

# ONE VILLAGE TRANSFORMED IMPACT STUDY

## THEMATIC REPORT



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Edessa Research Consultants



World Concern



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## STUDY BACKGROUND



**World Concern** is a Christian non-profit focused on serving some of the most underdeveloped and underserved communities in Africa, Asia, and Haiti. Their One Village Transformed (OVT) program takes a holistic approach to identify communities' needs, both physical and spiritual, as well as the communities' strengths, resources, and values. World Concern works with the community over a period of six years to design and implement a shared vision for the community's development. In 2021, World Concern invested in an external evaluation of the OVT program to better understand the type of impact it was having in the communities where they worked.

The primary purpose of World Concern's Program Impact study is to understand the efficacy of the program, identifying the outcomes and the drivers of those outcomes for transformation in OVT communities. Secondly, the Impact study will enable World Concern to describe the impact of their partnership more effectively within communities. Lastly, the third objective of the study is to enable World Concern to adapt OVT's current program design to reflect the lessons learned from the external evaluation. To these ends, World Concern (WC) commissioned Edessa Research Consultants (ERC) to design and carry out an impact evaluation study of the OVT program in select communities in Uganda and South Sudan.



## WHAT IS QuIP?

ERC conducted a Qualitative Impact Protocol (QuIP) study in two communities where World Concern had been implementing OVT for over four years: Pagisi, Uganda and Aluelweng, South Sudan. In each study location, in accordance with QuIP protocol, our team interviewed 24 households and conducted 4 focus groups to understand what changes the community members had experienced over the past four years. The interviews asked open ended questions focused on different domains such as health and hygiene, wellbeing, agriculture, and saving and spending. These domains were selected based on the programming implemented by World Concern in the communities. Our interviews allowed respondents to freely share about changes they experienced, both positive and negative, and then we asked them to specify what they saw as the main cause of those changes. Using this data, we were able to identify the main drivers of change and connect it to OVT programming. The main insights and program recommendations from our study are provided below.



## OVERALL RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the interviews conducted in this study, there is evidence of tremendous changes in the lives of villagers in both Uganda and South Sudan over the last four years.

*Many of these changes can be attributed (directly and indirectly) to World Concern's programming. In both countries, a **CHANGE IN MINDSET** and a feeling of autonomy over one's own future is evident.*

*Changes are in line with World Concern's Transformational Development approach, which is designed to reflect their SHIRES framework for programming: **S**pirit-led, **H**olistic, **I**nclusive, **R**eproducing, **E**mpowering and **S**ustainable.*

Although the World Concern OVT programming is highly contextualized to community needs and context, there were three general program recommendations we identified from both Uganda and South Sudan:



### HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

While in both countries most households reported an increase in their household health, sources mentioned the need for increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) hardware such as improved water sources and/or pit latrines. World Concern could consider helping communities increase their access to improved water sources by providing boreholes, helping foster partnerships with other WASH non-profits, and/or training communities to build their own pit latrines.



### RELATIONSHIPS

Given the positive feedback regarding South Sudan's model of communal groups (both savings and agricultural), we recommend World Concern continue using a group approach to programming and capture promising practices from South Sudan for implementation across other OVT program sites.



### CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

We encountered many sources who shared about the impact of extreme weather. We recommend World Concern focuses more programming on contextualized disaster risk reduction, equipping communities to navigate extreme weather events.

# COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESULTS

## KEY FINDINGS FROM UGANDA

### Overall Results:

The majority of participants interviewed reported positive changes in their lives across all domains: health and hygiene, spending and saving, agriculture and food consumption, relationships, leadership, and wellbeing.



### WELLBEING

Participants reported experiencing the greatest changes in wellbeing:

- **82% of sources said they felt their overall wellbeing had improved** over the past four years, and
- **93% of sources said they felt their overall wellbeing would get better** in the next four years.
- Additionally, **14/28 (50%) of sources said that their spiritual behavior, praying, led to increased spiritual health.**



### HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

Most sources (**79%**), **reported the health of the household had improved** over the past four years. Many participants attributed the positive changes to construction of pit latrines, increased knowledge on health and hygiene and a more balanced/varied diet due to increased farm production.



### SPENDING & SAVING

The majority of sources (**71%**) reported they could buy more things now than they could four years ago, while 4% said there was no change, and 25% of sources said they were able to buy less things now compared to four years ago. Participants attributed positive changes in their financial health to **OVT savings groups.**



## AGRICULTURE

Most sources (75%) said the amount of food their household harvests to eat had increased over the past four years, while 7% said it had not changed, and 14% said it had decreased. Participants attributed positive changes to increased **knowledge from OVT in farming methods and practices**, specifically learning how to sow seeds in rows.



