

The continued existence of poverty despite decades of anti-poverty programs has led specialists to conclude that poverty is more complex than it has been assumed. Increasingly, it has been acknowledged that poverty is only one facet of a multidimensional phenomenon. That is to say, poverty affects people unequally, but its consequences are always detrimental to human development and well-being. At the same time, people are neglected by policymakers and have limited access to market, employment, and public services due to a lack of control over resources including land, skills, knowledge, and social connections. Therefore, poverty cannot be reduced through anti-poverty programs alone but will require democratic participation and changes in public service. It also requires the adoption of policies of equitable distribution of job opportunities and incomes so as to assist people to confront the threat of poverty.



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Data Analysis



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Chapter One

Introduction

The continued existence of poverty despite decades of antipoverty programs has led specialists to conclude that poverty is more complex than it has been assumed. Increasingly, it has been acknowledged that poverty is only one facet of a multidimensional phenomenon. However levels of income and consumption are critical in determining who is poor. For example if one household has better access to health care, educational services and other public services than another household at the same income level, then the two cannot be said to be equally deprived. That is to say poverty affects people unequally, but its consequences are always detrimental to human development and well-being. At the same time people are neglected by policy makers and have limited access to market, employment and public services due to lack of control over resources including land, skills, knowledge and social connections. Therefore, poverty cannot be reduced through anti-poverty programs alone but will require democratic participation and changes in public service. It also requires adoption of policies of equitable distribution of job opportunities and incomes so as to assist people to confront the threat of poverty.

Concept of poverty:

The terms "poverty" and "poor" are generally used in different ways, primarily to indicate the economic and social status of people. People who earn a low income and live in poor areas are considered to be poor. When someone is called poor he or she feels inferior and subservient. For this reason less affluent people do not like to be referred to as poor.

Poverty is furthermore the direct opposite of wealth, and wealth is linked to abundance and high status. The term poverty comes from Latin *pauper/ paupertas*. In English it has been in use since the 12th century and is derived from the French word *poverté* which has a number of meanings among them: inferior: to be looked down on: cheap and, to lose possessions.

In some dictionaries poverty is described as a state of insufficient resources. The lack of material possessions; having little or no means to support oneself; and, lack of means of subsistence. Based on these definitions the most commonly and generally accepted description used to day for poverty is the condition of life where the majority of people lack sufficient resources to supply their basic needs.

From these definitions of poverty it is clear that the primary link to people's inability to provide for their basic needs indicates the socio – economic status of people and communities, together with its impact on their lives. ¹

Poverty and its causes vary from one person to another and from gender, age and culture, for instances in both rural and urban areas men associate poverty with lack of materials assets. For women poverty is defined as lack of food security. Generational differences emerge as younger men consider the ability to generate an income as an important asset, whereas older men cite it as most important status connected to tradition lifestyle.

¹ Oxford Latin Dictionary, 1976: 1350

Perceived causes of poverty are affected by one's status and location. For example, farmers link poverty to draught. The poor in the city link it to rising prices and fewer employment opportunities. Others link it to neglect of traditional norms, lack of motivation among certain classes and group of people, lack of education and absence of governance.

The material aspects of poverty are well known. Food insecurity remains the core concern of poor families especially in meeting their most basic needs; food, water, and shelter. This becomes acute when there is unemployment / underemployment, lack of productive land and other income-earning assets.

Poverty is therefore, defined by poor people as having inadequate food and shelter and clothing, and reliance on charity or handouts. In Juba, poor people distinguish themselves from the non – poor through many ways among them fewer meals in a day and nutritionally inadequate diets, irregular incomes to be spent on food, nonexistent or low source of cash income, and feeling of powerlessness and inability to make themselves heard.

1. Levels of Poverty

There are three levels of poverty that can be distinguished; individual poverty; family / growth poverty, and regional poverty.

- **Individual Poverty**

Individual poverty is related to cases where isolated individuals in community suffer from one kind of poverty or another. In such isolation cases, the impact of poverty is mostly limited to the life of the individual concerned and community also finds it easier to render assistance to such an individual.²

- **Family / Group Poverty**

Family and group poverty occurs where the main bread winners are without income due to loss of employment, death or serious illness. The impact of this type of poverty is greater since it mostly affects a large group of families where extended family structure is common. It impacts on children and elderly people, since two or three generations of family sometimes live together. In most cases there is no one person in the family or group who plays the role of income generation. The effect of poverty at this level is exacerbated by the fact that the economic organization of the extended family does not form a system that provides social protection.

- **Regional and Community Poverty**

The kind of poverty is generally used to describe a particular community or region where most of the people live.

- **Chronic Poverty**

Chronic poverty is primarily inherited. It normally relates to a family or group of people. This form of poverty develops over generations and those who are trapped in it cannot easily escape it. An example of chronic poverty is found in the lives of large number of rural people in South Sudan. In most of these cases poverty is passed on from one generation to another.

² David Moore, Voice of the Poor, Canada 2013

Because the new generation inherits poverty from the previous one and do not create new opportunities, the level and intensity of it can increase. This is regarded as a form of terminal poverty.

- **Transitional Poverty**

Another form of poverty is transitional poverty. Mainly this occurs in cases where there is economic instability. It is mostly unexpected and can affect any one. It can occur as a negative outcome of change. The best example of this form of poverty is the unexpected burning of Konyokonyo market in Juba in 2012 which resulted in transitional poverty among many traders.

Another example for transitional poverty is the way hundreds of people lose their jobs during downsizing of the Government of Central Equatoria State in 2010. Transitional poverty can bring about unforeseen loss of employment and therefore income and to insufficient unemployment insurance. It is regarded as transactional because unemployed people can find jobs again. This type of poverty is mostly found in countries where employment opportunities exists

- **Poverty and Peace**

Peace should not be understood in military terms only, for instance absence of armed conflict. Rather peace should be understood in a human way. That is, it should be understood in a broad social, political and economic way. Peace means social justice between nations and within nations. It means establishment of human rights for all people. The concept of peace in this study is the existence of politically and economic environment where each individual human being is truly free from the control of powerful person or a powerful state as well as from poverty and hunger.

Each individual is free to explore the limits of his own potential. Today peace is threatened more than before by poverty, unjust social and economic order, and absence of democracy. According to this study peace achieved by winning wars is earned by destroying people, for the peace can be achieved by building people or reinforcing them.

Poverty in Central Equatoria State

Poverty in CES originates from conflicts affecting many counties; this led to poor economic performance, per governance, and vulnerable livelihood. Below are the factors that have aggravated poverty in Central Equatoria State.

❖ Water

Drinking water is the most binding constraints for the poor in the State. Access to clean drinking water in rural areas is a serious problem. In some areas such as “Tali” in northern Central Equatoria State and the area north west of Tereeka, women spend three to four hours searching for drinking water. This risks their lives and also results in Guinea worm infection which is rampant in the area.³

❖ Household Assets

The poor people of CES have limited access to social and physical infrastructure such as sanitation, roads and communication network links. Besides there is shortage of schools, training centers and clinics, the available facilities are provided along the roads, depriving those living in remote areas access to them. Cuts in public expenditure resulting in structural modification programs have reduced state investments in the rural areas.

³ Abdelgadir H. Juma Inspector of Education Terekeka County

Thus, with limited access to services and household capital, the poor are unable to engage in rewarding economic activities. This has made for instances, the poor people in the south eastern part of the state (Lolubo, Lokoya) and Terekeka isolated physically, economically and socially from the other parts of the state.

❖ **Land**

The size and quality of the available land for pastoralists and farmers have direct bearings on the levels of production; the growing population in CES has fragmented plots and religious and traditional inheritance rights have led to smaller land holding sizes. But in the other parts of the state there is good quality land for cultivation and pastorals sustain livelihoods with vast range land and adequate water resource.

❖ **Political Situation**

Political situation in the state is characterized by instability, poor governance, and tribalism. All these factors increase vulnerability of the poor people. War and conflicts create a new kind of poor people because of its impacts on household assets and unemployment, weak and unstable economy. Corruption and tribalism have exacerbated the conditions of poor in rural areas.

Chapter two

❖ Governance

Historically, poverty reduction has been premised upon the state being modern with capable government providing security for its citizens. In case of conflicts the role of the state is often contested

and the government capacity to govern is affected by lack of resources and institutional failure.⁴

Literature Review

Many people including academicians and politicians talk about the problems of poverty. Underlining these discussions is the understanding that identifying the problem of poverty is a basis for action. Many will agree that the rationale conceptualizing poverty is based on the premise that the concept of poverty determines the methods applied to measure it. This eventually influences the policy implemented to address the issue. In essence in this view for South Sudan's poverty reduction strategies to be more effective, there is need to support them.

Based on the understanding of what poverty means and extent of the phenomenon, a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy could be developed.

The above view notwithstanding, the fact is that nobody can dispute that poverty exists although there is no consensus regarding its meaning. This has to do with the fact that poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon. Based on this assumption it is therefore not surprising to find voluminous studies on poverty, especially those who have been studied in other African Countries using different definitions of the problem. As a result, there are myriad of policy recommendations by institutions regarding the most effective way to deal with this phenomenon.

⁴ Waakhe Simon Wudu 3, May 2001

In this regard targeting the poor with the aim of reducing poverty needs us to examine various issues regarding the concept of poverty and its measurement

According to World Development Report (WDR), poverty is pronounced deprivation of wellbeing. But what does wellbeing mean? These are not easy questions to be answered in the socioeconomic literature.

Several approaches have been used to describe wellbeing. Among them are basic needs, economic growth, quality of life and welfare. How do these approaches differ? Which approach is appropriate to describe wellbeing? This review deals briefly with these broad questions.

Poverty is viewed here as the lowest level of wellbeing which is experienced by people in the society who are deprived that are not able to function with dignity.

As stated in the 2002 WDR, to be poor is to be hungry, to lack shelter and clothing, to be sick and not cared for, to be illiterate and not schooled.

Economic growth provides greater command over goods and services and thus on average, gives people greater choice. However, this does not necessarily imply higher wellbeing for everyone; because the benefits of economic growth are never shared equally. Moreover, increasing per – capita income is not an appropriate indicator of changes in the aggregate wellbeing. Economic growth is a means and not an end of development and thus must be supplemented with indicators that are more closely related to individual lives. People want income because it gives them the possession of commodities which they consume.

The higher the income the greater the command people have over commodities. The possession of commodities, which include services, provides people with the means to lead a better life. Thus, the possession of commodities is closely related to quality of life people lead, but it is only a means but not an end.

As Amartya Sen point out that the focus has to be on what we can or cannot do, can or cannot be. Thus, wellbeing must be seen in terms of individual achievements and not in terms of means that individuals possess. The wellbeing or standard of living is not about the possession of commodities, but it is about living.

Thus a functioning is an achievement, and a capability is the ability to achieve. Functioning is directly related to what kind of life people actually lead, whereas capabilities is connected with the freedom people have in the choice of life they lead, which is their functioning. Income allows an individual to purchase commodities with which he or she generates various functioning.

But all individuals cannot convert commodities into functioning to the same degree. For instance,

a disabled person may not be able to do many things that an able – bodied individual can do with the same commodity. Thus, in measuring wellbeing or standard of living, our focus should be on the achievement of people and not on the commodities they possess.

It may seem obvious that the higher the income people have, the greater will be their capabilities. After all, it is an observed fact that rich Countries do not have a higher standard of living than poor that can make them earn their own living and support local family. It is also becoming more evident that the majority of the poor in developing world are women.⁵

Poverty among rural women is growing faster than among rural men. Over the past 20 years for example, the number of women in absolute poverty rose by 50 percent as against some 30 percent for rural women. The alarming evidence concerning the underlying trends for this process strongly indicates that gender composition of the poor is veering towards a great share for women.

Poverty also manifests itself in many ways among migrants, refugees, elderly women and children. Poverty is a complex, diverse and dynamic condition stemming out of deprivation with respect to income, from social inferiority, isolation, physical weakness, powerlessness and humiliation.

Analysis of women's poverty suggests that its main causes stem from the perpetual disadvantage of women in terms of the position in the labor market, access to productive resources and income for the satisfaction of their basic needs. But it also demonstrates that poor women possess exceptional resourcefulness, initiative and entrepreneurial spirit, tenacity and self-sacrifice in trying to take a long term view of their poor economic conditions and in safeguarding their livelihoods.

⁵ World Bank Development Report, 2002

The lack of progress in the last twenty years in the reduction of poverty and growing proportion of women among the poor is the single most important threat to the progress of development and its sustainability. As long as three-quarters of the world's population continue to suffer from acute deprivation, as long as profound imbalances in global consumption continue to persist, and more importantly as long as the spread of poverty, particularly among women, continues unchecked, there can be no development. The history of the development process shows that the economic status of women is the key variable in the solution to the poverty crises.

It is time for full recognition of the fact that women are part of the solution to poverty and to stagnating development, not part of the problem. The human rights conference in Vienna, the population conference in Cairo and the Beijing conference all were milestone events in terms of advancing understanding of the crucial role of women in development and focusing the attention of the international community on the issues concerning the role of women in the work place and society. All of them drew attention to women's full and effective participation in development.

None however, fully articulated, have achieved this challenging task. It is important to remain focused on the issue of economic potential when discussing poverty among women because it is clear that power only means something in practical terms if it is reinforced by economic power.

Women have the means to transform productive resources into such power if only an enabling environment is created. It is not the lack of capability, but that of resources, which is clearly responsible for women's poverty. At the same time women's organizations from the grass roots to the international level are poorly funded. Such misallocation of resources at the time when poverty among women is increasing which is unacceptable, not only on the part of governments which pursue such wasteful policies, but also on the part of the suppliers who in most cases are developed economies.

Government responsibility does not end here, it is extremely important and indeed it is the main duty of every government around the world, to provide a conducive environment for economic growth and stability by pursuing responsibility and sound macro-economic policies which will enable the economy to grow without reducing poverty which could fundamentally be limited to measures to promote growth. However, if there was low growth or stagnation it would not be possible to reduce poverty decisively.

