Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SOUTH SUDAN

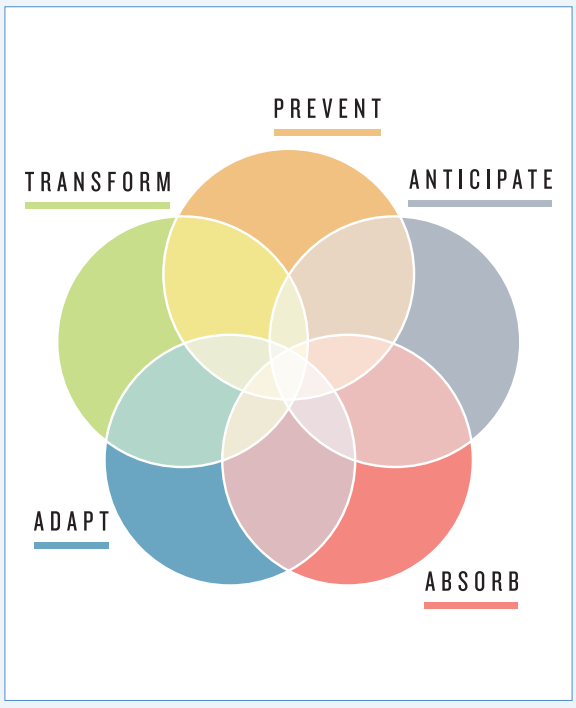
FAO PROGRAMME REVIEW (2024)

PURPOSE:

This document reflects an analysis of ongoing FAO South Sudan resilience building interventions and how they contribute towards the five capacities for resilience building, namely:

- **PREVENTIVE:** reduce existing and future risks.
- **ANTICIPATIVE:** act early.
- **ABSORPTIVE:** the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).
- **ADAPTIVE:** incremental adjustments.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE:** make fundamental changes to the system.

The five capacity areas are in most cases overlapping during specific project implementation, with the classification based on the overarching resilience capacity area.



This review comes at a time when FAO seeks to review its Resilience work in Sub Saharan Africa in order systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building within FAO programmes for scaling up. This is intended to facilitate and harness the opportunities in emergency and resilience programming, and integration of emergency, resilience, and development work into the priorities of Member States. *The initiative is in view of the increasing number of the food and nutrition insecure people in Africa, with the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) rising from 19.4 percent in 2021 to 19.7 percent in 2022, and the number of people facing hunger increasing by 11 million people since 2021 and by more than 57 million people since the outbreak of the pandemic. A much larger proportion of the population in Africa faces hunger compared to the other regions of the world – nearly 20 percent compared with 8.5 percent in Asia, 6.5 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.0 percent in Oceania.*[1] According to the region's most recent economic update, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa was projected to dip to 2.5 percent in 2023, down from 3.6 percent in 2022. Rising conflict and violence across the region exerts a dampening effect on economic activity, with climate shocks poised to exacerbate this fragility. About 462 million people in the region are still living in extreme poverty in 2023 even as growth remains uneven across the continent. While East Africa was set to record a growth rate of 1.8 percent in 2023, West Africa was expected to grow at a rate of 3.3 percent during the same year. Harnessing the potential of natural resources provides an opportunity to improve the fiscal and debt sustainability of African countries. It is envisaged that if Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) can harness its natural resource wealth (oil, gas, and minerals), it can sustainably transform economically and create more job opportunities, while transitioning into a low-carbon economy[2].

1 https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf

2 https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/overview and https://live.worldbank.org/en/event/2023/state-africa-region-natural-resources-sustainable-future

It is against this background that FAO's Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is collaborating with Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe Country Offices to undertake a learning and knowledge sharing initiative. The overall objective is to systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building for scaling up.

As one of the steps towards achieving the objective, this report is drawn out of the review of operationally active projects within the Field Programme Information Management System (FPMIS) for the period 2020 to December 2024 in South Sudan that are contributing towards resilience building.

