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# RESILIENCE THROUGH AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH SUDAN (RASS)

## USAID RASS

### Program Office

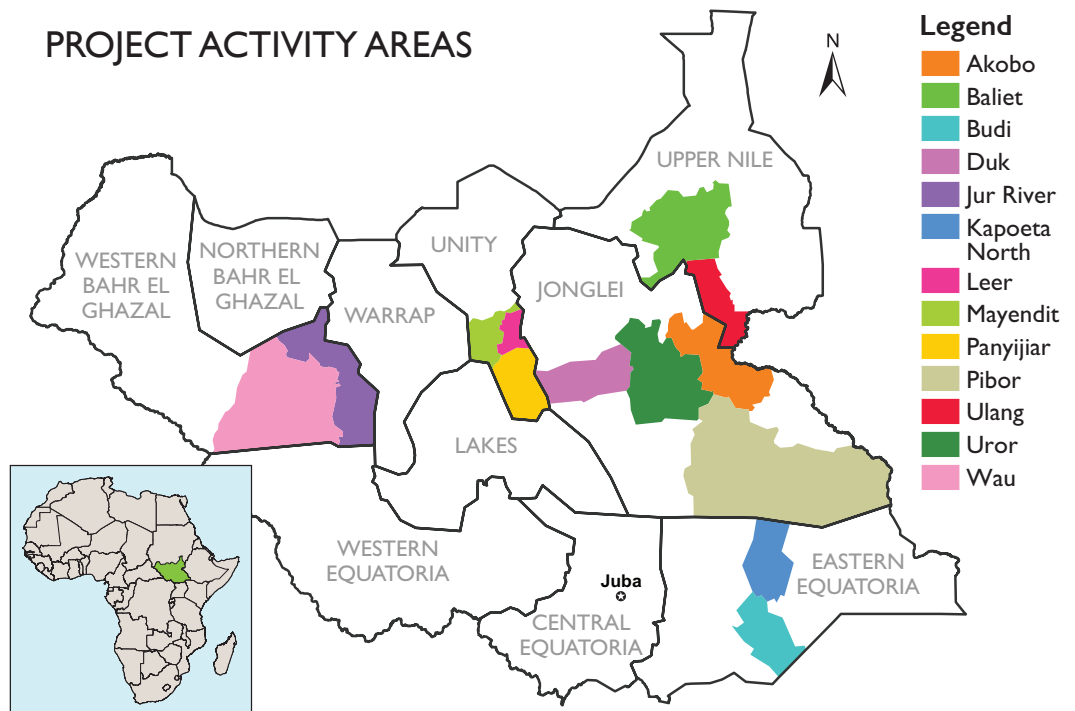
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For more information  
about IFDC and this  
project, please visit the  
IFDC website:  
[www.ifdc.org](http://www.ifdc.org)

## PROJECT ACTIVITY AREAS



## PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

**Implementing  
Partner:** DAI

**Sub-Contracting  
Team:**

CARE International  
(Objective 1)

IFDC (Objective 2)

The Waterfield Design  
Group, Inc (WDG)  
(Construction Lead)

**Funded by:**

USAID Mission in  
South Sudan, Office of  
Economic Growth

**Type of Award:**  
Contract

**Duration:**

September 15, 2021–  
September 14, 2025

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity aims to improve food security and community household recovery and resilience in 13 counties in Western Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states. To achieve this ambitious goal, RASS employs a "resilience pathways" approach to improve the effectiveness of local systems; strengthen the capacities of community groups to achieve gender-responsive and diversified market-sensitive agriculture production; facilitate increased production of diverse nutritious foods by strengthening productivity, reducing food loss, and improving nutrition behaviors; and strengthen and expand household and community opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods. RASS seeks to transition communities from humanitarian assistance to inclusive development assistance and economic growth.

### Geographic Focus

1. Eastern Equatoria State: Kapoeta North, and Budi counties.
2. Jonglei State: Akobo, Uror, Duk, and Pibor counties.
3. Unity State: Panyijar, Leer, and Mayendit counties.
4. Upper Nile State: Ulang and Baliet counties.
5. Western Bahr El Ghazal State: Wau and Jur River counties.

## PROJECT CONTEXT

South Sudan's rural areas are generally remote, with poor infrastructure, limited health and education services, weak institutions and human capacity, and a nascent private sector. Largely outside the formal economy, livelihoods are resource-based and often insufficient to enable households to sustain or recover from recurring shocks and stresses to break out of poverty. According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) scale, most of South Sudan is in a state of acute food insecurity or, worse, in a food emergency, indicating severe levels of acute and chronic malnutrition. In addition, extended periods of intense conflict for more than 40 years have weakened social cohesion, eroded trust within and between communities, and resulted in significant levels of trauma

and gender-based violence. Women have had less access and agency in economic, political, and social decisionmaking and opportunities due to existing gender inequalities, patriarchal social norms, and a toxic concept of masculinity.

USAID RASS is a vital companion to the many humanitarian relief and recovery efforts. Layering, sequencing, and integrating development activities with these efforts, the project strengthens capacities to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agricultural production; increases availability of, access to, and utilization of diverse, safe, and affordable diet; and expands opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods.

<div><b>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement through partnerships</li><li>• Be flexible and adaptive</li><li>• Focus on convergence points</li><li>• Promote inclusiveness</li><li>• Combat toxic masculinity</li></ul></div>	<div><b>OBJECTIVES</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Strengthen local systems' and community groups' capacities to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agriculture production.</li><li>2. Increase availability of, access to, and utilization of diverse, safe, and affordable diet.</li><li>3. Expand opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods.</li></ol></div>
<div><b>POLICY PILLAR AREAS</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seed sector</li><li>• Food safety and security</li><li>• Social safety net system</li><li>• Nutrition</li><li>• Agro and fish processing construction</li><li>• Social behavior change/gender equality, youth and social inclusion</li></ul></div>	<div><b>METHODOLOGIES</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>County-Specific Strategies:</b> Customize interventions to each county, assessing conditions and factors to identify optimal pathways to achieve results.</li><li>2. <b>Scenario Planning:</b> Plan interventions for the current status quo but adapt as changes occur, employing push and pull factors.</li><li>3. <b>Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA):</b> Integrate CLA throughout project design and implementation as part of resilience pathways approach, i.e., leverage existing coordinating efforts, complexity-aware monitoring.</li><li>4. <b>Inclusive Partnership Facility:</b> Issue competitive grants, pay-for-performance subcontracts, construction, and technical assistance.</li></ol></div>

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The project has 32 indicators, which include three key outcome indicators and one impact indicator:

1. Strengthened capacities of local systems and community groups to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agriculture production.
2. Increased availability of, access to, and utilization of a diverse, safe, and affordable diet.
3. Expanded opportunities for sustainable, locally-driven livelihoods.
4. Graduate communities from high Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) to low IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI).