

DRC Complementary Action for Resilience Building (CARB)



DRC DANISH
DRC REFUGEE
DRC COUNCIL

2021
January

2024
April

Introduction

The Complementary Action for Resilience Building (CARB) project, was initiated in January 2021 and finishing in April 2024, stands as a commendable multi-year emergency food security initiative. This far-reaching program has been instrumental in striving for enhanced food security across eight counties in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States.

Facilitated through a consortium partnership, the CARB project saw the collaboration of five prominent international non-governmental organizations. The Norwegian Refugee Council spearheaded this coalition, joined by partners, such as Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, ACTED, and the REACH Initiative. Notably, the financial backing for this critical endeavor comes from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Throughout the project's implementation period, a tangible impact has been achieved, benefitting a substantial population. Impressively, the CARB project has reached 243,060 individuals. This outreach was made possible through a comprehensive strategy that included the provision of seeds, advocacy for context-specific improved crop management practices, establishment of community-managed disaster response action plans, facilitation of inter and intra-community peace-building dialogues, and the proactive addressing of gender-based violence.

Moreover, the project has demonstrated foresight by responding effectively to potential disasters and climate shocks, thereby contributing to community resilience. As part of its holistic approach, the CARB project has also engaged in skills and livelihood training initiatives. Additionally, the formation and capacity strengthening of village savings and loans associations have been pivotal in fostering economic empowerment at the grassroots level.

The CARB project's commitment extends beyond food security, encompassing a broader spectrum of health and nutrition interventions. As it approaches its culmination in January 2024, the project celebrates its collaborative efforts that has fostered resilience, recovery and sustainable development in these communities.

DRC CARB Interventions

Farmer Field School and Regenerative Climate Adaptive Resilience Design:

DRC established four Farmer Field Schools in Bentiu, promoting interactive learning and skill development among local farmers. The approach includes regenerative climate adaptive resilience design with training on innovative technologies like perm gardens, chinampa, floating gardens, and solar drip irrigation. Continuous monitoring ensures the successful adoption of sustainable farming practices.

Fishery and Fish Preservation Programs:

DRC launched fishery development initiatives to promote sustainability and improve economic prospects for local fishing communities. Training sessions on efficient fish preservation techniques reduce post-harvest losses, while facilitating market access enhances income generation for local fishermen, targeting a specific number of individuals.

Nutrition and Hygiene Mainstreaming:

DRC integrated nutrition and hygiene education into community outreach programs and school curricula, distributing educational materials and organizing workshops to raise awareness. Collaboration with local health authorities promotes community health and well-being.

Establishment of Farmer Market Associations:

DRC guided and supported the formation of Farmer Market Associations, organizing capacity-building workshops to enhance marketing skills and collective bargaining power of local farmers. Facilitating linkages between associations and potential buyers strengthens market connections.





DRC CARB Interventions

Small Businesses, Enterprises and Employment Opportunities:

DRC launched entrepreneurship programs to encourage the establishment of small businesses and enterprises identifying and creating diverse employment opportunities to address unemployment challenges in the community and offered training and mentorship programs to enhance the skills of aspiring entrepreneurs.

Village Savings, Loans and Digitalization:

The DRC implemented community-based financial initiatives, which involve the introduction of digital village loaning and savings programs to replace the traditional "Sandok/box" method. This initiative also incorporates the adoption of digital financial solutions to enhance accessibility and efficiency in financial transactions. Furthermore, the project includes comprehensive training sessions on financial literacy and management, aimed at empowering community members to handle their finances effectively.

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) and Early Warning Systems Strengthening:

DRC conducted CMDRR training programs to empower communities to manage and reduce the impact of disasters to upgrade and strengthening early warning systems through the installation of advanced technologies and facilitated community drills and exercises to ensure a prompt and coordinated response to potential disasters.

Referral Pathways for GBV Survivors Strengthened:

Referral Pathways for GBV:

DRC Collaborated with local health and support services to enhance referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence and trained community leaders and healthcare providers on the sensitive handling of GBV cases. DRC also establishing 7 Women and Girls Friendly Spaces and support networks for GBV survivors within the community commonly referred to as Women and Girls friendly spaces.

