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RESEARCH INVENTION JOURNAL OF LAW, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES 3(1):67-74, 2024

©RIJLCL Publications ISSN 1597-8605

The Impact of Procurement Policy and Practices on Social Sustainability of the Government's Southern Sudan Ministry of Health in the Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services Juba

Taban Thomas Abe

Department of Procurement and Marketing Kampala International University, Uganda

ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of procurement policy and practices on social sustainability of the Government's Southern Sudan Ministry of Health in the Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services (Juba). Findings revealed that the health wing of the Government of Central Equatoria lacks the depth of health procurement competition, practical experience, technical skills, or sufficient capital to respond to the challenges of reconstructing the procurement institution. It is in this light that the study calls for the improvement of health sustainability of the society and people of Southern Sudan. The Ministry of Health, Government of Southern Sudan, and CES, in particular, should establish and use standard procurement, stocking, and logistics systems that are internationally recognized to enable the ministry to undertake international contracting, bidding, stocking, and transportation. More so, there is need to maintain, and further develop an affordable, useful, and functioning communications network, using modern information and technology systems. Standardization of equipment should be ensured so that spare parts are more easily obtainable and servicing simpler.

Keywords: Climate change, Impact**,** Pharmaceutical services**,** Procurement policy**,** Social sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Communities all over the world are facing the dramatic consequences of climate change, natural resource depletion, threats to biodiversity, and increasing poverty. The 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali underscored the current focus on a global climate change agreement[1]. Quality and the environment often have a close relationship because it typically extends a product's life and reduces resource consumption. An eco-efficient product typically consumes less energy and incurs lower waste costs, either due to its integration into a recovery or re-use system or its absence of hazardous substances, thereby avoiding classification as hazardous waste. When buying a product, we must consider more than just the cost of acquiring it. Price calculations must include all of the product's costs throughout its life [2]. Sustainable procurement plays a key role in contributing to sustainable development, and therefore, its definition is "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs[3]. Sustainable procurement means making sure that the products and services the organization buys are as sustainable as possible, with the lowest environmental and most positive social impact[4]. Sustainability procurement is all about taking social and environmental factors into consideration alongside financial factors in making purchasing decisions. It involves looking beyond the traditional economic parameters and making decisions based on the life cost, associated risks, measures of success, and implications for society and the environment. According to Ayarkwa et al.[5] "obstacles to public procurement should consider developing sustainable public procurement in practice the Continuing Revolution." Making these decisions necessitates strategically incorporating environmental factors into a broader procurement context that includes value for money, performance, corporate, and community priorities. Although the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Health's Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services (Juba) has implemented quality measures, focused on their operations, reengineered their processes, and provided the best service to the public in charge of drug provision and the enhancement and management of health hazards throughout the state, our work also incorporates a social dimension in our relationships with suppliers and the local communities in which we operate. As a result, they have not committed to understanding and managing the environmental and social

impacts of operations, including drug procurement and health service provision. Every function, including procurement, lacks sustainability, which is a critical element in achieving our goal of contributing sustainably to society. It is in this light that this study examines the impact of procurement policy and practices on social sustainability of the Government's Southern Sudan Ministry of Health in the Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services (Juba).

Examining sustainable procurement policy

Sustainability can be incorporated into The Government of Southern Sudan, Central Equatoria State; can use environmental criteria throughout the entire procurement process. This includes defining the award stage, ensuring it aligns with the needs, assessing the contract's design and subject, selecting suppliers, tendering for a value-for-money evaluation, and providing post-contract management[6]. However, it is for supplier development. Natural England is the public sector organization responsible for the conservation, enhancement, and management of the natural environment throughout England. Although the environment is our primary concern, there is also a social dimension to our work, as demonstrated by our relationships with suppliers and the local communities in which we operate. We are therefore committed to understanding and managing the environmental and social impacts of our operations, including the procurement of goods and services [7].

