

Date of case study: April 2007

This project has been developed in south west Sudan since 2007, which combines adult literacy, village banking, micro-enterprise development and SME investments. Looking at investing into some larger businesses, with current business plans for the following small businesses: bakery, flour mill, river transport, groundnut and sesame seed oil production and a guest house.

Proposed investment projects

In the project region, there are no businesses above the micro-enterprise size. During the Pilot Project, a thorough investigation into potential SME investments was made. Project staff as well as business development consultants and rural development specialists from Nairobi were engaged. Most importantly, the local community was involved in a discussion/awareness program to gain their input.

As a result of this process, there emerged the following recommended new business investments:

- Grain Milling: maize, wheat, sorghum, dried cassave, rice and millet
- Cooking Oil Extraction: groundnuts, sesame seeds, and sunflower seeds
- Guest House: used by government officials, aid workers and traders
- Bakery: production of bread and posta from locally grown grain or WFP food dropped grain
- River Transportation: two boats, one for goods and one for people

Each business would be locally managed, but supported by a resident business development specialist for the duration of the business launch (2-3 years).

Other potential business ideas were discussed and do merit further consideration in the future. These include: rice growing, wholesale and trucking, brick making, tailoring, pharmacy, soap making, airtime rental, solar

panel sales and repairs, seedling purchase and distribution, irrigation systems, private schools, generator solar panel charging, clean burning charcoal, and a hairdresser and barber shop.

Projected outcomes

The economic level of the Liethnom area is characterised by inefficient subsistence agriculture and market trading. There are no “enterprises”. Key to the development of the community is the establishment of enterprises that can create wealth and provide employment. the goal after 5 years is to have at least 5 companies in the community that are profitable, well-run and locally owned.

The development objectives of these investments are:

- Increase incomes
- Increase employment in the project area
- Enhance skills and human capital development
- Increased agricultural production to increase food security
- Enhance diet variety
- Provision of essential goods and services
- Create profitable and sustainable businesses that contribute to the local community and economy