



RESILIENT

SHELTERS

ENDLINE REPORT

KOLOM, ABYEI  
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018

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## ACRONYMS

S-NFI	Shelter and Non-Food Items
CBI	Cash-Based Interventions
SSAS	Safe Shelter Awareness and Skills Training
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei
PSN	People with Special Needs

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IOM Shelter and Non-Food Items (S-NFI) programming piloted the Resilient Shelter project in Kolom, Abyei from February to May 2018. This project, funded by DFID, is fully integrated in the South Sudan HRP 2018 and the IOM MCOF under all three pillars focusing on strong involvement of the community all throughout the intervention, participatory activities, capacity building and enhancing community resilience.

Upon completion of the Resilient Shelter project in Kolom, Abyei, IOM S-NFI M&E team conducted an endline assessment in May 2018 with the objective of measuring the immediate impact of the project as well as changes achieved in comparison to findings of baseline assessment conducted in early February 2018.

Based on findings, the immediate impact of the Resilient Shelter project is positive. 89% said that their main urgent shelter needs were met and 92% said these were timely met. On sense of security within their shelters, there is an increase from 49% (baseline) to 92% (endline). The team invested in communication with communities and 89% reported the community was consulted before project inception and 90% reported to have been informed on all phases of the project. 95% reported they were satisfied with the distribution process of materials. The community was involved all throughout project phase and 89% reported to have taken part in at least one stage of the construction process. Gender responsiveness was ensured and 87% reported that women were engaged in the project. As part of S-NFI programming efforts to enhance community's coping mechanisms, a Safe Shelter Awareness and Skills (SSAS) training was conducted in Kolom and 94% were satisfied with this training with 71% reporting that they have applied the skills they learnt from the said training. In total, 89% have learnt new skills that can enable them to build resilient shelters and the community reported that they can benefit from what they have learnt from safe shelter skills training. Protection was ensured with the assistance of UNISFA and 87% reported they felt safe all throughout the project.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND

Following the success of two Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)s implemented within Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites in the states of Western Bahr El Ghazal and Unity, S-NFI programming decided to expand the scope of this approach beyond PoCs and target returnees in Kolom, Abyei. Through this project, IOM assisted the total returnee population informally settled in Kolom. In total, 331 individuals (113 households) benefited from the Pilot Construction of Resilient Shelters through a CBI modality implemented between February and May 2018. Community structures in Kolom were strengthened with the introduction of a common goal that required the communal collection of specific materials and the collective construction of resilient shelters. The project's main objective was to provide safe shelter and enhance resilience of IDPs returning to their area of origin in Abyei by reinforcing traditional construction systems.

Prior to project implementation, a first needs assessment was conducted in January in nine villages in Abyei Administrative Area. This was followed by the second assessment including community mapping and population data collection in three shortlisted villages. Based on the village selection criteria determined in the concept note, Kolom was selected for the implementation of the Pilot Construction of Resilient Shelters through CBI. A market assessment was conducted in January which determined feasibility of the project to be carried out through a CBI approach. A baseline assessment was carried out in February to map initial conditions of the community, further understand and confirm the community's shelter needs, challenges, risks, coping mechanisms and capacities. This informed project design and confirmed indicators and targets initially formulated. After preliminary assessments, a cash-for-work grant and community engagement plan was thus developed to engage the community and ensure community participation throughout project cycle. The majority of shelter construction materials were procured locally and a consortium of small-scale traders were established. A skills development component on Safe Shelter Awareness and Skills training was also included in project design to raise community awareness on risks, safety measures and build on skills required for the project. Below are some of the key objectives of the project.

- Design a Community led resilient shelter by using local materials and traditional construction techniques for ensuring sustainability
- Increase self-sufficiency of the affected population through revitalization of local economy
- Enhance community structures in Kolom village for strong community participation and ownership
- Maximize the impact of resilient shelter interventions through coordination with other partners and stakeholders for sustainable settlement solution

After completion of the project, an endline study was conducted in May 2018.

