Despite the protracted conflict in South Sudan, there are clear pockets of stability where a resilience building and livelihoods approach is essential to strengthening local communities’ food security and enhancing their resilience. In these areas, WFP is implementing Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to help households build and rehabilitate assets which increase food availability, food access, and build resilience to shocks and stressors. The combination of conditional food assistance and asset creation work helps food-insecure communities to shift away from reliance on humanitarian assistance to achieve more sustainable food security.

Since 2016, the number of people supported through FFA has grown by nearly 40 percent. The growth of the programme reflects community interest in being supported to rebuild their livelihoods and to grow their own food, as well as WFP’s interest in moving away from unconditional assistance, where feasible, and supporting community-led resilience building.

### 2019 FFA Achievements

- 354,120 women and girls and 234,072 men and boys received food assistance
- 10,800 metric tonnes of food and US$ 9.8 million in cash based transfers distributed to targeted households
- 38,000 hectares of crop farms and vegetable gardens cultivated
- 464 km of community access roads and 36 km of road dykes constructed
- 62 multi-purpose ponds, 424 shallow wells dug
- 97,000 people received training in asset creation and maintenance

A woman from Aweil participates in farming vegetables as part of WFP’s Food Assistance for Assets programme. Photo: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua
“Before this project, nobody had vegetables in this village. The project has supported our entire community, not just those who worked on the vegetable garden.”

Akol Deng, FFA participant from Twic County, Warrap

Using a multi-year approach, WFP’s FFA programme helps food insecure communities to rebuild their livelihoods and improve their resilience. Following a community-based participatory planning (CBPP) process, which helps communities to identify their key challenges and development priorities, households build assets from across three pillars:

1. Restoration of productive capacity of arable land;
2. Construction of community infrastructure;
3. Environment, natural resource management and climate change adaptation.

Skills development is integrated throughout the programme, equipping participants with new agricultural, infrastructure development and maintenance, and environmental management skills. Nutrition sensitive training is also being implemented in conjunction with asset creation activities, helping households to gain new skills in child feeding, dietary diversity, vegetable production and preparation, and hygiene/sanitation.

FFA presents an extraordinary opportunity to meaningfully address gender inequality in South Sudan. To do so, WFP uses a gender-sensitive lens from the community planning process at the start of asset creation projects to provide women and men space to raise their concerns and to ensure these concerns are adequately addressed. The CBPP approach allows for separate discussion between women’s groups, men’s groups, and then together as a community group. Formation of project management committees (PMC) with equal numbers of men and women in leadership roles is helping to ensure decision making access.

FFA is being combined with other resilience efforts in South Sudan to magnify the impact on communities. Households supported through FFA are being provided with skills development opportunities in post-harvest management through WFP’s Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) activities, which also provides an opportunity for FFA households to sell their surpluses to WFP for use in the home-grown school feeding programme.

Results

Over multiple years, the programme has demonstrated its capacity to improve household food security. FFA has helped to reduce the prevalence of poor and borderline food consumption among participating households from 89 percent in 2016 to 45 percent in 2019, indicating that people who benefit from FFA support are eating a wider variety of foods more frequently.

2020 Outlook

This year, WFP plans to assist 610,000 people through FFA in all regions of South Sudan. Despite the significant market constraints which exist in South Sudan due to poor road infrastructure, among other factors, 43 percent of the beneficiaries will be assisted with a cash-based transfer.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Sudan, WFP is making some modifications to the way FFA is implemented to reduce the risk of transmission. Trainings are being done at the household level where possible so that groups do not need to come together. At distribution sites, social distancing is reinforced along with hand washing and sharing of information on the COVID-19 risk and prevention measures.

2020 FFA Implementation Areas

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP collaborates with the national and state level ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources and Irrigation, and Roads and Bridges and with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to plan and implement FFA.

WFP works with 22 NGO partners, including 9 national and community based organizations, to implement FFA in 476 communities across the country. WFP also works with other UN agencies, especially FAO, UNICEF and UNDP which provide complementary support to households engaged in FFA, such as agriculture extension, access to education, and market support.

Investing in the livelihoods of 610,000 people would not be possible without the support of our donors and partners. In 2019 and 2020, WFP received contributions from the following donors & partners for FFA: