



## South Sudan

South Sudan, the world's youngest nation, faces deep challenges shaped by cycles of conflict, limited governance, and growing climate risks. With 80% of the [rural population reliant on agriculture for livelihoods](#) and around 50% [experiencing acute levels of food insecurity](#), productivity remains low, ecosystems are degraded, and infrastructure is limited. Displacement, erratic rainfall, prolonged floods, and localised droughts have increased vulnerability, while limited services keep literacy and health indicators among the lowest in the region. SNV's recent assessments highlight widening livelihood disparities, fragile market systems, and an urgent need to transition from short-term humanitarian assistance to resilient, locally led development pathways.

Since 2015, SNV has worked alongside the Government of South Sudan and local partners to strengthen resilience, inclusive governance arrangements, and sustainable food security and livelihoods. To this end, SNV promotes climate-resilient agriculture, regenerative land and water management, and market activation, in particular, to facilitate young people's meaningful participation and women's empowerment. SNV's systems approach blends technical expertise, institutional capacity building, and multi-stakeholder coordination to align with the government's national priorities and to contribute—by 2030—to scaling cross-sectoral, integrated solutions that bridge humanitarian and development efforts.



### More than 9,250 smallholder farmers

gained access to inputs for climate-resilient farming and food production.



### 31 MSMEs

mentored, strengthening their organisational and technical skills to advance sustainable growth.



### Over 160 local value chain actors

connected to sustainable financing opportunities.



### 75 women

trained in entrepreneurship and leadership skills.

## Towards resilient agriculture and livelihoods

The intersection of climate risk and food insecurity poses profound development challenges to South Sudan—one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. Its cropland is predominantly rain-fed, leaving agriculture, the foundation of its economy, deeply exposed to climate shocks, while resource scarcity continues to fuel many of the country's recent conflicts.

Climate shocks and stressors, including extreme flooding, rising temperatures, and erratic seasonal rainfall, are already driving crop losses and degrading pasture lands and water resources. These pressures are expected to intensify in the future, placing further strain on communities with limited capacity to absorb and recover from repeated shocks.

At the same time, South Sudan's agricultural potential remains largely untapped. Vast areas of cultivable land create real opportunities to move beyond subsistence production towards income generation and market participation. [Developing agri-food value chains and increasing the productivity of smallholder farms](#) can facilitate job creation and the transition to more resilient livelihoods.

To this end, the country's first National Adaptation Plan represents an important milestone in building coordinated adaptive capacity, prioritising watershed restoration, drought-resistant crops, and renewable energy. In this context, SNV supports the Government of South Sudan's ambition to strengthen climate resilience in the agri-food sector by leveraging technical expertise in climate-resilient agriculture and market linkages.

## CDRD | Equatoria region | 2025-28 | €10M

With the majority of South Sudan's population relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, developing the sector is critical for food security and economic stability. The Community Driven Rural Development (CDRD) project contributes to progressing resilient agriculture and livelihoods across Juba, Torit, and Yambio.

CDRD works with partners, including smallholder farmers, to promote the widespread adoption of climate-resilient production practices, such as early-maturing seed varieties and multi-cropping systems. Knowledge transfer occurs through farmer field schools and technical assistance, building farmers' capacity to utilise new technologies and interpret climate information, such as seasonal forecasts and real-time data, that enables them to maintain productivity under stress. The project aims to reach 9,250 farming households.

The project also strengthens market linkages across cereal and horticulture value chains, broadening economic opportunities for young people and women. To achieve this, CDRD is strengthening producer organisations by connecting farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with buyers.

To support systemic change, three evidence-based policy recommendations will be made available to decision-makers at the country and state levels, informing more responsive governance of the agricultural sector.

**Partners:** European Union, GIZ, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS), SNV

SNV is a global development partner deeply rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. With 60 years of experience and a team of approximately 1,600 people, we strengthen capacities and catalyse partnerships that transform agri-food, energy and water systems. Working on the core themes of gender equality and social inclusion, climate adaptation and mitigation, and strong institutions and effective governance, we tailor our approaches to different contexts to achieve large-scale impact and create sustainable and more equitable lives for all.

### Contact SNV in South Sudan

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