## 1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE ENDLINE

The main objective of the endline was to measure the immediate impact of the project with respect to its objectives and baseline findings. The endline focused on key aspects and are as follows:

- Effectiveness of intervention in meeting people's needs
- Quality of process of intervention
- Community Participation and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)
- Communication with Communities
- Resilience and Sustainability
- Protection
- Gender

## 1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The first sections of the report outlines the executive summary and introduction. Introduction emphasizes on background and objectives of both the project and endline survey. While the methodology followed during the endline survey is described in section two. Section three covers the analysis of major findings of the endline. Section four outlines the conclusion and recommendations. ToRs, tools and data are presented as annex to the report.

# 2. STUDY SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 METHODOLOGY

The survey is designed to incorporate all related secondary sources outlined in the desk review, together with primary sources from the endline assessment itself. The endline tools used were household survey, focus group discussion, and key informant interview. The data collection was led by one S-NFI staff member and five enumerators. Primary data collection was carried out from 10- 11 May 2018. Data analysis was conducted through pivot tables created in Microsoft Excel by M&E team. Findings were structured according to key aspects (effectiveness of intervention in meeting people's needs, quality of process of intervention, communication with communities and accountability to affected population (AAP), community participation, and resilience) .

## 2.2 DESK REVIEW

The team went through various documents on the Resilient Shelter project to acquaint themselves with the context and to better understand the processes involved in the implementation. This includes:

- I. **Initial S-NFI needs assessment reports:** presents assessment conducted in Kolom and seven other villages.
- II. **Resilient Shelter Concept Note:** outlines the project rationale and proposed response including an overview, project strategy, technical descriptions, trader selection process, planned implementation and skills training procedure.
- III. **Baseline report:** includes initial conditions of the community, shelter needs, challenges and other relevant information.
- IV. **Situational updates:** provides information on the progress and challenges encountered by the team on the ground.
- V. **Project report (draft):** outlines the major outputs of the project.

## 2.3 TEAM COMPOSITION AND TRAINING OF ENUMERATORS

A team comprised of one IOM S-NFI staff and five enumerators carried out 63 household surveys using kobo app. A one-day training was conducted for enumerators on overall objective and rationale of endline survey; household survey methodology and standard rules, procedures and conduct; usage and pre-testing of mobile phones; understanding and familiarization of household questions; and rationale of questions. A tablet-based household questionnaire was used to carry out household data collection. To ensure quality control, a preliminary trial was conducted by enumerators to acquaint themselves with the device. Enumerators' performance was constantly monitored to ensure that data collectors understand questions and that the right information was being collected.

## 2.4 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS, AND OBSERVATIONS

Endline tools were revised to be tailored to the resilient shelter project including household survey. Household questions were uploaded to five tablets and into Kobo Collect App - an application used to facilitate data collection, viewing and analysis. Sample size of 63 respondents from a total of 331 individuals, with 92% confidence level and 10% margin of error was calculated using the sample size calculator referred to in the South Sudan S-NFI Cluster Guidelines: <http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html>. At the end of the exercise, data from 63 households were successfully collected and were uploaded to Kobo Collect server. S-NFI M&E team conducted two focus group discussions for men and women respectively and one key informant interview. Observations were collected and used for data triangulation.

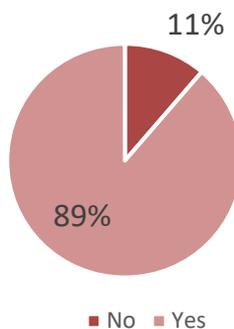
# 3. ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

## Comparative analysis of the baseline and endline 63 HH INTERVIEWS

### 3.1 EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTION IN MEETING NEEDS

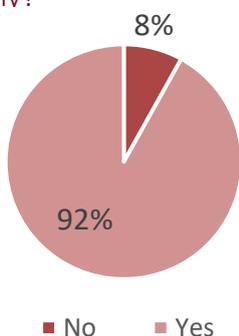
Did the project contribute to meeting your shelter needs and was the need identified correctly? What were the benefits of this project?

In the baseline, 87% said that prior to the crisis, the population was living in tukuls. After the crisis, prior to project implementation, Kolom inhabitants were living in rakubas and 0% were living in tukuls. After the project, all inhabitants of Kolom are living in tukuls (100%). 89% of respondents said that their main urgent shelter needs were met and that the need was identified correctly. When asked if the population benefitted from the project, 98% of the beneficiaries reported to have benefitted from the project through improvement of living conditions, followed by housing benefits and then livelihood opportunities.