COUNTRY CONTEXT:

In South Sudan, years of conflict, instability and large-scale displacement have disrupted agricultural production, one of the country's most important economic sectors. Climatic shocks, such as floods, dry spells, and droughts, in addition to persistent annual cereal shortages, have caused further economic and agricultural deterioration. With over 80 percent of the population dependent on agriculture (crop farming, pastoralism, and fishing) for food and income, urgent humanitarian support continues to be advocated for to avert catastrophe. Combining these efforts with resilience-building is essential to enhance the capacities of communities to live a life of dignity without relying on aid.

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Between July 2023 and June 2024, an estimated 1.65 million children aged between 6-59 months are expected to suffer acute malnutrition including 480 000 children expected to suffer Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 1.17 million expected to suffer Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in South Sudan. About 870 000 pregnant or breastfeeding women are expected to suffer acute malnutrition in this period. An estimated 72 percent of the acute malnutrition burden is concentrated in the five states of Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity and Warrap. As for the severity of the situation, between July and September 2023, 46 counties were classified in Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 4 (Critical), 15 counties in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious), 10 counties in IPC AMN Phase 2 (Alert) and 9 in IPC AMN Phase 1 (Acceptable). During the post-harvest period of October 2023 to March 2024, the AMN situation is expected to remain the same. Deterioration in 66 counties is expected during the lean season period of April to June 2024[3].

FAO is implementing the South Sudan 2023 - 2025 Country Programme Framework (CPF), as a corporate contribution to government priorities and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). FAO's corporate strategic priorities play catalytic roles in supporting South Sudan to make agriculture (crop and livestock), forestry and fisheries more competitive, productive, and sustainable, reduce rural poverty, enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, and increase the resilience of agricultural livelihoods to threats and crises. These strategic priorities are further consolidated by the four FAO Regional Priority Areas of Work for Africa, namely, Sustainable agri-food production systems; Efficient and equitable food and nutrition systems; Climate action and sustainable natural resource management; and Building resilience, ending poverty. The same are fully aligned to the corporate strategic framework, with the organization's principle of the four betters: Better Production; Better Nutrition; Better Environment; and Better Lives, which demonstrates how FAO intends to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and reflects the interconnected economic, social, and environmental elements.

3 https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156668/?iso3=SSD

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FAO RESILIENCE BUILDING PROGRAMME IN SOUTH SUDAN

To save lives, safeguard livelihoods and lay the foundations for resilience building in South Sudan, FAO is implementing one of the largest programmes in Africa. The organization defines resilience as the ability of individuals, households, and communities to *PREVENT, ANTICIPATE, ABSORB, ADAPT and TRANSFORM positively, efficiently, and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks and crises while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and well-being for all.*[4]

The ongoing programme in South Sudan focuses on **enhancing evidence-based policies and institutions**, covering components such as food security, nutrition, land, aquaculture, livestock breeding, and seed policies. Through the programme, FAO supports increased production and productivity through the formation of farmer organizations for improved efficiency; provision/improvement of infrastructure such as feeder roads, markets, abattoirs, laboratories; improving farmer knowledge and skills; investment in early warning systems for evidence-based decision making and anticipatory actions; and strengthening of communication systems e.g., use of radio programming, among others.

In **agribusiness**, FAO has supported the local production of over 2 000MT of seed, formed and strengthened cooperatives in various value chains, and built slaughter slabs and meat markets. These efforts intend to boost market access and income for local communities. To **improve agri-food system resilience**, FAO assists about 400 000 households annually to produce a 5.3-month equivalent of cereals. The livestock sector is supported through animal treatment and vaccination campaigns, including efforts to commercialize the sector and reduce livestock-related conflicts.

4 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 (Page 189)

FAO's technical and financial support to the IPC process is important for humanitarian programming costed at around USD 1.6 billion by the South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan[5]. Crisis management through the Emergency Livelihood Response Plan (ELRP) is also a key focus area and speaks to FAO's principle of leaving no one behind as it endeavors to build resilience and meet the SDGs[6]. Efforts for better agri-food systems involve resource mobilization, **direct implementation with governments, capacity building, and support for Farmer Organizations**. Furthermore, FAO's collaboration with the Government of South Sudan, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, has enabled the country to participate in United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summits, and carry out food systems assessment within the framework of national and global food systems dialogues, all in pursuit of food security and resilience building through food systems transformation.

