

Project Note

Water Security and Resilience Project in South Sudan

February 13, 2021

OVERVIEW

Project Name	Enhancing Water Security and Resilience: Hydrometeorological Approaches to Strengthening Water Resources Management in Upper Nile State, South Sudan
Project Location(s)	Upper Nile State: Baliet and Malakal Counties
Project Area Population¹	246,746 people
Planned Project Participants	5,000 Farmers
Total Project Budget	668,750 USD

CONTEXT AND NEED

South Sudan is currently facing its worst floods in nearly 60 years.² Early seasonal rains have caused rivers to overflow their dykes and banks, inundating vast areas and settlements. Many of the flood-affected people in the country have relocated to higher grounds, some as many as three times. Others who were displaced by the 2020 floods still have not yet returned home.

According to estimates made by the United Nations Refugee Agency on October 19, 2021, the floods from this year have already affected more than 700,000 people in South Sudan, with heavy rains expected to continue for the rest of the year. The floods have compounded a pre-existing dire humanitarian situation, including the hunger crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Upper Nile state, where this project is focused, is among the worst affected states in the country.³



Women walk from their submerged homes looking to find things they can recover after recent flooding in South Sudan.

According to projections in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2017, climate change will be felt 2.5 times more in South Sudan than the global average.⁴ Hailu Badhane, a World Vision Zonal Program Manager, describes the current situation, “There were three children and a man who drowned. Many families lost their loved ones. The local government has appealed to all humanitarian agencies working in the region to respond. The need is huge.” Another World Vision staff, Jemima Tumalu, recounts, “The children swim in the dirty water, fueling worries of water-borne diseases.” World Vision is already working to respond to communities’ immediate needs

¹ Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Systems, South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2021, October 28). *South Sudan – Subnational Population Statistics*.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021, October 19). *South Sudan floods wreak havoc on vulnerable communities*.

³ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2021, October 1). *South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot (As of 30 September 2021)*.

⁴ Stalon, J.-L. (2017, June 30). *Confronting climate change in South Sudan*. UNDP in Africa.

such as for food and temporary shelters. However, urgent work remains to strengthen local water security and capacity for long-term water resources planning.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The goal of this project is to enhance water security and effective water resources management in two counties that experience recurrent flooding and dry cycles in the Upper Nile State. During floods, communities are displaced and are put at risk of contracting water-borne diseases. In dry periods, water scarcity pushes communities that live far from the rivers to move in search of grazing lands. This can exacerbate incidences of interethnic conflicts as different communities compete for resources. This project aims to address these challenges through four main outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** Enhance water resources decision-making by establishing a hydrometeorological database in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Ministry of Infrastructure. Key steps include installing four meteorological stations across four sub-catchments and six river gauging stations along the Sobat and Nile Rivers and working with the ministries to compile this data.
- **Outcome 2:** Construct three 30,000 cubic-meter reservoirs, each equipped with a small solar-powered water treatment system, to provide flood protection and harvest water during rainy seasons for productive use during dry periods.
- **Outcome 3:** Increase rainwater catchment and reduce runoff volume during floods by establishing fruit-tree nurseries and woodlots as buffer zones. Fruit-tree seedlings will be distributed to 5,000 farmers and 100 farmers will receive training on woodlots.
- **Outcome 4:** Build local watershed management capacity by forming and training five Water Catchment Management Associations across five sub-catchments, five Water User Management Committees, and developing one water catchment integrated management framework and plan.



PROJECT BUDGET

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Personnel (Salaries, Benefits, etc.)	\$ 211,197
Travel	\$ 34,900
Equipment, Materials and Supplies	\$ 11,400
Program Activities	\$ 164,500
Monitoring	\$ 9,003
Research and Communication	\$ 4,000
Program Support Cost	\$ 65,000
Quality Assurance and Program Oversight	\$ 168,750
TOTAL	\$ 668,750