BENEFITS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS
Improvement of living conditions	32
Housing benefits	31
Livelihood opportunities	13
financial benefits	8
Improvement of social services	2

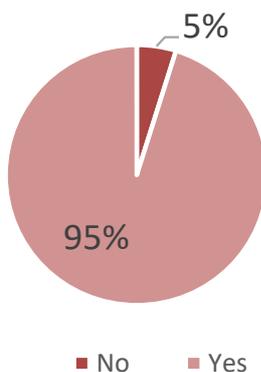
Were your shelter needs met timely?



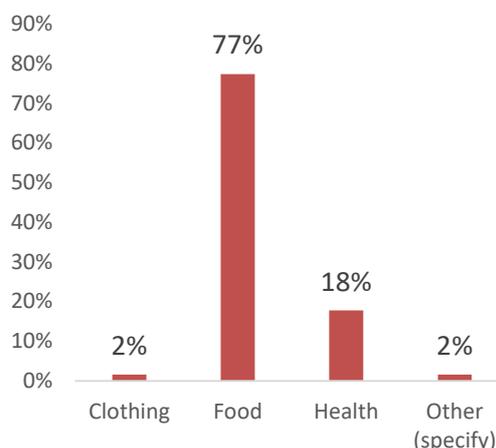
The majority (92%) reported their shelter needs were met timely while 8% said it wasn't on time. FGD participants shared that there were some delays regarding shelter constructions. The project team confirmed that that supply of construction material got delayed in first round. Traders failed to deliver all materials at once. The project team also highlighted that the participation of the workers (community) was not high. Despite numerous reminders, the poor participation of the workers persisted until the last leg of the project. This also contributed to delay of the construction.

95% of respondents reported to have received the cash for work grant and only 5% said they did not receive it. When asked why the others didn't receive it, they said they were not registered for work. Upon enquiry, the project team explained that the community members who were not registered for work were people with special needs, those who are not willing to work, and new arrivals in Kolom who came in when the project already started and when beneficiaries were already identified, hence they were not

Did you receive a cash-for-work grant ?



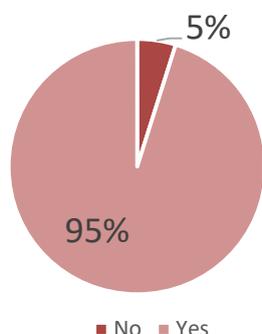
What did you spend this money for?



included. During focus group discussion, men reported that all able bodied men and women who were willing to work were registered without discrimination. According to the baseline, the community primarily spent their income on food followed by health and then clothing.

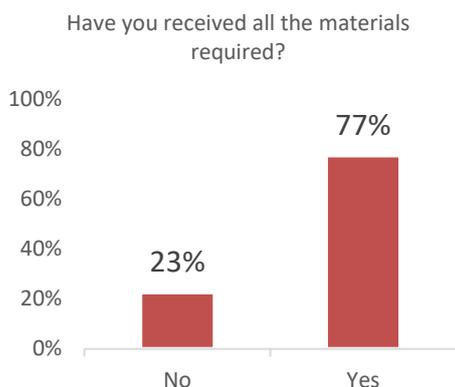
### 3.2 QUALITY CONTROL OF PROCESS OF INTERVENTION

Are you satisfied with the distribution process of materials?



95% of respondents reported satisfaction with the distribution process whereas 5% reported dissatisfaction. When asked why they were not satisfied, the 5% reported frustration on having to keep the vouchers for a long time. Although project team provided vouchers the day before distribution of materials, some beneficiaries needed to keep their vouchers for a longer period of time because distribution took several days. Respondants also said that the number of elephant grass allocated to their shelter was not uniform. During FGD, women reiterated this complaint. The elephant grass was the community's contribution. Hence, it was the community's task to ensure that elephant grass was distributed amongst themselves equally. Because the community was not able to fully provide total amount of elephant grass needed, project team filled the gap and provided additional elephant grass and plastic sheets. The different sizes in bundle size was taken into consideration for distribution.

