

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES IN LAKES STATE, SOUTH SUDAN

Since the outbreak of civil war and the country's independence in 2011, South Sudan has faced a number of significant challenges, including widespread poverty, skewed distribution of income and the inadequate delivery of social services. These have slowed the progress of food security initiatives and the recovery and rehabilitation of the country's agriculture sector. Livestock plays an important role in the livelihoods of agropastoralist groups. The subsector's full potential is not realized, however, in large part as a result of the conflict being played out in the country and the resulting instability. Other highly problematic elements include disease outbreaks, limited infrastructure and poorly organized and informed herders, who lack the means to generate added value to dairy production. Within three counties of Lakes State, the project therefore aimed to support the increase in productivity and to improve resilience to disasters among agropastoral communities, in an effort to contribute to the country's improved food and nutrition security in the long term.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project sought to increase community resilience to disasters through community planning and action and by improving the livelihoods of agropastoralist communities in Lakes State through the Pastoral Field School approach. The aim of the approach was to create a space for farmers to test, validate and adapt technologies to their own context, thus stimulating the wider uptake of improved farm practices. Widespread training was organized for the beneficiaries identified. Government staff and community extension workers were trained in improved agricultural practices and production for improved service delivery, while beneficiaries were provided with farming tools and vegetable seed. This led to an increase in the production of vegetables within target communities and markets in the target counties. Fishing kits for improved fishing practices and management were also provided.

IMPACT

With many members of the community seeing livestock as their main or only source of income and/or wealth, the capacity-building and training carried out under the project has led to a significant positive change in behaviour at community level. The trainings conducted under the project also brought greater knowledge and skills to government extension workers and animal health service providers. This knowledge will be used to continue providing extension support within the target counties long after the end of the project. Furthermore, facilitators and community animal health workers from the communities in which field schools were established were also identified and trained, with skills in milk production and preservation imparted to beneficiaries. These skills, which will continue to serve communities in future, formed a significant part of the project's sustainability strategy, with communities understanding better the linkages and benefits between these activities, nutrition and income generation. The majority of field schools comprised of women, who, as a result of the project, were able to create a source of income for themselves for the first time, liberating them from dependence upon others. The empowerment of women had direct benefits in the household, as most of the money was spent on food and school fees.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 2 621 232

Duration

May 2013 – September 2017

Resource Partners

Government of Spain

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction

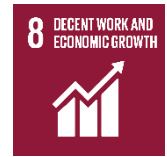
Beneficiaries

Agropastoral communities, including households involved or potentially involved in farming/fishing activities in Lakes State, in particular women

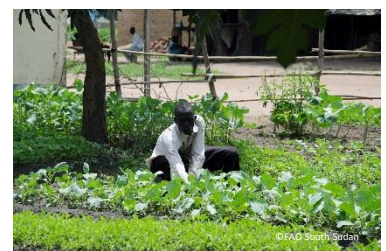


ACTIVITIES

- 46 agropastoral field school groups established in 20 communities across Lakes State. By the end of the project, the proportion of women in the groups had reached 69 percent.
- Ten capacity-building trainings on improved crop processing and storage and three HIV/gender mainstreaming workshops conducted.
- 44 agriculture extension workers trained on Agropastoral Field School Extension methodologies, approaches and practices. Topics included Agro-ecological System Analysis, Pastoral Systems Analysis, Integrated Production and Pest Management, soil and water conservation, post-harvest handling, improved animal and crop husbandry practices.
- 30 livestock treatment kits provided to 30 new and 50 existing community animal health workers and three training courses conducted.
- 21 village community banks established in target communities.
- Two vaccination campaigns conducted for the vaccination of 63 300 heads of livestock and treatment of 19 652.
- Milk bar constructed in Rumbek town for quality milk handling and processing and three collection points established in Rumbek North, Rumbek East and Cueibet.
- 20 fishing communities supported, with members trained as assistant facilitators. Three trainings conducted for fishing communities to improve their fishing practices.
- Two study tours conducted by project implementers to Narok, Kadjiado Kenya and Karamoja, Uganda.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

FAO: GCP/SSD/002/SPA

Donor: 2120/2011

Project Title

Lakes State Agropastoral Community Resilience Programme

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