Hardly any now explicitly expresses the view that economic development trickles down automatically to the poor. Practical experience has refuted this assumption dating from the early days of development policy in the 1960s. However, a number of studies show that development of growth and decline in poverty run parallel. On the other hand there are also examples which show that despite high economic growth, poverty is not reduced markedly.

The common answer to the question is yes, growth can reduce poverty, but only if additional measures oriented towards the poor are taken. This is often termed pro-poor – growth. But what that means in detail, and whether economic growth as such plays a causal role at all, is not clear. It is worth taking a look at the arguments on the basis of more recent empirical knowledge.

One area of poverty that needs to be looked at is that of disability. Disability affects nearly every fifth house hold in developing countries and is a prevalent contributing factor to family poverty. Already a poor household has an added financial burden when a disabled member is not involved in productive activities.

In the context of extreme poverty, a disability may sometimes turn into an asset when the person uses begging as a way to bolster the family income. But this is a degrading path that doesn't lead one out of poverty.

What aggravates the situation is fact that poverty is identified as one of the main causes of disability. This is especially so for those at the lowest society who live in conditions without education, hygiene and health care. An important measure families living in absolute poverty is that they learn how to prevent disability. They must also learn that disabled family member can take part in economic activities.

Increasing the economic usefulness of a disabled household member can help to improve the income of many families and then reduce their poverty. The income earned by disabled person does not only benefit him or her but the entire household as well. However, anti-poverty strategies which target disabled household members without attempting to alleviate general household poverty would likely be futile.

One widespread misconception is that disabled people are unable to earn a living and to be self-reliant. As a consequence, disabled people are often targeted only for passive measures of income replacement and social welfare schemes. Active measures in their favor are conceived of as social activities and not economically relevant. Such misconceptions generate and reinforce exclusion, which in turn perpetuates poverty.

This highlights a dimension of poverty often overlooked by economists. They defined poverty in terms of household income. But poverty also means to lack social status and human dignity.

Targeting specific group for poverty alleviation measures is always a highly sensitive issue. It can change the fragile social fabric and may result in greater poverty for some, while favoring others such a risk may be avoided through a participatory approach, which activity involves the poor and assist them in their effort to gain control over their lives. Disabled people are more likely to be poorer than their non-disabled peers.⁶

⁶ Child poverty, on Poverty Conference Board, 2013

There are even a lot of poverty reduction programs in the world organized by non-profit organizations and governments, international organizations and research institutions. But before implementing poverty reduction programs, understanding technical poverty measurement methods is important.

The literature shows the way in which poverty affects society, including theoretical approaches to the study and also describes different methods for its reduction and measurement. Mainly the literature concerns two poverty concept approaches:

Monetary and non – monetary, the monetary approach measures poverty through notions of income expenditure and consumption. If an individual or family lives below a defined household threshold such as one or two dollars per day, for instance, they are defined as poor. The basic needs approach is one of the measurements of absolute poverty, particularly in developing countries. This approach was introduced by the international labor organization's world employment Conference in 1976.

In 199 it also introduced the capability approach in order to reveal the multidimensional nature of poverty. It dealt with the concepts of inequality, injustice, freedom and democracy. Sen's concept "capability" 1987 forms the heart of the nonmonetary approach to poverty measurement, by proposing the capability approach; Mr. Aen used the notion: substantive freedom, functioning, doings and beings. He defined functioning as sort of the action that a person accomplishes and situations that a person faces.

And in order to realize these functioning a person needs real liability (sustainable freedom) and in this context the capability forms the real liability of a person. Thus in contrast to monetary approach, the nonmonetary approaches are based on the notion that people become poor because they lack certain capabilities. For instances, they may not have an adequate education or sufficient access to health care and other social services.⁷

Limitation of the Study

This study was limited to poverty evaluation and attempts by the government to reduce it.

The study covered Central Equatoria State only and from 2013 to 2018

Methodology

In this study the descriptive and analytical method was used to study the occurrence of poverty in Central Equatoria State, the sources of data were both primary and secondary. Primary data were collected through interviews with poor persons, Patients and vulnerable men and women. Secondary data were from books, reports, and websites (internet).

Hypothesis (Research Questions)

- ❖ What are the causes of poverty in Central Equatoria States?
- ❖ What are the policies of the Government and NGOs towards the reduction of poverty in Central State

An attempt to answer these is by identifying the causes of poverty in the State and then by identifying the policies laid down to address these causes.

⁷ Memmo, Tife, the Paradox of Africa's Poverty

The main cause of poverty in the State is income instability leading to transitional poverty which can affect any one, because it happens unexpectedly and in a situation where there is a negative change like burning of assets or business places, rising of prices, loss of employment. Some of the variables which have contributed to poverty in the State are:-

- **Economic instability**

Central Equatoria State economy is one of the weakest and most underdeveloped. Most Counties in the state have no electricity or running water, and its overall infrastructure is lacking with few paved roads. Access to clean water is a major challenge for many people. The State has some telecommunication services through operators like MTN, Vivacell and Zain, but currently they lack necessary infrastructure to offer high speed internet connection.

The poor economic situation has negative impact in the life of people, especially the lack of food items making the country to rely on food imports from neighboring Uganda. This comes at a high transportation cost which, coupled with inflation, causes commodities and food price to rise dramatically all over the State. This situation has negative impact on the households resulting to increased poverty. In addition to that many employees have left work because of delays in salaries that often last for months.

Employees who left their jobs because of unpaid salaries decided to look instead for better jobs elsewhere, preferably with Nongovernmental Organizations, while those with other skills continue to work in the market. There are also policemen who absconded from their duties only to do casual labor in the market to earn a living due to delay in the payment of salaries.

- **Internal conflict.**

Conflict aggravates consumption and production decline, loss of comparative advantages and capital destruction. Moreover, internal wars are likely to produce chronic poverty. This particularly applies to failed States. War lords make money where the poor are at risk by forcing them to lose everything. Poverty is also likely to increase due to high dependency caused by an increased proportion of the old people, women and disabled in the population.

Many people die from the war results of lack of basic medical services, the destruction of life and transport. So when conflict arises between tribes, one or the other of the tribe's assets and houses would be destroyed and animals killed or taken, the best example of this kind of poverty was the conflict between Mundari and Bari Community in 2015 and 2016.

Other causes include theft carried out by unknown gun- men; loss of head of a family (breadwinner) and hunger which became a threat to the population of the State. Therefore, the policies to address these causes of poverty in the State should include peace dialogue to create a peaceful environment that would bring social justice, economic stability and government rural extension services to promote sustainable agriculture and food production. Sustainable land, forest and water management, capacity building and institutional development, and improved market access, and improved nutrition and food security should contribute towards poverty reduction in the State. Again, fighting between the residents of Lobonok in Juba County and Dinka cattle keepers resulted in a great numbers of houses burned and animals killed and forced residents of the area to leave in search of safer and peaceful places. This incident had negative impact on the people and exacerbated their already poor condition. In Kajokeji County many people left their homes and preferred living in exile in neighboring Uganda due to the internal fighting and worsening economic situation.