A food system approach ensures efficiency, inclusiveness, resilience, and sustainability. The program also embraces the **Hand-in-Hand Initiative**[7], supporting government investments in fish, sesame, and sorghum value chains. Modernization and digital transformation include an electronic e-registry for e-trading, seed assessment, e-extension system, weather advisories through radio programs, crop production monitoring, and access to financial services. **Cross-cutting** areas include improving opportunities for women and youths, fostering partnerships, mainstreaming gender, and nutrition, implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, promoting peacebuilding efforts, and applying FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management[8] to ensure that people and the environment are protected from any potential adverse impacts of FAO programmes and projects.

In South Sudan, FAO's initiatives have been instrumental strengthening the various resilience dimensions, including preventive, anticipatory, absorptive, adaptive, and transformational capacities. By focusing on different aspects of resilience, FAO seeks to empower local communities, improve food security, and foster sustainable development in the face of complex challenges. The following section explores FAO's contributions to enhancing resilience capacities in South Sudan, shedding light on the organization's multifaceted approach and its impact on vulnerable populations.

5 https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2024-issued-november-2023

6 https://www.fao.org/3/cc6050en/cc6050en.pdf

7 https://www.fao.org/hand-in-hand/en

8 https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf

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PREVENTIVE CAPACITY:

reduce existing and future risks.

In agriculture, preventive capacity involves implementing measures to mitigate potential risks. Examples include farmers using crop rotation to prevent soil degradation and pest buildup, thus reducing the risk of crop failure, and sustainable land management practices like contour plowing and cover cropping to prevent soil erosion and degradation and safeguard agricultural productivity.

In South Sudan, through financial support from the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and in close coordination with the government and partners, FAO led efforts to contain the spread of Desert Locusts (DL) following the worst locust crisis in the Horn of Africa from 2020 to 2021[9]. The crisis threatened the food security and livelihoods of around 10 million people in the region, including small-scale farmers. Without FAO's intervention, it was estimated that potential damage and losses to crops, livestock and related assets in the region could have reached USD 8.5 – 9.0 billion, potentially destabilizing the region's economy. Some of the initiatives that led to the success of this effort to safeguard food security and livelihoods of pastoral and rural populations included: *(1) Strengthening desert locust monitoring, surveillance, early warning, and forecasting capacities; (2) Improving countries' preparedness, early response, prevention, and risk reduction capacities; and (3) Supporting the implementation of Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Standards.*

With resources from the World Bank through the Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF), and in close coordination with the government of South Sudan, FAO continued to undertake **surveillance and control measures that effectively limits the growth and spread of the Desert Locusts** (DLs) upsurge while also addressing the risks associated with control measures and their potential effects on human health and the environment. The same resources are being invested in **food production** and **building the natural base for crops and livestock** by helping to farm and livestock-keeping households to increase production and restore the biodiversity of the desert locust affected areas by investing in land use systems that integrate crops, trees, and livestock to restore biodiversity that was lost because of the DLs. The investment is also supporting the strengthening of the **National Preparedness System** by focusing on DL control methods using biocontrol agents and botanicals, improving management policies and regulatory environments.

To complement ongoing emergency response interventions in South Sudan, the German Cooperation provides resources in support of FAO's livelihood programme to mitigate the impacts of drought to food security. While the intervention has had elements of responding to the impact of the exceptionally severe crisis of flooding experienced in South Sudan, the focus continues to be on preventing the situation from escalating into a major crisis in the form of an increase in the number of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. This initiative seeks to enhance the food production capacity of food-insecure and vulnerable households by providing them with crops and vegetable seeds, and fishing kits. Additionally, FAO will conduct emergency livestock interventions, including vaccination campaigns against priority animal diseases, treatment and deworming campaigns, and small ruminant restocking.

To enhance the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems in South Sudan, FAO through resources from Switzerland is providing support to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in their efforts towards, enhancing early warning systems, developing community-level action plans, and facilitating meteorological forecasts. The interventions include strengthening the geospatial capacity of the South Sudan's Meteorological Department and the MHADM Early Warning System. All the afore-mentioned contribute to safeguarding the livelihoods of vulnerable households that are most exposed to climate crises, in particular flooding and climate-induced conflicts, to sustain food production leading to a decent life.

