

Revitalization of agricultural productive capacities in post-conflict zones by promoting participation and community building for food security and poverty alleviation



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Sudan

Duration: September 2003 to December 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNIDO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Ministry of Industry and Mining

Budget: \$1,258,256.24

Key Words: Agricultural development; food security; capacity-building; climate-related insecurity; rural communities; conflict-affected communities

BACKGROUND

Once a bountiful agricultural area, the Nuba Mountains in Sudan was hit by a number of insecurities related to the civil conflicts of the 1990s. During this time, the agricultural infrastructure deteriorated to the point that all agricultural work was done by manual labour only, resulting in a dramatic reduction in

agricultural productivity. In post-conflict zones, communities struggled against labour shortage, food insecurity, illness and widespread poverty. At the same time, the incidence of recurrent droughts heightened food insecurity and left people even more vulnerable to malnutrition and health complications.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By engaging the participating communities, the project aimed to restore food security and increase agricultural productivity in the Nuba

Mountains through (i) the distribution of simple hand tools and agricultural inputs; and (ii) the provision of basic food-processing training.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's primary beneficiaries were farmers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, disarmed ex-combatants, women and female-headed households in rural communities in the Nuba Mountains. More than 6,000 households benefited from the provision of hand tools, agricultural inputs, credit assistance to buy oxen, and trainings in animal traction and food

processing. Moreover, local blacksmiths received training and assistance to improve their capacity to repair tools and to provide technical assistance to other community members. Lastly, some 30,000 hand tools and other agro-processing equipment were distributed to IDPs in order to help them resettle.