All in all, the residents of Central Equatoria faced a great poverty challenges. Efforts to reduce it have become difficult due to displacement of people from their places of residence as result of prevailing war in the State. These policies would be evaluated to determine whether they have succeeded to reduce poverty in Central Equatoria State.⁸

▪ **Theft of assets and livestock**

The State experienced a great deal of theft which contributed to many people becoming poor. There is also a cattle raiding in Counties like Terekeka, Juba, and Kajokeji and Lainya. This had bad impact on the Community and has created enmity among these Communities.

▪ **Activities of unknown gunmen**

Unknown gunmen have made lives of people difficult to carry out their normal activities in the State. Not only are people scared, but so are potential investors. Evidence also proved that citizens are looted especially at night by unknown gunmen.

The looter often demanded money, mobiles or essential assets like laptops or motorcycles. You either give them or you would be killed. At times they would take whatever they need and kill you too. These activities forced many people to lose livelihoods and / or breadwinners leading to increased poverty among families. The consequence of this is that many children are out of school while others became street children. Invariably, either children stayed at home or became volunteers in local markets so as to earn a living.

⁸ Maring James, resident of Lobonok whose parents are the victims of the event in an open interview, 2016.

- **Hunger.**

Due to critical economic situation many families find it difficult to survive. Moreover, the situation in the villages worsened so most of them took refuge in neighboring Uganda.

Policy Strategies to address poverty

In this study the implementation of the following strategies are deemed to be necessary for a reduction in poverty in the State.

➤ Peace Dialogue

Peace dialogue has become a strategic policy to address internal conflicts. However, all the voices calling for such dialogue have not been successful because they have failed to address the root causes of these conflicts. In addition to that there are no neutral agents in such dialogues.

A peaceful resolution of the current conflict has to go beyond sweet-talking to explore the realities of the crisis and develop appropriate strategies so that what is said should stimulate dialogue and search for genuine solution. A comprehensive strategy for peace dialogue is indispensable for successful peace, stability, and nation building. While the responsibility for addressing conflict through dialogue is collective, leading roles should however, be played by the dominant stakeholders rather than by the dominant groups.

➤ **Extension Services**

One of the policies laid to address poverty is the extension of services to promote sustainable agriculture and food production. Extension of the area under cultivation increases production and productivity of food production. Extension of the area under cultivation increases production and productivity of food crops through adoption of best practices and approaches.

Access to farm extension services delivered by trained extension workers, farming land and land use policy framework should be implemented. Extension should include plant and crop disease control, agriculture risk management increased supply of productive capital and sustainable farm infrastructure.

➤ **Capacity Building & Institutional Development**

Capacity building and institutional development for competence enhancement training of professionals, establishment system for training performance level, identified capacity gaps in institutions and administrative levels. Other activities included installing State data base of existing capacities in training, stocking of baseline on the State technical capacities, strengthening commercial and technical capacity of farming producer organizations and trade associations, enhancing the capacity of farmer's organizations and associations to participate in policy making, and increased use of new farming techniques and decision support tools.

➤ Access to Market

Pilot project for agricultural commodity and market price information sharing using mobile phone technologies were planned. A mobile phone company was to be contracted and commissioned to rollout and manage the network of commodity price information in the State. Policies also included improving the following: rural infrastructure and market access, improved market access and food security, and increased private sector investment along the agricultural and crop value chain.

A fund for improvement of rural feeder roads was established and became operational on public private partnership basis. Increased number of rural trading centers and local markets selling local crops and forestry products were also started. Unfortunately, most of these policies have not succeeded to address poverty as planned by the State government due to the delay of passing of the draft policy plan and insecurity as well as political instability in the State. This meant that poverty in the State would continue to pester. NGOs also laid down policies towards poverty reduction such as micro-farming policies granting small loans to poor households. But these policies were stopped in 2013 due to the outbreak of war.

On the other hand empowerment of adolescent in self-reliance project for both male and female in the State was initiated. This last project was still on, but faced challenges connected with economic and political instability.⁹

It is clear that the above- mentioned strategies have not been implemented either due to the war which affected many of the counties of the State particularly Yei and Kajokeji or that the resources were not available at the State or county levels. This meant that the level of poverty continued to worsen rather than reduce. Therefore, unless the war is brought to a speedy conclusion, the projects envisioned in these strategies will remain on paper only.

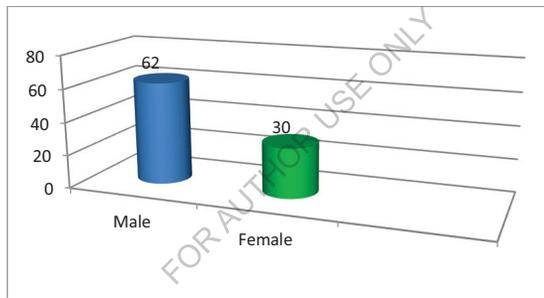
⁹ BRAC International Organization working in South Sudan

Chapter Three

Analysis and Interpretations

In the study a questionnaire was designed to gather data and information about poverty reduction in Central Equatoria State, which was distributed in the six Counties of the State: Juba, Lanya, Yei, Morobo, Kajokeji and Terekeka. 150 persons were taken as sample of the study out of which 92 questionnaires were returned or answered. Information collected from the questionnaire, written and oral interviews is thus analyzed:

Graph (1) Gender: (a) male (b) female



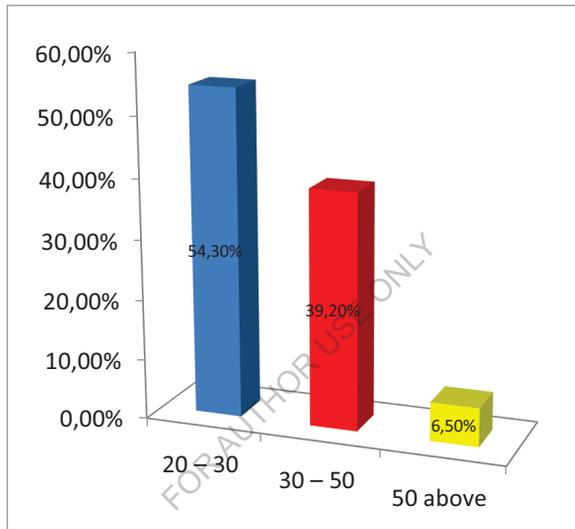
Source: (From Residents of the various Counties of the State during answering of the questionnaires)

The Graph above shows that 60% of the respondents were males. This was because most of the Respondents who agreed to answer the questionnaire were males. Secondly it was at times difficult for a female to devote her time to answer the question posed.

This meant that it was difficult to get information from females. For the impact of poverty on gender, we found that women were the most affected by poverty.

This was due to traditional beliefs that a woman's place was in the house and her role was to serve the husband and the family, so any income generated by her was controlled by the husband for the interest of the family.

Graph: (2) Age Distribution.



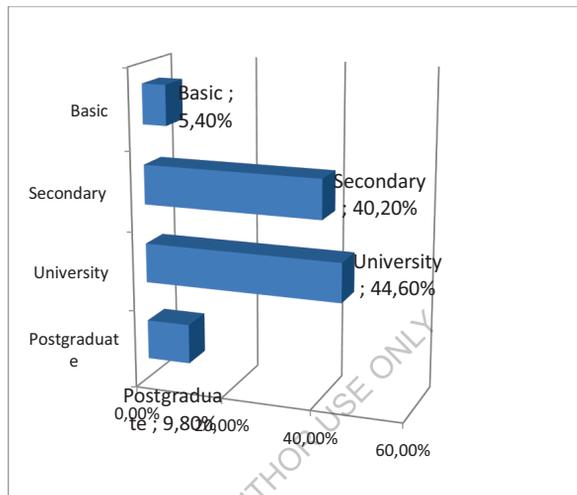
Source: Respondents of the Questionnaires July, August, 2015

In Graph (2) the highest age bracket of the respondents was 20 – 30. This meant that most of the respondents were young stakeholders. This implied that any future change in the State would lie in the hands of the youth.

Evidence also showed that a large number of youth in the State were jobless despite the fact that most of them completed either university or secondary level education which should have made them eligible for employment. Joblessness implied lack of income

for the youth which was not only a source of poverty but also of criminality among the youth all over the State.

Graph: (3) Educational Level.



(a) Basic (b) Secondary (c) University (d) Postgraduate

Source: (This was created by the Researcher during the Questioners July, August, 2015)

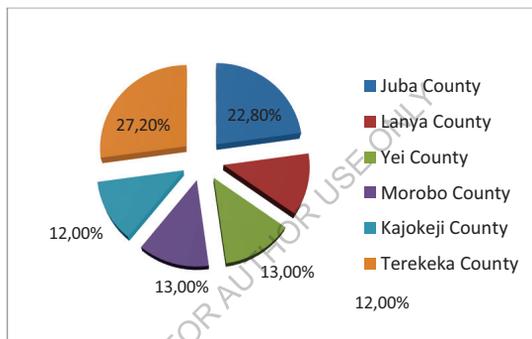
Graph (3) shows the educational background of respondents in the sample. Those who attended University level were 45%, Secondary level 40%, Postgraduate level 10% and basic level 5%.

This meant that the majority of the respondents 55% were University graduates.

Here the impact of education differed from one person to another depending on their economic conditions. For instance somebody might have graduated from university, but had not been employed,

and so his condition would not be like the employed one. Evidence in the State showed that the employed persons also faced poverty problems because of long salary delays (government employees), which forced them to take loans from shopkeepers and which had to be repaid when salaries came. On the other hand there were those who had not gone to school, but got engaged in business. Compared to those working but facing constant delays in salaries, they were less affected by the prevailing economic conditions. .

Graph: (4) Inhabitants of Counties.

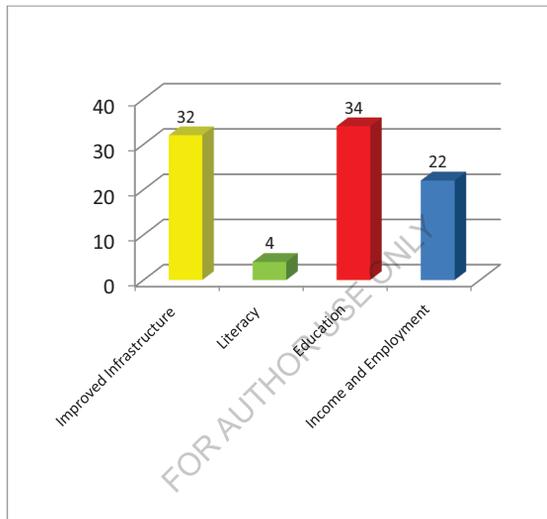


Source :(Residents from the Six Counties of the State in answering the questioners July, August, 2015)

Graph (4) shows the county of origin of the respondents. The highest numbers of respondents to the questionnaire were from Terekeka County (27.20%). This was due to the fact that they were concerned or more interested in poverty issues, and therefore, actively participated in answering the questionnaires. All responded however, that the state faced poverty. For instance, large number of small children especially girls were absent from school and others went for a whole day without a meal or had one meal only.

This affected their health or made it difficult to treat them in case of illness leading, in some cases to loss of life.

Graph: (5) Various Ways of Reducing Poverty in the State.



Source: (I bide the reference from page 50 July, August, 2015)

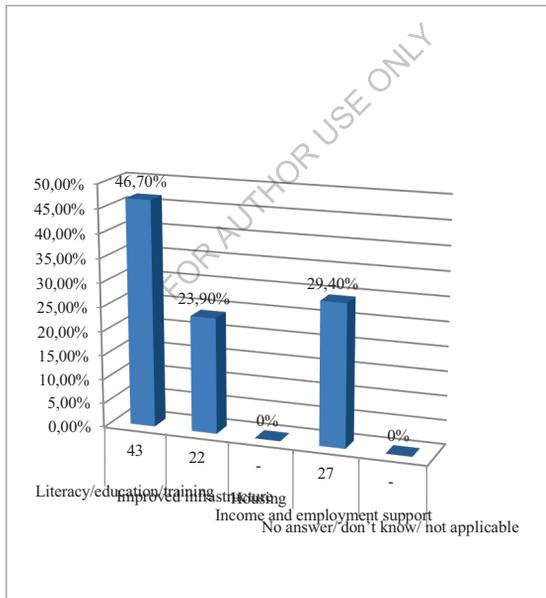
It is clear from Graph (5) above that the highest percentage of respondents to the question chose education (35 %.) Improved infrastructure (30%) and income and employment (20%) in that order as the best ways for the government to reduce poverty in the state for the following reasons:

- education exposed people to the light and made them lead a good life; and,

- Without infrastructure nothing would be done in the counties to provide services with exception of Juba County which had seen some improvement.

The failure to improve infrastructure was due to the poor economic conditions in the country and mismanagement of the available scarce resources. While education was a problem in all the counties there was no good environment for learning in counties as well as in schools based in towns.

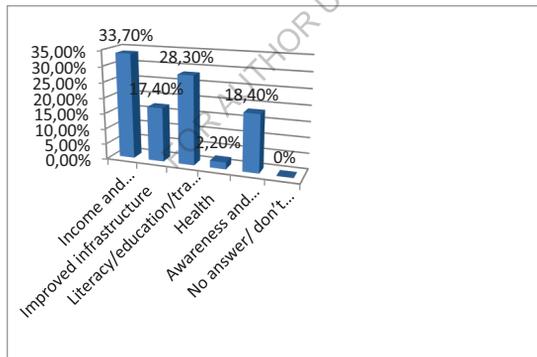
Graph (6) Factors that Help to Reduce Poverty in the Responder's Area



Source : (I bid page 57 July, August, 2015)

From the above Graph it was clear that the highest percentage of respondents (43%) said that literacy/ education / training were critical to poverty reduction while (27%) said that income and employment support were important. The (22%) believed that improved infrastructure was however, the key to poverty reduction. The majority of responders believed that the best way to reduce poverty was through the provision of employment and education services as well actively engagement in trade. This is because educated people would get employed easily and had access to commodities to help their relatives who were victims of poverty. However, all policies made by the State government were not implemented to root out poverty as it appeared in the policy draft, due to the delay in passing of the plan.

Graph (7 Factors that would Reduce Poverty in the State

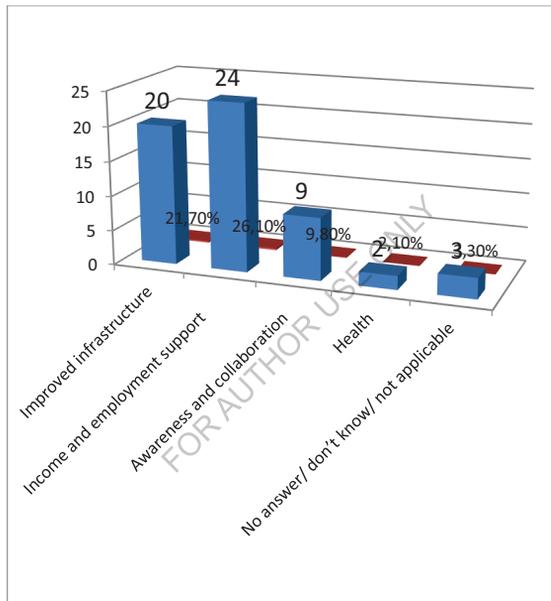


Source: (Respondents of the State during Case study questionnaire July, August 2015)

In Graph (7) above the greatest percentage of respondents on the question of what would help to reduce poverty in the State was income and employment support by 33.7 %. This meant that poverty in the State could be reduced through income and employment support from the State Government, for

example, granting loans to those in need as well as offering employment to some of them. But this did not happen in all counties with the exception of Juba County where the City Council availed job opportunities to some women and youth.

Graph (8) Ways and Means of Reducing Poverty

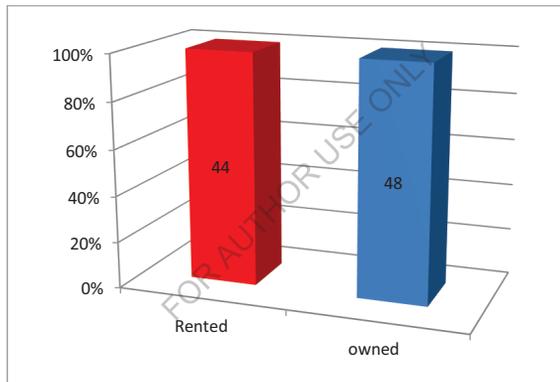


Source: (Respondents of the State during case study questionnaires July, August, 2015)

Graph (8) indicates the highest percentage of the respondents to the question: what did you think would reduce poverty? The highest response was income and employment (24%) followed by improved infrastructure (20%). This meant that income, employment, and improved infrastructure were some of the best

means for poverty reduction. In this regard it was clear that while the State had some telecommunication companies (MTN, Vivacell and Zain) it lacked other forms of infrastructure such as transport and social overhead. The State Government had not taken serious steps to build infrastructures except renovating old buildings and schools that belonged to previous Governments. This meant that poverty in the State would continue to affect people without any improvement in infrastructure and fact delay in passing the State Strategic plan did not help in this regard.

Graph (9) Rented or Ownership of House.

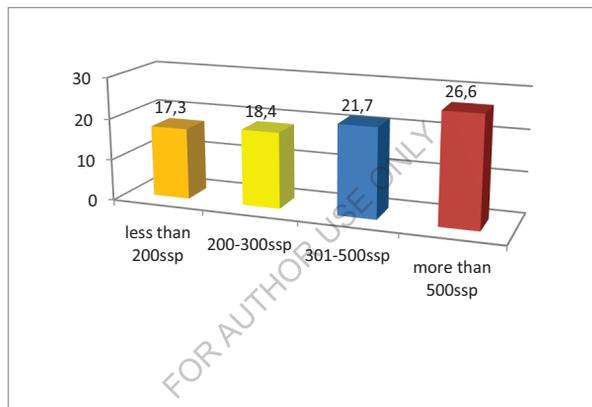


Source: (Created by the Researcher during the period of questionnaires July, August, 2015)

From the above Graph (9), only 50 % of respondents said they owned their houses, while more than 40 % said they rented. Moreover, for most who rented it was difficult to possess a plot to build a house of your own because of lack of resources. In addition to that the regulations of acquiring plots were not strictly followed. As a result it was difficult for the poorest people to find affordable,

safe and secure land. Not only that, competition for land made land increasingly costly. Land management and planning standards concerning legal technical and administrative expenses were too much for a poor person to afford. As a result people were forced to live in marginal and dangerous locations. The areas they inhabited were often illegal and therefore, lacked essential services which only exacerbated the problem of poverty among them.

Graph (10) Rentals of Respondents/Month

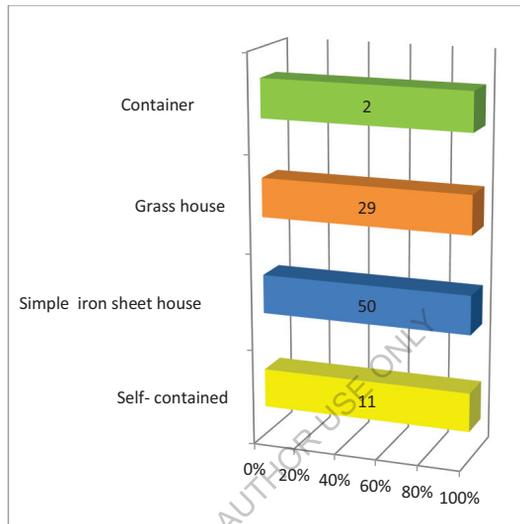


Source: (Respondents from the CES- State during Study July, August, 2015)

From Graph (10) above nearly 25 % of respondents said that they rented at the rate of SSP 500 per month and 20 % rented their houses at the rate between SSP 300 and SSP 500 per month. Slightly over 15 % of respondents rented houses at the rate between SSP 200 and 300 per month and another 15% said they rented at the rate of less than SSP200. Of those who answered the questionnaire, 45% were relatively well off financially so that they were able to afford higher rentals while 30% could only afford lower rented houses.

This is one caveat that those who said they were well off were in actual fact themselves poor.

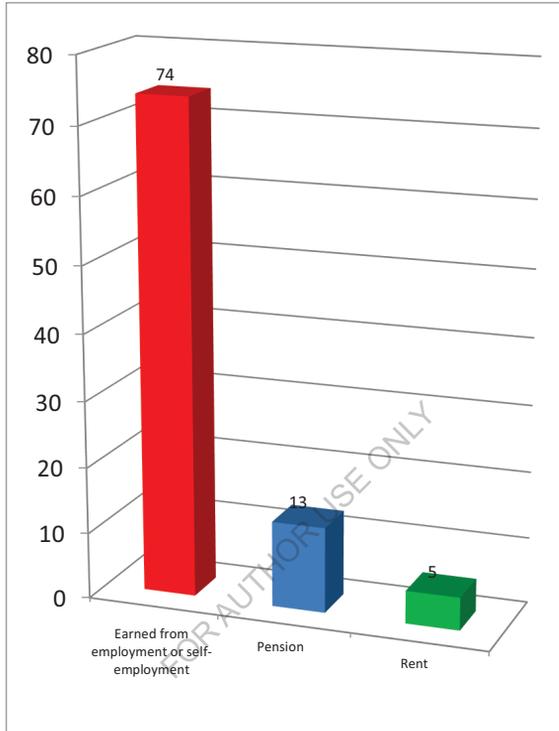
Graph (11) Accommodation



Source : (Residents of the State during questionnaires July, August, 2015)

From the above graph (11) those respondents who lived in simple corrugated iron sheet houses comprised 50 % of the total, while 30 % lived in grass houses and another 10 % lived in self- contained houses. Those living in the latter indicated that they were better off economically than those who lived in grass thatched houses.

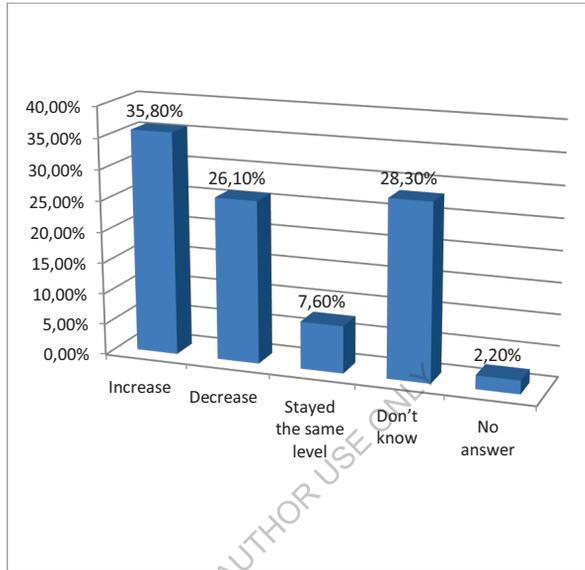
Graph (12) Household Source of Income



Source: (Respondents of the questionnaires July, August, 2015)

From the above graph (12) it was found that 75 % of respondents earned their living either from government employment or from self-employment. Those on pension constituted about 10% of the respondents. Many also said they left work because of delay of salaries payment that lasted for two to three months at a time. Such people lost income and therefore, their economic conditions worsened especially during this period of high inflation.

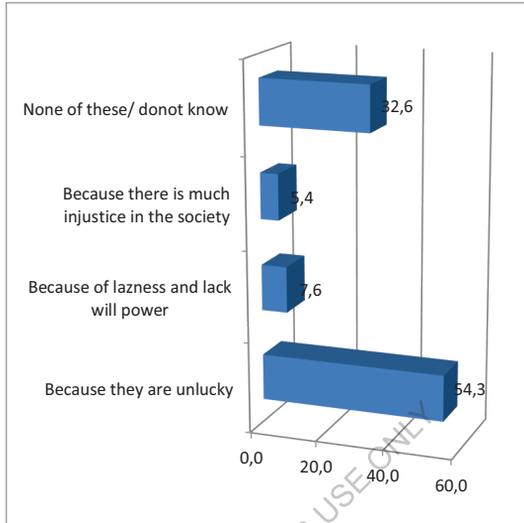
Graph (13) Expectation on Poverty over the next 5 years in the State



Source: (Respondents of the questionnaires during case study, August 2015)

In the above graph (13) the highest percentage of respondents (35.8) expected poverty to increase in the next 5 years. This implied that poverty in the State needed immediate action to avoid further increase over this period. This result therefore, showed that the threat of poverty would remain real unless there was a double effort to address it. Here the State drew up strategies for reducing poverty but which nevertheless were not implemented either due to the worsening economic crisis or the instability in the State.

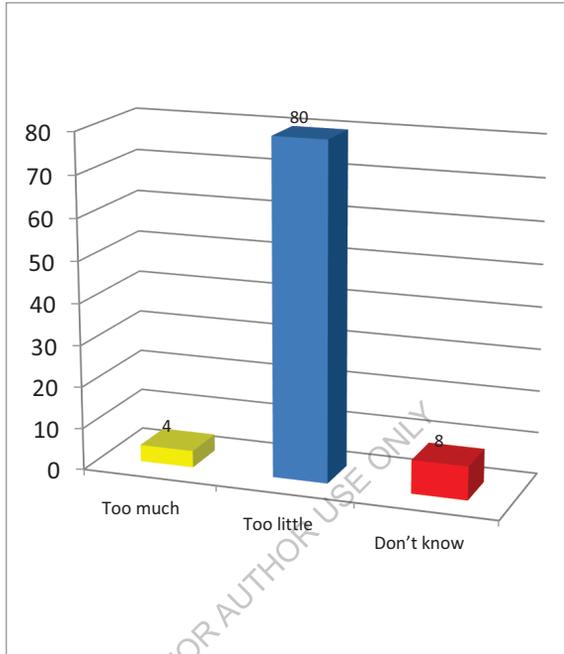
Graph (14) Why People are Poor?



Source: (I bid page 72 July, August, 2015)

In the graph (14) above, 55.4% of respondents believed that injustice was the cause of their poverty. This meant that the justice system in the State needed to be improved through just distribution of resources and employment. However, this was not easy to achieve because of nepotism and discrimination. Moreover resources were not enough, forcing workers to go without salaries for two to three months at a time thus affecting especially the lives of the families of government employees.

Graph (15 Helping the Poor

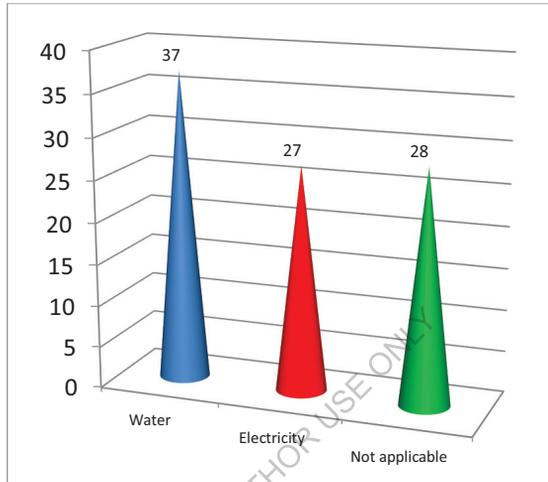


Source: (Created by the Researcher during period of questionnaires July, August, 2015)

The above Graph (15) showed that the highest percentage of respondents who answered the question whether they thought the government was doing too much or too little to help the poor people. 80% said the government was doing too little. Therefore, the government should do more by implementing programs to improve the lives of the people. In this connection, the City Council created jobs for both women and men to clean the city. It also distributed loans for small income generating projects.

But this was only a small step. More needed to be done if poverty was to be reduced.

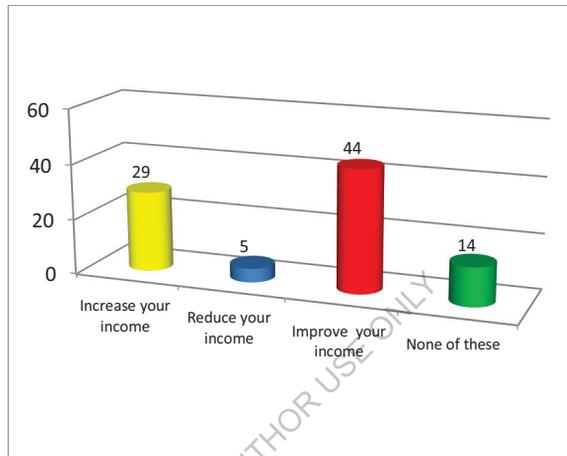
Graph (16) Provision of Water and Electricity



Source: (Respondents of the questionnaire in the study area July, August, 2015)

The above Graph (16) showed the highest percentage of response to the question whether people were discontented with the provision of water and electricity. The respondents answered that lack of water was a cause of discontent by 40%. Water was a source of life and the need for fresh water should be higher than anything else. Therefore the State government decided to renovate water projects such as pipelines in Juba and construct others in the main towns of the State to provide adequate and fresh water to satisfy this basic need. The State Government started to do this by installing pipe-lines and water systems in Juba and Yei. But it could not complete them due to insecurity in the State. On the other hand, no electricity work was done throughout the State.

