



PROJECT BRIEF:

Building Livelihood Resilience for Income Security & Dignified Life in South Sudan

March 2023 - March 2024



LOCATION: Torit County, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan

OBJECTIVES: To enhance food security and livelihood resilience by:

- Expanding livestock extension services for greater veterinary care access.
- Strengthening livestock productivity through improved management.
- Increasing community capacity to prevent and mitigate zoonotic diseases.

TARGET GROUPS: Smallholder farmers, vulnerable households, and Community Animal Health Workers

FUNDING PARTNER: Zoetis Foundation

BACKGROUND:

South Sudan continues to face severe food insecurity, with 62% of the population experiencing acute hunger, driven by climate shocks, conflict, and economic instability. Livestock is a cornerstone of survival for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities, providing food, income, and social stability. However, limited veterinary services, poor livestock management, and zoonotic disease outbreaks further threaten their livelihoods.

In Torit County, Eastern Equatoria State, smallholder farmers struggle with low livestock productivity, inadequate extension services, and limited market access. Additionally, South Sudan ranks among the lowest globally in its ability to track and prevent zoonotic diseases, exacerbating public health risks.

To address these challenges, Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB), with support from the Zoetis Foundation, implemented the “Building Livelihood Resilience for Income Security and Dignified Life” project from March 2023 to March 2024. This initiative strengthened community-based livestock services, improved animal health, and empowered farmers with the tools to enhance productivity and resilience.

By integrating veterinary services, disease prevention, and sustainable livestock management, the project improved food security, strengthened rural livelihoods, and built local capacity for long-term resilience.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

From March 2023 to March 2024, VWB implemented the Building Livelihood Resilience for Income Security and Dignified Life project in Torit County, Eastern Equatoria State, with funding from the Zoetis Foundation. This initiative aimed to strengthen smallholder farmers' resilience by improving livestock health, increasing productivity, and enhancing food security.

Through a community-driven approach, the project expanded veterinary services, provided livestock to vulnerable households, and facilitated disease surveillance and zoonotic disease prevention efforts. Additionally, farmers received training on best animal husbandry practices, while local animal health workers were equipped with the knowledge and tools to improve livestock care.

KEY ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS:

The project strengthened livestock extension services by training local animal health workers and expanding veterinary care in remote communities:

- 10 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and 2 Veterinary Doctors (VDs) were trained in animal health, disease surveillance, and veterinary services.
- CAHWs received veterinary kits to support livestock treatment and vaccination campaigns.
- Veterinary teams provided vaccination, treatment, and advisory support on livestock health, housing, and feeding.

To enhance livestock productivity and farmer resilience, the project provided smallholder farmers with livestock, training, and market access:

- 1,600 chickens and 600 goats were distributed to 550 households to improve food security.
- 550 farmers were trained in climate-smart livestock management, and 110 climate-smart chicken sheds were constructed.
- 12,842 livestock were vaccinated to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Radio talk shows helped farmers connect with livestock markets.

To reduce zoonotic disease risks, the project implemented awareness campaigns, risk assessments, and training:

- 2,628 households were reached through six awareness campaigns on zoonotic disease prevention.
- A two-day training equipped CAHWs, health workers, and officials with knowledge on zoonotic disease surveillance.
- 20 risk assessments were conducted to address emerging health threats.
- Farmers were trained on safe carcass disposal to prevent disease spread.

For a detailed breakdown of project impact, see the infographic on the next page >>>

2023 - 2024 PROGRAM IMPACT



58% of farmers reported improved **food security**

72% of farmers reported improved **livelihoods**

88% of farmers reported utilizing **CAHWs' services**



550 farmers
trained in livestock production and animal health management

24% increase
in cow's daily **milk production** (i.e., from 0.46L to 0.57L)

31% increase
in the average **live weight** of mature goats (i.e., from 13.5kg to 17.kg)



12,842 livestock vaccinated against various diseases 



2,200 livestock (1,600 goats and 600 chickens) **distributed** to 550 smallholder farmers

6 campaigns conducted to **boost awareness** of zoonotic diseases and prevention

2,628 households across Torit County **reached** by information and awareness campaigns



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