeding program.

4.1.5 Forced marriages

Forced marriages were common and an example that involved a 15-year-old girl in Pilual was given. Parents would however get motivated into forcing their children to get married due to their desire to own more cows as a sign of wealth or sometimes foster some good relationship in the families. This had a number of disadvantages according to the men; some of the girls or boys would run away from their parents or husbands' homes, others would end up committing suicide, others would disappear into unknown places though a few would seek refuge from close relatives such as paternal or maternal uncles. They however recommended awareness raising among the parents and community elders on the importance of respecting children marriage rights to choose whom and when they wanted to marry.

4.1.6 Community Based Protection Mechanisms

Communities resorted to revenge killing due to unfair ruling in the courts of law. It was believed that the cycle of revenge killings would stop if quick actions were taken to arrest and prosecute culprits in the court of law in accordance with relevant laws. Possible ways to resolve this habit were suggested as; disarmament of the youths and deployment of police at intercommunal borders for border patrols. It was also proposed for church leaders to be in the forefront to preach against revenge killing from the Biblical perspective.

4.1.7 Conclusions

Girls do not have equal opportunity to go to school like boys. Youths take lead in cattle raiding. Conducting capacity building trainings for local authorities, local elders, youth, chiefs and local courts on peace building and conflict resolutions would also promote a lasting solution.

4.1.8 Recommendations

1. The men suggested possible ways to resolve cattle raiding by inter communal dialogue, disarmament of youth who are involved in cattle raiding.
2. Creating employment opportunities for youth who might be idle by engaging them in income generating activities.
3. Further, perpetrators of cattle raiding should be punished.
4. The alternative ways to resolving revenge killings, is through peacefully community dialogue.
5. The other way to resolve such conflict is to identify criminals from both communities and punish them through fine or imprisonment and to compensate the relatives of the deceased. If the perpetrators are identified, they should be taken to local courts for judgement.

5.0 Role of Teachers in Protection

There is insecurity in Maiwut county, safety concerns had been reported in November, 2020 particularly in Kumedur area, Kiech Boma. This had affected school going children where three boys, 15 years old were kidnapped in the area. Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. During rainy season, the swollen rivers are a threat to access to education. Children stay at home waiting for dry season. Scarcity of schools and long distance covered to school is a major threat to school going children. The schools lack stationary, most children don't have proper school uniform, and the parents are no supportive enough. Lack of sufficient classrooms is also a barrier to education; children learn under trees and are not able to attend classes during rainy season. In few instances where there are temporary structures, the schools lack sufficient structures to accommodate all the children for classes, including benches for pupils to sit on. The schools lack essentials like water and sanitation facilities.

Most parents do not see the value of education, they don't provide writing materials, no uniform, no shoes. Some parents withdraw kids from school and send them to the market to sell some items. Girls are mostly engaged in household chores while boys herd cattle. Some parents marry off girls at a tender age, to get cows.

Most teachers are not qualified professionally to teach. Most teachers volunteer and are not willing to teach due to lack of incentives. Teachers said that they were facing a lot of challenges in the process of providing education to the pupils. A number of challenges needed to be addressed so as to ensure improved levels of children welfare in the schools.

Recommendations

1. There is need for an integrated Education/WASH/ Protection/GBV in school's project.
2. The projects should focus on construction of schools, boreholes and construction of latrines.
3. The projects should consider provision of learning materials
4. Projects to consider provision of incentive for teachers.
5. There is need for sensitization of the community on the importance of education
6. There is need for law enforcement on education, to compel parents to take children to school
7. There need for law enforcement against early child forced marriages

5.1.1 General security and safety of children

There is reported insecurity in Maiwut county, conflict was reported between Maiwut Payams and Jekow. There were also some cases of kidnapping reported at the border towards Ethiopia. Teachers suggested the establishment of child friendly spaces to ensure issues from children were monitored and attended to. They also mentioned the need to drill more boreholes in Jekow Payam to ensure easy access of water to pupils. To enhance safety of children in school, the teachers recommended on the need to increase games kits to facilitate playing of children during leisure time. Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. Children were however safer at school compared to when they would be at home according to the teachers.

5.1.2 Children Access to Education

Few children started school at the age of six while most of them between the age of ten and fifteen above which was a bit late according to the teachers. The rate of schooling was therefore very low since most parents kept children at home. Classes were also very few that is 2-3 classes in every school with a population of over 300 children. They also said the rate of progression from one level to the other was very low since pupils were not consistent with schooling. Most of them would attend only for one term and miss the rest of the year which affected their level of performance. Pupils would progress to the next level when they attained a pass mark of 50%. All genders were dropping out of school though girls were the most affected. The teachers believed that conflicts that came as a result of community differences within Maiwut people themselves should end so as to allow smooth education system in the area. They also recommended the need to capacity build teachers, PTA and the local authority on the importance of educating children especially the girl child.

5.1.3 Children Welfare

Children have got a number of challenges as was reported by the teachers. They lacked school stationery and teaching aids, low attendance due to lack of support from parents. The sanitation was not that good as there are no latrines and washrooms as well as clean water in schools. There is no school feeding program in all schools. Despite the teachers' effort to create a conducive environment for the children, conflicts in Maiwut had become a barrier to their efforts. The schools also lack sufficient structures to accommodate all the children for classes, there are no benches for pupils. The teachers however believed that training the PTA on their roles would help improve the status of school. They are also advocating for support from NGOs to help in provision of learning materials to the pupils. The teachers hence recommended for a collaboration between the local authority, Teachers and the PTA in ensuring the schools attained the minimum standards required to qualify as learning institutions. They also suggested on the need to involve the humanitarian workers in advocating for the education of the pupils.

5.1.4 Teachers Welfare

The teachers said there was a lot of insecurity in the area and schools faced a lot of challenges which included but not limited to; shortage of qualified trained teachers (most of them were untrained form four leavers), shortage of learning materials and lack of motivation for the teachers and poor education system since the community had adopted the Ethiopian system of education. The schools had also been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic that led to closure of schools. The teachers recommended addition of classrooms and development of a curriculum for other classes; Primary seven to eight. They also mentioned the need for motivation in terms of salary to allow them be in school full time.

5.1.5 Conclusions

A number of challenges needed to be addressed so as to ensure improved levels of children welfare in the schools. There is need for construction of classrooms, provision of seats for the pupils, drinking water, additional classrooms, emergency first aid services, school feeding program, provision of sanitation facilities, provision of learning and writing materials e.g. textbooks and pens and provision of dignity kits for the girls. Schools lacked adequate water and sanitation blocks/changing rooms for the girls. The teachers believed that there would be need to follow up and scale up provision of menstrual hygiene dignity kits in all schools. The consistency in learning depends on supporting teachers with an incentive.

5.1.6 Recommendations

1. There is need for an integrated Education/WASH/ Protection/GBV in school's project.
2. The projects should focus on construction of schools, boreholes and construction of latrines.
3. The projects should consider provision of learning materials
4. Projects to consider provision of incentive for teachers.
5. There is need for sensitization of the community on the importance of education
6. There is need for law enforcement on education, to compel parents to take children to school
7. There need for law enforcement against early child forced marriages

6.0 Role of Community Leaders in Protection

Maiwut County has security challenges, incidences of cattle raiding and revenge killings have been reported in 2020. The floods have also destabilised the area and worsened the food security issue. The county has a serious water sanitation and hygiene challenge that has led to the spread of diarrheal diseases. There are not enough sources of clean drinking water, one bore hole serves the entire Payam. Domestic violence is considered a family affair and people don't interfere with households perpetuating GBV. Local authorities are helpless, they have no control over husband-and-wife fights. They have no control over early child forced marriages. Unmarried women are not allowed and have challenges in owning Housing, Land and Property (HLP) as it is believed that they will become prostitutes. Such ownership is reserved for men as per the culture. The community is begging to understand the importance of education, but parents are not supporting their kids in school. The local authority admits that some laws like barring women from owning land and property, removal of teeth, and face marking are outdated and there is need for change. The leaders recommended the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices through adoption of new policies that complied with modern law.

Recommendations

1. Housing land and property Policies - Have a local policy in place that ensures that everyone had equal rights to own a house, land and property including unmarried woman in the community.
2. Child force marriage policies - Come up with a local policy that says it is unlawful for parents to marry off their children below the age of 18 years and have them respect the choice of their children to marry when they want and whom they want.
3. Gender based violence domestic violence policies - Arrest perpetrators of GBV especially in case of rape or attempted rape.
4. Protection of Sexual exploitation and abuse policies - Local authority should arrest and prosecute any community member found exploiting and abusing vulnerable people in the community.
5. Access to education policies - laying down policies that would make it compulsory for all children above 5 years to go to school. Local authority to arrest and punish parents who deny children access to education
6. The local authority can support children that would have been denied access to education through community dialogues, raising awareness on the importance of education.

6.1.1 General security and safety

According to respondents from the FGDS, key informants interviews and community meetings, they reported that general security within Maiwut County was better compared to the previous years since cases of communal violence, cattle raiding and revenge killings had significantly reduced. The last cases of the violence were last encountered in June, 2020. It is believed that the floods that had invaded the area restricted movements of criminals. Access to food was the problem and there was starvation. This had been caused by conflicts and floods which displaced people to other locations away from their homes hence few people planted. However, World Food Programme (WFP) provided assistance to the community members through distribution of food items. The general sanitation was poor because most people practice open defecation. This had been contributed by collapsing of latrines as a result of floods.

6.1.2 Domestic and Gender Based Violence

Cases related to domestic violence were very common and leaders had handled a number of them. According to leaders, domestic violence were family issues that were mostly solved privately by family members (the husband & wife families, the extended family and immediate clan elders). Women easily reporting domestic violence and conflicts could be caused by misunderstanding over family matters. They always report to the brother in-laws after which the chief would be notified if the case would get out of hand for example if it was leading to divorce, the children were the most affected with domestic violence especially when the mother left them with the father. As a result, children got very affected; they became unhappy and lacked self-confidence.

In July 2020, a wife was alleged to left his husband with kids after she was beaten up by her husband. Another case that was reported involved a man and his wife after a fight, the man killed the wife and his child then went ahead to commit suicide. Women mostly report cases of domestic violence though neighbours also help in giving information about unusual things among families. In all these children were said to be the ones suffering most especially when a woman decides to leave her husband with the kids.

6.1.3 Access to Education

According to the leaders, parents had changed their mentality on sending their children to school especially the girls compared to the past. When girls would be denied the right to education due to parents' fear that they would be impregnated by boys while at school. However, this had since changed (although not completely) after parents got enlightened on the importance of education to all genders. Boys would be supported more than girls in many families. Due to limited resources, most families would prefer sending boys instead of girls to other countries such as Ethiopia for further studies. Most girls would be married off at an early age by the parents hence stopping their education life. Children also lacked the opportunity to go to school due to lack of resources irrespective of the gender. Cases of child kidnapping and abduction had however not been heard in Jekow Payam.

The local authority would help by establishing policies that would ensure that all children get equal access and rights to education. They also recommended creation of awareness on the importance of education to all children and the need to motivate teachers in terms of monthly remuneration.

6.1.4 Housing Land and Property

HLP cases were not common in Jekow. Not everyone had equal rights to land or house ownership. Women and girls were not allowed to own land in their community due to the perception that such women would become prostitutes. However, communal land or heritage was the problem. A married man and woman as heads of the family had the right to own land in Jekow. IDPs, returnees or refugees were allowed to own land temporarily or accommodated by the host community members because Jekow is an Island with small area of land which is not enough for everybody. It was noted that the local authority had no capacity to support those who had left the community and had come back to regain their lost land and other properties as long as they remembered where the land and property were located. They would however help those who would be in great need to get the necessary assistance. IDPs, returnees or refugees would be accommodated following the approval of the local authority and community elders.

6.1.5 Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Leaders said cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) had decreased compared to the recent years. Men would give gifts in exchange for sex. Community reported the issues especially when men get their wives with other men. Some incidences had been experienced before which involved NGO staffs and the locals. This was attributed to the poverty levels in the community. Those affected less reported on the incidences. It was said that perpetrators were mostly NGO staff and soldiers. The local authority had however taken note of the issues and had promised to pursue the matter by creating awareness about it. According to the leaders, the cases which had been reported were handled and justice was done to the victims. The local authority ensured that justice prevailed by punishing the perpetrators. The leaders believed that punishment would be the best solution to stop sexual abuse and exploitation because many people would learn from it. They also recommended the local authority to work closely with protection partners in order to ensure that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse received proper assistance.

6.1.6 Culture

A number of cultural practices were mentioned to have negatively affected the community. These included; forced marriage/early marriage, Gender inequality, Violation of woman and girls right, Removal of the teeth, Scars or face marking, Domestic violence like beating of women, sexual assaults, revenge killings and cattle raiding. Most of the cultural practises were also gender biased example, boys were more favoured than girls when it comes to heritage as well as schooling and women were never considered in communal key decision-making processes. The removal of teeth, face marking, denial of women and girls' rights, revenge killings and communal conflicts were said to be some of the cultural practices that were outdated and needed to be changed. The leaders recommended for the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices. They therefore recommended the local authority to come up with better laws and policies that would ensure that people were not subjected to such cultural practises that were outdated

6.1.7 Leadership and Decision Making

According to leaders, leadership positions were distributed between men and women, although not fairly. Leadership in the community was largely taken up by men and women and the youth were not given chance to lead. Women were given a small representation while youths opportunities were very less because it was believed that they were not yet ripe to take up leadership, people with disabilities were not included in leadership. Men therefore dominated leadership positions with women being allocated some leadership positions but at a lower level with less participation in key decision-making process. It was however believed that local authorities could take an affirmative action to change the situation by including the women and youth in leadership as well as involving people with special needs participate in key issues that affected the society.

6.1.8 Customary Laws and Other Laws

According to the leaders, there were customary laws that guided decision making for example when somebody committed murder, he or she will be fined 100 cows as blood compensation and will be set free. These customary laws were conflicting with modern laws and the leaders suggested on the need to change some of them. These laws were outdated and didn't demonstrate enough justice to the affected persons and that's why they would be tempted to revenge by also killing to balance the equation. Some people would pay the 100 cows and go ahead and kill again. They believed however that the local authority was in a position to influence some changes on this by calling a meeting with community elders to discuss the impacts of the negative cultural practises and the need to abolish or change them. They also suggested a meeting between community leaders and local authorities.

6.1.9 Conclusions

The county has a serious WASH challenge. The community leaders are helpless and have no control over decisions made at family level especially regarding domestic violence or forced early marriages. The customary laws are gender biased. Some laws are outdated and the leaders recommended for the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices through adoption of new policies that complied with modern law.

6.1.10 Recommendations

- 1 The policy on marriage needs to be changed by setting no limit on dowry, but should depend on the agreement between the girls' parents and man's parents based on what the man would offer.
- 2 Housing land and property Policies - Have a local policy in place that ensures that everyone had equal rights to own a house, land and property including unmarried woman in the community.
- 3 Child/forced marriage policies - Come up with a local policy that says it is unlawful for parents to marry off their children below the age of 18 years and have them respect the choice of their children to marry when they want and whom they want.
- 4 Gender based violence domestic violence policies -Arrest perpetrators of GBV especially in case of rape or attempted rape.
- 5 Arrest men who are drunkards and are found of disturbing their wives whenever they are under the influence of alcohol. Encourage leaders to participate in GBV prevention, protection and response.
- 6 Protection of Sexual exploitation and abuse policies -Local authority should arrest and prosecute any community member found exploiting and abusing vulnerable people in the community.
- 7 Access to education policies - laying down policies that would make it compulsory for all children above 5 years to go to school. Local authority to arrest and punish parents who deny children access to education.
- 8 The local authority can support children that would have been denied access to education through community dialogues, raising awareness on the importance of education.

7.1.1 Conclusions

The county has a serious security challenge, WASH challenge, education and food insecurity challenge. The county depends on food distributed by WFP. There are not enough classes to provide children with education. The teachers are not motivated enough to offer services. The teachers are also not qualified. Gender based violence is underrated. The community leaders are helpless and have no control over decisions made at family level especially regarding domestic violence or forced early marriages. The customary laws are gender biased. Some laws are outdated and the leaders recommended for the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices through adoption of new policies that complied with modern law.

7.1.2 Conclusions

1. There is need for peacebuilding and alternative conflict resolution and governance project to build capacity of the community in conflict management.
2. There is need for a WASH project focusing on drilling of boreholes, water treatment and construction of latrines
3. There is need for an education project focusing on construction of classrooms, provision of scholastic materials and school feeding program
4. There is need for a food security and livelihood project promoting household's cultivation of crops
5. There is need to review the outdated traditional/ customary laws that are gender biased

8.0 ANNEXES

8.1 ANNEXES MONTHLY WOMEN FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from Women August



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Women FGD

Date: 20th August, 2020

Payam: Jeckow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in Jeckow on 20th August, 2020. Twelve women attended the meeting and the discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General Security

Women safety was not guaranteed. The process of distribution of food took too long hence women's safety was a concern. Internally Displaced People (IDPS) reported about discrimination and corruption by the host community and the people distributing food. Due to shortage of items being distributed, most IDPs would go home without the items being distributed. The women however suggested that the elderly and people living with disabilities should be given separate places to receive their items so that they would be assisted to go home early.

Women generally faced a lot violence in the community, they were sexually assaulted during collection of firewood and fetching of water. Unfortunately, they had no designated places to report their grievances and hence they proposed the need for a women's centre where they would be counselled as well as share their challenges with ease. To create a safe environment for women, they suggested construction of more protection community centres, treatment facilities for rape victims as well as justice; the arrest and judgement of the perpetrators.

WASH related protection Concerns

According to the women, water points were only in Jeckow Ethiopia. They however feared going to fetch water there because of big snakes in the area that were dangerous to the lives of the people. During dry season, wells were a major source of water though a lot of crowding that resulted into conflicts was reported. There were however less cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, Sexual exploitation and other abuses along the water sources. Drinking men were however mentioned to be a problem to the women during dry season. When sexually assaulted, most women reported the incidences to close relatives though some resorted to committing suicide as a result of shame and trauma they experienced after sexual coercion. Some would keep it to themselves to avoid conflict that would arise as a result of the act. It was however recommended that construction of more boreholes would help reduce the cases because women would travel less to fetch the water.

Domestic Violence

In April, 2019, a woman was killed by her husband due to conflict that arose in the home. The man who was alleged to belong to one of the armed parties to conflict, was drunk when he committed the crime. Most conflicts in a family set up are resolved through dialogue and guidance.

Intimate partner Violence

Most women reported to being beaten by their husbands. Due to lack of proper places to report the incidences, most of the women would resort to divorce and remarry other men or seek refuge in their parents' homes. Some women would not take action when assaulted due to fear of a 'bad name' in the community and threats that would come from the partner.

Child marriage

Cases of early child marriage were common in the community and many young girls are being married off to old men with a similar case having been reported in the first weeks of August, 2020. Fathers were decision makers and arranged marriages for their daughters. Some women would take part in ensuring the girls got married and this would be through making references to other girls in the neighbourhood who would have been married. Most girls would also be mistreated by their mothers as a sign of showing them that they were old to start their own families. However, the women said they were able to stop their children from early marriages through; educating them on the effects of early marriages, supporting the children with the necessary basic needs and listening to them and by ensuring the children went to school. Most women would however not prevent their daughters from early marriage as they feared their husbands because culturally, they are not supposed to interfere with men's plans on issues concerning marriage.

Decision making at home

Women do not make any decisions in the community when men are there maybe when it comes to what food should be eaten at the household level. An attempt to make critical decisions without the knowledge of the husband would lead to possible divorce, though beating or being chased away for a while.

Housing land and property

According to the culture, the women said they were not allowed to own any House, land or even property including cows. Culturally, women can only benefit from family resources but they can never claim ownership. This had resulted into high levels of poverty because men would often decide to add more wives using the same resources and the women would have no authority to talk about it. They however believed that a review to some of the negative cultural believes and practices would help improve on the rights of women. They also suggested on the need to capacity build the local authority on the rights of women.

Role of women in leadership

Very few women were involved in leadership positions and this would be the lowest positions. Women would participate in some activities but they would not be allowed to make any decisions in the community. Most women would also not participate in leadership or decision making because of how the community had positioned them. Women have been believed to work at home, give birth and take care of the family. Most of the women were also not educated and this limited their chances of fighting for their rights. They however recommended on the need to be given chance to leadership and decision making in the community as well as empowerment.

Redress mechanisms

Women had no one to talk to when faced with problems. This is because nobody would even take them seriously so most of them would choose to keep silent with their problems. An example of violence was given and women said they were never assisted even when they reported the various forms of assault. It was also reported that there were no health facilities that would help them when they got raped in the community and this was a big problem to them. Apart from lack of health facilities, other services such as counselling and psychosocial support are also missing.

Summary of findings

- 1 Women have been denied a right to leadership, expression and decision making in the community
- 2 The community lacks proper channels of communication to address issues affecting women

Conclusions and recommendations

- 1 There is a need for case management and psychosocial support services to support victims of sexual assault.
- 2 There is need to empower women through small income generating activities to improve their living standard.
- 3 There is a need of women and girl's friendly spaces to support women and let them express their issues and learn from each other experience.

Findings from Women September



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Women FGD

Date: 21st September, 2020
Payam: Jeckow
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 21st September, 2020 in Jeckow Payam. The meeting was attended by 12 women between the age of 24 and 40 years. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General Security

There had been a fight in Jeckow a Payam in Maiwut County, Upper Nile State between the two major clans; Ciewaw and Ciechaany. The cause of the fighting was said to be leadership wrangles over County commissioner position. In January 2020, cattle were stolen and houses burnt down though there had been no cases of revenge killings in Jeckow for quite some time.

There was also starvation in Jekow and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were the most affected and this was attributed to the fighting in January 2020 which led to loss of property.

WASH related protection Concerns

The women said that flooding in the area had worsened the sanitation situation and due to limited number of Boreholes in Jekow payam, people were drinking direct from Sobat River. The general sanitation was therefore very poor. Few people had latrines but the rest practised open defecation. The few latrines that existed had also collapsed due to floods which had weakened the soils.

Domestic Violence

In 2018, there had been a case of domestic violence where a woman decided to leave the husband after a lot of frustrations. They were however reconciled by the chief in Jeckow Boma. Usually, men reported the cases to the chief when their women ran away from home even after brutally beating them. Neighbours were also mentioned to be taking part in report especially where a woman would be mistreated and was not able to report the matter. Children and women were the most affected by domestic violence. The children were often left with their fathers after their mothers left due to violence. Most of them would starve due to lack of food and someone to fend them.

Intimate partner Violence

The women said intimate partner violence was the order of the day. According to them, physical and sexual violence had now become part of life because of the frequency at which it was happening in the community. Men would force them into having sex even when they were not willing and there would be nothing, they would do especially the alcoholic and drug addicts.

Child marriage

According to the women, forced and early child marriages were very common in the community. Husbands/fathers to the girls were the final decision makers concerning any marriage arrangements in the family. They also added by saying that as women, they were never allowed to take any roles in such negotiations.

Decision making at home

Women said they are not allowed to participate in any decision-making process in the family. Perhaps when it comes to food and taking care of the children at home. They therefore would never attempt to make any critical decisions in the household because they already knew their limits and consequences when they went overboard.

Housing land and property

It was very clear from the women that Housing, land and property were things that men owned and not women. Culturally they should be under the men who oversee everything including resources.

Role of women in leadership

It was reiterated that the community had had a belief since time immemorial that women could not lead. As a result, the local authority did not involve women in Jeckow in any leadership position other than the Boma Women's Leader. Culture was a barrier towards effective women participation in meetings and including leadership positions for example, they said that their husbands would never allow them speak in any public gathering or talk in front of the people. Creation of awareness in the community on human rights targeting men, women, boys, girls, leaders and local authorities would help sensitize the community to understand the important of women involvement in leadership positions. They also suggested for frequent women empowerment trainings on leadership skills to improve their standard in community.

Redress mechanisms

It was learned that women had no one to talk to in the community when they have problems apart from very close friends or parents who most of the time never helped other than encouraging them to persevere. This was said to have led into many cases of unresolved domestic violence/assault which had made women choose not to report similar occurrences because nobody cared or took them seriously.

Summary of findings

- 1 Domestic violence affects women and children in Maiwut county
- 2 There are no proper redress mechanisms to solve women issues

Conclusions and recommendations

- 1 Youth and men need awareness and training on the negative impacts of sexual violence, domestic violence, and economic violence.
- 2 There is a need for case management and psychosocial support services in Jeckow Payam to handle GBV cases.
- 3 There is a need for awareness raising sessions targeting men, opinion leaders, chiefs and local leaders on human rights violations and GBV
- 4 There is a need to establish more women and girls' friendly spaces to support women and let them express their issues and learn from each other's experience.
- 5 Men and youth need to be trained on the importance of respecting their wives, consulting them in family affairs and resolving family issues peacefully without quarrelling or becoming violent to their wives.
- 7 There is need to empower women through small income generating activities to improve their standards of living.

Findings from Women October



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Women FGD

Date: 10th October, 2020
Payam: Jeckow
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 10th October, 2020. Twelve women attended the discussions which were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General Security

Due to the conflict that had erupted between Maiwut and Jeckow, women didn't feel safe walking in the community, they said there was a high risk of revenge killing especially where brothers of theirs had killed someone from the neighbouring community. Women were also harassed by the army and other groups of men and youths who would hide in the forests to attack them when they collect firewood. They added that the situation was not better even inside the house because their husbands would beat them especially when they came drunk. The situation was generally not secure also in terms of food security due to floods that engulfed most Payams hence destroying crops.

During distribution, women and girls would fight to keep their positions in the distribution lines. Those who don't know anybody were said to end up not receiving anything especially when the items are limited. The elderly and people with special needs were frequently assisted to collect the items though some families would not accept and would want them to pick the items by themselves.

The women preferred to have a place where women would gather and have some fun and learn from each other. They also suggested for more training on their rights, empowerment and channels where their issues could be listened to and considered. Women also needed health care services so that if anything like rape happen, they would get assistance.

WASH related protection Concerns

Conflicts at water points were said to be very common especially during the dry season. The women said there were only 2 water points in Jeckow Ethiopia and everybody fetched water from there. Cases of sexual harassment and abuse were reported from Ethiopia during dry seasons though they were minimal in the rainy months because women would not cross and fetch water from Ethiopia. The Army, youths and men were the perpetrators of the sexual harassment and abuse. Sometimes the women don't take action to report because it has always been believed that they are the cause of the problems. The women however believed that empowering them with knowledge through training would help them understand and fight for their rights. They also recommended a training for the local authority to understand issues that affected women and how they would help them.

Domestic Violence

In the community, domestic violence was very common and women were the most affected. It would be as a result of limited resources, forced child marriage or even alcoholism. Community elders mostly solved the issues though when it gets serious to lead into divorce then the local authority is involved

Intimate partner Violence

Women reported that they frequently got beaten up by their husbands though some of them believed it was cultural to be beaten. Despite the violence, women persevere because they don't have anyone to report to. Some would commit suicide when it gets out of hand and others have been reported to kill the husbands. The community believed men had rights over their wives. In fact, parents would often warn their daughters never to report their husbands anywhere about conflicts inside the house.

Child marriage

The participants said forced child marriages were common and normal in their community because they also married people they had never known. An example was given that a small girl was forced to marry an old man in October 2020. It was added that women sometimes pushed their children into marriage to avoid a lot of responsibilities because through marriage they were able to get someone who would help them with the chores that is a co-wife or a daughter-in-law when a son marries. They however said they had a role to stop their sons from marrying and they shall allow them go to school and continue working at home. For girls they said it was difficult because the fathers made all the decisions about their marriages and as women, they had no authority.

Decision making at home

Women said they were not allowed to make any decisions in the family matters and men never consulted on anything. They added that it was a form of taboo to make decisions in the absence of their husbands.

Housing land and property

Women were generally not allowed to own land or take ownership of any property. In cases where a husband passes on, everything is put under the control of a brother-in-law. It was added that it would always be frustrating and worse when a brother-in-law inherits. The children drop out of school and getting even a meal a day becomes a problem. They also suggested the need for capacity building men leaders, local authorities, opinion leaders, chiefs and church leaders including women on the rights of women.

Role of women in leadership

According to the participants, women were not involved in any big leadership position in the community especially positions like Local authorities such as commissioner, Director of Relief organization for South Sudan (ROSS) or even Payam leader. The positions were reserved for the men. For any big position, women worked as volunteers. This meant that men took all the incentives for the position and the reasons as to why they would just choose to stay at home. They were also not allowed to participate in decision making and or give their opinion concerning certain issues such as revenge killings or marriage. Despite most women having not been educated, they believed they had good ideas that would help the community if they shared in public gatherings. However, this was not possible because they would never be allowed by their husbands to speak in any public gathering or in front of people. They recommended awareness raising in the community on the human rights and capacity building training for women and men to understand the important of involving women in leadership position.

Redress mechanisms

Women said they had nobody in the community including those in leadership that they would report to when it comes to their problems. As a result, most of them would choose to keep to themselves the problems. A few said they would attempt to inform the brother in laws their frustrations but nothing much come out of it. Women therefore took no action on issues related to violence or sexual assault. A few would get a break by visiting their parents' homes. An RI facility in Jeckow helped those who were badly injured though it has no capacity to treat victims of rape. The facility was also very far and most patients would be required to use a boat or swim to access services. The area also lacked other facilities that would offer counselling support or in-kind assistance to women.

Summary of findings

Women are not allowed to own land in the community and domestic violence was a common practice that seemed ingrained in the local culture. Practically there's no evidence of any rights that would be accorded to women in the community. Women would undergo domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual violence outside the home set up and there is little or no step that would be taken/holding perpetrators accountable. The women have no authority to participate and influence decision making on issues that would be affecting the society.

Conclusions and recommendations

- 1 There is need for women and girl's friendly spaces in Warweng Payam so women can go and express their issues and learn from each other's experiences
- 2 Men and youth need to be trained on the importance of respecting their wives, consulting them on family affairs and resolving family issues peacefully without quarrelling or beating their wives.
- 3 There is a need for case management and psychosocial support services in Warweng Payam to handle GBV cases.
- 4 There is a need for awareness raising sessions targeting men, opinion leaders, chiefs and local leaders on rights violations, GBV, negative cultural practices, behaviours and social norms that discriminates women and girls on land ownership.
- 5 Youth and men need to be aware and trained on negative impacts of sexual violence, domestic violence, and economic violence.
- 7 Engaging women in small income generating activities to empower them and build their capacity would be key in ensuring their independence.
- 8 Need for capacity building training on human rights for parents, local leaders, police personnel's, chiefs, paramount chiefs and customary courts.

