

**SUDAN SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

**WATER "THE LIFE GIVER"**



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Water gives life, it makes 71% of earth surface and is one of the blessings of the universe, but access to it in poor, vulnerable, and fragile areas especially in dry Sahelian desert prone countries such as Sudan constitute a big problem and major challenge to development and for the wellbeing of people.

Over 90% of communities in the project areas under the ongoing SSNRMP face the problems of access to clean drinking water for their domestic use and their animals, a challenge which spurred the plan and the action to rehabilitate existing water yard, to dig new wells, and construct three hafirs (Ponds).

## **WATER AND COMMUNITY STABILITY**

Always women and children tend to be impacted more, bearing the brunt of water inaccessibility. They have to walk long distances spending countless hours daily, usually in unsafe conditions, leaving their homes and school to haul water from very few shallow drill wells equipped with poor functioning hand pumps, situated usually very far from the community villages (minimally 1-3 km<sup>2</sup>, and maximally up to 15 km<sup>2</sup>). This reduces valuable time which could otherwise be put to more viable income generating activities and most importantly to improving girl child education with long term impacts on their future job prospects. Water inaccessibility can therefore create a vicious cycle of poverty. In addition due to scramble for water and with limited awareness, practice poor personal hygiene and wrong habits during collection, this leads to high incidences of diarrhea and other water borne diseases and high level of mortality especially in children below five years.

## **WATER AS PRIOR IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITY**

Population in the targeted areas consumes an average of 15 litter/day/capita which is considered less than the global standard (20 litter/day/capita). Therefore, the project established 5 water stations, rehabilitated 6 others, and dug 6 haffir (Ponds).

For more reliable, sustainable and cost effective arrangement of these water stations, the project has supported the establishment of water committees and trained them on financial and administrative issues, link them with the related institution to ensure continuity of service. And now the committees well manage and supervise the operation, and maintenance of the stations, open and manage the Bank account including collecting the fees; and contribute proceeds towards the development of other services (education, health).

## **PROVISION OF WATER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY AND ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

Drilling wells, and constructing water yard and haffirs (Ponds) are not the only and last objective. To complement focus on and support for women, the project is helping to create income generating activities by helping establish women (led) gardens, and community nurseries in order to supply them

with the basic vegetables, reducing nutrient/vitamin deficiency concerns and also serve as an alternative source of income.

To generate more value from the gardens, the project provides them with technical advice, extension packages, and improved seeds. This intervention is widely recognized because of its multiple benefits - contribute to food security, reduce soil erosion, combat desertification and ultimately will lead us to achieving sustainability in management of natural resources.

To ensure sustainable outcomes, the project is empowering women by also establishing women societies and raising their awareness about climate change, climate resilient farming and land and water management practices, and the importance of conserving natural resources.

Once women have participated in the training and awareness sessions, they have successfully and effectively participated in seedlings production in their community nurseries and in women garden, a means to securing income and provide them with sufficient vegetables for their own use.

## **RESULT OF THE PROJECT**

**OVERALL**, the SSNRMP project can be described as a lifeline to improved livelihoods and climate resilience, the project distributed **28.8178** tons of improved seeds to **4,564** farmers within three years, and communities are benefitting from water availability in their home nurseries and farm, which stimulating alternative income especially for women; the project establish 6 community nurseries and 17 home nurseries, which help in improving severe local weather conditions by planting trees; and raising awareness on community-led natural resources management.

## **TESTIMONIES**

After drilling the well and construction of water yard in the village we **“DEFINITELY WILL SEE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE CHILDREN”**, and **“WOMEN CAN TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEIR HOME AND CHILDREN”**, **“ AND LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE VILLAGE WILL IMPROVE AFTER PLANTING TREES”**.

**MANY THANKS TO THE PROJECT AND THE DONORS. SAID SHIKH FATAH EL RAHMAN FROM TAYBEEN VILLAGE.**

**Ms. HANAN** 40 YEARS OLD FROM EL SHIGIG VILLAGE SAID:

**“IN THE FIRST SEASON IT SECURED OUR FOODS FOR THREE MONTHS, AND IN THIS SEASON WE GENERATED AN INCOME, WE ARE HAPPY FOR THIS SUCCESS.”**

**A 10YEARS OLD ABD ELBAGYEL BASHIR SAID:**

**“NOW WATER SOURCE IS CLOSE, WE HAVE MORE TIME FOR LEARNING AND ENJOYING LIKE MOST OTHER CHILDREN”**

## **NEW PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

The present success story is drawn from Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SSNRMP) being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, which started in 2014. The estimated closing date is June 2022. Its objective is to increase adoption of sustainable land and water management (SLWM) practices in targeted landscapes.