9 https://www.fao.org/locusts/en/

ANTICIPATIVE CAPACITY:

act early.

Agricultural anticipative capacity means early detection and response to impending threats allowing for timely mitigation actions. Some examples include putting in place early warning systems, i.e. utilizing weather forecasting and climate prediction tools to anticipate potential risks like extreme weather events and enabling farmers to take timely actions such as regularly monitoring for signs of pest infestations and proactively implementing pest control measures to prevent widespread damage to crops.

FAO South Sudan puts an emphasis on data and analysis, aspects that are crucial in early warning systems for food crises contexts. With resources from the European Union (EU), USAID and Norway, FAO in South Sudan has integrated regular monitoring of indicators (e.g., market data, rainfall data, crop data, livestock data etc.), continuously undertaking assessments, and performing risk analysis to bridge the information gap and inform evidence-based decision making. The overall objective remains contributing towards strengthening the resilience of agricultural livelihoods in the face of multiple shocks through monitoring and analysis of these threats to livelihoods, food systems, and ultimately food security. This initiative also seeks to improve hazard impact assessment and risk analysis to inform anticipatory action, and with it mitigate the grave impact of the crises, and/or reduce the cost invested in response actions. The programme has also partnered with FAO's Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER) initiative - Data in Emergencies (DIEM) – to conduct assessments to understand the impact of shocks in food crisis contexts and inform decision-making in support of agricultural livelihoods. So far, under the DIEM-Monitoring pillar, three rounds of data collection have been conducted, and under the DIEM-Impact pillar, one study on the impact of conflict on food security and livelihoods in South Sudan has been conducted.

With resources from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), FAO is implementing early action livelihood interventions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of floods in Unity and Upper Nile states of South Sudan. The intervention contributes further towards reducing the deterioration of livelihoods by increasing food production and strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable households who are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) or worse acute food security. In partnership with the South Sudan Development Agency (SSUDA), specific activities include provision of crop kits (sorghum and cowpea seeds, storage bags, and hand tools), vegetable kits (kudra, okra, tomato, and onion seeds) and fishing kits (hooks, monofilament, and twine) to populations in Bentiu of Rubkona County in Unity State, and Malakal County of Upper Nile State for increased production. In addition, to curb the potential spread of animal diseases (including zoonotic diseases) FAO continues to support Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHW), local authority technicians, downstream partners, and local stakeholders, including cattle keepers to provide immediate life-saving treatment and vaccination to at-risk animals.

The Government of the Netherlands contributed resources towards a four-year programme with a focus on building food systems resilience in protracted crises. The specific actions include supporting and strengthening food security analysis to inform conflict-sensitive programming towards sustaining localized peace. FAO is also supporting the government to establish animal feed data and information, and reporting and communication systems as a basis for strengthening evidence-based strategic programming. Building institutional knowledge and research capacity around food systems resilience is an integral part of providing support towards agenda-setting and policy decision-making processes.

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ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY:

the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).

This refers to the ability of the agriculture sector to absorb shocks and recover quickly. Some examples of initiatives within this capacity include establishing seed banks to quickly provide farmers with seeds after disasters, thus helping them recover and resume agricultural activities promptly. Another example is maintaining emergency feed stocks for livestock to address immediate feed shortages during droughts or other crises as well as having efficient emergency response mechanisms in place, such as stockpiling feed during times of abundance to alleviate shortages during crises.

With internal resources, FAO is providing support to voluntary returnees of South Sudanese refugees from neighboring countries to Torit, Magwi, and Yei, after the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in September 2018. The intervention contributes towards restoring food production for returnees, newly displaced populations and host communities affected by the crisis in Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile States of South Sudan as well as building their resilience. This is being achieved through improving access to livelihood inputs for vulnerable households and enhancing their technical capacity in crop production and postharvest management.