Have you received all the materials required (wall poles, wall braces, rubber rope, roofing poles, roofing braces, grasse rope) ? Did you receive the cash-for-work grant on time?

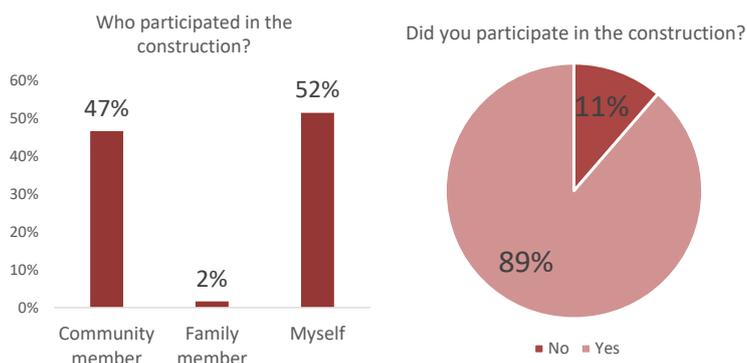


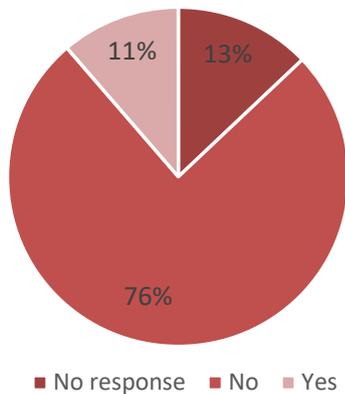
77% reported that they received all construction materials and 92% reported that these materials were received on time. Project team provided all materials needed except the elephant grass which was the community's responsibility. Because the community was not able to fully provide for the total quantity of elephant grass needed, IOM stepped in and provided elephant grass and plastic sheeting to fill the gaps for roofing material. 80% of the beneficiaries interviewed reported receiving the cash for work grant timely whereas 20% said the payment was not on time. When asked why, respondents reasoned that the delay in the construction process affected timeliness of disbursement of cash. According to project team, the longer a particular phase of the construction takes the longer the payment will be delayed because the CFW grant was tailored to be paid in phases thus they have no justification to pay the workers in advance if a particular phase was not completed.

### 3.3 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & AAP

Are you aware if the community was consulted for this project? Who participated in the construction?

89% of the respondents reported they were aware that the community was consulted before the inception of the project whereas 11% reported to have not been aware. During FGD and KII, respondents said the community was consulted twice on their most pressing needs before inception of the project. 89% participated in construction process whereas 11% did not. When asked who participated in the construction, 52% built their shelters themselves, 47% by the community, 2% a family member. Construction of shelters was done collectively by the community. This means that those who constructed their own shelter will most likely have participated in the shelter construction of other community or family members.



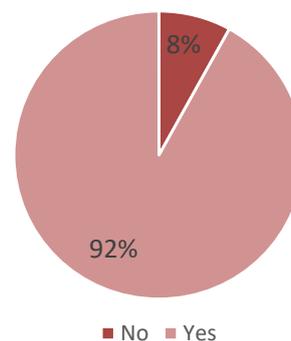


### Challenges encountered by participants in the construction?

Although majority (76%) reported to have not encountered any challenge, 11% said they encountered challenges such as the heat of the sun and not being able to attend to domestic chores. 13% did not provide a response. These challenges were underlined in the KII with the community leaders (chiefs) who said women had difficulties balancing participation in construction and domestic work since they leave their home at 8:00 in the morning in search of grass and return late in the evening.

### Would you like to participate in future projects where your active participation is needed with no Cash-for-Work grants distribution?