Graph (17) What Could Improve your Life in the Near Future?



Source: (Respondents of the questionnaires July, August 2015)

The above graph (17) showed that 45% of respondents said that they expected something to happen to improve their living in the near future. For instance, attainment of peace and stability which should enable poverty to be reduced, the implementation of the State strategic plan would also be helpful for sustainable poverty reduction. Unfortunately, all the efforts exerted to achieve these have failed due to renewed conflict in the State and the Country at large.

The individual approach for the achievement of poverty reduction

Experience in Central Equatoria State and neighboring Uganda shows that motorcycles and bicycles increase the income of poor families by 35% (1). Motorcycles are used for transportation of goods and people in the most rural counties and towns of the state, which has been a good example of poverty reduction in the State in this study. Motorcycle and bicycles movements in the State were 3 to 10 times more effective than almost all other movements thus boosting the economy of the rural areas. In this regard motorcycles and bicycles (2) were regarded as the best means of reducing poverty in the poor counties of the State. Also it is important to support youth who fight poverty through small projects like, Mobile charging Centres (3) or shops. Some of the youth use car batteries for charging which brought small income for them, thus adding to poverty reduction in the State. In a field study carried out in October 13, 2015, in Konyokonyo market Juba it was discovered that motorcycle and other means of transport such as wheelbarrows (4) were indeed factors for improving the people's incomes.

(1) Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4 below

Photo No. (1)



-
- (1) A man from CES using Motorcycle for carrying rice from KonyoKonyo to the neighboring market of Jebel in the State Capital City.

Photo No. (2)



(2) A man on Monocycle carrying rice from Konyokonyo market to Lanya County 12/10/ 2015

Photo No. (3)



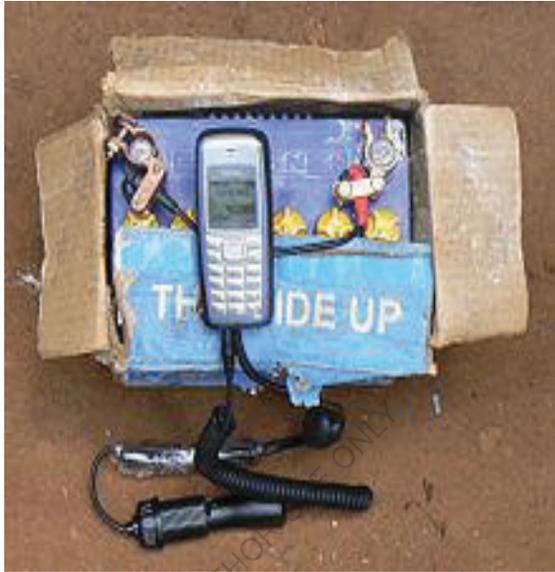
-
- (3) A young Ugandan in CES selling water for those who are in need by using bicycle within Konyokonyo market 13/10/2015

Photo No. (4)



(4) Young boys carrying oil by Wheelbarrows 13/10/2015

Photo No. (5)



(5) A Boy trying to fight poverty through mobile phone charging from a Car battery in Kaya CES, South Sudan

Key findings

Based on the questionnaires and interviews administered in this state, the following are the key findings:-

- During conflicts poverty prevailed and increased to the extent that it became difficult to be reduced. Reduction of poverty could only be achieved when there was peace and stability because war and poverty were the two elements that devastated lives of people. As a matter of fact the impact of poverty on the residents of the State was negative and their suffering increased as the situation deteriorated.
- All the six Counties of the State faced poverty in which a huge number of small children and mostly girls were not in the schools. They went the whole day without eating and had night meals only. This weakened their health and once they became sick, it was difficult to treat them, thus leading to loss of life.
- The government started to dig pipe-lines for the improvement of water system in Juba and Yei. But it could not be completed due to insecurity in the State. This showed that residents were deprived of water rights and their poverty status remained unchanged since no action plans were taken to address the issue.
- The need for fresh water was higher than any other thing and people were discontented about lack of water and electricity. Although the government started to dig pipe-lines for the improvement of water system in both Juba and Yei, this could not be completed due to insecurity in the State. As for electricity no work was done to improve it at all.
- People in the State were poor and had no access to commodities. They needed to be supported financially or to be granted loans. Because access to these facilities was not made possible, many people in the State remained poor.
- Nothing had been had been done to improve infrastructure in the Counties with the exception of Juba County where some improvement was done. This was due to overall economic instability and mismanagement of the available resources earmarked for infrastructure development. As for education

and literacy there were problems in all the counties, there was no good environment for learning in most Counties of the State and many schools are based in towns. The other issues were income and unemployment which affected nearly every family due to discrimination and lack of employment opportunities.

- The Government did nothing to cater for poor school children, for instance, not exempting them from paying schools fees. This failure had negative impact on the poor children, as their parents were unable to feed or educate as well as dress them.
- The strategic plan for the state government remained just a draft. Lack of implementation of the strategic plan had negative impact on the lives of citizens and exacerbated their poverty.

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Recommendations

The following recommendations should help policy makers and, organizations that work in the field of poverty reduction to follow their poverty reduction programs or plans.

- The government and opposition parties should speed implanting the peace agreement to create conducive environment and stability for poverty reduction and economic progress.
- The government should improve social infrastructure including the provision of clean drinking water to people all over the State.
- The State government should create sustainable credit services in the six counties together with improvement of the roads to link these counties for easy movement.
- The Government should empower the people with special needs to participate in decisions and policies to enable them fight poverty that affects them.
- NGOs which are the partners of the concerned Ministries should give full support to the improvement of the local resources for the welfare of the poor and disabled people.
- The best way for the government to reduce poverty should be through education and improvement in infrastructure because education exposes people to light and make them lead a good life.
- Another way to reduce poverty should be the provision of employment, education and trade because educated people can be easily employed and have access to commodities to help their relatives who are victims to poverty.
- The State government should encourage and support the individual effort and approach to poverty reduction.
- Poverty reduction in the State would be through income and employment support from the State government.

Conclusion

In conclusion poverty affects people unequally, but its consequences are always detrimental to human development and well-being. At the same time people are neglected by policy makers and have limited access to market, employment and public services due to lack of control over resources including land, skills, knowledge and social connections. Therefore, poverty cannot be reduced through anti-poverty programs alone but will require democratic participation and changes in public service. It also requires adoption of policies of equitable distribution of job opportunities and incomes so as to assist people to confront the threat of poverty.

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