With funding from USAID/BHA, FAO is supporting the protection of the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities by providing them with agricultural inputs to enhance food production and strengthen their resilience. Through a two-pronged approach, the absorptive capacity of communities is being enhanced through boosting their capacity for food production, particularly for the severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and above), and safeguarding livestock and fishery assets for pastoral and agropastoral households. Furthermore, FAO is enhancing the agricultural skills and knowledge of households and farmer groups, investing in the protection of livestock assets for vulnerable agro-pastoralists, and building local preparedness and response capacities. These multifaceted efforts aim to improve food security and community well-being.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is contributing towards the provision of seeds, agricultural hand tools and fishing kits to food-insecure households by pre-positioning inputs from existing stocks. Synergies are also established with partners through the targeting of beneficiaries benefiting from other entitlements e.g., conducting joint distributions with agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) who will provide food and FAO provides the same beneficiaries with livelihood support.

Resources from Belgium are being invested in ensuring the standard inputs distributing interventions are strongly compounded by capacity-building and scaling up of extension activities. FAO continues to provide livelihood inputs according to seasonality, supporting crops, vegetables, and fish production during the main season, and vegetable production in the dry season.

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ADAPTIVE CAPACITY:

incremental adjustments.

Agricultural adaptive capacity involves making gradual adjustments in response to changing conditions. Some examples include supporting farmers to adopt new irrigation techniques or crop varieties that are better suited to evolving climate patterns. Another example is investing in flexible irrigation systems that can adapt to varying water availability, ensuring efficient water use in response to climate fluctuations.

To strengthen the resilience and adaptive capabilities of agriculture-dependent communities in the face of climate change, FAO is implementing various interventions, including support for climate change adaptation and mitigation, livelihood diversification, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), as well as early warning and early action measures. Specific interventions include, *the promotion of sustainable and climate-resilient food production; enhancing access to input factors such as seed, fertilizer, healthy soils, and animal feeds; enhancing fish production and post-harvest loss reduction; strengthening expertise and capacity of government through knowledge banks; strengthening participation by small scale-producers in the food value chain; increasing knowledge about varied and nutritionally appropriate food production; increasing food production through the promotion of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices; and ensuring better coherence between humanitarian action and long-term assistance.*

With resources from Switzerland, FAO in South Sudan is working with partners to enhance community ability to adjust to climate change by promoting the adoption of environmentally sustainable farming practices. Interventions that aim to resolve conflicts related to natural resources, improve the capacity of local institutions, and enhance the ability of the national government to reduce disaster risks and adapt to climate change in the agriculture sector are prioritized.

To strengthen the institutions in the livestock sector so that they are able to provide services and adapt to livestock-related shocks and stresses, FAO is investing internal resources in providing technical support to the government and communities through capacity building for disease surveillance, control of livestock diseases through treatment and vaccination campaigns, and livestock trade. Additional interventions include enhancing laboratory diagnostic capacity to support the identification and control of livestock diseases to safeguard the livestock assets of agro-pastoral and pastoral households and facilitating of livestock trade.

FAO is integrating nutrition into agriculture and food systems interventions, with a focus on improving the quality of children's and women's diets to prevent malnutrition in South Sudan. This will boost the sustainability in agricultural production and productivity. For sustainability, efforts continue to be made to strengthen the capacity of national, state, community, and primary producers in the governance and management of natural resources that promote healthy diets.

In support of vulnerable households, especially those headed by women in Wau and Torit, FAO through financial resources from Sweden is investing in ensuring access to diversified agriculture production and post-harvest handling inputs and technologies; improving access to information, skills and inputs for nutrition and climate-sensitive agricultural production; promoting women's economic empowerment through nutrition-sensitive value chains and income-generation enterprises as well as strengthening the capacity of communities to manage natural resources related conflicts at the community level.

To improve the food security, income, and resilience of beneficiary communities, FAO is using resources from the European Union to implement livelihood interventions and enhance market access to nurture economic interdependence and cohesiveness of communities for peaceful co-existence. The efforts contribute towards evidence-based policy making, early warning, institutional capacity strengthening, and strategic investments for food systems resilience.

With financial support from the Kingdom of Norway, FAO's efforts towards building resilient livelihoods to threats and crises in South Sudan contribute to bolstering local communities' capacity to withstand climate change impacts through a comprehensive approach that combines emergency and resilience actions. By focusing on vulnerable agricultural households experiencing high levels of food insecurity, particularly those in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, FAO continues to support the communities to preserve or restart their food production. Focus is on livelihood diversification, disaster risk management, early warning systems, and the promotion of climate change mitigation practices.