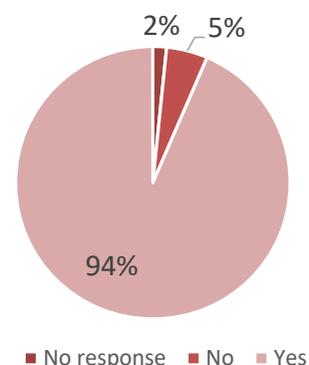
92% of the respondents said they are willing to participate in future projects where no cash for work is distributed and only 8% of the respondents said they will not take part in a project where there is no cash for work distribution. However, during FGD, participants said money normally motivates people to work hard and also helps facilitate some of their domestic issues. During KII, respondent said that exclusion of CFW in future project will demoralize the community members. Even if they are to participate, it be will to a lesser extent. He explained that in Kolom, there is no stable source of income and if people are asked to work for no pay it will have a negative impact on people's well-being.



### Did you participate in the shelter awareness and skills training? Are you satisfied with the SSAS training? Did you apply the skills gained from the training?

Among the answers received, 89% reported having participated in the safety shelter awareness and skills training whereas 11% said they did not take part. When asked why they did not participate in the training, they said the training mainly targeted construction personnel and the community leaders and others said they were not invited for the training. KII respondent said the community did the selection of the participants in the training. Project team specified that SSAS training targeted the construction committee, construction team leaders and the community committee. When households

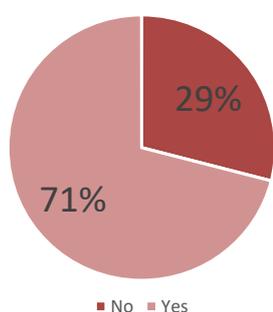
### Are you satisfied with the SSAS training?



When households were asked about their satisfaction on SSAS training, 94% of the HH interview expressing their satisfaction, and only 5% said they are not content with the training. Both KII and FGD demonstrated satisfaction with the training. During FGD, women said they learnt more safety skills such as ensuring safety between shelters and building platforms to protect shelters from flooding. Men also said they are satisfied and were able to gain more knowledge in tukul construction. However, for the 5% who said they are not satisfied when asked why, they gave two reasons (1) the training was too short and (2) they only understood the pictorial part of the training.

### Did you apply the skills gained during the construction process?

Out of the total respondents interviewed, 71% said they have applied the skills they learnt in the safe shelter training whereas 29% said they did not apply the skills learnt. The monitoring team observed that many households are practicing the skills they learnt from the training. One of the notable skills being put to work is maintaining distance between big trees and shelters and keeping fire away from the shelters.



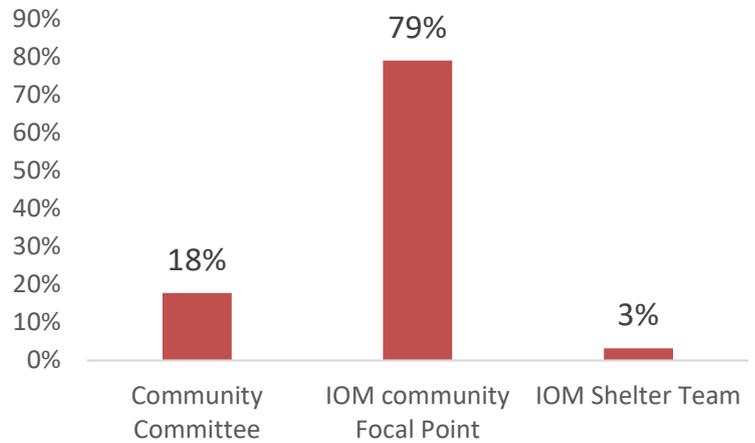
### 3.4 COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

Have you been informed about all the phases of the construction project? Why do you think you did not receive the information? Which communication method did you find helpful/effective all throughout the project?

Following the data collected, 90% of respondents reported to have been informed about all the phases of the project and 10% said they were not informed. Both KII and FGD participants said that the community was informed on all phases of the project. The KII reported that the project team has informed them about project and how it involved the community. They also underlined that the project team always sought their views at every phase of the project. Participants of the two FGD said meetings were held twice a week throughout the project life cycle where they are updated about the progress of each phase enabling them to voice their thoughts and concern. When asked why they think they did not receive information, 32% reported

being out of Kolom during the above phases of the project, 62% said they were not informed and 5% stated 'others' although they did not specify the exact reasons. The project team observed numerous movements in and out of Kolom by the community members throughout the project life cycle and the community explained that they were in search of food. When asked which communication channel they found helpful/effective, 79% reported that IOM focal point was the effective means of communication throughout the project, 18% said community committee and 3% said IOM project team. IOM focal point is a staff member who serves as the link between IOM and the community and to whom complaints and feedback were addressed. During focus group discussion, both men and women acknowledged that they found the IOM community focal point most effective because he updated the community about the project and they used this forum to provide feedback and for raising issues and complaints.

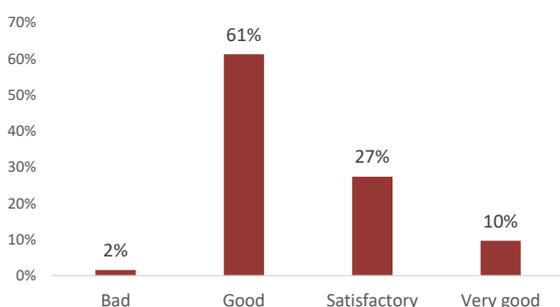
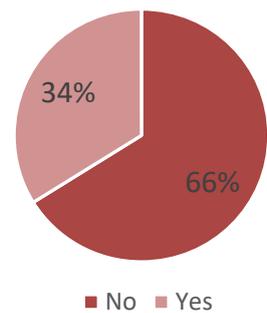
Which communication method did you find helpful/effective all throughout the project?



Did you raise any complaint during the project? Did you find the complaint mechanism effective?

The minority, 10% of respondents, submitted a complaint whereas 90% did not. The 10% raised their complaints to IOM focal point and the community committee. During FGD, participants said they were aware of the existence of the complaint desk. When asked if they have ever reported a complaint, there was mixed reaction some said yes and others said no. For those who said yes, their complaints were on poor representation of PSN in the community committee, little pay (cash for work grant) and limited patrol by United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Concerning complaint on PSN, implementing team called for a meeting with community leaders to nominate a PSN participant for the Community Committee. The nominated PSN then took part in the community committee. On the lack of UNISFA security, the Force Commander of UNISFA went to Kolom and assured the community of protection, 66% of the respondents said the complaints mechanism is not effective whereas 34% said it was effective. During KII, the community leader said that whenever they (community) raised complaints, IOM would take time to reply. When this issue was crossed check with IOM focal point, he said that some complaints required consultation with the rest of IOM team and other relevant stakeholders before getting back to the community.

Did you find the complaint feedback mechanism effective?



How will you rate your working relationship with the traders?

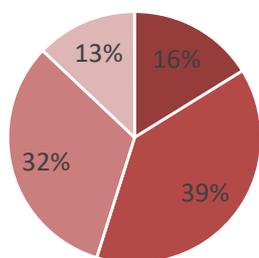
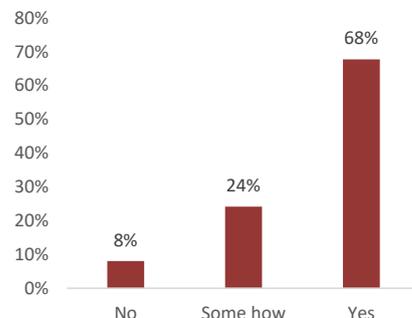
Overall, the community had a good relationship with the traders. The household data collected rated the relationship between the community and the local traders in the following percentages: 61 % reported having good relationship with the local traders, 27% said it was satisfactory and 10% very good.

### 3.5 RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Do you think the newly learnt construction skills will enable you to build resilient shelters? Do you think that the people who participated in the construction received new skills that could increase their income?

68% of respondents said the newly learned skills will enable them to build resilient shelters, 24% reported somehow, and 8% said the newly learnt skills cannot support them build resilient shelters in the future at all. During KII and FGD the participants said they are satisfied with the SSAS training and they have also gained some skills which they are already practicing and will put to use in the near future. When asked if the people in the construction who received the skills training can increase their income, 69% said that it can increase their income, 23% said somehow, 5% are not sure and 3% don't know. During KII, respondent said the community has benefited from the project in various ways primarily skills gained from the construction. He underlined that the skills can improve household income by engaging in active constructions elsewhere in Abyei.

Do you think the newly learnt skills of the community will enable them to build resilient shelters in the future without external support?



