

Livelihood Support to Returnees and Host Communities (LSRHC), South Sudan

Who we are

We are an NGO in Africa working in a very different way than most. We believe that development must come from within, not outside African communities. That it is Africans themselves who must determine Africa's future. For over 20 years, we have worked hand-in-hand with African communities to prevent, manage, and overcome situations that adversely affect a community's wellbeing. We do so by working through five program areas: integrated food security, education, water and sanitation, natural resource management, and humanitarian response interventions. We believe it is this approach that will help take Africa forward without losing the things that make our continent great.

Background

The Livelihood Support to Returnees and Host Communities (LSRHC) initiative started in July 2011 in response to the increased need for food assistance following the return of former refugees to South Sudan. While the January 2011 referendum separating North and South Sudan marked the beginning of a transition to peace following decades of violence in the region, the influx of returnees to South Sudan has been more than the local infrastructure and agricultural market can handle. Food insecurity is high and land and capital resources are relatively low. In order to cope with this situation and access their basic food and non-food needs, returnees are currently utilizing distress coping strategies such as selling their household items, begging, borrowing food, selling natural resources, reducing the number of meals eaten and providing food to children at the expense of adult household members. LSRHC provides cash grants to families in need (both emergency Cash Relief and livelihood support grants), and provides Cash-for-Work activities that will focus, among other things, on rebuilding and constructing water, sanitation and livelihood-related assets.

Project Approach

Funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the second phase of LSRHC (July 2012-June 2013) expects to reach 2,860 households through a combination of Cash-for-Work, livelihood support grants, livestock restocking, and agriculture extension activities. While the project is largely focused on returnees, the group targeted includes 570 households from the resident host community. The program's main activities include:

- Temporary employment through Cash-for-Work to 450 recent returnee households. This is expected to improve household income and food intake.
- Livelihood support grants to members of the returnee community who have existing trade or entrepreneurial skills but who lack the capital to establish their business.
- Goat restocking for 600 returnee households and training to ensure continuity of animal healthcare and disease reporting.
- Agriculture extension and training in land use planning in coordination.

Expected outcomes

By using direct cash assistance, temporary employment options and livelihood support grants, the program is expected to increase food access for returnees and vulnerable residents of Aweil West, Center, and North counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan.

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