



## Economic Recovery



### Areas of Operation



### Why We Do What We Do

Throughout the nation's period of independence, South Sudan's economy has been grappling with instability, fragility, and stagnation, which is particularly concerning considering the nation's heavy dependence on agriculture, fishing, and pastoralism as its primary sources of income. The production of these sectors has been disrupted by climatic shocks, such as floods and prolonged droughts, resulting in significant losses in productive assets. Furthermore, ongoing conflicts and security issues have compounded the economic challenges faced by the country. The macroeconomic conditions have worsened due to a depreciating currency and high inflation, particularly affecting food prices. These shocks have created economic volatility, making it difficult to plan for the future and attract investments.

Despite these challenges, South Sudan possesses significant untapped economic potential, including, but not limited to its agricultural resources, abundant natural resources, livestock and fisheries, and renewable energy sources. If effectively utilized, these opportunities have the potential to drive sustainable growth and development. Fully capitalizing on these prospects requires addressing obstacles such as inadequate infrastructure, security concerns, and capacity limitations.

### Sector Goal

DRC's Economic Recovery work is a crucial intervention area for the overall programme in South Sudan. Its primary focus is to assist individuals and households affected by conflict in transitioning from reliance on external aid to self-sufficiency. This involves restoring their ability to cope with future shocks and reducing chronic vulnerability. Economic Recovery activities are tailored to meet their specific needs, aiming to address immediate food security concerns and provide resources for long-term self-sufficiency. DRC's goal is to empower vulnerable individuals, uphold their dignity, and create a sustainable and resilient community.



**A group from the Village Savings and Loans Association convening their weekly savings gathering in Bentiu.**

### What We Do

DRC's Economic Recovery work is divided into three subsectors: a) Food Security, b) Decent Livelihoods, and c) Financial Inclusion, all striving toward self-reliance. By integrating market systems approaches and protection programs, DRC aids communities in achieving self-sufficiency. This self-reliance model underpins efforts to enhance economic well-being. DRC's Economic Recovery Sector initiatives targets those impacted by conflict and displacement. This includes climate-adaptive agriculture, natural resource management, and fortifying market systems to enhance resilience. Efforts extend to promoting sustainable livelihoods through skill development and income generation.

## Sub-Sectors Overview

**Food Security:** projects like Complimentary Action for Resilience Building and Food Assistance for Assets, DRC, with USAID and WFP support respectively, ensure access to safe, high-quality food in select implementation states. The focus is on sustained access to nutritious food, fostering overall livelihood improvement. Strategies encompass interventions to support access to food for vulnerable individuals and households and ensure resilient market systems and value chains.



In Bentiu, the DRC chinampa gardens is supporting communities in flood-resilient farming practices.

**Financial Inclusion:** This involves enhancing access to affordable, suitable financial products and services, delivered responsibly and inclusively. DRC collaborates with individuals, households, and communities to build financial access, knowledge, and understanding. They also work with formal and informal financial service providers to make relevant products and services available and tailored to vulnerable needs.

**Decent Livelihoods:** Ensuring individuals and households have access to resources for sustenance or income generation is key. This is achieved by increasing employability through skill development and facilitating access to assets. DRC also generates diversified, sustainable employment opportunities for displaced populations such as working for cash, the private sector, and individual employers.



At Ajoungthok, the DRC tree nursery bed is combating deforestation through community-engaged tree planting initiatives.



Every individual deserves the opportunity to thrive and succeed, regardless of their circumstances. At Ajoungthok Vocational Training Center, DRC is committed to empowering displaced people and host communities by offering vocational training in various fields, enabling them to regain their independence and rebuild their lives.

## Achievements

- DRC's initiatives have significantly bolstered displaced communities' capabilities. Projects like CARB (funded by USAID Humanitarian Aid), the FFA project (funded by WFP), and projects supported by Danida and UNHCR have improved agronomic practices and climate-smart agricultural techniques. To counter deforestation, DRC has established woodlots in Ajoungthok with DANIDA's assistance, promoting responsible woodlot establishment to mitigate deforestation.
- Through comprehensive training programs, DRC promotes fuel efficiency, clean energy practices, and climate change mitigation. Training covers topics such as fuel-efficient stoves and sustainable alternative fuel sources like water hyacinth briquettes.
- DRC has achieved financial inclusion for internally displaced persons in Rubkona through partnerships with MTN South Sudan and Alpha Bank. Furthermore, Village Savings and Loans Associations have been established, connecting vulnerable communities with formal financial institutions.

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