- Do not know
- Less than 4 years
- Less than 3 years
- More than 5 years

How long do you think the resilient shelters will last if the community put mud-plaster yearly?

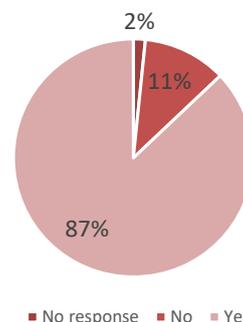
The majority (39%) think the shelter will last for less than 4 years if mud plaster is applied yearly, 32% said less than 3 years, 16% they don't know and 13% said less than 5 years. During focus group discussions with women, the participants said the only way of ensuring the shelters last longer is by under taking frequent maintenance on the shelters. When asked to explain how, they mentioned through frequent mud plastering at least twice a year, constant check for termites both on the wall and the roof at least once after every two weeks and immediate fixing of grass that fall off the roof.

### 3.6 PROTECTION

Did you feel safe all throughout project implementation? Do you know any vulnerable individuals who benefitted from the resilient shelter, but was not able to support in the construction process?

87% of respondents felt safe throughout the project and 11% reported that they did not feel safe, and 2% did not give a response. When asked which phase of the project made them feel unsafe, they mentioned the grass collection where they needed to travel long distances to collect grass. According to baseline findings, women did not raise any security constraints in going outside to collect grass, this was also part of the proposed contribution of the community, hence it was listed in the terms of engagement with the community as task/role of the community members. 94% said they know of vulnerable persons who benefitted from the project but were unable to support in the construction whereas 6% said they didn't know. When asked if the vulnerable in question were supported during the construction 55

Did you feel safe all throughout the project implementation?

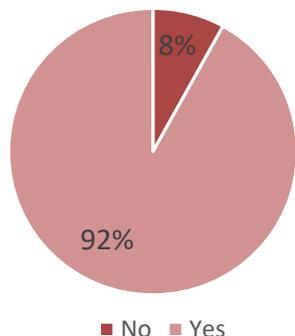


respondents said yes and only 4 said they were not supported. The two primary objectives of collective construction was to ensure that most vulnerable households received shelter, and to enhance community cohesion. Most vulnerable households were prioritized to ensure that any delay would not affect them. Observation and feedback from project team revealed that vulnerable population were given priority during the construction and their tukuls were constructed by the construction committees.

### For vulnerable households: Do you feel that your needs were considered in this project?

The most vulnerable persons with whom the endline team spoke expressed that they felt their needs were considered. They were represented in the community committee where issues affecting them were directly presented. Secondly, they were prioritized during distribution of construction materials, consultation of needs and tukul construction.

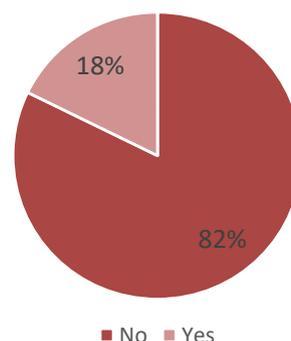
### Do you feel secure with your shelter after the construction of the resilient shelters?



92% reported feeling more secure in their shelters as opposed to 49% in the baseline. In the endline, 8% said they do not feel secure whereas in the focus group discussion, this question attracted mixed reaction from the female participants. The majority said they feel secure and protected from rain compared to their former Rakubas where water leaks during the rainy season. According to the participants of the two focus group discussions, the quality of the shelter is good compared to the Rakubas they had before and it is more comfortable. The temperature in the current shelter is better compared to the former shelter and they felt protected from external risks. The main concern they expressed was that the tukuls were dark inside during day time.

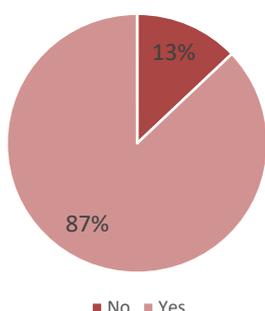
Following the data collected, 82% of respondents said there has been changes in Kolom in terms of relationship with the community, while 18% said there was no change. During KII and FGD, participants reported changes in relationship within the community in Kolom. Women said that prior to the project, community members rarely come together to discuss issues of common interest but right from the beginning of the resilient shelter project, the community convened to deliberate on issues affecting them. This created a huge sense of ‘togetherness’. Furthermore, in the KII, the chief said that since the inception of the project, his relationship with the community members has changed positively. He feels the community listens to him more than before and has resolved issues. The chief also underlined that before the project, everybody did their own thing and that now, the community think about how they can work together.

