

# TRANSFORMATION TALKS

## South Sudan's Food Systems Governance Opportunity

Deep Dive session - 13 December 2023

## Deep Dive session: goals

**Purpose:** Working together as a group to learn when and how (local) food systems governance interventions can effectively drive transformative impact in South Sudan

## Deep Dive session: agenda

### Session agenda (1h30m):

- Introduction & recap previous session (20m)
  - What is the opportunity in South Sudan's governance?
  - What is food systems transformation?
- Case presentations + group work (45m)
  - Case presentations
  - Identifying Trajectories of Change
- Reporting back to plenary (15m)
  - Discuss: how have cases been able (or not) to affect the current status quo.
- Looking ahead: introduction of the From Insights to Action session (10m)

## Three cases

### **Seed governance in Yambio, Rumbek and Eastern Equatoria**

State governments in Rumbek and Yambio recently banned seed imports. IFDC and KIT have researched, published and lobbied for this transition away from seed aid for a long time.

### **Food systems resilience pathway development in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria**

Universities of Juba and Wageningen, together with broad range of civil society facilitated collaborative agenda setting to operationalize the Food Systems Summit process at state level.

### **Budget monitoring to engage in lobby & advocacy towards high-level decision makers**

Child Rights Coalition with support of an international coalition has analyzed and monitored government budgets for the past 2,5 years, reaching parliament and facilitating government-community discussion on this.

## Recap: opportunity statement

**By Leveraging, institutionalizing and scaling successful food systems governance initiatives, aid interventions can help transform food systems to deliver better food security in South Sudan**

- Leverage the dynamic of the Food Systems Summit National Pathways - current international focus (+prospect of funding) a unique opportunity.

Rests on three assumptions

- *Addressing food insecurity requires aid to address governance of the food system*
- *Improved governance of food systems required for transformational results of aid*
- *It is possible to identify and support food systems governance initiatives that lead to transformative impact of aid in South Sudan*

## Recap: governance of transformation

- Food systems are complex, no one actor is in control
- Food systems governance: trying to steer food systems into a desirable direction
- Food systems transformation tries to change 'the rules of the game'
  
- Transformation emerges from:
  - Initiatives for change that start small and need to mature (niches)
  - .. before they can compete with and replace existing dominant system (regime)
  - .. with wider trends serving as pressures and opportunities (landscape)
  
- In any systems transformation powerful public and private actors will resist the change

## Recap: governance of transformation

### Seven ways to support food systems transformation processes

- Creating and supporting variation (*pilots, innovation and experiments*)
- **Capturing and supporting existing diversity** (*find, support what works*)
- Temporary protection of niche initiatives (*create safe spaces*)
- Analysis of landscape trends & visioning (*create understanding*)
- Creating landscape level pressures (*lobby & advocacy*)
- Identifying plausible leverage points (*find small opportunities for change with big impacts*)
- Building discourse coalitions (*agenda setting & coalition building*)

## Recap: panel discussion

- Discussion: Are aid actors locked in to operating in a certain way? Does Food Systems pathway development provide an opportunity?
  - Silo's in donor environment, transition from subsistence to market dependence
- Positive perspective
  - Momentum present, investment into governance, niches created, increased land under production, returnees to Green Belt, dependence on aid decreases
- Critical perspective
  - Needs are rising & aid is cut, lack of understanding of HDP nexus, limitations with donors, markets have limits and negatively relate to conflict and climate challenge



# Cases & group work

Work together to learn when and how (local) food systems governance interventions drive transformation

## Participants split up into three groups

- For a case presentation (10 mins) and group discussion that dives deeper into the case (35 mins)
- The group discussion will focus on better understanding how cases drive transformation:
  - What 'regime' are they influencing and what impacts can be seen?
  - What transformative strategy are the cases implementing, and how does it relate to impacts on the 'regime'?
- After 45 mins we return to plenary, to report back and finalize the discussion
- All presentations will be recorded, shared and can be reviewed later