Findings from Women November



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Women FGD

Date: 24th November 2020
Maiwut county
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 24th November 2020 in Maiwut County. The meeting was attended by 12 women between the ages of 20 to 40 years from the five Payams (Kizgile, Jotome, Maidiet, Thoch, Pinythor). The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity field staff based in Maiwut County.

General Security

Women said the wars that have been in this part of the country have left them with trauma and scarcity of food to the people of this particular community, more especially because farms and houses were burnt during the war leaving the people with no food. Some organizations like WFP have really tried to help solve this particular problem, but the food they provide is not enough to feed everyone in the community hence increasing the chances of violence.

Women said elderly and the vulnerable people face a tone of problems during distribution of food because they are not handled with specialty, they have to be in the same line with the physically strong people, and their only help comes from their relatives or friends who feel pity for them.

The root cause of insecurity was said to be the lack of enough food in the community, if food was to be distributed in plenty the insecurity would reduce, creation of women protection groups composed of women leaders would be a great help to the community because it would serve as a body that will stand in the way of injustices. They would be the define body to the women in the community.

WASH related protection Concerns

Women said, during the wet seasons the conflicts that arise at the water points are not in large numbers because most of the people collect water from the stream that is in within Maiwut, but during the dry seasons the women in the communities are forced to either go to the neighbouring communities to fetch water, because the boreholes that are available in the community are not enough, this leads to the eruption of fights or conflicts to the women at the water points. Women said the long distances that they move to fetch water more especially during the dry seasons, causes a very big risk to them, because it is during these movements that they face harassments like rape.

Domestic Violence

Women said, domestic violence is a very common action and practice in the community. The men in the community tend to bully them under the basis that they are just women and have no right to say about anything, so they are not allowed to object or propose anything because the men get angry and end up beating the women. Whenever there was that kind of violence, the relatives of the two parties come together to talk about the way forward and instead of condemning the wrong they tend to support the men. So, they have no one to run to when they face certain problems.

Intimate partner Violence

Women said, intimate partner violence is a very common action in that community, it is believed that they were bought with cows and if you married a woman, she was supposed to be your property. In most cases, they would keep quiet more especially because of fear for the fact that no one would actually stand up for them not even their own relatives but instead they would accuse them of being the problem or cause instead of the victim they were. Another reason is that the culture of the communities and South Sudan at large does not condemn such acts.

Child marriage

Women said Child marriages are yet another common practice in that community, that was because the people of that community believe that a girl is a source of wealth that is why they tend to marry their children off to older men who will give them very many cows. Women said hunger was another factor that led to child marriage. A quarter of the girls being married off in that community were victims of rape, those girls are forced to marry the same man who raped them before it was all discovered in order to reduce shame to the family. Women are forced to remain silent since they have no right to speak over the matters that concern their children; they are not the decision makers; of fear for instance if a woman objects to this kind of marriage she and her daughter are beaten up. Women suggested that creation of employment for them will help reduce child marriages, because the man will not have to care about the family since they would be the ones facilitating all the family expense and buy cows too that was a task, they wish to take in order to save their children.

Decision making at home

Women said they were allowed to make decision only in matters that are not related to violence which was because they were not believed to make right decisions when it came to violence. Women were not even allowed to make decisions when it came to the future of their children, be it positive or negative for they were believed to have a shallow mind and that 'they cannot think beyond the kitchen' should they try to make a decision without permission, they are beaten and accused of having made the decision under the influence of alcohol.

Housing land and property

It was very clear from the women that the housing, land and property were things that men owned and not women. They further made clarifications on this by explaining that in case of death of a husband, all the property is taken up by the brothers of the husband ---- this happened when the deceased did not have a son at the time of his death and the culture supported this act. However, according to women this act was very unfair to the affected families because a lot of problems would come along. Women said these situations always make them find other means of acquiring income to their families these are fetch firewood and or water for sell.

Women are not allowed to own properties like land and cows, even if they own land and cows, they do not even have a say on what happens to the land or cows. Women reported that, they don't feel independent to own their property, the only time they can be allowed to own property was if they have a husband who takes control of the properties. Women said they have no body to run to for support because the laws of the land only favour the men.

Role of women in leadership

It was reiterated that the community had had a belief since time immemorial that women could not lead. As a result, the local authority had only one woman in the whole group but she was a junior staff and did not have a say on any matters they discussed, they did not include her in the participation and discussion at times they even count her out.

Women said they were a symbol of the 35% that our government and other stake holders had been preaching about, but initially they had no power in the decision making and therefore, cannot help themselves as women when need be. Women said the women leaders were only allowed to make decisions on simple things that couldn't interfere with the way of life for the men and cannot make decisions like giving women right to decide when their daughters and sons should get married and to who.

Creating an awareness on human rights targeting women, men, boys, girls, leaders and local authorities would help sensitize the community to understand the importance of women involvement in the leadership positions. They also suggested for frequent women empowerment trainings on leadership skills to improve their standards in the community.

Redress mechanisms

Women said they had no one to talk to in this community when they had problems apart from close relatives who were also bound by the same community norms and culture, their relatives and parents just encourage them to persevere most of the time with no action taken. Women would also report to Payam women leaders but will still not get support due to the barriers that deny women a right to expression. This was said to be the root cause of so many domestic violence cases unresolved which had made women not to report any occurrences because nobody cared. However, women said there were organizations in the community that dealt with health and had always stepped up in case of any rape or physical assault (Relief International and ICRC) however the case was handled with a lot of privacy and were never reported especially those that involved rape due to the shame that came with it.

Summary on the findings

GBV issues are common in Maiwut County and the women have got no rights over most issues. Though they never mentioned how many cases of rape had occurred due to the fact that most of these cases were turned into marriages. This explains why most girls were married off from the ages of 13-18 years old and even younger than that, we still believe there are so many rape cases. Physical assault and intimate violence are the order of the day since it is heavily supported by culture and norms. Safety of women is also not guaranteed due to sexual assault, sexual harassment and violence on the way to fetch firewood and water. Their level of involvement in decision making is also very low only on some decisions in the house but not in the community issues. Women are not allowed to take senior positions and are not allowed to speak in public meetings.

Conclusions and recommendations

Youth and men need awareness and training on the negative impacts of sexual violence, domestic violence and economic violence.

- 1 There is need for awareness sessions targeting men, opinion leaders, chiefs and the local authority on the human rights violation and GBV as well as the impact of the negative cultural practices, behaviour and social norms that discriminate women and girls against land ownership and decision making.
- 2 Need for capacity building for leaders, parents, chiefs, paramount chiefs, police personnel and customary courts on human rights.
- 3 There is need to support women through small incomes generations activities to improve on their standards of living.
- 4 Men and youth need to be trained on the importance of respecting their wives, consulting them in family affairs and resolving family affairs peacefully.

8.2 ANNEXES MONTHLY GIRLS FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from girls FGD July



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Girls FGD

Date: 22nd July, 2020

Payam: Maiwut

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 22nd July, 2020 and twelve girls attended the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The security situation had normalized since June, 2020 at the onset of rains and floods. The girls however said they lived in fear because the probability of possible attacks were very high. The girls also said that they were not safe since the distance they were covering to school was very far. On the way there were risks of sexual harassment from boys and men. They also said that they were swimming across a river to school and this was not very safe to them due to incidences of attacks and drowning inside the water. There were also insecurity issues that were reported during collection of firewood and fetching of water e.g. attack from animals and sexual harassment from soldiers who sometimes raped the girls.

Access to education

Girls understood the importance of education. According to them educated girls were able to help their parents and the society at large. Fathers were responsible for the girls' education. They however had challenges studying since the parents believed education that would take them far was risky due to high possibilities of them getting pregnant from boys. Most girls would therefore not be allowed to study in Gambella and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia because they would be far from their parents. Lack of resources was also a barrier to girls' access to education especially those who would have willing parents to take them to school.

Menstrual hygiene

Menstrual hygiene meant taking good care of oneself during menstruation period. Pads were not readily available in the market and most girls would resort to use of other clothing during menstruation. The girls said some pads had been provided to them at some point by Nile hope and RI but it was not consistent. Menstruation without pads had challenges because most girls were not able to perform their daily activities efficiently or even go to school. They therefore recommended for more support through provision of pads and painkillers that would help reduce abdominal pains during menstruation

Forced marriage

Forced marriages happened in the community though girls had no authority to stop their fathers from the arrangements and decisions. In fact, the more the girls one had the wealthier families were because they would marry them off whenever there was need for resources (cows). The girls however felt that the most appropriate age to be married was 25 years and above. They said the youngest age they had witnessed being married off was a 14-year-old girl in Jeckow Payam. Girls were not happy with early marriage because they saw their freedom taken away from them. They would see a complete end to their education life due to responsibilities that they would have been put into.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Gifting for sexual return was usual in the community. The gifts would range from; smart phones and money which was mostly used in purchasing the basic needs such as; soap, underwear or even cloths. School girls were mostly engaged into sex by teachers in reward for good grades. Boys, men and traders were also mentioned. There were disadvantages that resulted from the sexual relationship which included unwanted pregnancies and contracting STIs such as HIV. Lack of resources and support from parents was said to be contributing a lot into the temptation of accepting the gifts from men. However, the girls admitted that they had no one to talk to when they found themselves in such situations of SEA. They believed though that having proper regulations in place in terms of laws and policies would help reduce their vulnerability to SEA

Domestic violence

Fighting in the families was a normal thing in Jeckow. The girls said fathers and uncles would often beat them together with their mothers and there was nothing that would be done because it was culturally acceptable. Sometimes the men would force the women to give them money from their small business which when they refuse they get beaten up. According to the girls, no one was there to help them because culturally the fathers were always right.

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Summary of findings

1. Girls are sexually assaulted and they receive no assistance because of how the society has positioned the female gender
2. Domestic violence is a family issue that no outsider is allowed to interfere with. It is culturally normal and acceptable
3. Girls lack sanitary pads. Most of these items are not readily available even at the local market which has resulted into many frustrations during menstrual periods. girls literally miss school because of periods.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is a need for establishing women and girls' friendly centres to respond and prevent GBV cases through case management, counselling and psychosocial support services.
2. Need to actively create awareness in the community about effects of SEA and capacity build the teachers, men, youth, local authorities and chiefs on the same.
3. Need for provision of dignity kits in the schools or even in the community so that the adolescent girls are able to fully attend school and perform their daily activities normally.

Findings from Girls FGD August



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Girls FGD

Date: 18th August, 2020
Payam: Maiwut
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 18th August, 2020 and twelve girls attended the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

Security in the area was generally good since June after a cease fire between Jeckow and Maiwut communities. The girls attributed this to the long rain season and floods that had cut road networks hence preventing movements of criminals in the 2 communities. They therefore added that their safety was not guaranteed due to possible incidences of revenge killings and rape from the attackers. The girls lived in fear in their own homes because the probability that their fathers would decide that they should get married was very high. The situation was even worse because they would often be married off to old men whom they didn't love. Lack of corporation to this type of arrangement was said to be a disaster because it would call for serious beating. The girls would also be sexually harassed on their way to school, while collecting firewood and during fetching of water where they were also faced by other risks such as snake bites.

Access to education

Girls highlighted that education was important because educated girls were able to help themselves, their parents and the community at large. When these girls get married, they said they would bring up their children to become better people. Parents were however not fair according to the girls. They said the parents favoured their brothers more by taking them for further studies in other countries while it was not the case for them. According to them, most girls ended their education at primary six (highest level of education in the county) where parents declined to support them. They would be forced to stay at home helping their mothers with household chores until their time to be married off came. There were also other barriers that affected the girls' education and this was the lack of resources in certain families that would be willing to take the girls for further studies. Some girls also became pregnant which brought their education to an end because parents would not be willing to associate with the shame that comes with pregnancy.

Menstrual hygiene

Menstrual hygiene meant taking good care of oneself during menstruation. Pads were not readily available according to the girls and most of them would resort to using thick clothing during the periods. Nile Hope had been distributing the pads sometimes back but they stopped. This was the reason as to why many girls were facing challenges during menstruation and most of them would not go to school, church or even participate in other household chores until after the periods were over. They said they had been pushed into receiving gifts from men so as to get what they needed most, the pad. They however believed that provision of the items (reusable pads) by partners such as CH will help them perform their daily activities properly. They also requested for soap, small light, basin, and underwear because not all parents afforded to buy for their daughters. With this, they suggested to be taken through a training that would help them understand how to use the dignity kits and keep themselves clean during menstruation period.

Forced marriage

Generally, forced marriage was part of the society. Parents would let girls get married early due to a number of reasons; get resources from dowry that is paid, to avoid shame when the girl gets pregnant at home and enable an elder brother acquire his own wife through the cows that will be paid from marrying off the girl. The right age for marriage was however 18 years according to them or after accomplishing education. A 14-year-old girl was the youngest age they had witnessed of late being married off to an old man of 60 years. This was done to help get more cows for the brother who was also getting married but had less cows. The decision makers were fathers with support from uncles and mothers and daughters had no right to speak about it in the community. Early marriages had challenges which the girls mentioned that it would lead into birth complications due to undeveloped reproductive systems of the girls. Due to long distances to hospital for operation (in Ethiopia) most girls would die before getting them to hospital. They also added that the responsibilities that they would be given were overwhelming and most girls developed stress due to frustrations. Unwilling girls were said to have run away with the boy friends whom they loved. Some committed suicide while others divorced after a short while and moved on with their lives either by remarrying or getting out of the county. Despite all the frustrations, the girls had no one to talk to for help. They however believed that advancing the level of education in Maiwut county from primary 6 to secondary level and college would help many girls complete their education. They also suggested on the need to sensitize parents on the importance of education to the girl children.

Domestic violence

Fighting in the families was a normal thing in Jeckow and would sometimes happen without good reasons. Despite not providing, fathers would demand for food which when it misses girls and their mothers are beaten up. Girls who got abused had nowhere to go because nobody would want to listen to them because of the community mentality that everything that a parent does was right and justifiable. To stop the violence against girls, awareness raising in the community was recommended to address issues concerning child rights and domestic violence.

Summary of findings

1. Girls are sexually assaulted and they receive no assistance because of how the society has positioned the female gender
2. Domestic violence is a family issue that no outsider is allowed to interfere with. It is culturally normal and acceptable
3. Girls lack sanitary pads. Most of these items are not readily available even at the local market which has resulted into many frustrations during menstrual periods.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Need for more training on human rights and SEA
2. Need to raise awareness on the importance of girls' education
There is need to empower the girl child
3. Need to train the local authority on how to support the education system so as to ensure that all levels are attained

Findings from Girls FGD September



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Girls FGD

Date: 23rd September, 2020
Payam: Mathiang
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 23rd September, 2020 and twelve girls attended the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The security situation had normalized since June, 2020 at the onset of rains and floods. The girls however said they lived in fear because the probability of possible attacks was very high. The girls also said that they were not safe since the distance they were covering to school was very far. On the way there were risks of sexual harassment from boys and men. They also said that they were swimming across a river to school and this was not very safe to them due to incidences of attacks and drowning inside the water. There were also insecurity issues that were reported during collection of firewood and fetching of water for example attack from animals and harassment from soldiers who sometimes rape the girls.