### Did your relationship with the community in Kolom change after the project?



## 3.7 GENDER

### Were women engaged in the project?



87% of the respondents reported that women were engaged in the project and 13% said no. During FGD, women said they encountered challenges such as balancing project commitments with domestic duties. When women were asked how this could have been mitigated, the women said that women can be allowed to work half a day so they can allocate time to carrying out domestic chores. When asked if they would have wanted to be involved in other phases, 44% said yes, 5% said no, and 52% did not provide a response.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project was completed and 113 resilient shelters were constructed by the community. Conclusion of outcomes are presented below as well as recommendations.

89% said that their main urgent shelter needs were met

92% reported feeling more secure in their shelters (vs. 49% in the baseline)

92% reported their shelter needs were timely met

89% reported they were aware that the community was consulted before the inception of the project

90% reported to have been informed about all the phases of the project

95% reported satisfaction with the distribution process

89% reported to have taken part in at least one stage of the construction process

92% said they are willing to participate in future projects where active participation is needed with no CFW grant

94% are satisfied with the SSAS training

71% said they have applied the skills they learnt in the SSAS training

92% (68% yes + 24% somehow) have learnt new skills that can enable them to build resilient shelters

87% felt safe throughout the project

87% reported that women were engaged in the project

Endline findings indicate that the community is overall satisfied with their new shelters and that their main urgent shelter needs were met. The community reported that the main benefits were improvements in their living conditions, housing benefits, livelihood opportunities and financial benefits. The community was consulted prior to project implementation and they were informed of all the phases of the project. Findings indicated that the community is satisfied, that their shelter needs were correctly identified, and that their voices were heard. The community was satisfied because of the shelter design which is in line with their traditional method of building tukuls. Findings show that the community has capacity to maintain their shelters should need arise and that they can apply that which they have learnt from safe shelter skills training. Results also showed that the community has strong ties and prioritized the most vulnerable. The temperature in their current shelter is reported to be good thus reducing risks of exposure to heat/cold. Distance between the current shelter was ensured reducing external risk like fire outbreak.

**Impact evaluation:** An impact evaluation in eight to ten months is highly recommended to assess the state of the shelters and whether inhabitants are maintaining them through application of mud plaster and if the benefits from the endline are maintained. Some tukuls had plastic sheets instead of elephant grass on the roof and it would be good to see the impact of the difference in roofing and whether the community are replacing the plastic sheet with elephant grass.

**Project duration:** The project was implemented within three months which was a considerably short period of time to achieve project goal. This was compounded with major constraints such as limited and limiting availability of force protection, challenges in sourcing materials, seasonal limitations and other logistical restrictions and challenges. Although the project was successfully implemented, allotting at least five months would have ensured better planning and mitigation of impact of foreseeable challenges and limitations.

**Conflict between participation in construction of shelters and domestic chores:** Women reported that they were unable to fully carry out household chores due to their active involvement in the construction of the shelters. Although this issue was not raised during baseline assessment and consultation, it is advised that future projects take women's household roles into account during both baseline and community consultations to discuss this with the community prior to project implementation to find a common solution.

**Inconsistent participation of community in construction:** Although the majority of community participated, a sustained and consistent effort in participation was lacking to finish the project timely. Assessment on capacities of community to meet project deadline should be further analysed in the baseline enabling appropriate measures to be undertaken in support of implementing project timely. EVA's recommendation: for durable shelters, which construction takes more than 1 week, and CFW grants are distributed, it is highly recommended to divide the project in phases that would allow a weekly payment, in order to avoid lack of community participation because of the impact of the interruption of income generating activities.

**Environmental impact:** The nature of this project entails access to local materials and water which can be challenging and which can have an environmental impact. Environmental protection and concerns should be considered all throughout project phase.