



WAITING FOR RAIN

Supporting rural community-driven adaptation in Sudan



Traditionally, Gedarif State in Eastern Sudan is one of the most productive areas in the country, sometimes called the “granary” of Sudan for its production of sorghum, sesame and millet. However, their communities are prone to poverty, and rely primarily on rain-fed agriculture for sustenance. Recent climatic trends have put an increasing strain on these communities’ livelihoods, as rain does not come as early or as often as it used to.



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To alleviate the current and anticipated strains on water and food security, the Higher Council of Environment and Natural Resources (HECNR) in Sudan partnered with UNDP to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities. With support from the Government of Canada under the Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility, and the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund, the project "Implementing Priority Interventions to Build Resilience in the Agricultural and Water Sectors to Climate Change" is working in 41 villages across four States of Sudan: River Nile, North Kordofan, South Darfur and the Gedarif.



As example of the project's activities, in Seraj Alnour to help access water for drinking and cooking, a well and solar-powered pumping station was installed. This has helped reduce the burden on women and children who previously had to travel over 5km daily to collect water. In some cases, children were unable to attend school due to their water-gathering responsibilities, and are now free to continue their education. Villagers can also use this water to irrigate small gardens, which have been introduced by the project to provide alternative livelihoods and enhance food security.

In Wad Hassan, training has been provided on how to use improved seeds, and operate and maintain six newly-installed water pumps. A demonstration plot of 42 hectares has also been ploughed and prepared for cultivation with new agricultural practices. As a result, the village has increased productivity and water access during dry seasons.

As part of the Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility (CCAF), the project is aligned with the CCAF's aims to strengthen climate-resilient approaches to agriculture and water management, with an emphasis on gender-sensitive approaches. The Facility works to document results and share experiences between the CCAF-supported projects in Cambodia, Cape Verde, Haiti, Mali, Niger and Sudan.

For more information on the project in Sudan, visit the UNDP Project Profile: Building Climate-Resilience in Agriculture and Water Sectors in Sudan. For more information on the CCAF, visit www.undp-alm.org/projects/ccaf.



UNDP CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Adaptation-undp.org is UNDP's knowledge-sharing platform, highlighting UNDP's support to countries on climate change adaptation.

For UNDP, adaptation to climate change means climate-resilient economic development and sustainable livelihoods, especially for vulnerable populations - the poor, women, and indigenous peoples. UNDP supports these goals by assisting over 90 countries to integrate current and future climate risks and uncertainties into national and sub-national development efforts.

