

# Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Project Summary

South Sudan- 2023



## Context.

Despite the vast wealth of natural resources that South Sudan possesses, numerous communities within the country are currently grappling with an unprecedented level of humanitarian need. This crisis is primarily a result of natural disasters and localized conflicts that have ravaged these communities. As a consequence, the demand for humanitarian aid has skyrocketed, with a significant portion of the population relying heavily on such assistance to survive.

One specific area where this dire situation is being addressed by DRC is Unity State through the Food Assistance for Assets project. This initiative has been made possible through the generous funding provided by the World Food Program.

The primary objective of this project is to alleviate the dependence of individuals on general food distributions. Instead of solely providing food aid, DRC is adopting a more sustainable approach by supporting vulnerable and food insecure communities in the form of either cash or in-kind which helps to bridge short-term hunger gaps. However, the focus of this initiative goes beyond immediate relief.

DRC recognizes the importance of building resilience among households in Unity State. To achieve this, they have incorporated asset creating activities into the program. By engaging communities in infrastructure development, Farmer Field Business Schools, and climate resilient strategies, DRC aims to equip households with the tools necessary to withstand future shocks and stresses.

In essence, DRC's Food Assistance for Assets project in Unity State is not only addressing the immediate needs of the population but also working towards a more sustainable and resilient future. By providing food aid and facilitating asset creation, this initiative aims to empower communities to break free from the cycle of dependence on humanitarian assistance in future.



**Chinampa Gardens: A Haven of Resilience in Bentiu's Changing Climate.**

## Project Activities.

- Collective vegetable gardening
- Farmer Field Schools
- Clean energy initiative
- Floating gardens
- Market strengthening

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Duration | January 2021 to December 2023 |
| Donor    | World Food Program (WFP)      |
| Budget   | USD 1,100,000                 |

## Targets.

DRC will support 2,000 households, encompassing approximately 12,000 individuals who find themselves in vulnerable situations and lacking access to sufficient food. The initiative strives to provide these households with essential sustenance for a duration of six months, guaranteeing that their fundamental nutritional requirements are adequately fulfilled amidst these trying circumstances. By extending a helping hand, DRC aims to alleviate the hardships faced by these households who are vulnerable and food insecure during this challenging period.



**Where agriculture meets entrepreneurship – DRC Farmer Fields Business Schools in Bentiu enhances the capacity of displaced individuals cultivate success from seed to market.**

## Approach.

Our approach entails empowering members of the community to create two valuable resources annually, such as flood dykes, shallow wells, and irrigation channels. Over the years, these resources have proven to play a pivotal role in the restoration of productive agricultural lands, the construction of vital community infrastructure, and the adaptation to the challenges presented by climate change.

Throughout all stages of the project, DRC maintains a close collaboration with both the community and authorities, aiming to prevent any adverse impacts or potential conflicts within the communities. Furthermore, DRC endeavors to cultivate and sustain positive relationships with stakeholders.



By enabling a sustainable future through the advancement of clean energy technologies we can delve deeper into the various aspects and implications of adopting clean energy solutions for a greener tomorrow.

### Achievements.

- DRC has trained a group of 38 women and 2 men, giving them the skills to use energy effectively. As a result, these individuals are now producing fuel briquettes from water hyacinths, which helps promote sustainability and reduces the need for cutting down trees for charcoal and firewood. By embracing this eco-friendly initiative, DRC empowers these individuals to contribute to a greener future and address deforestation.
- DRC has successfully trained a total of 1,040 individuals, with 762 women and 278 men in various areas such as nutrition, health, advocacy and leadership. This initiative not only addresses the gender imbalance in training opportunities but also ensures active involvement of both men and women in driving positive change and development.
- DRC has trained 1,072 women and 396 men in Bentiu, providing them with essential knowledge and skills in agriculture, livelihoods, post-harvest management and market connections. It serves as a steppingstone towards sustainable growth and economic independence for the displaced individuals.
- DRC has successfully established a network of 10 collective vegetable farms in Bentiu, covering an impressive area of approximately 201,500 square meters. Each farm is composed of 25 dedicated members who collaborate to grow a variety of nutritious crops.

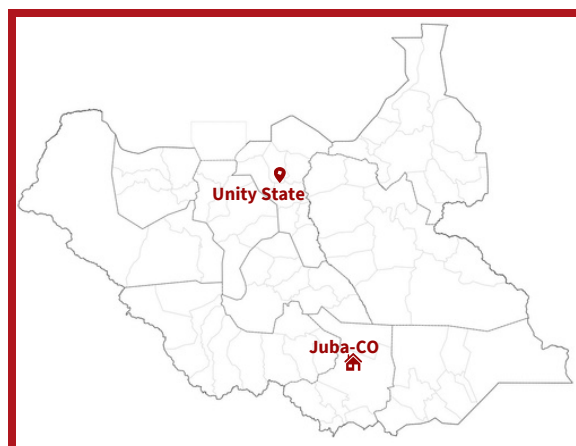


Collective farming acts as a strong force, bringing together displaced individuals and fostering a sense of community and empowerment. By combining their resources and knowledge, these individuals not only cultivate the land but also engage in a valuable exchange of ideas and expertise.

These farms not only provide food but also serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and skill development.

- This initiative promotes self-sufficiency, food security, and a sense of community and empowerment among participants.
- DRC has conducted training sessions in Bentiu, involving 40 individuals consisting of both women and men, to educate them on flood adaptive mechanisms such as use of Chinampa and flooding gardens and has established 20 floating gardens. Through the implementation of flood adaptive agricultural techniques, these farmers are now able to cultivate crops and yield food even in the face of flooding, thereby enhancing their resilience and food security. This project not only imparts essential skills and knowledge to the community, but also empowers both genders to actively engage in agriculture and sustain themselves.
- A collection of 12 Farmers Field Schools has been successfully established, comprising a total of 1,427 members, consisting of 854 females and 649 males. These schools have consistently generated substantial revenue, amounting to approximately 789,630 South Sudanese Pounds per season, through the sale of various vegetables, including okra, eggplant, and jute mallow.

### Areas of Operation.



### Our Partner.

