**Dialogue on Building Resilience to Hunger in South Sudan**

The crisis in South Sudan is deepening and is having a profound impact on South Sudanese livelihoods. As a result of continued violence, including in previously stable areas, economic meltdown, and recurrent climatic shocks, it is estimated that 6.0 million South Sudanese (50% of the total population) are currently facing severe food insecurity (IPC levels 3 to 5). Another 3.6 million are considered in a stressed situation (IPC level 2). According to the World Food Programme, overall food and nutrition security is at its worst since the outbreak of the civil conflict in 2013. Food insecurity and malnutrition are the most serious consequences of the protracted nature of the South Sudanese conflict.

In this dire situation, emergency humanitarian assistance has been dramatically scaled-up to save lives. However, South Sudan has been in a state of protracted crisis for the last six decades. Improving food security sustainably in South Sudan requires going beyond short-term responses in order to protect and promote people’s livelihoods over the longer term. As stated in the recently approved Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis: “Evidence and evaluations highlight that policies and actions which aim to meet immediate food and other basic needs should be accompanied by longer-term policies, actions and investments to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition, support local capacities and priorities and build resilient livelihoods and food systems.”

In parallel to the extensive humanitarian effort deployed in South Sudan, there has been a collective effort to move beyond short-term assistance and work towards building resilience amongst the most vulnerable households. The Interim-cooperation Framework of the United Nations Country Team (2016-17), the Resilience Context Analysis (RCA) (2015) and the Nairobi Dialogue, Reframing the Approach to Food Assistance in South Sudan (2015), have all contributed to this effort. Furthermore, resilience-building initiatives are being implemented throughout South Sudan, for which valuable lessons and best practices already exist. These include WFP’s resilience-focused Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (mainly Food for Assets), USAID’s Jonglei Food Security Programme, the Joint South Sudan Stabilization and Recovery Programme (including the Aweil State Pilot), the World Bank’s Safety Net and Skills Development Initiative, and many other donor-supported livelihoods development projects.

The purpose of the dialogue is to provide a platform for learning and nurturing multi-partner collaboration on practical approaches to joint analysis and programming that could contribute to improving the resilience of South Sudanese to food and nutrition insecurity. The workshop will bring together donors, multilateral partners, implementing partners (NGOs, private sector) and, possibly, the Government of South Sudan (at the technical level) to exchange on the programming context. Together we will discuss the best and most feasible response to build resilience in South Sudan in the short to medium term in the context of continued insecurity and unprecedented levels of food insecurity.

**Goal:** foster joint learning and collaboration on practical approaches and programming that could contribute to improve the resilience of South Sudanese to food and nutrition insecurity.

**Objectives:**

1. Achieve a common understanding of the programing context;
2. Share lessons learned and best practices on current resilience-building programming;
3. Define most feasible and practical response to build food security and nutrition resilience in South Sudan in the short to medium term in the context of continued insecurity
4. Identify opportunities for joint action and continued support to resilience-building initiatives.

**Logistics:**

* Timeframe and Duration: 24-25 October 2017.
* Location: EU Compound in Juba.
* Participation:
  + Day 1: ALDWG members + interested UN agencies + NGOs (national and international) + GoSS at technical level
  + Day 2 (1/2 day + lunch): ALDWG members only

**Summary of Tentative Agenda Items:**

Day 1 –

* Welcome and introduction: workshop objectives and proposed methodology.
* Programming context for building resilience to hunger in South Sudan:
  + Present findings from recent resilience analyses;
  + Explore policy guidance and strategies;
  + Discuss relevance and feasibility in the current context.
* Experiences in building resilience in South Sudan:
  + Lessons and recommendations from ongoing resilience operations in South Sudan and in the region (panel discussion and case studies).

Day 2 (1/2 day + lunch) –

* Future programming ideas/plans and opportunities for joint action:
  + Share information on ideas and plans to implement resilience-building initiatives in South Sudan;
  + Identify opportunities for joint/harmonized action regarding resilience analysis, programming and/or monitoring and evaluation.
* Conclusion and next steps.

**Suggested Outputs:** Aide-memoire summarizing discussion, key lessons and commitments on way forward.