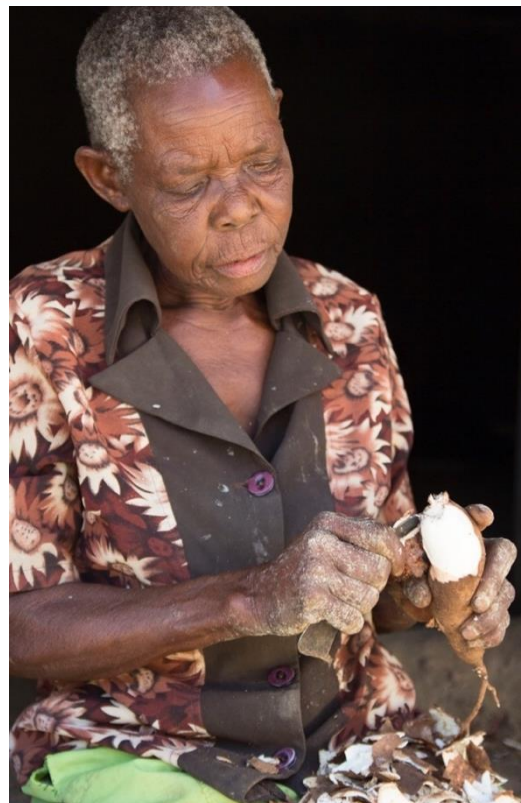
## RELATIONSHIPS

The majority of sources (75%) reported that the way the community worked together had improved over the last four years, while 18% reported it had become worse. Regarding gender relations, almost 80% reported they felt the role of women in the community had improved in the past four years with 11% indicating there was no change and another 11% indicating it had become worse. Participants attributed positive change to the **OVT Gender Champion program** and the **OVT savings groups**.



## LEADERSHIP

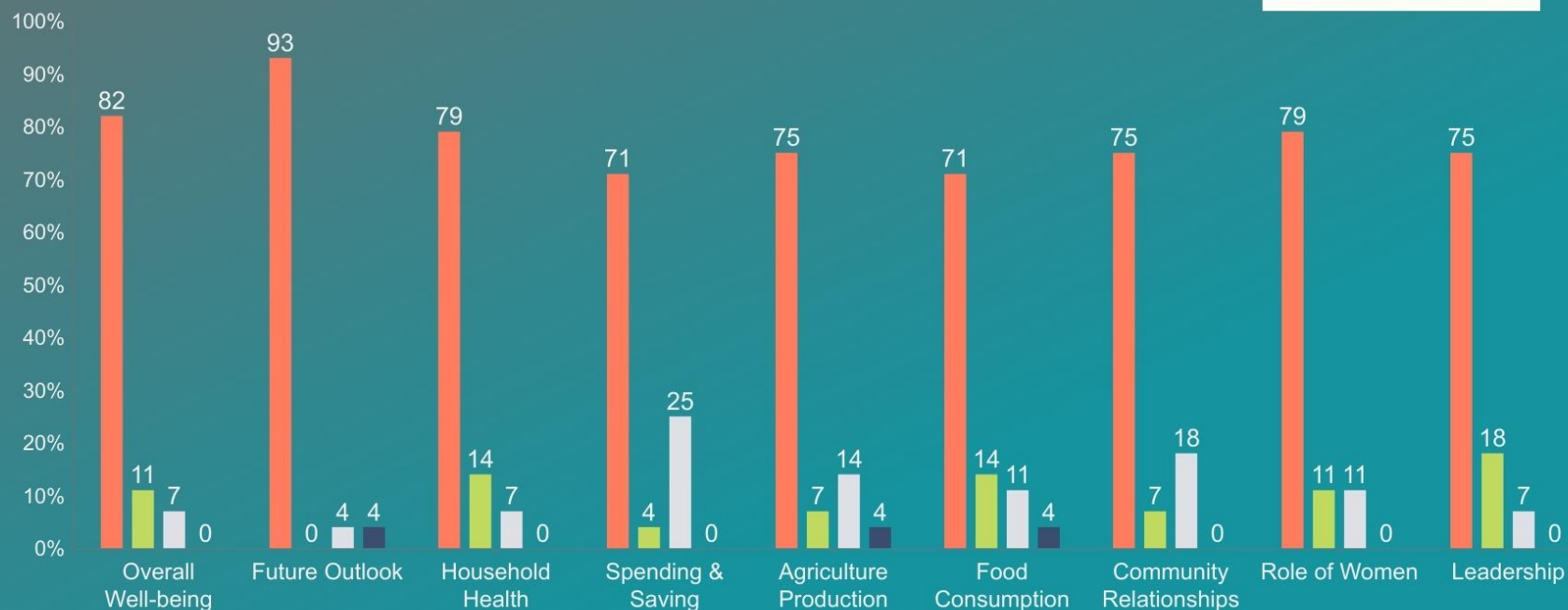
Most sources (75%) said the way leaders engaged the community had improved overall in the past four years while 18% said there was no change and 7% stated it was worse. Some participants stated positive changes such as leaders mobilizing the community by increasing communication, visiting households, and being more transparent with community members. However, numerous participants cited continued issues with leaders such as drunkenness, inability to trust savings group leaders, and an increased fear of leaders.





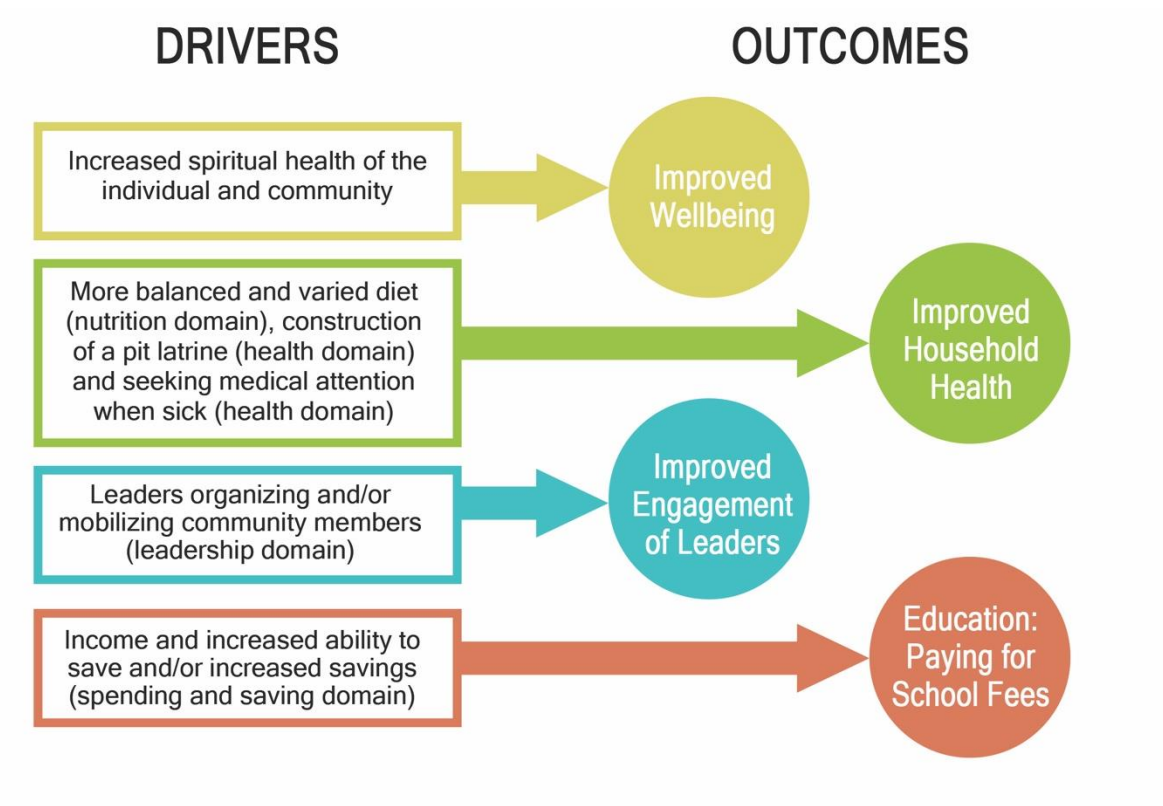
# UGANDA

## Overall Changes in Four Years



Note: Some domains add to 101% as response categories ending in 0.5% were rounded up.

## TOP OUTCOMES & DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED DRIVERS OF IMPACT



### TOP POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE DRIVERS OF CHANGE

The top three **positive drivers** of change in Uganda were:

1. Spiritual behavior; Praying
2. Farm Production
3. Tied: Food Consumption; More balanced/varied and Leaders organize/mobilize community members.

There were two **negative drivers** of change in Uganda that emerged from the interviews:

1. Decreased harvest led to decreased food consumption during the lean/hunger season; In terms of the amount of food households ate during the lean season, only 36% of sources said it had increased over the past four years, 21% reported no change, and 39% reported it had decreased.
2. Sources reported either too much sunshine or drought affected their crops.



## OVT Pathway to Change

The OVT links (combination of factors) explicitly stated by the 28 sources are displayed below in Figure 1. The figure illuminates the following insights:

- Agriculture (AG): OVT associated activities: training on farming method/practice (specifically sowing seeds in rows) ultimately led to increased income, increased food for home consumption, increased food security, more balanced and varied food consumption, increased physical health and ultimately, better health of the household.
- Household Health (HH): Sources linked training from OVT to an increase in health and hygiene knowledge.
- Relationships (RL): The OVT gender champion program and training on relationships and/or gender ultimately led to improved role of women in the community and change in gender relations which allowed for shared household and garden tasks.
- Spending and Saving (SS): OVT savings group sources linked the activity to increased financial knowledge which allowed them to plan and budget, increased ability to save and/or increased savings which led to increased control of money and increased amount the household can buy. Additionally, sources stated that membership of the OVT savings group allowed them the ability to pay school fees which ultimately prolonged school attendance for their children.
- Wellbeing (WB): Improved wellbeing was listed as a result of increased physical health which stemmed from a more balanced and varied diet.

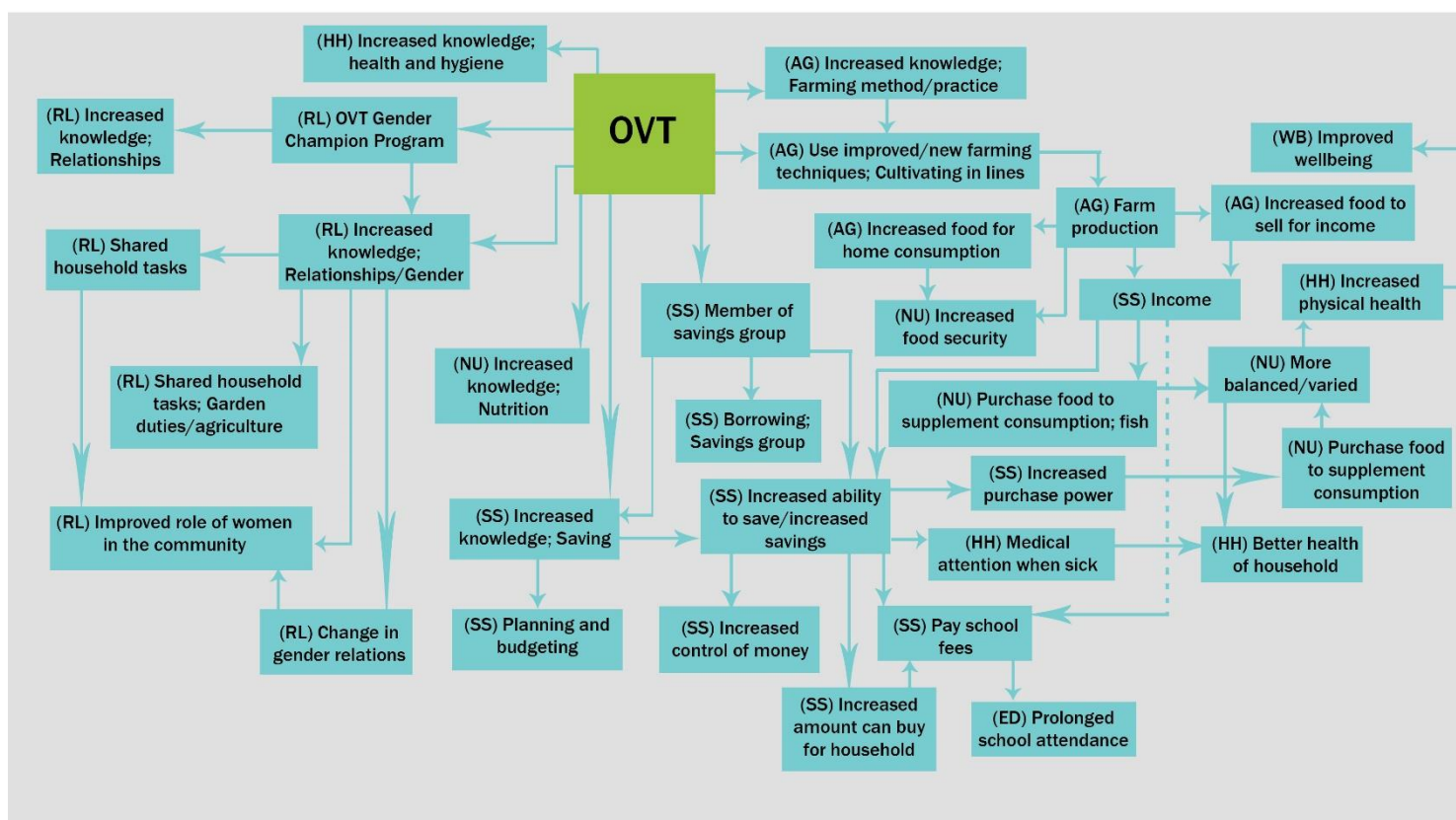


Figure 1. Uganda OVT pathways to change. The driver to change, OVT (green) led to corresponding outcomes (blue). Each link listed has a source count greater than two. (ED) = Education, (NU) = Nutrition/Food consumption, (HH) = Household Health.

# UGANDA RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data collected, we have the following program recommendations for World Concern in Uganda:

## HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

- Improve access to clean water during the dry season.

## SPENDING AND SAVING

- Review whether the vocational training is effective/ineffective or consider looking at monitoring data/add monitoring questions to better understand the changes experienced in income for vocational students and if they are attributed to their new skills.
- Depending on the results - Invest time to redesign certain elements of the program OR redistribute resources to domains that are more effective.

## AGRICULTURE

- Form (or increase the number of) farmer training schools amongst youths to ensure transfer of knowledge and continued farm production.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION

- Provide additional training on disaster risk reduction including crop diversification for extreme weather and income-generating training and activities outside of farming.
- Increase knowledge sharing about farming techniques to help more villagers increase their food production during lean times.

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Continuing to involve World Concern partner staff and local leaders at the onset of program implementation will increase community support and commitment to the desired outcomes.
- Provide additional training through all existing groups (farmers, savings, morning devotion, and gender champion) on more equal division of labor and/or discipleship.

## LEADERSHIP

- Increase involvement of leaders in program activities,
- Provide discipleship training to leaders as referenced from the relationship's domain, and
- Provide more opportunities to engage community members and leaders to improve transparency.

## WELLBEING

- Create female-centered programs through the church to continue to increase spiritual health of individuals and the community as female sources reported less connection to the church than males.


## COUNTRY SPECIFIC RESULTS

# KEY FINDINGS FROM SOUTH SUDAN



### Overall Results:

Most participants interviewed reported positive change in their lives across all domains: health and hygiene, education, spending and saving, agriculture and food consumption, relationships, leadership and wellbeing.



