

RESULTS SUMMARY

Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihood Improvement in Darfur, Sudan

Author: ADRA Denmark 2023

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Strengthening Community Engagement and Empowerment in Darfur (SCEED)
	<i>Partner:</i>	ADRA Sudan
	<i>Country:</i>	Sudan
	<i>Period:</i>	January 2022 - ongoing

CHANGE

An evaluation done in 2022 of the Farmer Field School (FFS) and Farmer Market School (FMS) approaches in Darfur showed positive changes for the target group of smallholder farmers, mostly women, in terms of improved production and increased income. During 2022, the approaches were strengthened within climate adaptation by introducing improved sorghum and millet seeds (high yield, pest resistant and adapted to low rainfall), natural fertilisers made from plant waste, natural pest control and improved harvesting techniques. These efforts enabled the smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change and continue to provide for their families.

CONTEXT

The Darfur region is seriously affected by climate change in terms of increased temperatures, more erratic rainfall patterns and a dramatic decrease of seasonal rains. This exacerbates the competition over scarce resources and fuels tensions between different groups, often divided along an Arab-African and/or farmer-herder dichotomy. During 2022, the armed clashed between different groups intensified often driven by competing land use and access to natural resources. Thus, the intervention was designed to improve the resource base of smallholder farmers and support adaptation to climate change.

CONTRIBUTION

A total of 544 small-scale farmers (352f, 192m) have been trained in climate smart techniques during 2022. Moreover, 16 FMS groups with a total of 413 members (266 females, 147 male) were trained on marketing techniques, negotiation skills, collective marketing, market assessment and value chain mapping. As a result, 220 farmers reported an increase in income from selling their agricultural products during 2022. Furthermore, 20 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have been formed and trained and 517 VSLA members have taken loans (441 female, 76 male) during 2022 thus increasing their financial resources to invest in farming activities.

IMAGES





Insert photo credit

See next page for more details →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Since 2018, ADRA Sudan has used FFS and FMS as key approaches to improve the livelihoods of the target group. FMS is a relatively new approach, developed by ADRA Denmark and tested in two pilot projects in Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2017. The first training in FMS in Sudan was done in 2017 based on the first FMS Facilitation manual, which was translated into Arabic. Moreover, ongoing support to develop the FFS and FMS methods has been provided e.g. expanding the approaches within climate-smart agriculture and adding a climate dimension to the FMS approach. The FFS and FMS approaches are implemented side-by-side, based on the logic that with FMS the farmers learn to analyse the market, and with FFS they learn how to grow the crops that they have seen there is a market for, and at the same time adapt to climate change. A total of around 2,700 people in Sudan have been trained in FFS and FMS from 2019 until end of 2022. Establishing, training and mentoring Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) is also part of the ADRA contribution to the results as VSLAs have equipped the farmers with access to financial capital to invest in production. A total of app. 2,200 people became VSLA members from 2019 until end of 2022, with more than 80% being women.

LESSONS

The Village Agents, i.e. community members trained by ADRA Sudan, play a central role in the success of the programme as they have become experienced facilitators and have trained community groups in the FFS, FMS and VSLA approaches. This is an aspect suitable for replication because community-based Village Agents represent community skills, which do not disappear when a project is ending, or access to the area is interrupted. However, Village Agents need some kind of remuneration / incentives for the work they carry out. For sustainability purposes further studies are needed to find a post-project solution to this. One option could be to look into opportunities for the Village Agents to be paid from other sources for the provision of FFS, FMS and VLSA training e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture or the communities themselves. It can also be looked into whether Village Agents could link the farmers to buyers of farm products as a paid service.

EVIDENCE

The changes in productivity, climate adaptation, value chain integration and savings presented above is to a large extent a result of the improved knowledge and skills of farmers in production, marketing as well as saving and loan mechanisms based on the introduction of the FFS, FMS and VSLA approaches in the target communities in West Darfur by ADRA Denmark and ADRA Sudan. This has been documented by an evaluation which among others included a livelihood self-perception survey, a self-monitoring tool on production and sale of crops and individual interviews. These data collection methods were used with a sample of the target group and the main results are quoted above. For more details, see "Evaluation of FFS and FMS Approaches in Sudan", Christian Sørensen & Jonathan Zimuto, August 2022: 2022-Sudan-FFS-FMS-evaluation-report-FINAL-incl-all-annexes.pdf (adra.dk)

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	<i>Insert strategy priority</i>
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	x