Access to education

Girls understood the importance of education. According to them educated girls were able to help their parents and the society at large. Fathers were responsible for the girls' education. They however, have challenges studying since the parents believed education that would take them far was risky due to high possibilities of them getting pregnant from boys. Most girls would therefore not be allowed to study in Gambella and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia because they would be far from their parents. Lack of resources was also a barrier to girls' access to education especially those who would have willing parents to take them to school.

Menstrual hygiene

Menstrual hygiene meant taking good care of oneself during menstruation period. Pads were not readily available in the market and most girls would resort to use of other clothing during menstruation. The girls said some pads had been provided to them at some point by Nile hope and RI but they were not consistent. Menstruation without pads had challenges because most girls were not able to perform their daily activities efficiently or even go to school. They therefore recommended for more support through provision of pads and painkillers that would help reduce abdominal pains during menstruation.

Forced marriage

Forced marriages were common in the community though the girls had no authority to stop their fathers from the arrangements and decisions. In fact, the more the girls the wealthier families were because they would marry them off whenever there was need for resources (cows). The girls however felt that the most appropriate age to be married would be 25 years and above. They said the youngest age they had recently witnessed being married off was a 14-year-old girl in Jeckow Payam. The father decided to marry her off to an old man so as to get cows that would be used to cover the brother who had impregnated a girl from a certain family. Girls were not happy with early marriage because they saw their freedom taken away from them. They would see a complete end to their education life due to responsibilities that they would have been put into. Some girls however mentioned that the only advantage would be that they would give birth to many children while still young and their families will become wealthier from the cows that would be paid to them when they are married.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Gifting for sexual return was said to be a common thing in the community. The gifts are smart phones which will enable communication between the girl and the man, money which would be used to purchase basic needs such as; soap, underwear or even clothes. Some would send airtime. On 20th Sept, 2020 one of the girls said she had met someone in a bus when she was coming from Lare to Jeckow. The man requested for her phone to communicate with the brother. After that the guy took her number and in three days, he sent her some airtime and requested if she could visit him. She refused after sensing something was not right. School girls were most engaged into sex by teachers in reward for good grades. Boy, men and traders were also mentioned. There were disadvantages that resulted from the sexual relationship which included unwanted pregnancies and contracting STIs such as HIV. Lack of resources and support from parents was said to contribute a lot into the temptation of accepting the gifts from men. However, the girls admitted that they had no one to talk to when they found themselves in such situations of SEA. They believed though that having proper regulations in place in terms of laws and policies would help reduce their vulnerability to SEA.

Domestic Violence

Fighting in the families was a normal thing in Jeckow. The girls said fathers and uncles would often beat them together with their mothers and there was nothing that would be done because it was culturally acceptable. Sometimes the men would force the women to give them money from their small business which when they refuse, they get beaten up. According to the girls, no one was there to help them because culturally the fathers were always right.

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Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is a need for establishing women and girls' friendly centres to respond and prevent GBV cases through case management, counselling and psychosocial support services.
2. Need to actively create awareness in the community about effects of SEA and capacity build the teachers, men, youth, local authorities and chiefs on the same.
3. Need for provision of dignity kits in the schools or even in the community so that the adolescent girls are able to fully attend school and perform their daily activities normally.

Findings from Girls FGD October



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Girls FGD

Date: 23rd October, 2020

Payam: Jeckow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 23rd October, 2020. Twelve girls attended the meeting and the discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

General security was normal since the conflicts that were experienced in June between Maiwut and Jeckow. A number of protection concerns were however mentioned; Lack of food, lack clean and safe drinking water, sexual harassment, forced and child marriages, child labour, lack of healthcare services and gender-based violence. The girls said they were not safe to school because the schools were very far and they needed also to swim at some point on their way. This was not safe to them because there were a lot of risks in terms of animal attacks in the water as well as drowning especially during rainy seasons. The girls also reported incidences of sexual harassment and abuse on their way to school from the youth and me. As such, parents feared sending their girls very far; Gambella and Addis Ababa to acquire education due to the risk of unwanted pregnancies. They were also not very safe during collection of firewood and fetching of water due to attacks from animals and sexual harassment from the army.

Access to education

The girls' believed education is good. They said educated girls were intelligent and had more knowledge about life and could fight for their rights. Educated girls were also in position to help themselves, their parents and the society and hence they believed that successful future was dependent on education. Fathers and uncles supported girls in their education and their decision was always final on whether a girl would continue with education or not. A lot of families apart from a few had their girls out of school and this is because most parents understood less about the importance of education. Local culture attributed a lot to girls not accessing education. Culturally, girls were a source of wealth for their fathers and they would do anything possible to keep the girls around including denying them education and marrying them off.

Menstrual hygiene

In their own opinion menstrual hygiene meant taking good care of oneself by bathing and putting on a sanitary pad during menstruation periods. They also added that for those who would not afford to have the pads, would be forced to stay in the house, sleeping the whole day and bathing three times a day. Sanitary pads were inaccessible in the community and girls would often depend on supplies from NGOs such as RI. During the periods, most girls would neither engage in any daily activities nor go to school due to lack of pads.

Forced marriage

Culturally, forced marriages are acceptable. It is a normal and common family thing and girls had no option of determining whom and when they would marry. The father, brothers and uncles are key decision makers on who and when girls were supposed to get married to. Early forced marriage affected girls because once married, their social life changed completely. The girls also added that early marriage ended their education because of new responsibilities. Some girls however believed there was something positive about early marriage. They said the girls would get children early and parents would get wealthier from the dowry that would be paid. Most girls would not do anything about the forced marriages because of the possible beatings from their brothers and fathers. Unfortunately, the girls said there was nobody to hear their frustrations because marrying them off was completely a family business and they had no voice over it. They however believed that awareness creation through sensitization of the community on the effects of early marriages and informing the community about the importance of educated girls would have an impact over time even if it would not be felt immediately.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Gifts were given by men for sexual favours. The gifts include money as well as items from the shop. Perpetrators were mentioned to be armed and unarmed youths, alcoholic men, traders and teachers. However, this had negative consequences which included; pregnancy, dropping out of school and getting Sexually Transmitted Infections such as HIV. According to the girls, resisting some of the advancements and gifts from men was difficult because some of the basic needs they most needed were not being afforded by their parents. They recommended awareness raising in the community against SEA and its effect

Domestic Violence

According to the girls, there was a lot of domestic violence at home. They said fathers were beating them plus their mothers and sometimes the uncles and this was culturally acceptable. They added and said that children were the most affected especially when a mother decided to leave the home because nobody cooked for them or even fetch water for them. The children also became psychologically disturbed and they performed poorly in school. Most conflicts were caused by alcoholism of men. Girls said this made their fathers not understand anything and they would become very violent when they return home. The girls would also be beaten up when it was discovered that they had a relationship with a boy or even when they got pregnant before they were married off. Mothers and their daughters would also face it rough when they refused to abide by an arrangement of marriage which would have been made by the men. The mothers would also be beaten up when the men demand for money from their small businesses and they fail to give.

Summary of findings

1. Forced marriages and domestic violence are culturally acceptable hence there are no formal structures handling grievances from girls
2. Girls are sexually exploited and abused in the community by men, youths, traders and teachers who take advantage of their vulnerability
3. Girls have got the desire for education but they are limited by negative cultural beliefs. No one including the local authority have come out strongly to advocate for their rights to education
4. Girls have got limited channels to report Gender Based Violence issues that affect them
5. Girls lack sanitary pads and there is nothing they use during menses apart from sleeping and bathing. This denies them the opportunity to go to school during menses as well as performing other daily duties

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is need for massive awareness creating and raising in the community about the effects of domestic violence, forced marriages and human and child rights violation.
2. Need for support and provision of dignity kits for adolescent girls in school and in the community to ensure they don't miss going to school during menses and can also comfortably perform their duties while at home.
3. There is need for awareness raising in the community about PSEA for girls
4. There would be need for SEA capacity building training that would target teachers, men, youths, local authorities and chiefs
5. There is a need for establishing women's and girls' friendly centres to respond and prevent GBV cases through case management, counselling and psychosocial support services.

Findings from Girls FGD November



Maiwut County protection monitoring report
Girls FGD

Date: 23rd November 2020
Maiwut County
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion for the girls was done on 23rd November 2020, in Maiwut County. The meeting was attended by 12 girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from the five Payams (Jotome, Kizgile, Maidiet, Thoch, Pinythor). The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for humanity Field staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

Girls said their safety in greater Maiwut is not fully guaranteed. Movements from one place to another during fire wood collection and fetching water are risky due to incidences like sexual harassment, sexual abuse, physical assault and emotional assault, girls said they are at least safe on their way to school for those coming from within Maiwut. According to them there were a lot of protection incidences happening in the community and they gave an example of child soldiers in the area.

Access to education

Girls said they face a lot of problems more especially when it comes to access of education, because there are only three schools in every Payam and the population of the students are high, this makes it very hard for anyone to get admitted early, so because of this some of them have to take an option of going to schools that are at a distance of 3 to 4 hours away from home. Girls said apart from the problem of schools some parents or 95% of the parents wouldn't allow them to go to school because they expect them to stay home and do the house chores, their parents believe school is not safe for a girl child, and would rather concentrate on marrying them off.

Menstrual hygiene

Girls said they last received sanitary pads 3 months ago when ADRA and ICRC donated the sanitary pads, this makes it hard because the time they received these pads was long time ago and they haven't had anything to use in these few months, girls said they instead take constant showers or stay indoors when it's time for their menstruation period because the pads at the shops are very expensive and they cannot afford to buy.

Forced marriage

Girls said there was a high rate of forced marriages in this particular community, children between 13-19 years are forced to get married and start bearing children. Girls said that their parents wouldn't even let them get to 18 years of age before they marry them off. Girls said their parents would start talking of marriage as soon as they suspect them of being in puberty, their fathers and uncles would even go as far as beating their mothers if they refuse to get married. Being forced to get married may make them traumatized or could even make them choose suicide as an option out of frustration.

Creation of awareness on forced marriages and educating the parents on the dangers of early and forced marriages. Encouraging the parents to take their children to school and telling them the positive impact the school does to their children may be a little solution to the problem of forced marriages hence reducing the rate of forced marriages.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Girls said most of the men that abuse them or first get to their parents or close relatives like uncles because these are the decision makers, so it's only in rear cases that the girls are approached and when this happens, they always tend to agree because of the favour they get from the men, and since it's a village setting and most of the people here are from the unprivileged background.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was said to be an act that the girls came across every day, Girls said growing up they have always seen their fathers beat their mothers and the neighbours beat their wives too, so it is a normal practice in this particular community.

Alcohol was said to be one of the factors that led to domestic violence, the men spent the whole day out of their houses and came back drunk at night and any complaint from the women was said to be enough to start a fight. The relatives of the parents always tried to come in to solve the problem but most times nothing much was done and the process became a continuous sequence. Girls suggested that enforcement of laws that are against domestic violence and creating laws against domestic violence can be a great solution to domestic violence.

Summary of findings

GBV issues are common in Maiwut County and the girls have got no rights over most issues. Though they never mentioned how many cases of rape had occurred due to the fact that most of these cases were turned into marriages, which could explain reasons as to why most girls were married off from the ages of 13-18 years old and even younger than that, we still believe there are so many rape cases. Physical assault and intimate violence are common since it is heavily supported by the culture and norms. Safety of girls is also not guaranteed due to sexual assault, sexual harassment and violence on the way to fetch firewood and water. The lack of schools in these areas have made it very hard for the girls to get education that they deserve, making them vulnerable to so many factors like sexual exploitation and abuse.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is need for increase of schools in each Payam, to make it easy for the girls to get education.
2. Youth and men need awareness on negative impact of sexual harassment, domestic violence and economical violence.
3. There is a need for the donation of sanitary pads and other basic needs to the girls in this community.
4. PSEA awareness should be carried out within the community in order to educate them on the negative impacts of SEA.
5. Parents, local authority and other stake holders should awareness training on the importance of girl child education.

8.3 ANNEX MONTHLY BOYS FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from Boys FGD July



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Boys FGD

Date: 20th July, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 20th July, 2020 in Jeckow Payam. The meeting was attended by 12 Boys. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Child recruitment and Abduction

General security was normal and safety concerns including walking to school were not reported. The only challenge was that the boys crossed a river to the other side of Ethiopia for schooling which was not safe to children. Risks related to drowning and attack from animals were mentioned. The Boys were not volunteering to join the army and other militia groups at the expense of education though in June, 2020 most of them were forced into joining the army to prevent their community from attacks.

Child Labour

Child labour was the order of the day and many small boys were running small businesses in the local market in Jekow. Instead of schooling, some had been hired by local traders. The boys also helped their parents in taking the goats and cows for grazing. There were consequences as a result of early engagement of boys in working for money. It came out that they would get used to having money and lacking at some point would push them to engage in criminal activities such as stealing and abusing drugs. Most of this group were associated with raping of girls and doing other forms of sexual harassment and assault to girls and women in the community.

Access to education

The boys said that educated children had a brighter future compared to those who were not educated because they would be employed and support their parents. It was therefore the responsibility of parents to ensure that children were taken to school. They however mentioned that children who came from rich families had more advantage over those from poor families because the parents were able to afford to provide for their education needs in schools outside the country. Jekow had no secondary schools and colleges. Hence those whose parents were poor ended up dropping out of school because the parents would not sustain them in the education system.

Forced marriage

Early child marriages were said to be traditional practices that were often arranged by parents even without the knowledge/consent of the children. Fathers always made the plans concerning marriage and never consulted any other person in the family including the child that was to be married off. It was however reported that some boys who had not been comfortable with the marriages escaped from their homes and sort refuge from somewhere else e.g. at friends, aunties or uncles' places.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence was common in families. Boys' mothers would be fought without any reason. Sometimes failure to prepare the meals early would trigger the fighting. According to the boys, this was disgusting and had contributed to children dropping out of school and poor performance by those who continued with their studies. Disputes amongst boys and parents were frequently settled by either maternal or paternal uncles. It was however recommended that creating awareness on peaceful coexistence between parents and children would be key as well as involving the local authority where children would be treated unfairly

Conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is need for community awareness on child labor through sensitization of parents and traders on the effects of child labour and importance of education
2. There would be need to raise awareness on the effects of child or forced marriages by targeting parents and community elders in order to change their mind set on the outdated cultural practice.

Findings from Boys August



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Boys FGD

Date: 27th August, 2020

Payam: Pagak

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted in Pagak on 27th August, 2020 from 10.00am with twelve boys attending the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Child recruitment and Abduction

There were no safety concerns for the boys at the time of the focus group discussion. However, it was reported that in June, 2020 there was increased insecurity which was as a result of conflict that erupted between the community in Maiwut and Jekow. Due to cases of revenge killings, the situation was not safe for the boys and going to school was impossible. Floods had also affected the movements including going to classrooms which were submerged in water. Abduction was not common in South Sudan though cases had been reported in Pibor, Jekow in Ethiopia. The boys were therefore fearing that there were possibilities that they would come for them. The boys joined the army during conflicts to protect the community though the situation was calm and they had not been taken into the army.

Child Labour

It was said that a lot of boys in the community were engaged in income generating activities (IGAs). The boys said they had no option other than support the family because most of their fathers would just get drunk all the time and never provide for the family.

This type of responsibility of working for money to support the family had negative consequences because a lot of boys would drop out of school due to lack of concentration on education matters. This would also push them into cattle raiding in order to make ends meet.

Access to education

Education makes a boy become a responsible man and helps his/her community and parents, for example, they said that when you are educated, you can work anywhere in the world and you can support your parents. Parents, especially fathers were responsible for the education of their children, and for those who did not have fathers, their mothers were responsible to take them to school. Most boys did not have access to education due to lack of resources. As a result, most of them lost hope because their parents were not able to afford education outside the country. This is because the system of education was still very poor in the county and most schools would barely offer education up to primary five and six only

Forced marriage

According to the boys, forced marriage was common in their community and this affected both boys and girls. To them, the best age for one to get married was after school completion and one was employed because at that age a man would be in position to sustain his family and parents. It was also clear that mothers had a lot of force into getting boys married especially when the boy was the first born. A son marrying would relieve a mother from certain duties that would be taken up by a daughter in law. They also said that pushing a son into marriage was a way to fast-track acquisition of resources (cows) into the family including paying some to the uncles. Recently, a boy had brought home a girl whom he loved for marriage. The parents told him that they had arranged a different option of a girl whom they liked to be his wife. According to the boys, the young man ended up marrying two wives that is one for himself and the other one for the parents. In such situations, uncles intervene to bring harmony though most of the time parent's decision is respected. The boys however believed that some of these issues can stop only if parents will be sensitized on the importance of a girl's education so that they don't push them into marrying the boys. They also recommended on the need to come up with community policies that would ensure education is a must

Domestic violence

In the domestic set up, "small mistakes" resulted into family wrangles. For example, mothers would be beaten up by fathers when they failed to prepare food in good time. This was reported to be common with drinking fathers. The flip side of this is that children became psychologically affected. The boys therefore recommended for proper channels where certain issues that affect them at family level could be reported and attended to.

Summary of findings

1. Child labour is still common in the local community and children as young as 13 years old are engaged by traders in the expense of schooling
2. Forced child marriage is practiced and children have got no voice over their parents
3. Domestic violence happens though it affected children psychologically. Culture supports the violence between husbands and wives and there is nothing the local authority can do

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Parents need more sensitization on the rights of children and their roles in ensuring a better future for the children
2. The local authority needs to analyse the situation and put policies in place that will protect children from domestic abuse
3. More protection centres need to be developed to enable children freely report protection issues that affect them

Findings from Boys September



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Boys FGD

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 24th September, 2020 in Jekow Payam. The meeting was attended by 12 Boys (5 hosts and 7 IDPs). The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Child recruitment and Abduction

The general security was said to be normal. Safety concerns including walking to school were not reported. The only challenge was that the boys crossed a river to the other side of Ethiopia for schooling which was not safe to them. Risks related to drowning and attack from animals were mentioned. The Boys were not volunteering to join the army and other militia groups at the expense of education though in June, 2020 most of them were forced into joining the army to prevent their community from attacks

Child Labour

Boys were running small businesses in the local market in Jekow. Instead of schooling, some had been hired by local traders. The boys also helped their parents in taking the goats and cows for grazing. There were consequences as a result of early engagement of boys in working for money. It came out that they would get used to having money and lacking at some point would push them to engage in criminal activities such as stealing and abusing drugs

Access to education

The boys knew that education made people responsible in the society. They also added and said that educated children had a brighter future compared to those who were not educated because they would be employed and support their parents financially. It was therefore the responsibility of parents to take their children to school. They however mentioned that children who came from rich families had more advantage because the parents were able to afford to provide for their education needs in schools outside the country. Jekow had no secondary schools and colleges. Hence those whose parents were poor ended up dropping out of school because the parents would not sustain them in the education system.

Other challenges that also hindered boys from accessing education were; intentional lack of support from parents to provide essential basic needs such as school uniforms. These challenges were said to have increased the rate of school drop outs who ended up involving themselves in criminal activities in the society. Some boys would join the army to earn income.

Forced marriage

Early or child marriage was said to be a traditional practice. The marriages were often arranged by parents even without the knowledge/consent of the children. Fathers always made the plans concerning marriage and never consulted any other person in the family. It was however reported that some boys who had not been comfortable with the marriages escaped from their homes and sort refuge from their friends, aunties and uncles.

Parents should however be made aware about the importance of schooling for their children. For example, they would be told that educated children are able to get jobs and support them financially.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence was common in families. Boys' mothers would be fought without any reason. Sometimes failure to prepare the meals early would trigger the fighting. According to the boys, this was disgusting and had contributed to dropping out of school and poor performance.

Disputes amongst boys and parents were however frequently settled by either maternal or paternal uncles. It was however recommended that creating awareness on peaceful coexistence between parents and children would be key as well as involving the local authority where children would be treated unfairly

Conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is need for community awareness on child labour through sensitization of parents and traders on the effects of child labour and importance of education
2. There would be need to raise awareness on the effects of child or forced marriages by targeting parents and community elders in order to change their mind set on the outdated cultural practice.

Findings from Boys October



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Boys FGD

Date: 27th October, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 27th October, 2020 with twelve boys attending the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Child recruitment and Abduction

The security situation was not bad despite the conflict that had been experienced between Jekow and Maiwut communities. The boys had only one challenge which was to cross the river to the other side of Ethiopia where they attended school. Cases of abduction or forcing boys into the army had not been reported.

Child Labour

A lot of boys engaged themselves in income generating activities (IGAs) especially those who were first born in their families. These responsibilities had negative impacts to the boys including dropping out of school, engaging in alcoholism and other drugs and sometimes being victims of crimes.

Access to education

Boys understood that education made people become knowledgeable, intelligent and respectable in the community. It was also a source of employment and those who worked offered financial support to their parents. According to them, parents were responsible of taking their children to school. Apart from most of them going to school, a few boys had not and some had just dropped out at some point. Those from poor families lacked support from their parents in terms of meeting certain basic needs. Boys who lacked education resorted to crimes while others engaged in income generating activities.

Forced marriage

Forced or child marriages were a common practice in the community and fathers and mothers made decisions for their children to get married and they usually arranged such marriages without consulting their children because they always thought they had the best choices for them. Most boys found themselves in such situations and because they respected their parents, they had no other options other than abiding by it. Parents of the boys however need thorough sensitization on the existence of child rights and the importance of education to their children

Domestic violence

Parents fight due to; family misunderstanding, drunkenness, failure of a mother to carry out her duties as instructed by a father and failure of a father to provide food and other basic needs for the family. These constant conflicts between parents make the children unhappy and sometimes influence them to move out and settle elsewhere in unknown places. Disputes between boys and their parents are often settled by either the paternal or maternal uncles or their grandmothers from both sides. They recommended that it would be good for the boys to frequently receive counselling from their elderly community members, paternal uncles or maternal uncles.

Summary of findings

1. Child protection: Children are forced into marriage by their parents at an early age. They are also engaged in business by their parents and local traders instead of schooling
2. Access to education: lack of resources prevents some children from accessing education
3. Domestic violence: Wives mistreatment exists in Jekow Payam and it is an acceptable cultural practice because no one takes it seriously including the local authority.

Conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is need to advocate for the rights of children to education by discouraging all forms of child labour
2. There is need to create awareness on the effects of child or forced marriages and how they infringe on the rights of children. The sensitization would target parents and community members in order to change their cultural perception about forced /early marriage for young children against their will.
3. There is need to raise awareness on the effects of domestic violence to children by targeting men who mistreat and beat their wives

Findings from Boys November



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Boys FGD

Date: 17th November, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 17th December, 2020 with twelve boys attending the meeting. The discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Child recruitment and Abduction

The situation in Jekow was said to be calm and most families were finalizing with land preparations in readiness for the dry season planting. Protection concerns were however mentioned which included; domestic violence, rape and child labour. According to the boys, there were no safety concerns for boys on their way to school especially in the schools within Jekow. However, cases of abduction which involved 4 children were reported on 23rd November, 2020 in Kumedur area in the outskirts of Jekow. Boys also feared for their lives due to the conflicts that had been experienced. It was reported that some 2 children had also been kidnapped sometimes back by the enemies. Young boys were said to have joined child army in January 2020 to fight on behalf of the community.

Child Labour

The boys said a lot of them engaged in income generating activities at the expense of schooling due to lack of resources to further their studies. This habit puts them in a situation where they can't stay without money and hence they end up involving themselves in drug abuse as well as crime.

Access to education

Education was essential to the boys and they knew that without it there would be no development in the community. They would as well not be able to provide for themselves or their families. According to the boys, parents were responsible for their education and the final decision makers concerning their education were their fathers. However, most of the boys lacked basic education due to limited resources as well as poor quality of education in the area. Other barriers were; intentional lack of support from parents, peer pressure from drug addicts and community conflicts which was said to shift their concentration and interest from education. Due to poor levels of education, the boys said most of them were not able to get employment within their areas due to lack of capacity despite the availability of job opportunities.

Forced marriage

Early marriages were as a result of cultural norms according to the boys. However, according to them, the most appropriate age for marriage would be 25 years of age and above because a man would be independent and able to support his family. They said that for early marriages, parents usually made the decisions including whom they were supposed to marry and all the arrangements would be made without their knowledge and/or consulting them. When forced to marry, some boys resort to committing suicide while others join the army. They said that the positive impact of early marriage was the independence one acquired in making their own decisions. However, the negative part was that some boys would be too young even to support their own families with basic needs. They said they had nobody to talk to concerning the early marriage frustrations because culturally it was acceptable and all issues were handled within the family set-up. They however believed that boys who would be willing to continue with their education instead of marrying should be supported fully with the necessary basic needs to realize their dreams.

Domestic violence

Domestic fighting was common according to the boys. The scene of events was however not encouraging at all as per the boys. Fighting of parents affected them mentally and psychologically. They said poverty contributed to the conflicts at home as well as too much consumption of alcohol. Such cases were said to be resolved by elders and other relatives through a family meeting. They however recommended on the need for parents to be enlightened on children rights.

Summary of findings

1. Child protection: Children are forced into marriage by their parents at an early age. They are also engaged in business by their parents and local traders instead of schooling
2. Access to education: lack of resources prevents some children from accessing education
3. Domestic violence: Wives mistreatment exists in Jekow Payam and it is an acceptable cultural practice because no one takes it seriously including the local authority.

Conclusions and recommendations:

1. There is need to advocate for the rights of children to education by discouraging all forms of child labour
There is need to create awareness on the effects of child or forced marriages and how they infringe on the rights
2. of children. The sensitization would target parents and community members in order to change their cultural perception about forced /early marriage for young children against their will.
3. There is need to raise awareness on the effects of domestic violence to children by targeting men who mistreat and beat their wives

8.4 ANNEXES MONTHLY MEN FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from Men FGD July



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Men FGD

Date: 28th July, 2020

Payam: Jeckow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The men Focus Group Discussion took place on 28th July 2020 in Jeckow Payam with a total of 11 participants. Facilitations were conducted by Coalition for Humanity field staff based in Maiwut County.

Cattle Raiding

From the discussions, youths above 20 years facilitated the cattle raiding. The local authorities had never addressed the issue. The youths were motivated to do cattle raiding due to the desire to have more cows which would mostly be used to pay dowry because most youth lacked resources. This practice had a lot of negative effect which were mentioned to include; general insecurity, intercommunal violence and displacement of communities. Possible ways to resolve this habit were suggested as; disarmament of the youths and deployment of police at intercommunal borders for border patrols

Revenge killings

Revenge killings had not been witnessed in the recent past though it didn't mean it was not there in the community. The local authorities had resolved one by fining the suspect 100 cows plus 6 months' imprisonment. Both parties were satisfied and they did not revenge. Communities resorted to revenge killing due to unfair ruling in the courts of law. It was believed that the cycle of revenge killings would stop if quick actions were taken to arrest and prosecute culprits in the court of law in accordance with relevant laws. It was also proposed for church leaders to be in the forefront to preach against revenge killing from the Biblical perspective

Communal conflict

From the discussions, communal violence had been witnessed including the most recent in 2019 between Maiwut and Fagak. The most common causes of communal violence were however said to be as a result of; power/leadership tussles and men fighting for girls. The issues surrounding communal violence were however being resolved by community elders, local authorities, local chiefs and religious leaders. Conducting capacity building trainings for local authorities, local elders, youth, chiefs and local courts on peace building and conflict resolutions would also promote a lasting solution.

Housing land and property

Land is communally owned from the time of grandparents and hence grand children had an equal right of ownership. In case of disputes that would arise over land, housing or property issues, respected community elders and local chiefs would be involved to amicably resolve the disagreement. In the community, there were no laws that governed ownership. However, in Nuer culture, women were not allowed to own land and property. Local authorities were responsible for IDPs, Refugees and Returnees temporary settlement. It was mentioned that returnees were given back their family land. However, IDPS are only hosted temporarily and are not entitled to any land

Domestic/intimate partner violence

There was a recent case in Biyien Boma in Jekow. The leading causes of domestic violence among close family members were however said to include; alcoholism, lack of responsibility and family disagreement perhaps due to a forced marriage that the mother of the girl was not for e.g. when a father gets the daughter an old man to marry them. They recommended though that families could adapt to minimize domestic violence through; husbands learning how to respect their wives and children rights

Children access to education

It was noted that boys received more support towards education than girls did. Girls education was not important according to the local setting. They were a source of wealth and would be married off by parents when they deemed appropriate. Schooling of children was said to be more of a fathers' responsibility. It was recommended that it would be good for parents to motivate their children through provision of basic school needs such as uniforms, initiation of school cash programming by NGOs for girls and school feeding Programme for all pupils.

Forced marriages

Forced marriage was common and an example that involved a 15-year-old girl in Pilual was given. Parents would however get motivated into forcing their children to get married due to their desire to own more cows as a sign of wealth or sometimes foster some good relationship in the families.

This had a number of disadvantages according to the men; some of the girls or boys would run away from their parents or husbands' homes, others would end up committing suicide, others would disappear into unknown places though a few would seek refuge from close relatives such as paternal or maternal uncles.

Findings from Men August



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Men FGD

Date: 26th August, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in Jekow on 26th August, 2020. Twelve men attended the meeting which was facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Cattle Raiding

Cattle raiding was common between Jekow and Maiwut Payams. These are mainly facilitated by youths who were said to be jobless with limited resources (cows) to get married so the only way would be to get extra cows through raiding the neighbouring communities. The urge to get rich or having more wives motivated cattle raiding. The negative impact related to the cattle raiding was mentioned to be a cycle of conflicts between two affected communities that would result into deaths of people due to revenge killings. Possible ways to resolve the conflicts were recommended as empowering the youths by building their capacity into self-employment and by putting down laws that would strictly govern issues about cattle raiding.