**WELLBEING**

The highest number of participants cited positive changes in the wellbeing domain:

- **100% of sources interviewed said they felt their overall wellbeing improved** over the past four years.
- **86%** said they felt their overall wellbeing would **continue to improve** over the next four years.




**EDUCATION**

The majority of sources (89%) said that education in their household had increased in the last four years, while 7% reported it had decreased. For many participants, the **village school in partnership with World Concern** meant increased educational access and safety for their children and hope for the future.



**HOUSEHOLD HEALTH**

**96%** said that their overall health increased in the last four years. Numerous participants attributed the increase in overall health due to increased access to medical attention when sick, improved health and hygiene practices and the **construction of the borehole/protected well through OVT**.



**SPENDING & SAVING**

The majority of sources (89%) reported that the number of things or services they can buy increased over the last four years but only 54% said that their control over money increased. Participants reported notable impact as a result of being a member of a savings group with 61% of sources explicitly **stating the World Concern Savings group** was the driver of this change.





## RELATIONSHIPS

All but one source (96%) reported that the way the community works together had improved over the past four years. Numerous

participants stated the community groups (communal agriculture and savings groups) allowed them a space to know their neighbors and work together for a common goal. Twelve (12) sources (43%) stated specifically that **communal labor (both facilitated by World Concern and organic)** improved the community environment and cohesiveness.



## AGRICULTURE

The majority of sources (82%) reported an increase in food harvested eaten at home over the last four years, while 86% stated an increase in food harvested to

sell for income over the same time period. The majority of sources (93%) stated that the amount of food their household ate had increased over the past four years. Almost all sources (96%) shared that the variety of food their household consumed had increased over the past four years.

**The use of the ox plough provided by World Concern** allowed for the participants to cultivate larger pieces of land thus resulting in positive/increased farm production. However, flooding negatively impacted farm production.



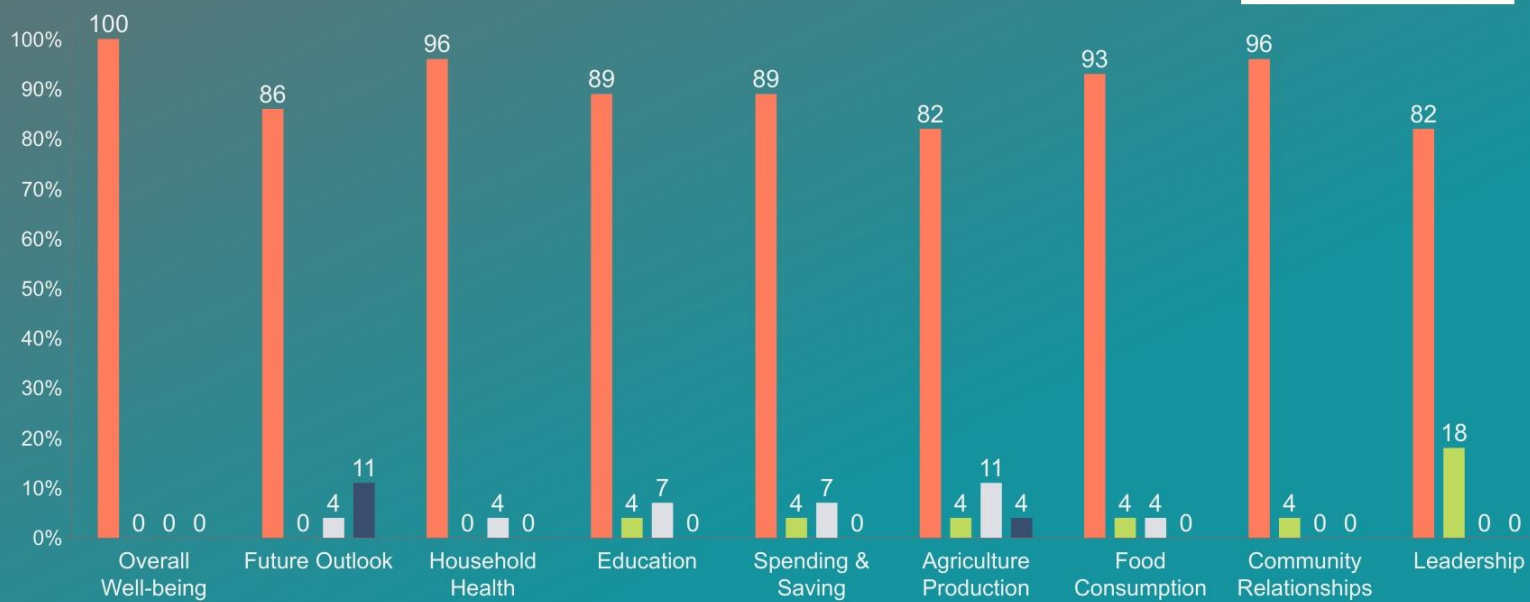
## LEADERSHIP

The majority of sources (82%) reported an improvement in the way leaders engage the community over the last four years and 18% said they saw

no change. The largest driver for improved leadership engagement stemmed from the leaders organizing meetings and mobilizing community members as stated by 43% of sources. Thirty-two percent (32%) of sources expressed improvement in the communication of leaders which positively improved leadership engagement with the community. Lastly, 28.5% of sources reported improvement in leaders taking on community opinions.

