



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme

Building food system resilience in protracted crises

Briefing note – South Sudan



beneficiaries

53 100 households



budget

USD 6.4 million



period

**October 2020–
September 2023**



focus areas

**Akobo, Aweil, Bor, Renk,
Torit, Wau and Yambio**

The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), funded by the Government of the Netherlands, is a four-year plan addressing the cause-effect relationship between conflict and food insecurity in Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.

FNS-REPRO is the first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. The programme employs a livelihood and resilience-based approach in some of the least stable regions, where interventions are normally exclusively of a humanitarian nature. Its design will allow FAO and partners to set good examples of how to build food system resilience in protracted crises and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus towards this end.

The case of South Sudan

South Sudan faces unprecedented humanitarian needs, with more than 6 million people facing acute food insecurity, and about 2 million internally displaced or in situation of armed conflicts. This is exacerbated by recurrent intra and intertribal conflicts resulting into loss of lives and productive assets. Displacement from agricultural and grazing land is rampant in many locations due to these conflicts.

Despite this, communities in South Sudan are still able to produce, trade and grow seeds, building on existing capacities and resources. Strengthening capacities of the agricultural seed value chain is a promising path to supporting agricultural development and promoting economic growth and sustainability.

Seed value chain

The seed sector has been selected as the entry point value chain of FNS-REPRO in South Sudan. Opportunities to develop value chains in the seed sector exist. First and foremost with the objective to close the cereal production gap, while eventually providing more diversified products for local, national and export markets.

For many generations, farmers faced shortages of quality seeds and planting materials that hampered their capacity to produce enough food for their family consumption and market sale.



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What will FNS-REPRO do in South Sudan?

The programme's overall outcome will be resilient livelihoods and food systems and contributing to sustainable localized peace.

This will be achieved through:

- improved inclusive access to and management of natural resources;
- greater livelihood and income opportunities along selected value chains;
- enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity of communities in nutrition-sensitive livelihood support;
- established and implemented learning mechanisms that reinforce field activities and facilitate improved policy and practice on food system resilience.

In South Sudan, FNS-REPRO will increase the resilience of communities and their food security status by:

- addressing the constraints to accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of seeds of adapted varieties through an integrated seed system approach;
- improving seed quality assurance to build on farmer trust and stimulate demand for quality seed;
- strengthening formal and informal outlets and local markets for agricultural inputs through support to farmers' organizations and small entrepreneurs to effectively bridge the last mile delivery of improved agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers;
- developing institutional and organizational capacity to support the establishment of an integrated, sustainable, resilient and robust seed system;
- providing opportunities for conservation of crop-biodiversity in order to enhance the resilience of the seed and crop system.

At regional level, since there are numerous cross-border and regional dimensions to food system resilience, such as pastoralism, conflict and migration patterns, and sustainable natural resource management, FNS-REPRO has been designed with a dedicated regional (learning) component. Regional activities will also strengthen animal feed data and information as well as reporting and communication systems and tools. The ultimate goal is to address the links between food security, conflict, natural resource management and increasing climate variability.

Partnerships

The programme will be implemented through a strong partnership between FAO, Wageningen University & Research, and international and national non-governmental organizations. The Government of the Netherlands as well as the Government of South Sudan will be closely involved.



FAO technical team monitoring sorghum seed production in Renk, South Sudan.

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