

# Food Security and Livelihood Improvement Project

## BACKGROUND

After the signing of the CPA, some of the internally displaced people and refugees have returned to Shilluk Kingdom, Upper Nile State, South Sudan. The returnees and even some members of the local communities lost almost everything. The war-related destruction, theft and loss of most of the communities' possessions such as herds, food stocks, agricultural tools and seed stocks led to very poor harvests. The trauma, displacement and destruction also weakened the already fragile livelihoods of the Shilluk people. Consequently, the Shilluk faced serious food shortages.

The returnees mainly relied on food aid by relief agencies within the first few months of repatriation with the expectation that they would be reintegrated into their communities and eventually fend for themselves. However, they faced mammoth challenges as they lacked the capacity and resources to sustain livelihoods. There was a need to support the returnees, IDPs, and the weary host communities with inputs and skills to enhance their agricultural production capacity.

Before the conflict and since the CPA was signed, the Shilluk communities had access to external market centres such as Malakal, Tonga, Kosti, Nuba Mountains and Abu Gibeiha. The commodities traded by the Shilluk include dried fish, livestock, vegetables, clay pots, charcoal, firewood, mats, building poles and grass. Internally, livestock is also sold or bartered for grain. The Shilluk have the skills and culture for both agricultural production and income generating activities.

For communities living farther inland from the river, water availability for both livestock and domestic use was normally a problem particularly during the dry spell, making the areas unattractive to the local communities and more so to returnees for fear of trekking long distances to fetch water from the river. This resulted to high concentration of people and livestock at few permanent water sources which limited the utilisation of the areas for food production as well as reduced availability of quality forage and pasture /browse inadequate grazing areas for livestock. There was a need to address the issue of water availability not just for livestock and domestic use but also as a way of reducing women's workloads thereby improving their well-being.



## DONOR INFORMATION

Funded by EC.



## GOAL OF THE PROJECT

The project was implemented to enhance food security and living conditions of the vulnerable population among returnees, women headed HHs, families with many children, families hosting IDPs/returnees, and poor HHs in Makal County of the Shilluk Kingdom, Upper Nile State (UNS). Food security and enhancement of living conditions was facilitated through the Farmers Field School Approach; provision of inputs and capacity building of beneficiaries and local community based organizations.





## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- ◆ 1,534 households supported with assorted vegetable seeds and assorted fruit tree seedlings. More than 85% of the beneficiaries experienced increased food security, access to disposable income; and secured livelihood assets including cattle, small ruminants, fishing canoe, and shelter. The households also used income to pay children's school fees and met health needs.
- ◆ 390 households supported with extensions services.
- ◆ 3 Farmers Field Schools established.
- ◆ 300 Households supported with Water Pump Machines to enhance small-scale irrigation.
- ◆ 100 households supported with improved poultry breed to increase local poultry production and meat and egg quality.
- ◆ 353 milk producers and vendors trained in Milk Hygiene and training.
- ◆ 63 Milk vendors received small grants and milk equipment.
- ◆ 100 women trained as Community Poultry Health Workers and supported with kits and drugs to provide poultry health services to community members.
- ◆ 20 community master trainers trained and providing technical and business skills to community members.
- ◆ Training of 53 master trainers and partners organizations in vegetable and fruits growing.
- ◆ 43 partners and beneficiaries trained in small business management.
- ◆ 45 youth trained in entrepreneurship and using skills to increase income access.
- ◆ 10 CBOs and 2 local NGOs trained in Project Cycle management, financial management, project proposal.
- ◆ 5 Village Community Banking Committees (VICOBA) established.



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