



PROJECT BRIEF:

Emergency Locust & Other Pests Response (ELRP)

June - September 2024



LOCATION: Aweil North, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, South Sudan

OBJECTIVE: To enhance the resilience of households in Aweil North, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, particularly those impacted by desert locust infestations, other pests, and acute food insecurity.

TARGET GROUP: 3,000 households, primarily farmers and pastoralists, classified under IPC Levels 3 and 4 (indicating emergency levels of food insecurity).

FUNDING PARTNER: FAO

BACKGROUND:

Decades of conflict, displacement, and underdevelopment have severely limited livelihood opportunities in South Sudan, particularly for women. Formal employment remains scarce, and families struggle to cope with crises such as floods, pest invasions (e.g., fall armyworm and desert locusts), loss of wage earners, and depletion of cattle herds. With 80% of the population reliant on agriculture and pastoralism, these challenges have devastated communities and undermined food security.

Farmers—predominantly women—have been displaced from fertile lands, reducing annual cereal production and worsening food insecurity. According to the latest IPC data, 7.7 million people in South Sudan (62% of the population) are experiencing acute food insecurity, including 87,000 in famine conditions (IPC Level 5) and 2.9 million in severe food insecurity (IPC Level 4).

Key drivers of these challenges include climatic shocks, ongoing insecurity, zoonotic disease outbreaks, economic instability, soaring staple prices, and inadequate government investment in agriculture and livestock.

In response, the ELRP provided essential resources and training to build resilience among vulnerable communities.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP), implemented by Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB) from June to September 2024, aimed to address the threat posed by locusts and other pests that jeopardized the livelihoods and food security of farmers in South Sudan. Funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the project also focused on strengthening systems for preparedness and early warning to mitigate future crises.

Targeting 3,000 farmers, pastoralists, and vulnerable households in Aweil North, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, the ELRP built resilience through the distribution of agricultural inputs, capacity building, and the introduction of sustainable farming practices.

In addition to providing crop and fishing inputs, VWB raised awareness about climate-smart agricultural practices and improved agronomic techniques, including methods for planting, seed quantity, land preparation, weeding, and fall armyworm control. Visual aids with clear captions were used to ensure effective utilization of distributed inputs. The project also introduced basic post-harvest management techniques and simple cooking practices to maximize the benefits of increased productivity.

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Key Achievements:

Distributed crop and vegetable kits to 3,000 vulnerable households in Aweil North, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State.

Established 8 demonstration plots and trained 240 farmers in push-and-pull technology, cultural practices, botanical pest control, and crop diversification.

Provided training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to 240 farmers.

Trained 240 farmers on post-harvest handling techniques and food processing.

Trained 240 farmers on plant disease surveillance and monitoring of locusts and other pests.

For more information about our work in South Sudan or to support similar initiatives, visit www.vwb.org.