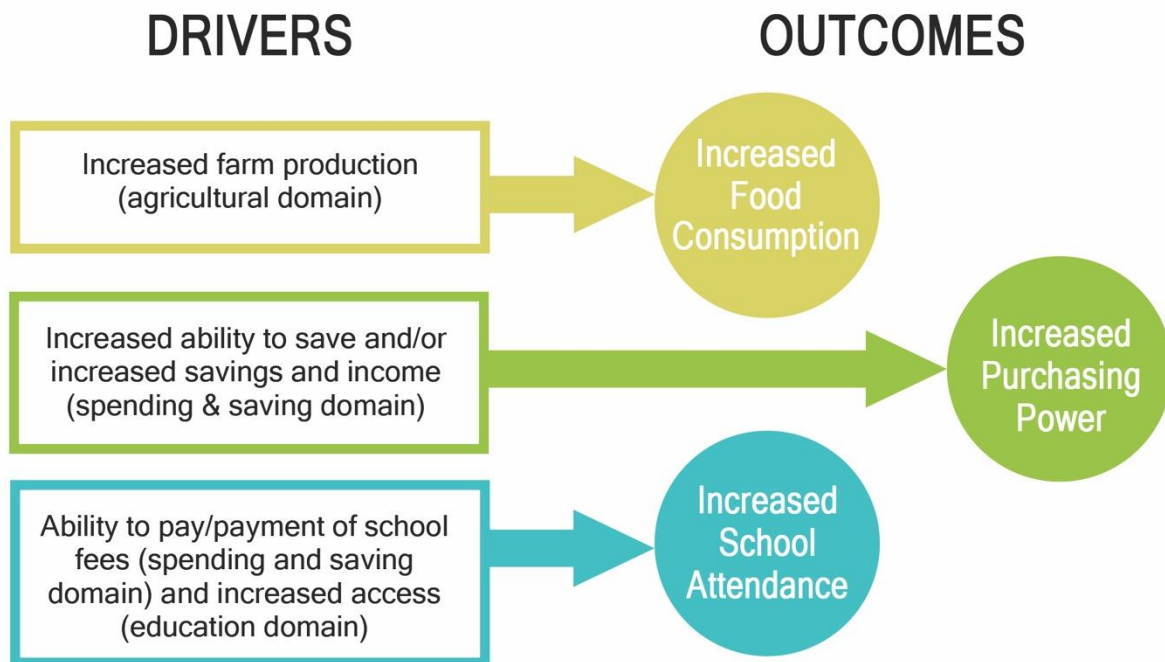
# SOUTH SUDAN

## Overall Changes in Four Years



Note: Some domains add to 101% as response categories ending in 0.5% were rounded up.

## TOP OUTCOMES & DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED DRIVERS OF IMPACT



### TOP POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE DRIVERS OF CHANGE

The top three **positive drivers** of change in South Sudan were:

- Using improved/new farming techniques such as the ox plough provided participants the ability to cultivate more land which led to an increase in farm production.
- Additionally, increasing the quantity of crops planted in their fields was linked to an increase in farm production. Farm production led directly to increased food to sell for income and increased food for home consumption.
- Lastly, participants explicitly stated being a member of a World Concern savings group led to an increased ability to save and/or increased their savings which drove increased purchasing power, and ultimately the ability to buy food.

There was one major **negative driver** of change in South Sudan that emerged from the interviews:

- Participants in the program overwhelmingly cited flooding as a negative driver of change which resulted in negative farm production and thus a corresponding decrease in food for home consumption. Repeated claims regarding the negative impact of flooding on farm production were present in majority of the interviews with 12 sources citing the direct link between flooding and farm production.



## OVT Pathway to Change

The OVT links (combination of factors) explicitly stated by the 28 sources are displayed below in Figures 2A and 2B. Overall change as a result of OVT programming can be found across all domains with some of the final outcomes including perception that the future will improve, increased income, better health of household, and improved overall wellbeing.

- Agriculture (AG): OVT associated activities: seeds, beehives, ox plough, fishing supplies, and farming method/practice training (inclusive of vegetable garden) ultimately led to increased income, increased food for home consumption, increased food security, more balanced and varied food consumption and improved overall wellbeing.
- Household Health (HH): Sources linked the construction of borehole by OVT directly to increased access to clean water and the final outcome of better health of the household. Another direct impact to health and hygiene, accessing medical attention when sick, was positively influenced by OVT savings groups displayed in Figure 2B.
- Wellbeing (WB): Trainings associated with World Concern led to resilient outlook and striving for better things which was ultimately associated with hopeful insight of the future improving.

### OVT Pathway to Change: South Sudan

Agriculture, Household Health, Wellbeing, & Relationship Focus

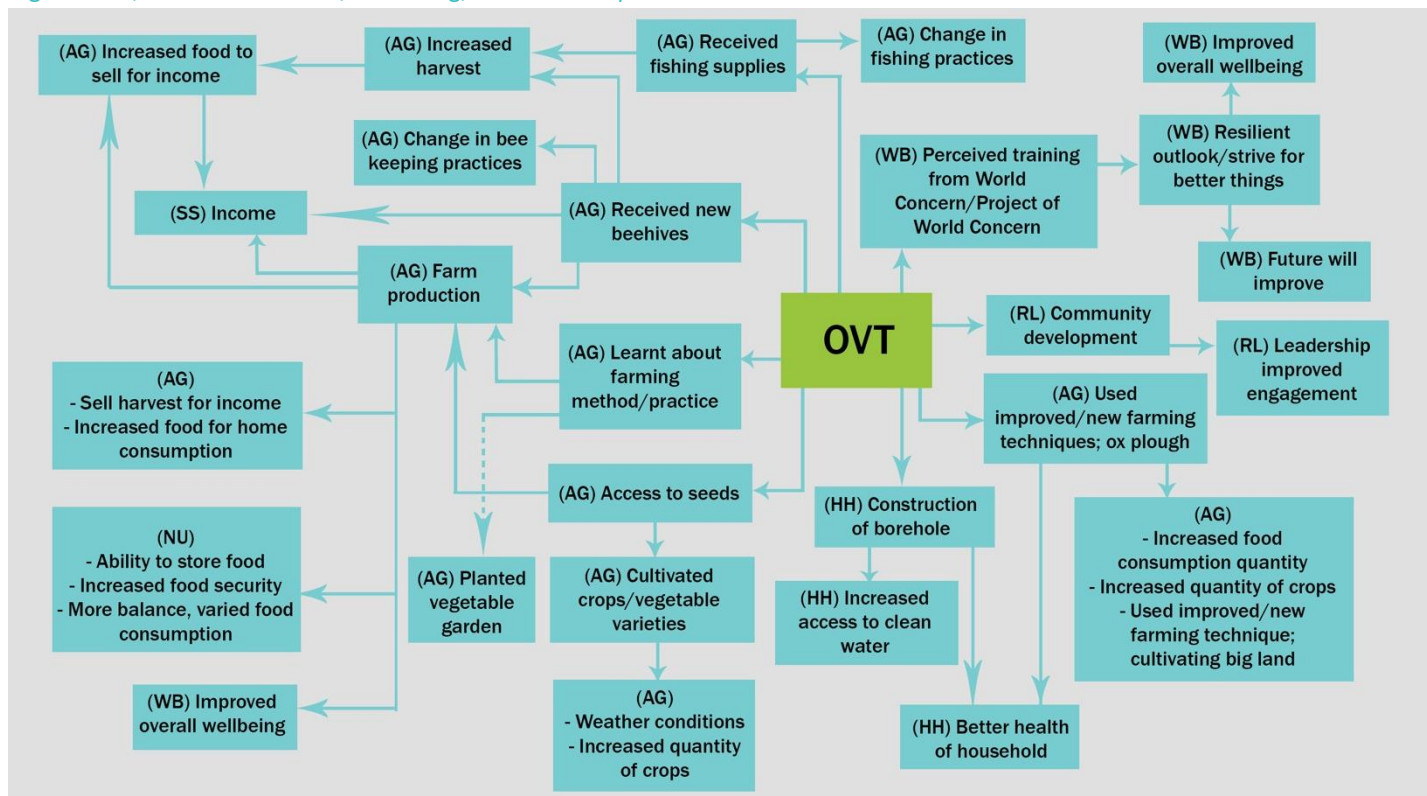


Figure 2A. South Sudan OVT pathways to change. The driver to change, OVT (green) led to corresponding outcomes (blue). Each link listed has a source count greater than two. (ED) = Education, (SS) = Spending and savings, (NU) = Nutrition/Food consumption, (RL) = Relationships.

## OVT Pathway to Change (continued)

- Spending and Saving (SS): Sources stated OVT affiliated activities: savings groups, savings boxes, and training related to saving, budgeting and or planning led to outcomes in spending and saving, household health and education. Outcomes as a result of OVT included: Medical attention when sick, Dividends in hunger season, better community relationships, Income generating activities through non-farming business, producing/selling alcohol, ability to buy food, ability to pay for school supplies, women and/or wife more involved/ control over spending and/or savings decision-making, and better education for the household.
- Education (ED): The village school, in partnership with World Concern, increased access to education for sources and ultimately led to better education for the household and changes in household education.
- Relationships (RL): Sources associated OVT as directly influencing an improved community working together, increased knowledge about working together. Additionally, financial trainings from OVT directly impacted women's/ or wife role in their household financial decision-making.

### OVT Pathway to Change: South Sudan

Spending and Savings, Education, & Relationship Focus

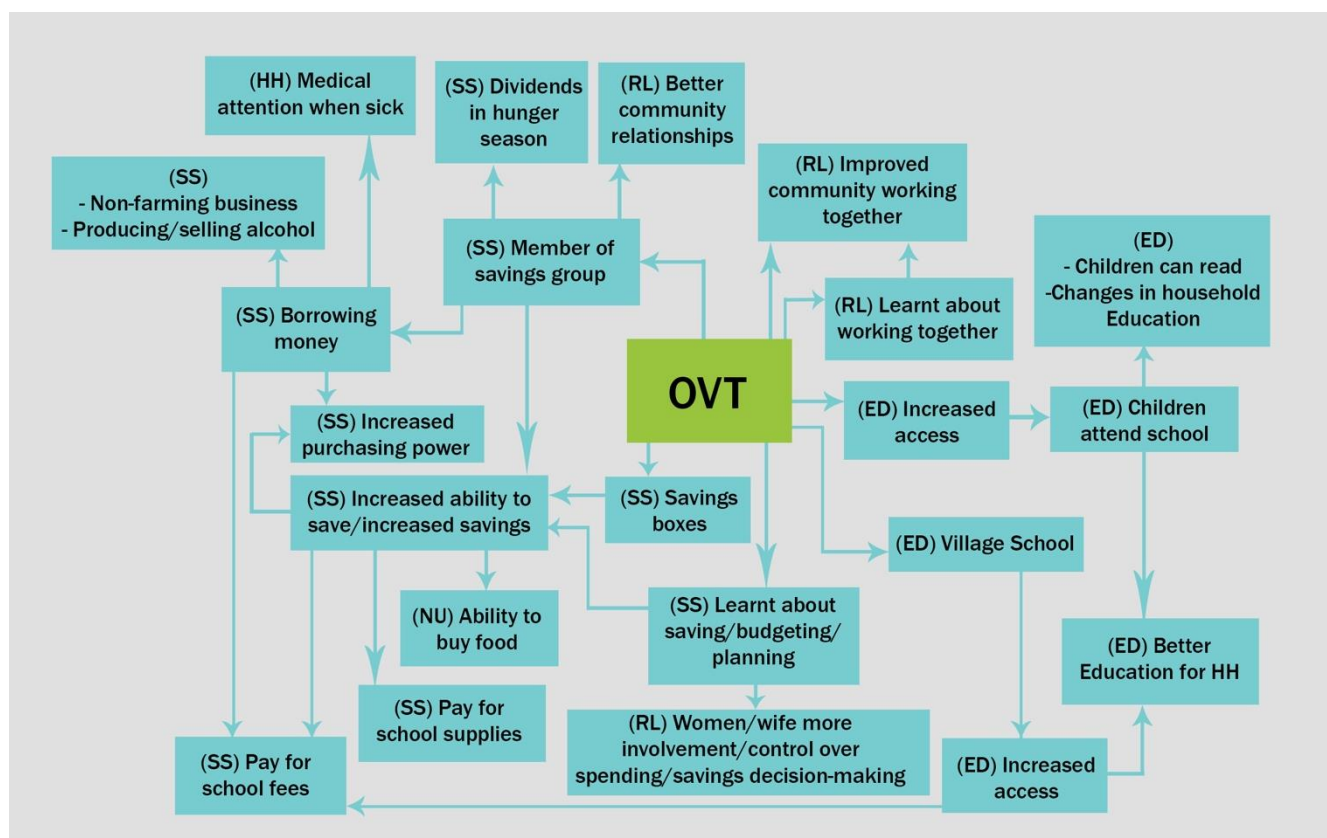


Figure 2B. South Sudan OVT pathways to change. The driver to change, OVT (green) led to corresponding outcomes (blue). Each link listed has a source count greater than two. (HH) = Household Health, (AG) = Agriculture, (NU) = Nutrition/Food consumption.

# SOUTH SUDAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data collected, we recommend World Concern consider the following program recommendations for South Sudan:

## HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

- Increase WASH training and programming in the community and throughout the school.
- Create additional access to clean water & pit latrine(s) with water (tippy tap) and soap for washing hands.
- Assist the community in advocating to obtain health services. This could be through helping them identify partners or reach out to government officials, and
- Provide family planning programming, due to the large household sizes seen in Aluelweng.

## EDUCATION

- Incorporate WASH education at the school and consider creating access to clean water and a pit latrine at the school.
- Restart adult education classes that had been shut down during the pandemic, and
- Facilitate other improvements at the school such as more space at the school, play equipment or a playground.

## FOOD CONSUMPTION

- Increase training and programming to reduce disaster risk which will reduce impact to farm production.

## AGRICULTURE

- Consider adding additional ox ploughs so the community can harvest more land more quickly.
- Provide additional income-generating training to beekeepers, and
- Provide seeds or a seed sharing program for those whose crops have been affected by flooding.

## WELLBEING

- World Concern could consider adding a discipleship program amongst male heads of households.

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Replicate South Sudan's model of communal groups to other OVT communities in South Sudan and in other countries.

## LEADERSHIP

- Continue to reinforce communal groups (agriculture & savings) and equip group leaders.

## SPENDING AND SAVINGS

- Provide programming to equip participants to save in a post-OVT community.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Add additional programming to train participants on flood preparedness ranging from raised homes/latrines, livestock care, fodder protection, household savings for flooding, and shelter risk reduction techniques. As mentioned in agriculture, additional seed distribution and offering to assist with participants moving their gardens to higher land could increase household's resiliency against climate change impacts.