

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

**FP279: Enhancing Climate Resilience in
Flood-Prone Areas in Northwestern South Sudan
(ECRF)****Access the document:** <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-02-add13-rev01>

We welcome this first single-country GCF project for South Sudan and commend the efforts of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, WFP, and UNHCR for designing an initiative that targets some of the most vulnerable communities, including host populations, refugees, IDPs, and returnees, in regions deeply affected by climate impacts. The integrated approach combining institutional capacity-building, risk management, and community-based resilience actions is very timely and is appreciated.

However, we would like to raise a few concerns. First, while the project rightly identifies political instability and insecurity as execution risks, we find the overall “medium risk” rating overly optimistic given the renewed political tensions and the increasing possibility of a relapse into conflict. Current developments suggest a highly fragile and volatile environment that could severely disrupt implementation and threaten the safety of communities and staff.

We note that the Secretariat is still in the process of developing internal guidelines for programming in fragile and conflict-affected situations. This project could therefore benefit from additional safeguards and clearer operational contingencies specific to a potential escalation of conflict. Relying primarily on WFP’s field presence as the main mitigation measure appears insufficient, especially since the common contingency strategy in similar contexts has been withdrawal from the country, which raises questions about beneficiary abandonment and contingencies for maintaining project benefits.

Second, while the GAP demonstrates strong gender-transformative ambitions and context specific coverage of key issues including GBV prevention, we note that approaches such as couples dialogue, while valuable, require careful adaptation in contexts where conflict, violence, and displacement fundamentally reshape household dynamics and gender relations. We encourage close monitoring of how the GAP’s goals translate into practice given the volatile security environment, and strengthening the operational linkages between the GAP and the main project logframe to ensure gender considerations remain central during implementation.