

Purchase for Progress - P4P

South Sudan



P4P in South Sudan

In South Sudan, P4P has supported farmers' organizations (FOs) to increase production, improve post-harvest handling and strengthen collective marketing. P4P has facilitated reductions in post-harvest losses by supporting farmers with improved infrastructure, technology and knowledge. Collective marketing has been improved through training in organizational management, business and marketing. By linking smallholders to WFP's demand for staple crops, P4P has provided them with an incentive to increase production. Small-scale traders have also been included as suppliers to WFP to create sustainable markets for smallholders' surplus. P4P's efforts in South Sudan compliment the government's commitment to invest in agriculture.

Background

South Sudan became an independent country in July 2011. After two decades of conflict, the country's infrastructure has been almost completely destroyed. Today, South Sudan has some of the worst socio-economic indicators in the world. Although 90 percent of land is suitable for agriculture, only around 4.5 percent is currently cultivated. Over 80 percent of the population derive their livelihood from subsistence agriculture and livestock keeping. Most households are food insecure.

Learning and sharing

P4P has emphasized an honest and transparent examination of what works and does not. After five years of testing various approaches on the ground, the pilot is currently being evaluated. Key lessons are being compiled and will be shared widely.

Achievements

- **Capacity development:** FO members, NGO partners and government representatives have taken part in Training of Trainers programmes in post-harvest handling, storage and warehouse management, farmer organization management, quality control and marketing. To facilitate further training, P4P distributed 60 post-harvest handling training manuals.
- **Equipment and infrastructure:** Ten warehouses have been constructed and supplied with basic equipment, including weighing scales and moisture meters. The warehouses provide a space for the aggregation of commodities, ensure crop quality and act as trading centres to attract institutional and private sector buyers. Drying cribs have been introduced to some FOs, allowing commodities to be dried even during rainfall.
- **Government ownership:** P4P supports the government's multiple policy initiatives to facilitate the development of the agricultural sector. While current political tensions make the long-term policy environment uncertain, the government has pledged to continue supporting smallholder farmers.
- **Sustainability:** Because a lack of infrastructure often prevents smallholders from accessing markets, P4P has worked to build the capacity of small-scale traders who can purchase commodities from rural smallholders at fair prices. Some traders are also able to provide smallholders with inputs, tractor hire services and credit. To date, WFP has procured some 600 mt of commodities through small traders.

QUICK FACTS

Project start date:
2009

Number of farmers' organizations (FOs): 12

Number of small-scale traders: 3

Number of members:
3,266 (31% women)

Sales to WFP:
US\$ 564,165 (1,340 mt)

Sales beyond WFP:
An estimated US\$ 21,051 (50 mt)

Main commodities:
Maize and sorghum

Main P4P activities

- Capacity development
- Constructing infrastructure
- Market development
- Smallholder-friendly procurement

Funding

P4P's technical and administrative costs in Sudan have been sponsored by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. After the initial pilot, continued support for technical and administrative costs as well as food purchases are financed by donations to WFP's regular operations.

Figures as of March 2014



World Food Programme

wfp.org

For more information
wfp.p4p@wfp.org

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Gracie Seratiore Furimona, 42, is a mother of five from the village of Saura in the Western Equatorial state. Gracie joined the Namukuru Farmers group in 2010, and cultivates maize for sale.

“This season, I am expecting a good harvest with hopefully around 25 bags! My farmer’s group has really helped me to increase our production as they train us on modern farming methods on a demonstration plot nearby. I urge organizations like WFP to continue to support us through projects like P4P so that our surplus maize can be bought, and we earn income from our produce and improve our standard of living.”

KEY PARTNERS

- Abt Associates Inc
- ACCI/VOCA
- African Action Help (AAH)
- Canadian Economic Development Assistance for South Sudan (CEDASS)
- Catholic Diocese of Tombura and Yambio
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- MANITese
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources, Cooperatives and Rural Development (MAF)
- SPARK
- South Sudan National Bureau of Standard (SSNBS)
- FARM South Sudan
- World Vision

Challenges

- **FO management:** The capacity of FOs to aggregate crops and market collectively is still low. Further capacity development is required to improve FO communication and organization, as well as to facilitate understanding of the process of selling to institutional buyers such as WFP.
- **Procurement:** The lengthy WFP procurement process can be challenging for smallholder farmers, who are accustomed to receiving payment in cash upon delivery. WFP is currently working with partners to identify the best ways to ensure that farmers receive payment as quickly as possible.
- **Defaults:** Factors such as low aggregation capacity, low crop quality and limited cooperation have led to high levels of defaults.
- **Infrastructure:** Poor infrastructure, including a lack of roads and electricity continue to limit smallholders’ abilities to market their crops. Creating links between FOs and WFP’s feeder roads operation proved challenging, but will be strengthened as P4P is mainstreamed.
- **Insecurity:** The country’s current instability has made long-term planning challenging. The conflict which began in the end of 2013 delayed P4P operations, especially the implementation of capacity development activities. P4P activities re-commenced in April 2014 in relatively stable areas to which WFP has access.

Partnerships

The government has been a key P4P partner through the Ministry of Agriculture, particularly within the Department of Post-Harvest Management. P4P also established a partnership with the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards (SSNBS), a government authority mandated to oversee quality testing and administration. WFP supports the bureau with capacity development to better facilitate in-country quality testing of crops. Smallholders have been supported by World Vision through farmer field schools, and a variety of local NGOs have assisted in the targeting and creation of FOs. GIZ has provided seeds, agricultural production tools and extension services. It has also supported smallholders through farmer field schools while several local NGOs have assisted these farmers in production technology.



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WFP ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN

The WFP country strategy in South Sudan has four pillars: supporting the emergency food needs of vulnerable populations, building community resilience and strengthening livelihoods, enhancing market access and the food value chain and enhancing social access to support good nutrition and learning. P4P activities are a major part of the third pillar, illustrating the country office’s commitment to the continued implementation of P4P-like programming. These foods are used in general food distribution, school feeding, food for assets, and institutional feeding programme activities.