Revenge killings

In May 2020 a revenge killing case was experienced in Nyatak Boma in Jekow Payam. To resolve the conflicts other than revenge killings, the men proposed on the need for communities to embrace dialogue. They also suggested to have laws and regulations that will appropriately deal with cases of revenge killings and recommended on the need to educate the community on human rights as well as sensitizing them on the negative impacts of conflicts and revenge killings. One of the participants said that the uncle was killed but the families resorted to dialogue the issue was solved without any further conflicts. According to the men, revenge killings were motivated by the believe that when someone kills a brother and you don't revenge then you would not be a real or brave man. This would facilitate the cycle because each community would want to prove that they also had men.

Communal conflict

June, 2020 had a lot of conflicts between Maiwut and Jekow people. According to the participants, a lot of people were killed. The causes of the conflicts were said to be; revenge killings, cattle raiding, land disputes and leadership which was said to be the biggest cause of conflicts between Maiwut and Jekow, Maiwut is under the Government while Jekow is under the opposition. Youths take lead in the conflicts that are facilitated. Elders had taken lead in resolving the issues between the two communities though the local authorities had also set up and send a committee of individuals to negotiate about a long-lasting peace. The men however believed that advocating for peaceful coexistence between the two communities would help change the situation. They also recommended on the need to raise awareness on the importance of respecting human rights as well as empowering the youth through income generating activities that will keep them busy and earn them a living.

Housing land and property

The men believed there was no any other system of land ownership other than what the culture prescribed. Men were entitled to inheritance of the ancestral land which was not the case for the ladies. They believed women would be married somewhere else and there was therefore no need of allocating them land. Conflicts around HLP had not been witnessed. However, in such cases the local authority had the power to resolve the conflicts. IDPS and refugees were only given temporary settlement lands but would not be allowed to own any land. However, Returnees were entitled to land provided they reported to the local authority and are able to trace their ancestral land and property.

Domestic/intimate partner violence

Domestic violence is very common in Jekow and one was mentioned to have happened in Jerusalem Boma. The cause was for the fighting was said to be as a result of alcoholism by the men. It was also said that women would be beaten when they try to negotiate about fathers' decisions to marry off daughters to older men. To end the conflicts, participants suggested men to give some respect to their wives and take up family responsibilities such as providing for the family.

Children access to education

All children had no equal rights to schooling. Boys were favoured more than girls. Most girls would be left home helping their mothers with household chores as they wait for marriage. According to the men, girls' education had nothing much to bring them but marrying off the girls was a good source of wealth. The appropriate age was said to be 4 years for children to start schooling. The only problem was the poor education system in the community which did not cover all levels of education which affected schooling of most children especially those whose parents had no resources to sponsor them for further studies in other countries such as Ethiopia. The men however recommended for an improved system of education in the community to allow easy access to education. They also suggested on the need to empower the girl child and offer them equal opportunity to education as the boys.

Forced marriages

A young boy had been forced into marriage by his parents on the 25th of August. The parents organized the girl for him because they liked the family where the girl came from. Both boys and girls were forced into early marriage though the men said the girls were the most affected.

Summary of the findings

1. Domestic violence is common in the community
2. Forced marriages are still practiced and both boys and girls are affected
3. The community practices cattle raiding and revenge killings which facilitate community conflicts
4. Girls are denied access to education and are less supported compared to the boys

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Need to conduct capacity building training on respect for human rights including forced marriage targeting married men, community elders and local courts.
2. Need to conduct massive awareness raising against cattle raiding and revenge killings.

Findings from Men September



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Men FGD

Date: 17th September, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The men Focus Group Discussion took place on 20th October 2020 from 10.30am to 11.30am in Jekow Payam with a total of 11 participants (7 Hosts and 4 IDPs). Facilitations were conducted by Coalition for Humanity field staff based in Maiwut County.

Cattle Raiding

From the discussions, youths above 20 years facilitated the cattle raiding. The local authorities had never addressed the issue. The youths were motivated to do cattle raiding due to the desire to have more cows which would mostly be used to pay dowry because most youth lacked resources. This practice had a lot of negative effect which were mentioned to include; general insecurity, intercommunal violence and displacement of communities. Possible ways to resolve this habit were suggested as; disarmament of the youths and deployment of police at intercommunal borders for border patrols

Revenge killings

Revenge killings have not been witnessed in the recent past though it didn't mean it was not there in the community. The local authorities had resolved one by fining the suspect 100 cows plus 6 months' imprisonment. Both parties were satisfied and they did not revenge. Communities resorted to revenge killing due to unfair ruling in the courts of law. It was believed that the cycle of revenge killings would stop if quick actions were taken to arrest and prosecute culprits in the court of law in accordance with relevant laws. It was also proposed for church leaders to be in the forefront to preach against revenge killing from the Biblical perspective

Communal conflict

From the discussions, communal violence had been witnessed including the most recent in 2019 between Maiwut and Pagak. The most common causes of communal violence were however said to be as a result of; power/leadership tussles and men fighting for girls. The issues surrounding communal violence were however being resolved by community elders, local authorities, local chiefs and religious leaders. Conducting capacity building trainings for local authorities, local elders, youth, chiefs and local courts on peace building and conflict resolutions would also promote a lasting solution.

Housing land and property

Land is communally owned from the time of grandparents and hence grand children had an equal right of ownership. In case of disputes that would arise over land, housing or property issues, respected community elders and local chiefs would be involved to amicably resolve the disagreement. In the community, there were no laws that governed ownership. However, in Nuer culture, women were not allowed to own land and property. Local authorities were responsible for IDPs, Refugees and Returnees temporary settlement. It was mentioned that returnees were given back their family land. However, IDPS are only hosted temporarily and are not entitled to any land

Domestic/intimate partner violence

There was a recent case in Biyien Boma in Jekow. The leading causes of domestic violence among close family members were however said to include; alcoholism, lack of responsibility and family disagreement perhaps due to a forced marriage that the mother of the girl was not for, for example, when a father gets the daughter an old man to marry them. They recommended though that families could adapt to minimize domestic violence through; husbands learning how to respect their wives and children rights

Children access to education

It was noted that boys receive more support towards education than girls did. Girls education was not important according to the local setting. They were a source of wealth and would be married off by parents when they deemed appropriate. Schooling of children was said to be more of a fathers' responsibility. It was recommended that it would be good for parents to motivate their children through provision of basic school needs such as uniforms, initiation of school cash programming by NGOs for girls and school feeding Programme for all pupils.

Forced marriages

Forced marriage was common and an example that involved a 15-year-old girl in Pilual was given. Parents would however get motivated into forcing their children to get married due to their desire to own more cows as a sign of wealth or sometimes foster some good relationship in the families.

This had a number of disadvantages according to the men; some of the girls or boys would run away from their parents or husbands' homes, others would end up committing suicide, others would disappear into unknown places though a few would seek refuge from close relatives such as paternal or maternal uncles.

Findings from Men October



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Men FGD

Date: 15th October, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 15th October, 2020. Twelve men attended the meeting and discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Cattle Raiding

Cattle raiding was common though it had not been seen since June, 2020. Males aged 20 years and above are most involved in the raids. The motivation is for them to get more cows used during marriage to pay dowry, buy guns and bullets by selling them and others would use them for prestige/ to show wealth. Cattle raiding was dangerous according to the men because it brought; death, destruction of property, displacement of people, lack of intercommunal peace and insecurity, contributed to poverty especially when one lost his cattle which could have been the only source of livelihoods.

Revenge killings

The men reiterated that revenge killing existed in the community and people opted for revenge killings due to anger for loss of loved ones, failure of criminal to show up and compensate the relatives/parents of the deceased and the desire to seek justice when courts settle the revenge killing cases unfairly. The best way to stop the cycle of revenge killings would be to promote; intercommunal dialogue, immediate arrest and imprisonment of people who would have committed capital crimes such as the revenge killings and rapes, and recommending community elders to always encourage youth and entire community to live peacefully among themselves, and raising awareness about the consequences in community meetings

Communal conflict

Communal conflicts and violence had been witnessed between Jekow and Maiwut in June 2020. The common causes were; revenge killings and cattle raids. The working solutions to restore peaceful co-existence would include; Punishing offenders, immediate compensation of those who lost their loved ones as a result of revenge killings and conducting capacity building trainings that would target local authorities, local elders, youth, chiefs, and local courts on fair judgement of community issues.

Housing land and property

The land was owned by the community through inheritance. Women were however not allowed to inherit any land or own property. Land disputes were settled by respected elders and the customary courts with serious ones being handled by the county commissioner. IDPs, Refugees and returnees were allocated temporary land through the local authority.

Domestic/intimate partner violence

All Bomas had cases of domestic/intimate partner violence almost on a weekly basis. Practically nothing is done because domestic violence issues were culturally considered as family affair that were normal and needed not interference from outsiders, except, the extended family members from both the side of husband and wife. To minimize cases of domestic violence, the men suggested the need for husbands to treat their wives with love and respect

Children access to education

As per the men, not all children had been given equal rights to go to school that is boys were preferred to girls though the men, confirmed that this mentality had greatly changed. They however recommended parents to buy uniforms for their children and girls to be motivated through cash programming and school feeding program.

Forced marriages

Forced marriages were common and the men gave an example of a 15-year-old girl who had been forced to marry an old man in Pilual Boma. This was not welcome by every child. Some committed suicide, others would disappear from their homes while others would seek refuge from their maternal and paternal uncles. They however recommended awareness raising among the parents and community elders on the importance of respecting children marriage rights to choose whom and when they wanted to marry.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Conduct capacity building trainings on respect for human rights including marriage rights by targeting married men, community elders, local courts and local authority.
2. There is need for awareness among the youth on the negative impacts of cattle raids
3. There is need to engage youth on sporting activities such as outdoor and indoor games to divert their attention on cattle raiding by avoiding idleness.

Findings from Men FGD November



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Men FGD

Date: 18th November, 2020

Payam: Jeckow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The men Focus Group Discussion took place on 18th November, 2020 in Jeckow Payam with a total of 12 participants. Facilitations were conducted by Coalition for Humanity field staff based in Maiwut County.

Cattle Raiding

Men said there were various cases of cattle raiding and kidnapping of children which had been experienced since the beginning of the year. They suspected the attackers were youth aged 25 from the neighbouring county who were also their enemies. This had resulted into a lot of insecurity and hence the locals' safety was not guaranteed. They added and said that their youths had taken initiative to patrol along the borders to protect their cattle and the community from the attacks. The motivation to raid according to them was lack of resources so the youths would be pushed into it so as to acquire wealth and marry more wives. This had however negatively affected the livelihood activities of the locals and the most affected being women, children and the elderly. The men however believed that strengthening the capacity of the local authority to pursue peaceful coexistence would help reduce conflicts in the community.

Revenge killings

A revenge killing case had been reported in Nyetok Boma in October, 2020. This was not good according to the men and hence they advocated for alternative channels of conflict resolution. They suggested arrest and prosecution of criminals of the killings as well as the community collective compensation of the family of the deceased through payment of the required number of cattle to minimize the levels of animosity that would have been generated. They added and said that the community opted for revenge killings due to delayed justice from the local authorities. They hence recommended on the need to improve the judicial system in the community to efficiently handle cases that affect the community members. They also suggested on the need to engage the youth through creation of youth clubs and other recreational facilities.

Communal conflict

The men said there had been inter communal violence cases that were happening in Jekow since May, 2020. Residents of Jerusalem Boma had been attacked and houses burned down. Communal violence was facilitated by scarcity of resources among other factors e.g. power competition. The community elders and church leaders however participated and took initiative in resolving conflicts in the community. They recommended training of local authority on rule of law so as they set standard policies that would guide community members appropriately

Housing land and property

Land was owned by the host community and the Payam administrator was in charge. According to the men, they had not witnessed any conflicts arising from land, housing or even property. In cases of IDPs, Returnees and Refugees, the local authorities allocated temporary land for hosting them in the community. When conflicts arise because of land, the local authorities settle the issue by ensuring the parties agree or sometimes equality dividing the pieces of land with conflict. The men said there were laws that governed issues of land, housing and property though women were not considered in the law because they were not allowed to own land. The IDPs and refugees were also in this category as women.

Domestic/intimate partner violence

Domestic violence was reported in early November, 2020 in Pilual Boma in Jekow. The men said most violence cases were as a result of scarce resources among families and alcoholism. This result into fighting between husbands and their wives. The men believed the community was in position to create rules and laws to prevent the domestic violence cases.

Children access to education

According to the men, all children had been given equal rights to education though boys were more favoured than the girls by parents. However, the issue was lack of access to education due to lack of schools in Jekow. Parents however had the sole responsibility of taking their children to school as per the men. They recommended on the need to establish more schools that will enhance formal and informal education for children. It was also suggested that there would be need to employ more qualified teachers in the area to improve the quality of education.

Forced marriages

A 17-year-old girl had been forcefully married off to a 49-year-old man in Pilual Boma. It was reported that she had been given conditions that if she refused she would be chased away from home. Parents were motivated into this kind of arrangement due to the urge for resources/wealth dowry payment. The men also added that there was no law that restricted such actions in the community as well as lack of dialogue at household level due to traditions and hence the practice. This had negative consequences which were said to be committing suicide the affected children and chasing them away from home. As a result, the men recommended on the need to embrace human rights efforts and advocacy in the community to minimize the sexual and gender based violence cases in the community.

8.5 ANNEXES MONTHLY TEACHERS FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from Teachers FGD July



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Teachers FGD

Date: 24th July, 2020
Payam: Jekow
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 24th July, 2020 in Jekow Payam. The meeting was attended by 12 teachers between the age of 22 and 45 years and the discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Teacher's welfare

The teachers said there was a lot of insecurity in the area and schools faced a lot of challenges which included but not limited to; shortage of learning materials, lack of games items such as balls for playing, shortage of teachers since most of them were volunteering and lack of motivation for the teachers since ADRA had offered some 40\$ a month for them which was also not consistently paid. They however recommended on the need to implement the peace agreement that was signed in 2018 for peaceful coexistence and teachers' incentives to be reviewed and be given on time.

General safety security of children

Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. Children were however safer at school compared to when they would be at home according to the teachers.

Access to education

Most children in the area started school at age 6 which was a bit late to the teachers. Pupils would progress to the next level when they attained a pass mark of 50%. All genders were dropping out of school though girls were the most affected. The teachers believed that conflicts that came as a result of who owned Maiwut should end so as to allow smooth education system in the area.

Children welfare

Children had a number of challenges as was reported by the teachers. They lacked school stationery, Lack of teaching aids, lack of latrines in school, lack of school feeding program and there was less attendance due to lack of support from parents. Despite their efforts to create a conducive environment for the children, the teachers said that conflicts in Maiwut had become a barrier to their efforts. The schools also had poor infrastructure and benches for pupils as well as lack of latrines and washrooms for girls to use during menstrual hygiene. The teachers however believed that training the PTA on their roles would help improve the status of school. They also advocated for support from NGO to help in provision of learning materials to the pupils.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The teachers said there were no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in school. They however recommended teachers capacity building on PSEA. In case of such an incidence in the school set up, the teachers said the head teacher would write a warning letter to the teacher who would be involved and a repeat of the same would lead to his/her dismissal from the teaching profession.