Natural England aims to make a sustainable contribution to society by embedding sustainability across every function, including procurement. The company recognizes that improving procurement performance is an ongoing process, and its suppliers are important partners in this journey. Their objectives include minimizing the environmental impact and delivering community benefits through better selection and improved usage of products and services[8]. The UK government has identified climate change as a key policy priority, and Natural England has been mandated to adopt several procurement policies to achieve this goal. In its purchasing decisions, Natural England gives preference to products that meet the specifications listed in the governmental QuickWins List 2007 and suppliers who can demonstrate the legality and sustainability of timber in a project[9]. The goal is to reduce Natural England's carbon emissions by 50% by 2010, compared to the levels in 2005/6. Sustainable development has many definitions, but at its heart is the integration of environmental, social, and economic issues, with recognition of the need for lasting and long-term change. There are many overlaps in the interactions between social and environmental, which the Community Development Foundation defines as the interface. There is much talk about 'environmental sustainability', coming mostly from organizations keen to put environmental work in that wider context. There is much less discussion of what social sustainability means, which usually refers to projects and programs that can be self-sustaining (i.e., do not require long-term external funding)[10].

The Sustainable Procurement Task Force has now created a definition for sustainable procurement, which was unavailable during the research but holds significance in this context. There is already a substantial amount of work pending on these issues. The publication of Securing the Future, the revised National Strategy on Sustainable Development (March 2005), with its focus on sustainable consumption and production, contributes to increased efforts on sustainable procurement and supporting momentum toward recognizing and incorporating wider social impacts into public sector procurement decisions[11]. Welter[12] sees social sustainability in this way: "Social sustainability means maintaining social capital." Investments and services comprise social capital, establishing the fundamental structure of society. It reduces the cost of collaboration and facilitates cooperation; trust lowers transaction costs. Only systematic community participation and a strong civil society, including the government, can achieve this. Community cohesion is essential for mutual benefit, fostering connections between groups of people, promoting reciprocity, tolerance, compassion, patience, forbearance, fellowship, love, and upholding commonly accepted standards of honesty, discipline, and ethics. Established mechanisms for catalyzing sustainable procurement include the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate (2002), an unfolding series of guidance notes, and a growing body of guidance from the Office of Government Commerce[13]. As more evidence becomes available about the positive opportunities this offers to meet the government's goal of ensuring a strong, healthy, and just society, the seemingly blurred boundaries surrounding social sustainability should become clearer. Initiatives such as the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative have also helped to highlight contributions to social sustainability in practice.

METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study was conducted through a case study by use of descriptive stratified random sampling design to identify the impact of procurement policy and practices on social sustainability in the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services –Juba.

Study Population and area

The target population of the study was 100 people in the sectors of Ministries, None governmental organizations, common people, managers and other self- employees of the communities in Yei and Juba people. In which the case study of Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical services.

Table 1: Sample Size

	Clients			Employees		Total
	Ministries	NGO	Individuals	Managers	Other employees	
Female	10	10	10	10	10	50
Male	10	10	10	10	10	50
Total	**20**	**20**	**20**	**20**	**20**	**100**

Source: Government of Southern Sudan (2011) Ministry of Health Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical services - Juba

Data collection procedures

After a manual tally, we used statistical tabulation to present the data collected in the field. Additionally, we employed direct interpretation, based on feedback from individual respondents. Other methods used include frequency and percentage, which determine respondents' profiles in terms of age and gender. Using the formula (f/n) * 100, The formula uses n as the total number of respondents and f as the frequency. Using the formula Xw = (Iwixi) / (Iwi), on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very weak and 5 being very strong, we employed a weighted mean to determine the extent of the hypothetical mean range. Quantitative research tends to stress the direct application of direct interpretations as opposed to the formal aggregation of categorical data, as is the case with quantitative research.

RESULTS

Table 2: Respondents' gender

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	67	76.13
Female	21	23.87
Total	**88**	**100**

Source: Primary data

Findings in table 2 above revealed that most of the respondents are male with over (69 %) whereas the others are female with (31%). This is likely an indicator that women are still struggling in their way to sustainable procurement compared to their counterpart the males. However, there was an equal involvement of both males and females and the researcher was able to get reliable information from the respondents without any favoritism.

Table 3: Age profile of the respondents

Age range	Frequency	Percentage
15-24	**12**	13.6
25-34	**41**	46.5
45 above		39.7
Total	**88**	**100**

Source: Primary data

In table above, findings revealed that the majority of the respondents were aged 25-34 with 41 respondents. Those with in the age of 15-24 were 12 and age 45 and above were 35 respectively.