Awareness and Knowledge about GBV and Risk Mitigation Measures:

DRC Conducted community-wide awareness campaigns to educate residents about gender-based violence by organizing workshops and training sessions to increase knowledge about risk mitigation measures and distributed informational materials and resources to promote a culture of respect and gender equality.

Emergency Food Security Needs of Conflict and Disaster-Affected Households:

DRC implemented emergency food assistance programs to address the immediate needs of households affected by conflict and disasters by developing sustainable agricultural and food security strategies to ensure long-term resilience through collaboration with humanitarian agencies to coordinate and provide timely food relief to affected communities.

Enhanced Community Resilience and Social Cohesion:

DRC conducted community-building activities to strengthen social ties and resilience by facilitating dialogues and community forums to address conflicts and promote unity and implemented programs that foster a sense of shared responsibility and cooperation among community members.

Legal Assistance on Housing, Land, and Property:

Providing legal aid clinics and services to address housing, land, and property-related issues by raising awareness about property rights and legal entitlements through educational campaigns in collaboration with legal experts and local authorities to ensure that community members receive the necessary legal support and representation.



Strengthening Resilience through Adaptation

Chinampa and Floating Gardens in Bentiu



Chinampa Gardens in Bentiu



Floating Gardens in Bentiu

Chinampa and floating gardens are climate change resilience agricultural methods that DRC has strategically implemented in the specific region of Bentiu, South Sudan. This area has been significantly impacted by flooding that occurred since 2020, resulting in prolonged displacement, with many regions still submerged under water—a situation marking one of the most enduring instances of flooding-induced displacement in decades.

Given the scarcity of high dry land, primarily utilized for settlements, climate-resilient agricultural approaches like chinampa and floating gardens have been introduced as effective and sustainable means for ensuring food security within displaced communities. Despite the continuous challenges posed by floods in Bentiu, displaced individuals have successfully embraced the chinampa and floating garden methods, proving them to be efficient agricultural techniques.

Gatluak James Gai shared, **"This is the first time we are seeing this farming system. Despite the floods, we can practice agriculture by digging and building at higher levels to prevent water damage."**

Mer Koach, practicing agriculture on floating gardens, explained the construction process: **"We use bamboo and rope, adding reeds and water hyacinth to create a platform for crops. Since adopting this method, we consistently produce vegetables and beans throughout the year, for both consumption and sale."**

These innovative approaches underscore the resilience and adaptability of displaced communities in the face of challenging environmental circumstances.

Bread Making

In the contemporary landscape of Nyankuoth's life, a 25-year-old single mother of four, one would expect her to be comfortably providing for her children and actively engaged in a sustainable means of livelihood within the confines of her home. However, the reality is starkly different. The devastating floods that struck her village in 2021 compelled Nyankuoth to abandon her home and possessions in search of safety for herself and her children. The journey led them to a new community in Bentiu, where they found themselves starting afresh.

Amidst the challenges, Nyankuoth found a fresh beginning at the DRC Women and Girls Friendly Space. Enrolled in the bakery course under the Complimentary Action for Resilience Building, supported by USAID, she specialized in bread making—a staple in South Sudan often served with soup.

With a vision for a brighter future, Nyankuoth is determined to utilize her skills to support her family. She expresses her commitment, stating, **"With this training, I am dedicated to acquiring skills and supporting my children. I aim to open a bread business in my community after completing this program, ensuring a source of income for my family."**



Village Savings, Loans and Digitalization

In Guit County, DRC embarked on a journey, reaching out to individuals through Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLA). Pioneering innovation, DRC piloted the digitalization of VSLAs within five groups, bidding farewell to the traditional "Sanduk" or analog VSLA.

The digitalization process ushered in a new era, offering members a secure and convenient means of managing their finances. Individuals like Nyaphan Majok, a 29-year-old mother of three, witnessed firsthand the positive impact of DRC's initiative. Reflecting on her experience, Nyaphan expressed the advantages of the VSLA digital smartphone account over the traditional analog Sanduk.

With the digital platform, members gained the ability to open both individual and group accounts through M-Gurush, facilitating seamless transactions for savings and loans. This innovative approach not only streamlined financial processes but also alleviated concerns about the inherent risks of storing money at home, such as the threat of night robberies or fire outbreaks.



Village Savings and Loans Association members receive training on how to use smartphones.