Summary of findings

1. Teachers lack motivation to teach due to lack of incentives hence most of them only volunteer
2. Majority of the teachers lack the prerequisite skills in teaching (untrained).
3. The children lack basic needs e.g. uniforms and books,
4. The school lacks proper learning facilities e.g. classrooms, toilets etc.
5. The issues of Sexual exploitation and abuse were not there in Jekow Payam according to the participants.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Provision of school materials, including benches and books
2. Need to adopt a school feeding program for pupils in schools to address their nutritional needs and to enhance their concentration during studies
3. There's a need for capacity building training for teacher on how to handle children in the school
4. There's need to upgrade schools through construction of fences, boreholes and latrine to make school a safer and better place for children as well as teachers

Findings from Teachers FGD August



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Teachers FGD

Date: 24th August, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted in Jekow on 24th August, 2020. Twelve teachers attended the meeting with sessions being facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Teacher's welfare

The teachers said there was increased insecurity in the area and schools faced a lot of challenges which included but not limited to; shortage of learning materials, lack of games items such as balls for playing, shortage of teachers since most of them were volunteering and lack of motivation for the teachers since ADRA had offered some 40\$ a month for them which was also not consistently paid. They however recommended on the need to implement the peace agreement that was signed in 2018 for peaceful coexistence and teachers' incentives to be reviewed and be given on time

General safety security of children

Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. Children were however safer at school compared to when they would be at home according to the teachers.

Access to education

Most children in the area started school at age 6 which was a bit late to the teachers. Pupils would progress to the next level when they attained a pass mark of 50%. All genders were dropping out of school though girls were the most affected. The teachers believed that conflicts that came as a result of who owned Maiwut should end so as to allow smooth education system in the area.

Children welfare

Children have got a number of challenges as was reported by the teachers. They lacked school stationery and there was low attendance due to lack of support from parents.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The teachers said there were no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in school. They however recommended teachers capacity building on PSEA.

Summary of findings

The welfare of the teachers in Jekow is bad due to clan conflicts that happened in Maiwut County in 2019. Though primary education is free, schools have got limited classrooms that are not sufficient to all pupils. Most of the schools also lacked stationeries and Bullying of the children by their school mates was reported

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is need for a refresher training/induction of all teachers in critical areas of teaching such as preparation of lesson plans and content delivery
2. There is need to improve payment of teachers in terms of the amount paid and the payment periods in order to increase their morale
3. There is need to avail important games kits to school to help in engaging children during break time

Findings from Teachers FGD September



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Teachers FGD

Date: 18th September, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 18th of September, 2020 in Jekow Payam. The meeting was attended by 12 teachers between the age of 22 and 45 years and the discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Teacher's welfare

The teachers said there was a lot of insecurity in the area and schools faced a lot of challenges which included but not limited to; shortage of learning materials, lack of games items such as balls for playing, shortage of teachers since most of them were volunteering and lack of motivation for the teachers since ADRA had offered some 40\$ a month for them which was also not consistently paid. They however recommended on the need to implement the peace agreement that was signed in 2018 for peaceful coexistence and teachers' incentives to be reviewed and be given on time

General safety security of children

Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. Children were however safer at school compared to when they would be at home according to the teachers.

Access to education

Most children in the area started school at age 6 which was a bit late to the teachers. Pupils would progress to the next level when they attained a pass mark of 50%. All genders were dropping out of school though girls were the most affected. The teachers believed that conflicts that came as a result of who owned Maiwut should end so as to allow smooth education system in the area.

Children welfare

Children had a number of challenges as was reported by the teachers. They lacked school stationery, Lack of teaching aids, lack of latrines in school, lack of school feeding program and there was less attendance due to lack of support from parents. Despite their efforts to create a conducive environment for the children, the teachers said that conflicts in Maiwut had become a barrier to their efforts. The schools also had poor infrastructure and benches for pupils as well as lack of latrines and washrooms for girls to use during menstrual hygiene. The teachers however believed that training the PTA on their roles would help improve the status of school. They also advocated for support from NGO to help in provision of learning materials to the pupils.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The teachers said there were no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in school. They however recommended teachers capacity building on PSEA. In case of such an incidence in the school set up, the teachers said the head teacher would write a warning letter to the teacher who would be involved and a repeat of the same would lead to his/her dismissal from the teaching profession.

Summary of findings

1. Teachers lack motivation to teach due to lack of incentives hence most of them only volunteer
2. Majority of the teachers lack the prerequisite skills in teaching (untrained).
3. The children lack basic needs e.g. uniforms and books,
4. The school lacks proper learning facilities e.g. classrooms, toilets etc.
5. The issues of Sexual exploitation and abuse were not there in Jekow Payam according to the participants.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Provision of school materials, including benches and books
2. Need to adopt a school feeding program for pupils in schools to address their nutritional needs and to enhance their concentration during studies
3. There's a need for capacity building training for teacher on how to handle children in the school
4. There's need to upgrade schools through construction of fences, boreholes and latrine to make school a safer and better place for children as well as teachers

Findings from Teachers FGD October



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Teachers FGD

Date: 28th October, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 28th October, 2020. Twelve teachers attended the meeting that discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Teacher's welfare

The teachers said there was a lot of insecurity in the area and schools faced a lot of challenges which included but not limited to; shortage of qualified trained teachers (most of them were untrained form four leavers), shortage of learning materials and lack of motivation for the teachers and poor education system since the community had adopted the Ethiopian system of education. The schools had also been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic that led to closure of schools. The teachers recommended addition of classrooms and curriculum for other classes e.g. Primary 7-8. They also mentioned the need for motivation in terms of salary to allow them be in school full time.

General safety security of children

Floods were risking the lives of school going children in Jekow. Children were however safer at school compared to when they would be at home according to the teachers. There were also no cases of kidnapping though cases had been reported in sides Ethiopia. To enhance safety of children in school, the teachers recommended on the need to increase games kits to facilitate playing of children during leisure time. They also suggested on establishing child friendly spaces to ensure issues from children were monitored and attended to. They also mentioned the need to drill more boreholes in Jekow Payam to ensure easy access of water to school going children.

Access to education

Most children in the area started school at age 10 and above which was a bit late according to the teachers. The rate of schooling was therefore very low since most parents kept children at home. Classes were also very few that is 2-3 classes in every school with a population of over 300 children. They also said the rate of progression from one level to the other was very low since pupils were not consistent with schooling. Most of them would attend only for one term and miss the rest of the year which affected their level of performance. Pupils would progress to the next level when they attained a pass mark of 50%. All genders were dropping out of school though girls were the most affected. The teachers believed that conflicts that came as a result of who owned Maiwut should end so as to allow smooth education system in the area. They also recommended the need to capacity build teachers, PTA and the local authority on the importance of educating children especially the girl child.

Children welfare

Children lacked latrines, clean water for drinking and dignity kits for the girls. The schools also lacked a feeding program for the children and games kits to be used by pupils during break time. The teachers added and said they were doing their best to improve the welfare of the children but conflicts between Maiwut and Jekow were a setback. The schools also lacked sufficient structures to accommodate all the children for classes. The teachers hence recommended for a collaboration between the local authority, Teachers and the PTA in ensuring the schools attained the minimum standards required to qualify as learning institutions. They also suggested on the need to involve the humanitarian workers in advocating for the education of the pupils.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The teachers said there were no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse in school though it was happening elsewhere in the community. They added and said that schools had good management systems that were sensitized to issues of children. According to them, drunkards, youth and the army men were the notorious lot of people that exploited school children. Schools on the other hand prevented cases of SEA from teachers by the head teacher issuing a warning letter to whoever would be involved. A repeat of the same would lead to dismissal of the staff. They however recommended teachers capacity building on PSEA and adoption of PSEA code of conduct and creating awareness in the community on the disadvantages of SEA in the society

Summary of findings

The welfare of the teachers in Jekow is bad due to clan conflicts that happened in Maiwut County in 2019. Though primary education is free, schools have got limited classrooms that are not sufficient to all pupils. Most of the schools also lacked stationeries and Bullying of the children by their school mates was also reported

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is need for a refresher training/induction of all teachers in critical areas of teaching such as preparation of lesson plans and content delivery
2. There is need to improve payment of teachers in terms of the amount paid and the payment periods in order to increase their morale
3. There is need to avail important games kits to school to help in engaging children during break time

Findings from Teachers FGD November



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report, Teachers FGD

Date: 21st November, 2020
Payam: Jekow
State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 21st November, 2020. Twelve teachers attended the meeting and discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

Teacher's welfare

Teachers face a number of challenges in school including lack of teaching aids for pupils. The teachers also said they were not safe at some point during intercommunal violence/conflicts among the 2 communities in Jekow and Maiwut due to the risk of attacks. Children were reported to have escaped from school especially in Nyang Boma as a result of the conflicts. They however recommended on the need for the community to support them in establishing better schools for safe learning of children.

General safety security of children

Safety concerns had been reported in November, 2020 particularly in Kumedur area, Kiech Boma. This had affected school going children where three boys, 15 years old were kidnapped in the area though the security in school was said to be better than when children would be at home according to the teachers. The teachers however suggested on the need to encourage children to be walking in groups to and from school. They also suggested if parents could organize on how to be escorting them to school just ensure their safety on their way. The teachers recommended on the need for parents, local authority and community members to work in collaboration with teachers to ensure that schools were good environments for the children. They advocated for more recreational activities at school and attention to the adolescents.

Access to education

The rate of schooling was generally low according to the teachers and children would begin school at a very advanced age mostly between 5 and 14 years of age. Most of the children were however not going to school though those who attempted would be adolescents which was not the ideal age as per the teachers. Due to lack of schools beyond primary 6, most children do not progress to higher levels. School attendance was said to be affected by a number of factors including; insecurity on the way to school, displacement of families due to war and the long distances that children covered between home and school. The teachers however believed that good management of the institutions with pupils tracking registers would improve attendance of pupils. They also suggested on the need to improve teachers teaching skills through refresher trainings since most of them just volunteered as Non-trained teachers.

Children welfare

Children faced challenges in school which were said to include; lack of sufficient classrooms, lack of other learning facilities such as libraries and lack of enough recreational facilities. In addition, the teachers said the schools lacked arrangements to ensure safety of children in schools including rules and regulations e.g. children would frequently fight in school and there were no proper regulations to handle the cases. Due to small and inconsistent payments, teachers also lacked the morale to offer the required services in school for the children. The schools also lacked water and sanitation facilities for children and this the teachers said to have been a big problem especially to the girls' privacy. The teachers however believed that improved quality of education and children welfare would encourage school attendance by children.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Teachers said they had not heard of sexual exploitation and abuse in the community or people taking advantage of school going children sexually. They however mentioned men and army officers as people who would be most tempted and associated with sexual exploitation and abuse. It was also highlighted that some teachers though rarely, would award high marks to particular girls for sexual relationships in return. In addition, they said some girls had also been reported to admire teachers and would often make approaches that would insinuate the desire for sexual relationship with their teachers. To prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, the teachers said schools had strict rules and regulations in place to govern the conduct of teachers. They added that those who would be found guilty would be arrested, charged and put in prison for at least six months. The community also participated through the parents' teachers' association meetings (PTA) and the school management committee (SMC) in ensuring that the community complied PSEA requirements

Summary of findings

1. Schools lack proper infrastructure and facilities for proper learning of children
2. Teachers lack the prerequisite teaching skills to deliver content to children due to lack of training in teaching
3. Unstable security affects schooling of children and majorly contribute to high number of drop outs.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. There is need for a refresher training/induction of all teachers in critical areas of teaching such as preparation of lesson plans and content delivery
2. There is need to improve payment of teachers in terms of the amount paid and the payment periods in order to increase their morale
3. There is need to avail important games kits to school to help in engaging children during break time

8.6 ANNEXES MONTHLY LEADERS FGDs JULY 2020 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Findings from leaders FGD July



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report leaders FGD

Date: 15th July, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 15th July, 2020 in Jekow. The meeting was attended by 12 Leaders and discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The general security within Jekow territory was normal and cases of communal violence, cattle raiding and revenge killings had not been rampant although believed to be there. However, the general sanitation of the area was not good as was reported by the leaders. Many families practised open defecation in the nearby forests due to lack of latrines.

Domestic violence/ Intimate partner

Domestic violence were family issues that were privately solved by family members (the husband & wife families, the extended family and immediate clan elders). Women easily reported domestic violence and conflicts that could be as a result of misunderstanding over family matters. However, children got very affected; they became unhappy and lacked self-confidence

Forced marriage

Because marriage affairs were generally a family matter, the leaders claimed not to have handled any cases related to forced marriages. They also put across that nobody had power to influence family decisions on marriage since it was deeply ingrained into the peoples' culture. They however mentioned that those who had been affected would disappear from home either to the uncles or to some unknown places.

Access to Education

According to the leaders, all kids had equal rights to education and equal opportunities to access education. However, the leaders highlighted that this was not the case in the past when girls would be denied the right to education due to parents' fear that they would be impregnated by boys while at school. However, this had since changed after parents got enlightened on the importance of education to all gender. Cases of child kidnapping and abduction had however not been heard in Jekow Payam.

Housing, land and property

The leaders said they had not presided over any conflict cases concerning land. It was reiterated though that not everyone had equal rights to land or house ownership. They said that women were not allowed to own land in their community due to the perception that such women would become prostitutes

IDPS, returnees or refugees would be accommodated following the approval of the local authority and community elders.

Sexual abuse and Exploitation

Respondents during FGDs, KIIs and meeting said sexual abuse and exploitation had not been heard and where it is reported would be settled by leaders. They admitted that such cases could be existing in the community but they had not been reported. The leaders believed that punishment would be the best solution to stop sexual abuse and exploitation because many people would learn from it. They also recommended the local authority to work closely with protection partners in order to ensure that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse received proper assistance

Culture

It was evident that deep cultural practices and beliefs; denied women the rights to owning land or housing and the right to leadership position in the community. The cultural practices and beliefs were also gender biased and never favoured women. Based on this, the leaders recommended for the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices

Leadership and Decision Making

To the leaders, all gender had equal opportunity to take up leadership roles in the community based on their abilities. Women were specifically considered during key community decision making processes though they would mostly not speak up during the meetings before men. Despite inclusion in the meetings, women still lacked the guards to argue with men due to cultural constraints that hindered women from confronting men.

Customary laws/ any other laws

The community had very little customary laws. The person who killed was charged 100 cows. To change these laws, the leaders suggested a meeting between the local authority and community elders to enable them make informed amendments on traditional policies which were considered outdated.

Policy/ legal Framework

Policies, regulations and guiding principles existed and were used in customary courts during settlement of cases in the community. Those found guilty would be arrested, beaten up and sometimes fined as shall have been decided e.g. paying of 100 cows.

Findings from leaders FGD August



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report leaders FGD

Date: 13th August, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion with Leaders took place on the 13th of August, 2020 from 2 pm in Jekow. A total of 12 participants attended and the discussions were conducted by Coalition for Humanity (CH) field staff based in Maiwut county, Upper Nile State.

General safety and security

The leaders reported that the security of the area had been stable for a period of 3 months since June 2020. Before then there had been conflict between Maiwut and Jekow communities. Cattle raiding had taken place in Thoch and Makuar Bomas of Maiwut. The community had also suffered shortage of food and were heavily depending on humanitarian support for survival. People were farming less especially from May when the County was hit hard by floods. The general sanitation was also very poor and this had been worsened by floods that led into collapsing of latrines. Sources of clean water were also scarce and most community members depended on water directly from the river and flood water.

Domestic violence/ Intimate partner

Cases related to domestic violence were very common and leaders had handled a number of them. In July 2020, a wife left his husband with kids after she was beaten up her husband. Another case that was reported involved a man and his wife. After fighting, the man killed her with her child after which he went ahead and also committed suicide. Women mostly report cases of domestic violence though neighbours also help in giving information about unusual things among families. In all these children were said to be the ones suffering most especially when a woman decides to leave her husband with the kids.

Forced marriage

In August, 2020, a 14-year-old girl was forced into marriage with a 60-year-old man in Jekow Payam. The family needed cows to help a brother to the girl marry a wife after cows became less. Children always have no option concerning this because there is always nobody to help them. Therefore, most of them resort to running away or just committing suicide.

Access to Education

It was clear that in Maiwut, not every child had equal rights to education. Due to limited resources, most families would prefer sending boys instead of girls to other countries such as Ethiopia for further studies. The local authority would help by establishing policies that would ensure that all children get equal rights to education. They also recommended creation of awareness on the importance of education to all children and the need to motivate teachers in terms of monthly remuneration

Housing, land and property

HLP cases were not common in Jekow. However, communal land or heritage was the problem. A man and a woman as heads of the family had the right to own land in Jekow. IDPs, returnees or refugees were allowed to own land temporarily or accommodated by the host community members because Jekow is an Island with small area of land which is not enough for everybody. It was noted that the local authority had no capacity to support those who had left the community and had come back to regain their lost land and other properties. They would however help those who would be in great need to get the necessary assistance.

Sexual abuse and Exploitation

Leaders said cases of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse were less though some incidences had been experienced before which involved NGO staffs and the locals. This was attributed to the poverty levels in the community. Those affected less reported on the incidences. It was said that perpetrators were mostly NGO staff and soldiers. The local authority had however taken note of the issues and had promised to pursue. According to the leaders, the cases which had been reported were handled and justice was done to the victims.

Culture

A number of cultural practices were mentioned to have negatively affected the community. These included; Forced marriage/early marriage, Gender inequality, Violation of woman and girls right, Removal of the teeth, Scars or face marking, Domestic violence like beating of women, Revenge killings and cattle raiding. Most of the cultural practises were also gender biased e.g. boys were more favoured than girls when it comes to heritage as well as schooling and women were never considered in communal key decision making processes. The removal of teeth, face marking, denial of women and girls' rights, revenge killings and communal conflicts were said to be some of the cultural practices that were outdated and needed to be changed. They therefore recommended the local authority to come up with better laws and policies that would ensure that people were not subjected to such cultural practises that were outdated

Leadership and Decision Making

Leadership was not fairly distributed according to the leaders. It was said that women were given a small representation while youths opportunities were very less because it was believed that they were not yet ripe to take up leadership. Men therefore dominated leadership positions with women being allocated some leadership positions but at a lower level with less participation in key decision making process. It was however believed that local authorities could take an affirmative action to change the situation by including the women and youth in leadership as well as involving people with special needs participate in key issues that affected the society.

Customary laws/ any other laws

There were few customary laws that guided the community e.g. perpetrators of revenge killings were fined 100 cows to be paid to the family of the deceased. These laws were outdated and didn't demonstrate enough justice to the affected persons and that's why they would be tempted to revenge by also killing to balance the equation. Some people would pay the 100 cows and go ahead and kill again. They believed however that the local authority were in position to influence some changes on this by calling a meeting with community elders to discuss the impacts of the negative cultural practises and the need to abolish or change them.

Policy/ legal Framework

According to the participants, there were no policies, regulations and laws that guided decision making though the local had started making an effort to come up with a few. They also recommended the following regarding policies and regulations;

1. Housing land and property Policies - Have a local policy in place that ensures that everyone had equal rights to own a house, land and property
2. Child forced marriage policies - Coming up with a local policy that says it is unlawful for parents to marry off their children below the age of 18 years and have them respect the choice of their children to marry when they want and whom they want.
3. Gender based violence and domestic violence policies - Arrest perpetrators of GBV, get them punished or send them to jail.
4. Protection of Sexual exploitation and abuse policies -Local authority should dismiss any NGO staff involved in SEA within 24 hours from Maiwut county and will be immediately reported to his/her supervisors.
5. Access to education Policies- Local authority to arrest and punish parents who deny children access to education

Findings from leaders FGD September



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report leaders FGD

Date: 14th September, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 14th September, 2020 in Jekow Payam from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. The meeting was attended by 12 Leaders. And discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The general security within their territory was normal and cases of communal violence, cattle raiding and revenge killings had not been heard.

General sanitation of the area was not good as was reported by the leaders. Many families practised open defecation in the nearby forests due to lack of latrines.

Domestic violence/ Intimate partner

According to leaders, domestic violence were family issues that were mostly solved privately by family members (the husband & wife families, the extended family and immediate clan elders). Women easily reported domestic violence and conflicts could be caused by misunderstanding over family matters. As a result, children got very affected; they became unhappy and lacked self-confidence

Forced marriage

Because marriage affairs were generally a family matter, the leaders claimed not to have handled any cases related to forced marriages. They also put across that nobody had power to influence family decisions on marriage since it was deeply ingrained into the peoples' culture. They however mentioned that those who had been affected would disappear from home either to the uncles or to some unknown places.

Access to Education

All kids had equal rights to education and equal opportunities to access. However, the leaders highlighted that this was not the case in the past when girls would be denied the right to education due to parents' fear that they would be impregnated by boys while at school. However, this had since changed after parents got enlightened on the importance of education to all gender. Cases of child kidnapping and abduction had however not been heard in Jekow Payam.

Housing, land and property

The leaders said they had not presided over any conflict cases concerning land. It was reiterated though that not everyone had equal rights to land or house ownership. They said that women were not allowed to own land in their community due to the perception that such women would become prostitutes. IDPS, returnees or refugees would be accommodated following the approval of the local authority and community elders.

Sexual abuse and Exploitation

Sexual abuse and exploitation that had not been heard of or settled by leaders. They admitted that such cases could be existing in the community but they had not been reported. The leaders believed that punishment would be the best solution to stop sexual abuse and exploitation because many people would learn from it. They also recommended the local authority to work closely with protection partners in order to ensure that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse received proper assistance.

Culture

It was evident that deep cultural practices and beliefs; denied women the rights to owning land or housing and the right to leadership position in the community. The cultural practices and beliefs were also gender biased and never favoured women. Based on this, the leaders recommended for the need to relook into and amend some of the negative cultural practices

Leadership and Decision Making

To the leaders, all gender had equal opportunity to take up leadership roles in the community based on their abilities. Women were specifically considered during key community decision making processes.

Customary laws/ any other laws

The community had very little customary laws. The person who killed was charged 100 cows. To change these laws, the leaders suggested a meeting between the local authority and community elders.

Policy/ legal Framework

Policies, regulations and guiding principles existed and were used in customary courts during settlement of cases in the community. Those found guilty would be arrested, beaten up or at times fined as decided; for instance, paying 100 cows.

Findings from leaders FGD October



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report leaders FGD

Date: 12th October, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion (FGD) was conducted on 12th October, 2020. Twelve leaders attended the meeting and discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The general security was normal and there were no reported cases of communal violence, cattle raiding and revenge killings from all the Bomas for a period of four months since June, 2020. Access to food was the problem and there was starvation. This had been caused by conflicts and floods which displaced people to other locations away from their homes hence few people planted. However, WFP provided assistance to the community members through distribution of food items. The general sanitation was poor because most people practised open defecation. This had been contributed by collapsing of latrines as a result of floods.

Domestic violence/ Intimate partner

Cases of domestic violence were said to be common and leaders were handling a number of them. Husbands fought with wives as well as in-laws and a recent case had been reported in New Land Boma in Jekow Payam. Sometimes, step children would fight with their step mothers. Normally, women reported the conflicts at home. They always reported to the brother in-laws after which the chief would be notified if the case would get out of hand for example if it was leading to divorce, the children were the most affected with domestic violence especially when the mother left them with the father.

Forced marriage

Marriage according to the leaders was a family affair. However, they handled cases of underage girls getting pregnant as well as forced marriages that children refused; when a boy is forced into marrying a girl, he does not love then he goes ahead and look for the one he loves and brings to the parents who also refuse to accept the girl. According to the leaders, most of these children decide to run away with those whom they love and sometimes others commit suicide for lack of options especially girls.

Access to Education

Children did not have equal rights to education according to the leaders. They said boys would be supported more than girls in many families and some children also lacked the opportunity to go to school due to lack of resources despite the gender. However, boys were generally more supported than girls because most girls would be married off at an early age by the parents hence stopping their education life. They suggested the local authority to take up the issues and draft policies that would ensure that all children access education equally.

Housing, land and property

The leaders said they only handled cases related to communal land and not HLP. Women and girls were however not allowed to own land and property. Since Jekow is an island with a small area of land, IDPs and Refugees are only allowed temporary residence and are mostly accommodated by the host community. The local authorities however allocated land to people who had left due to conflicts and returned back as long as they remembered where their properties were located.

Sexual abuse and Exploitation

Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse existed according to the leaders and mostly men would give gifts in exchange for sex. Community reported the issues especially when men get their wives with other men. The local authority ensured that justice prevailed by punishing the perpetrators.

Culture

The leaders mentioned deep cultural practices and beliefs that negatively affected the community. They included denying women chance to speak in community meetings, forced marriage, parents arranging marriage for their children without seeking their consent, revenge killings, denying women right to own land and denying women the rights to leadership positions. They added that these cultural practices were also gender biased and favoured men more than the women. In fact, they said some practices such as face marking, denying women the right to hold leadership positions and right to land ownership, cattle raiding and revenge killings were outdated and they believed the local authority were in a better position to change such by coming up with policies and laws that would align with modernity.

Leadership and Decision Making

Leadership in the community was largely taken up by men and women and the youth were not given chance to lead. Women were also not actively taking part in decision making process in the community. To ensure equal participation of all men, women, people with disabilities and youths (boys and girls), the community leaders suggested providing them equal opportunities and by ensuring their voices are heard in key decision making in the community.

Customary laws/ any other laws

According to the leaders, there were customary laws that guided decision making for example when somebody committed murder, he or she will be fined 100 cows and will be set free. These customary laws were conflicting with modern laws and the leaders suggested on the need to change some of them.

Policy/ legal Framework

Local authorities settled cases based on policies, regulations and guiding principles that guided their decisions. However, some policies needed amendments as per the local leaders for example, the policy on bride price. The leaders suggested that instead of having it fixed at 15 cows, they proposed to have it flexed and dependent on mutual agreement between the families.

Recommendations regarding policies & regulations

1. Housing, land and property - There is need to have a local policy in place that would ensure that everyone including women have the right to land, house and property ownership
2. Child forced marriage - There would be need to come up with policies that would make it unlawful for parents to marry off their children below 18 years of age as well as not arrange any marriages without children consent.
3. Gender based violence and domestic violence - Need to come up with policies that will investigate, arrest and punish perpetrators of GBV especially in cases of rape or attempted rape.
4. Protection of Sexual exploitation and abuse - Clear laws should be put in place to prevent the vulnerable members of the community from sexual exploitation and abuse. Those who take advantage of them should be arrested and prosecuted.
5. Access to education - Parents should be made aware that those who deny their children access to education will be arrested and prosecuted. It should therefore be made lawful that all children from 5 years must go to school.

Findings from leaders FGD November



Maiwut County
protection monitoring Report leaders FGD

Date: 21st November, 2020

Payam: Jekow

State: Upper Nile

Introduction

The focus group discussion was conducted on 21st November, 2020 in Jekow. The meeting was attended by 12 Leaders and discussions were facilitated by Coalition for Humanity Field Staff based in Maiwut County.

General safety and security

The leaders said the security could not be guaranteed because of the conflict that they had entered into with their neighbouring communities. The community was therefore living in fear and caution because of possible attacks. Due to the crisis, most families starved due to lack of food. This is because the families never settled in their homes for cultivation. They also further reported that the few crops that had been planted had been infested by locusts that destroyed all the produce/yield. Biyien Boma in Jekow was said to have been affected most.

Domestic violence/ Intimate partner

Domestic violence cases were common and an example of a fight between 2 boys over land in Jerusalem Boma was given. Such cases were always reported to the local chiefs. The main causes of the conflicts at home were however related to fight over limited resources. Women and children were said to be most affected because of their vulnerability.

Forced marriage

Because marriage affairs were generally a family matter, the leaders claimed not to have handled any cases related to forced marriages though a similar case had occurred in the community. Boys and girls were forced in the marriages against their will and parents would not relent due to the need for resources/wealth through dowry payments. It was reported further that some children would resort into committing suicide or running away from home to avoid being pushed into the marriages. They however believed they were in position to come up with policies that would protect children from early marriages and help them pursue their education in the community.

Access to Education

The community leaders said all children (boys and girls) had started getting equal rights to education in the community unlike in the past. Parents considered boys more intelligent than girls and hence the favours. However, they said the local authorities were in position to help/support children who would be denied education through setting of by laws that would govern learning of children in the community. The leaders further reported that in the past, there had been cases of kidnapping and Kiech Payam was mentioned as an example. Attacks/insecurity had been on the rise in the Payam and lives of children were at risk.

Housing, land and property

To the leaders, cases of land dispute were common and they had presided over a number of them. They said the most recent one involved 2 boys who had entered into a fight because of land division and ownership after the demise of their father. They also added that Land ownership was there but women and children were not allowed to own. This was the case with IDPs and Refugees. They would be given temporary residence but were not allowed to own any land or property in the community. Returnees were however treated differently and would be assisted to get back their properties because they were original members of the community at one point.

Sexual abuse and Exploitation

Cases of sexual exploitation and abuse were happening according to the leaders and a recent case that involved a girl in Jekow was mentioned. According to the leaders, the cases were reported to the local chiefs who would preside over and resolve. They however recommended on the need for the local authority to fast track arrest of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse criminals as well as assist the victims access quick medical attention

Culture

It was evident that deep cultural practices and beliefs negatively affected the community. Six mark cutting in the forehead, removal of teeth and female genital mutilation (FGM) were some of the cultural practices that were mentioned as examples. Some of the cultural practises were also biased such as land ownership which only allowed men to own land. They however believed a review of some of the cultural practises would help save the community from the negativity that was being caused.

Leadership and Decision Making

To the leaders, all gender had equal opportunity to take up leadership roles in the community based on their abilities. However, it was evident that the percentage of men was more than the women and the youth. Women participated actively in a number of activities though they were not involved in decision making. They lacked the guards to argue with men due to cultural constraints that hindered women from confronting men.

Customary laws/ any other laws

The community had customary laws that were discharged by the community leaders. Some of the laws such as denying land ownership rights to women contradicted the modern law. To change these laws, the leaders suggested a meeting between the local authority and community elders to enable them make informed amendments on traditional policies which were considered outdated.

Policy/ legal Framework

Policies, regulations and guiding principles existed and were used in customary courts during settlement of cases in the community. According to the leaders, the regulations were good and there would be no need to change them. They recommended the housing land and property policy to be under the Payam administration and local authority.

**PROTECTION ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND
RIGHT VIOLATION MONITORING
END OF YEAR REPORT 2020**



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