The findings therefore indicate that the most concern and affected people in Central Equatoria State South Sudan on the impact of procurement policy and practices on social sustainability lays on the age of 25-34 as the middle age men and women.

Table 4: Showing highest education level of the respondents

Education qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary level	5	5.68
Diploma	22	25
Bachelor	45	48.9
Masters	16	18.19
Others P4-7, certificate and PHD	2	2.3
Total	**88**	**100**

Source: Primary data

This above table reveals that, over 5.6% secondary leavers 25 Percentages were diploma level 48.9% were bachelor respondents and 18.19 % was master's respondents and others makeup2.3% only. The indication here is that concern level of respondent's ware bachelor people who know the impact of sustainable procurement in Central Equatoria State South Sudan.

Table 5: Enrolled strategic procurement managers for sustainability

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	54	61.3
No	34	38.7
Total	**88**	**100**

Source: Primary Data

The results on this table show that over 61.3 percentages of the respondents support the necessary of competition. Some of the respondents strongly belief it is a competitive health way to continuous improvement of services shown above table.

Table 6: Respondents' response on means of considering suppliers

Suppliers	Frequency %		Interpretation
Offer Value for money	13	14.77	Moderate
Health and safety policy	5	5.69	Very weak
Can supply the relevant goods	21	23..9	Strong
Have experience with similar contracts	12	13.6	Moderate
Know about relevant products and understand markets survey	21	23.9	Strong
Have an environmental policy	6	6.9	Weak
Have an equal opportunities policy.	10	11.3	Moderate
Total	**88**	**100**	

Before awarding a contract you have to be satisfied that suppliers offer the following aspects of quality procurement functions have to be put in place, offer value for money, balancing quality and cost, have a health and safety policy and product liability, can supply the relevant goods or services or perform the necessary works·, have experience of similar contracts, have quality accreditations where relevant, know about relevant products and understand markets, have an environmental policy and/or consider environmental impacts and have an equal opportunities policy. Regeneration benefits through procurement for support drug authority based small to medium enterprises (SMEs) – those with less than 100employees – to compete equitably for the council's business, build community benefit clauses (also called social clauses) into procurement contracts with suppliers to encourage a diverse, competitive and innovative supply market and the effective use of the supply chain were realized as tabulated below:

Table 7: Respondents' responses on strengthening sustainability

Strengthening sustainability	Frequency %		Interpretation
Organizing training and information lesson for drug authorities	18	20-45	Moderate
Supporting drug dealers through the modernization of procurement for example the procurement	17	19-3	Moderate
Increasing awareness of forthcoming procurement opportunities by publishing them on your website and advertising opportunities to a wide range of suppliers	10	11,36	Weak
Producing guidance to make your procurement processes open and transparent	35	39,78	Strong
Publishing details of contract awards on your website to gives suppliers a chance to become sub-contractors	6	6,9	Very Weak
Providing feedback to unsuccessful bidders to enable them to address any weaknesses	2	2.29	Very weak
Total	88	100	

Source: Primary data

While carrying the research respondents reported the presence of monitoring systems for environmental performances in their various organization (s) as rated below.

Table 8: Decision making

Systems and processes for monitoring environmental performances	Frequency %		Interpretation
Proposed disposal of solid waste through registered contractors for careful processing methods	21	23.9	Not in Place
Monitor unit usage and cost drugs through proper recycling process	50	56.9	Strongly established
Specification of drug purchasing with strong environmental considerations to minimize consumption of unwanted, expired and ineffective effects of drugs	27	30.69	Attempt to establish
Total	**88**	**100**	

Table 9: Linking the issues and responsibilities of public bodies as the usage of energy efficient production is concern.

Respondents' views on energy efficient production	Frequency	Range
Technology	7	3
Solar power	2	4
Generator power	62	1
Government corporate power	**16**	**2**

Source: Primary data

The above linkages to issues and responsibilities of public bodies while carrying practical sustainable responsibilities indicates that over 62 (scale 1) agreed most developmental activities in Central Equatoria State use generators to run public bodies for as energy for efficient production. (Scale 2) for Government corporate power, (Scale3) for technology, (Scale 4) for solar power and lastly none of this above option was not responded to.