With resources from the United Kingdom, FAO is supporting the communities to build resilience through asset creation and enhancement. While addressing immediate hunger gaps, emphasis is placed on enhancing long-term food security, building capacity to adapt to climate variability, and fostering community relationships through participatory planning, project management committees, and land tenure agreements.

Initiatives to enhance living conditions of agropastoral communities focus on empowering women and youth, while concurrently addressing food and nutrition security, resilience, and peace. Specific objectives include increasing agropastoral production and productivity, boosting incomes from agropastoral value chains, and enhancing adaptive capacities to manage climate change risks. Some of the expected results include, strengthening the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems, supporting agribusiness development for women and youth, and fortifying the adaptive capacity of agro-pastoral communities.

By employing a coordinated, conflict-sensitive, and environmentally sustainable approach, FAO is supporting communities in Bor and Terekeka, South Sudan to enhance their food security and nutrition through effective fishery resource management, optimized value chains, and improved access to quality fish products. The focus is on empowering fisher households and communities to manage aquatic resources, implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, and enhancing the legal framework for the fishery sector. Specific initiatives include improving fishery production, market access, and reducing post-harvest losses through capacity-building initiatives. The coordinated development interventions seek to promote sustainable fishery resource use, contributing to peacebuilding and livelihood security for fisher folks in South Sudan. Through strengthened capacities and improved resources, the project envisions increased resilience and improved livelihoods for fishers.

TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY:

make fundamental changes to the system.

This capacity entails making fundamental changes to the agricultural system in response to long-term challenges. Example interventions include transitioning from conventional to sustainable farming practices to address environmental concerns and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. Another example includes adopting and promoting certification programs that encourage farmers to transform their practices towards more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

With financial support from the World Bank (WB), FAO is assisting the government of South Sudan to conduct a comprehensive review and value assessment of the fisheries sector. This involves detailed social assessments, sector performance evaluations, a review of integrated wetland livelihood models, and an analysis of the potential and opportunities within the fisheries sector. This diagnostic work will enhance the knowledge base for South Sudan's fisheries sector and form a basis for informing policies, legal frameworks, and operational strategies. A comprehensive overview of the fisheries sector will lead to a better understanding of current challenges and opportunities and identify concrete steps to enhance the sector's performance in anticipation of an investment project.

Through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), FAO and partners are contributing towards fostering local solutions to housing, land, and property (HLP) disputes by cultivating consensus through peaceful dialogue. By creating a platform for dialogue, engagement, participation, and representation of power holders in relevant forums, FAO takes a crucial first step in promoting peacebuilding among conflicting parties. This initiative becomes particularly vital as the country witnesses a surge in HLP disputes due to the return and resettlement of IDPs and refugees. FAO's efforts play a pivotal role in averting the escalation of conflicts and contributing to lasting peace-driven resilience. Communities are being equipped to cope with, withstand and recover from the challenges of conflict and climate-related shocks by ensuring climate-smart and gender-sensitive approaches are integrated through the process of enhancing local capacities, particularly with women and youth groups to effectively manage conflict and natural resources.

In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), FAO is actively contributing to resilience building in the Abyei area. The joint initiative focuses on enhancing social cohesion among Dinka and Misseriya communities by strengthening local institutions for peacebuilding, conflict management, and human rights protection. Additionally, efforts are directed towards improving economic resilience through enhanced agricultural and livestock productivity, creation of off-farm economic opportunities to increase incomes and promoting livelihood diversification for sustainable community development.

