



WESI

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE
(WESI)
FIELD FOLLOW-UP REPORT 30th JUNE 2021**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	2
INTRODUCTION	3
TESTIMONIALS	5
CONCLUSION	11

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- WESI- WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE
- WIB- WATER IS BASIC
- NGO- NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
- WE- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

INTRODUCTION

Women’s Empowerment Solutions Initiative (WESI) is a South Sudanese Non-Governmental Organization with a special interest in the empowerment of women to contribute to transforming the society positively and impacting a positive change. WESI provides programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of socially and economically disadvantaged women and prepares them for personal career and economic success.

WESI has partnered with Water is Basic, a non-profit NGO whose mission is to innovate sustainable local solutions to basic water problems in the region of South Sudan. To achieve its mission, WESI Organization is empowering women in the business of well repair so that the women will take the lead in the provision of clean drinking water to their communities in South Sudan and will also serve as income earners for their living.

WESI has taken up the initiative to train Women on how to repair broken wells so that there is constant availability of clean water to the members of the community in Warrap State, South Sudan. The organization has managed to successfully repair more than 90 wells across seven sub-counties (Payams): Bong, Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Kuajok, Mabior, Toch, and Mading. This Report is a field follow-up that tries to capture stories of the project’s impacts as perceived by the beneficiaries in June 2021. Here below are the beneficiaries testimonies:

TESTIMONIALS

Members of the community have heaped praises to the organization for making them have easy access to clean water. Some of the members who gave feedback were repair mechanics, beneficiary members of the community and the Water Management Committee members.



Aguet Mum Deng, who is a repair mechanic from Mabior Center, had the following to say, “I am really happy that we were trained on how to repair the broken wells, a job that was believed to be only done by men. Before the training, life was difficult for my family and me, but after the training, I now repair broken wells and get paid some money which has helped my family and me. The community received the program well because initially, people walked for hours just to get water, but now clean water is available for them to use. More than 98 households in my center benefit from this well, where we also have schools, churches, and the market that also benefit from the well. I want to thank the organization for bringing change and making life easy in our community.”



Monica Awien Chol, a pupil at Mabior Primary School, had the following to say, “we are very happy that we can easily get clean water near our school. Initially, we used to walk for three hours just to get water in Pariang Village. We wasted a lot of time searching for water instead of using that time to study. As you can see, our school is very near, and we are going back to class. Before WESI repaired this well, some pupils never came to school because they had to walk for many hours just to fetch water for their families and also for the animals, so they didn’t have any time to study. Right now, when this well is broken, it takes a very short time for it to be repaired since the mechanics are within the community.”



Aguerech Geng Majok, a member of the community, had this to say, “ I am delighted that I have seen you come here today. I just want to express my joy for making my life easy because I am disabled. When the well was broken, life was really difficult for my kids and me. I couldn’t go far to fetch water because of my status. I had reached a dead-end and I locked my kids and me in the house to die because we couldn’t get any water. The neighbors had to intervene after they noticed that my home had been locked for days. Ever since WESI trained members from our community on how to repair the wells, I will never lack water because the well will always be functioning, so I have easy access to the well. As you can see, my house is next to the well. Now I can shower daily unlike those days when we stayed for days without getting water to take a bath. I want to thank you again and may God bless you for the work you are doing to our community.”



Martha Aluet Baak, a community member from Bong Adoor Center, had the following to say, “WESI has really helped this community because we can now get clean and safe water. Initially, we used to get water from swamps, and during the dry season, we fetched water from hand-dug boreholes, which were very dirty, and many of us fell sick. This borehole serves churches, schools, neighboring markets, and very many households. We use this water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and for our animals. We selected members to form the Water Management Committee to look after the welfare of the well. We are happy that everything is going on well, and we thank the organization and the mechanics for making sure that we don’t lack clean water.”



Santino Mangong Bol, the chairperson of the Water Management Committee, had the following to say, “There was a need to have a management committee because we oversee operations of this well. We call for meetings to discuss matters that arise concerning the well. We collect fees from members every three months, and we use the money for maintenance and paying the repair mechanic. Initially, it took up to three months for the well to get repaired after it broke down, but now it only takes a few days because the mechanic is within the community. We make sure that the well is well fenced and we maintain the hygiene of the place. This well serves more than 95 households, churches, and schools around. We thank WESI for the good work they are doing.”





CONCLUSION

WESI has managed to repair more than 90 wells, and members of the community have access to clean and safe drinking water. We received positive feedback from the community. They expressed their joy and gratitude to the organization for impacting their lives by ensuring they never lack clean water.

**Narrative Report Compiled by
Mr. LESTER OTUYA
Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation
Officer-LIETNHOM**

**REVIEWED BY
REV. JAMES BAAK
COUNTRY DIRECTOR-JUBA**