Table 10: Waste management strategies

Strategy	Frequency	Ranking
Recycling	0	**4**
Landfill	48	**1**
Composting	10	**3**
Burning	30	**2**
Total	**88**	

Source: Primary Data

DISCUSSION

The revised National Strategy on Sustainable Development (March 2005) focuses on sustainable consumption and production, emphasizing the importance of incorporating wider social impacts into public sector procurement decisions[14]. The Public Consultation for the revised national strategy underscored the need for the government to take a more proactive role in addressing the challenge, leading to the creation of the Sustainable Procurement Plate Form. The Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate (2002), guidance notes, and guidance from the Office of Government Commerce provide a solid foundation for understanding the impacts of procurement on society[15]. Extending the Framework for Sustainable Development in the Government Domain to cover some social implications is in line with efforts to ensure socially responsible behavior in government agency management, staff employment, and external relations with communities. Initiatives such as the Public Sector Food and Drug Procurement Initiative have also helped highlight contributions to social sustainability in practice[16]. The impact of procurement on social sustainability requires a clear understanding of what social sustainability actually means. There is currently no absolute definition of social sustainability, but it is suggested that managing economic, social, and environmental risks and opportunities holistically can increase both short-term and long-term profitability. The current UK sustainable development strategy states that the goal of sustainable development is to enable all people around the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life for future generations[17]. Social sustainability is defined as being part of the wider process of sustainable development, with a focus on five principles: building social capital, addressing exclusion and protecting the vulnerable, improving public health, bringing long-term benefit to all relevant stakeholders, and making towards a total transformation to a framework. Before developing any framework, it is crucial to make procurement work for social sustainability, taking into account the potential daily applications of such a framework. Policy infrastructure engagement is essential for implementing social sustainability guidelines. It requires clear policy guidelines agreed upon by those responsible for the organization in question, and active participation of both internal and external stakeholders. Mandatory regulatory impact assessments should consider social impacts linked to sustainable development[18]. Since April 2011, policymakers have been required to explicitly identify any significant environmental and social costs and benefits, as well as economic costs and benefits. The benefits of a policy measure include ensuring that healthcare is evidence-based and affordable, providing essential drug lists for each level of health facility, and providing guidelines and training for health workers on how to use drugs rationally[19]. In Southern Sudan, the Ministry of Health is exploring options to ensure the most efficient procurement and distribution systems for social sustainability. Donating drugs or other medical supplies to Southern Sudan requires prior consultation with the Ministry of Health, Government of Southern Sudan, and cannot accept donations of any medicine not on the essential drug list or having an expiration date less than 12 months.

CONCLUSION

The health wing of the Government of Central Equatoria lacks the depth of health procurement competition, practical experience, technical skills, or sufficient capital to respond to the challenges of reconstructing the procurement institution. It is in this light that the study calls for the improvement of health sustainability of the society and people of Southern Sudan. The Ministry of Health, Government of Southern Sudan, and CES, in particular, should establish and use standard procurement, stocking, and logistics systems that are internationally recognized to enable the ministry to undertake international contracting, bidding, stocking, and transportation.

More so, there is need to maintain, and further develop an affordable, useful, and functioning communications network, using modern information and technology systems. Standardization of equipment should be ensured so that spare parts are more easily obtainable and servicing simpler. Equipment should not be donated without prior consultation with the ministry at the GOSS level. The Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government bodies in states and CES should focus on three key roles: Employer, Neighbor, and Purchaser. These roles are also applicable to all major public bodies and are linked to an impact on their work on procurement. Therefore, it is worth noting that the Social Impacts above Framework for Sustainable Development on

Government domain calls for all government departments to have drawn up a strategy 'which will identify, assess, and monitor significant social impacts' by the end of 2011. This is likely to help highlight both existing practice and shortcomings in the understanding of social impacts as explained with below concerns.

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CITE AS: Taban Thomas Abe (2024). The Impact of Procurement Policy and Practices on Social Sustainability of the Government's Southern Sudan Ministry of Health in the Central Equatoria State Directory of Pharmaceutical Services Juba. RESEARCH INVENTION JOURNAL OF LAW, COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES 3(1):67-74.