

- Strategic partnerships with the private sector will be key in promoting women and youth economic empowerment and unlocking potential in promising value chains.
- Access to finance and credit, capacity building and training in entrepreneurship and business skills development are key in realising economic empowerment of marginalised target groups.
- Village Savings and Loan Associations remain the only available source of credit and finance for vulnerable groups (including women) who want to start small businesses. Interest rate however remain high and there is need to link the groups with mainstream financial services.

#### ***Donor Dependency Mind-set***

- With a long history of humanitarian support in South Sudan, the *donor dependency syndrome* has now been entrenched in the target groups and communities, with a potential danger of undermining current and future market led development approaches.
- *Area-based programming and close coordination* amongst donors, coupled with smart targeting and differentiation of development ready groups from those still in need of humanitarian type of support, has been proven to be an effective way of promoting effective market led development approaches.

#### ***Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction***

- *Investments towards DRR have been minimal* so far and donor efforts have been fragmented.
- The *flood* situation in South Sudan is worsening and for the 4 consecutive years, since 2020, flood waters have stayed on from one season to another. Unless there is a clear land use policy directive, requiring communities in flood basins to permanently move to higher ground, there might not be an easier solution to the challenge.
- *Lack of proper environmental screening and environmental safeguarding* has led to poor response mechanisms and programming approaches in the past.
- *Close coordination with other donors funding Disaster Preparedness is needed* for a good early warning system whereby the national/state/county and community level have a complementary approach.