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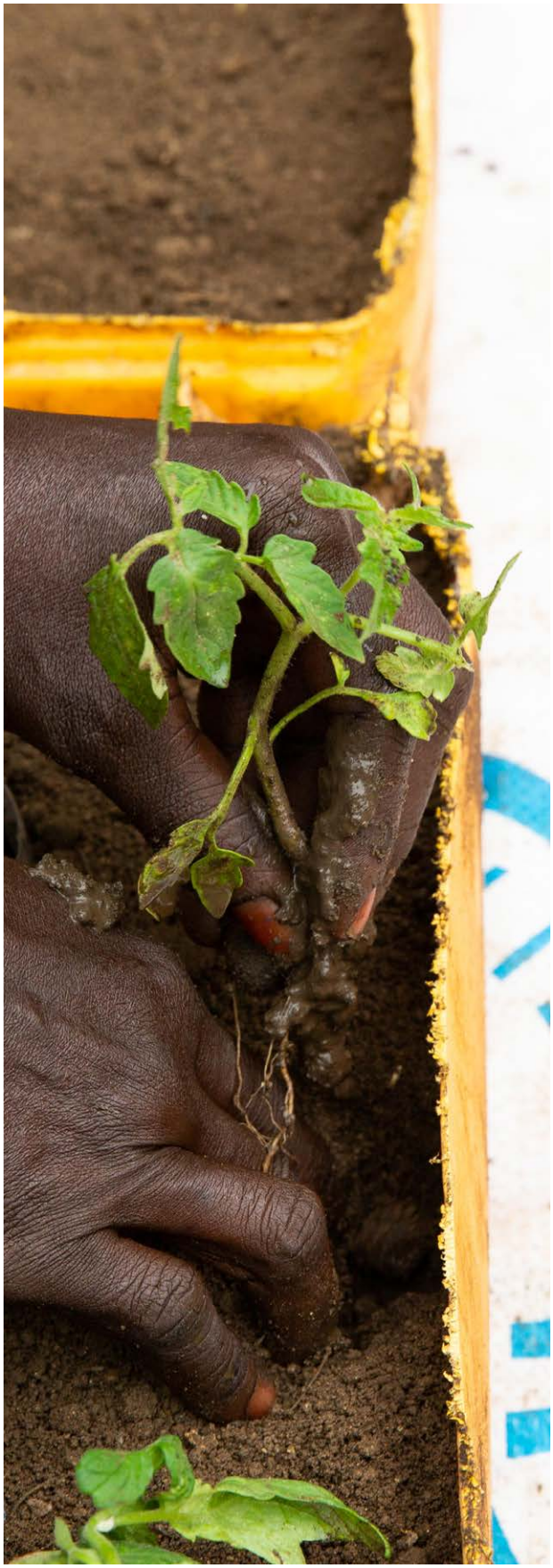
With resources from the WB, FAO is contributing towards empowering individual farmers with knowledge, skills, and resources while simultaneously implementing sustainable solutions at both field and institutional levels. Through strategic investment in climate-resilient agricultural growth, communities are being empowered with skills and strategies to be more resilient, by enhancing their production capacity in a financially sustainable manner while reducing dependence on aid. The initiatives go beyond conflict resolution by addressing resource accessibility issues. By fostering social cohesion and contributing to peace at the community level, FAO's interventions connect agricultural development with broader societal well-being.

In collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), FAO is actively shaping a narrative of resilience and growth within local communities through the South Sudan Emergency Food Production Programme (SSEFP). The initiative seeks to intensify local agriculture production through the provision of good quality drought-tolerant seeds, improving access to markets and advocating for good agricultural practices. A second pillar is the development of the seed and fertilizer sector, including institutional capacity building to ensure there are policies in place to regulate investment in local seed production. These include support to local research institutions, capacity enhancement of extension service providers and farmer organizations.

Through the Hand-in-Hand (HiH) Initiative Platform, FAO is focusing on enhancing agricultural production aligned with the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP 2015-2040). This initiative not only aims to mitigate post-harvest losses (40-50 percent) caused by poor storage, skills gaps, road conditions, and conflict, but also contributes to economic growth, livelihood improvement, and the realization of South Sudan Vision 2040 by fostering increased agricultural productivity for enhanced food security. The efforts to increase agricultural production, productivity, and resilience include scaling up the production of early germinating seeds to bolster agricultural productivity; expanding and integrating digital platforms for early warning data systems, analytics, and institutional capacity strengthening; and ensuring enhanced project implementation and capacity building.



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RESOURCE PARTNERS:

African Development Bank / African Development Fund

European Union

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Norway

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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