Strengthening Resilience through Adaptation



On duty, Nyephan utilizes "MUAC" tapes to measure the health of children under five and pregnant/lactating mothers.

Mother to Mother Support Groups

At the age of 29, Nyephan, a mother of four from Guit County in Bentiu, is taking a leadership role in her community to tackle malnutrition among children and pregnant mothers through the Complimentary Action for Resilience Building Project (CARB), funded by USAID. Her life was disrupted by the devastating floods and civil wars that afflicted her homeland from 2013 to 2018. Identified by DRC upon seeking safety, she received training upon arrival.

Nyephan took on a crucial role by screening children under the age of five, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers for malnutrition, using a MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) tape. If malnutrition was detected, she refers those in need to health centers for appropriate care. She also became a secretary in a Village Savings and Loan Association and was entrusted with a role in the project committee, where she played a vital part in various project components.

Through various capacity-building trainings, the CARB project transformed Nyephan's life. Previously collecting resources from distant forests to make ends meet, she now runs a successful mobile business selling ladies' clothes, generating a monthly income of 10,000 South Sudanese Pounds. Nyephan's initial savings of 22,000 South Sudanese Pounds from the VSLA share-out played a pivotal role in kickstarting her entrepreneurial venture.

Expressing her optimism for the future, Nyephan envisions her business expanding further, harboring dreams of owning a shop in the near future. The CARB project stands as a testament to the positive impact it can have on individuals like Nyephan, fostering resilience and opening doors to sustainable livelihoods.

Farmer Market Associations, Drip Irrigation and Farmer Field Schools

In the journey towards economic recovery for displaced persons in Bentiu, DRC has implemented transformative initiatives centered around drip irrigation, Farmer Market Associations (FMAs), and Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

Drip irrigation, a precision watering technique, has become a source of hope for farmers in Bentiu. By providing a controlled and efficient water supply directly to the roots of crops, it not only optimizes water usage but also enhances crop yields. The DRC's support in introducing and implementing drip irrigation systems powered by solar plants empowers displaced farmers to cultivate their lands more effectively, fostering agricultural productivity even in challenging environments.

In tandem with drip irrigation, the establishment of Farmer Market Associations has created a network that transcends individual efforts. FMAs facilitate collective marketing, bargaining power, and resource sharing among farmers. This collaborative approach not only strengthens the economic prospects of individual farmers but also fosters a sense of community resilience.

DRC's commitment extends to Farmer Field Schools, providing displaced farmers with valuable knowledge and skills. Through practical, hands-on training, farmers acquire modern agricultural techniques, crop management strategies, and sustainable farming practices. The Farmer Field Schools serve as educational hubs, empowering farmers with the tools needed to overcome challenges and build a foundation for sustainable livelihoods.

In Bentiu, the confluence of drip irrigation, Farmer Market Associations, and Farmer Field Schools, supported by the Danish Refugee Council and funded by USAID, is steering displaced persons towards economic recovery. These integrated initiatives not only revive agricultural landscapes but also instill a sense of self-reliance and community strength among those striving to rebuild their lives.



Farmer Market Association in Bentiu



Solar Powered Drip Irrigation in Bentiu



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

2021
January

2024
April

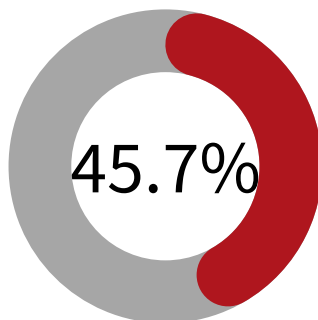
Impact Reach

DRC, as indicated by data derived from project evaluations, has significantly and positively influenced the lives of individuals in Specific areas of Unity State and Western Bahr el Ghazal since the beginning of CARB. The comprehensive assessments and analyses conducted through these evaluations unveil a tangible and constructive impact that spans various aspects of the targeted communities. The data underscores the transformative outcomes achieved by DRC, demonstrating its commitment to fostering positive change and enhancing the well-being of those it serves. The data provides a robust foundation for continuous improvement and adaptive strategies, ensuring that DRC's efforts remain responsive and tailored to the evolving needs of displaced and host communities it serves.

Female



39,342



Male



33,080

Consortium Partners



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL



acted



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

Donor



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

