



**USAID**  
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# RESILIENCE THROUGH AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH SUDAN ACTIVITY

An Overview of the Mid-Term Project Results and Impact  
October 2021 – September 2023

January 2024



# RASS.



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72066821C00007



## CONTRACTOR

DAI Global, LLC



## CHIEF OF PARTY

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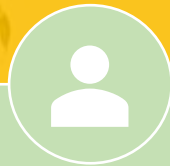
## ACTIVITY PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

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# ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The Resilience through Agriculture in South Sudan (RASS) Activity is a four-year (2021-2025) program led by DAI and its partners: Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) International, International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), and the Waterfield Design Group, Inc. (WDG).

The overall purpose of the RASS Activity is to improve food security, community resilience, and household recovery in 13 counties in South Sudan. RASS activities are designed to help graduate communities from crisis, emergency, and famine to less acute phases of food insecurity, and ultimately support a transition from reliance on humanitarian assistance to development and economic growth.

## OBJECTIVE 1

Strengthen the capacity of local systems and community groups to sustain gender-responsive, diversified, and market-sensitive agriculture production

## OBJECTIVE 2

Increase availability of, access to, and utilization of diverse, safe, and affordable diets

## OBJECTIVE 3

Expand opportunities for sustainable, locally driven livelihoods



# RESILIENCE PATHWAYS APPROACH

RASS employs a Resilience Pathways Approach to strengthen communities and local systems in a way that sustainably improves South Sudanese livelihoods. Right from the start, RASS strengthens social networks and community structures by engaging the four pillars of the local community. RASS's Approach puts gender equality, youth, and social inclusion at its core to empower South Sudan's most vulnerable populations. The idea is to build social capital, promote trust, and enhance mutual support networks through RASS activities. Holding events such as public forums, village meetings, and International Women's Day celebrations brings different groups together to address common challenges in their communities.



**RASS ACTIVITY THEORY OF CHANGE**

*IF* targeted food-insecure communities improve gender-responsive food production, market-based distribution, and household nutrition, **THEN** rural households and communities will have improved resilience to cope with and adapt to shocks.



Decades of conflict and economic instability in South Sudan have resulted in a dynamic and uncertain operating environment. The Resilience Pathways Approach acknowledges that even though the desired end-state is known **—a state where households and communities can mitigate and recover from shocks and stresses, resulting in significantly improved food security—** RASS must implement activities iteratively and modify them as circumstances change. Using the desired end-state as a guidepost, RASS relies on piloting activities to learn and build on proven efforts, test new approaches, and scale-up what works well.



# COMMUNITY PRODUCTIVITY

Agriculture, fishing, and forestry make up 9.6% of South Sudan's gross domestic product, making them valuable sectors for post-conflict development. USAID RASS is providing farmers with the knowledge and equipment to better cultivate their land and increase their yields. Outdated farming practices, low-quality seeds, and limited agricultural services hinder effective farming in South Sudan. Through hands-on training and learning sessions, RASS is giving farmers guidance on good agronomic practices, pest control, and other agricultural management skills. Farmers are now planting climate-resilient seeds, integrating pest and disease management techniques, and implementing good agronomic practices. To date, USAID RASS has reached **32,175 program participants**, of whom 12,315 were reached with improved technologies and management practices. To help farmers enhance their soil preparation, RASS is providing ox-drawn plows and tractor-plowing services. With these new technologies and improved management practices, RASS program participants have **cultivated over 36,400 acres** of land - the equivalent of **27,600 American football fields**. To provide a space for hands-on capacity building with local farmers, RASS established **117 demonstration farms** across 9 counties. These demonstration farms serve as a local hub for knowledge sharing, collaboration among farmers, and introducing new technologies and good agronomic practices. To date, RASS has trained **2,735 farmers** on good agronomic practices.

“ We really appreciate RASS for training us in good agricultural practices and setting up this large demonstration farm. Other organizations have small demos with their groups, but our demo is large with different crops, and our crop lines look attractive. People always want to come around to see what we are doing. We are happy that RASS is the first organization to establish large demos and am proud to be part of it.

- Mary Akuno (Kpiale Producer Group, Wau County)

”

For hundreds of thousands of agro-pastoralists in South Sudan, livestock is critical to their food security and livelihood. RASS supports smallholder livestock farmers raising dairy goats, sheep, poultry, and rabbits. To improve farmers' ability to sustainably manage their livestock, RASS trained **2,270 smallholder livestock farmers** on good animal husbandry and climate-smart livestock production. The training focused on best practices such as breed selection, housing, feed preparation and preservation, and pest and disease management. RASS also identified **60 community-based animal health workers** to provide basic animal health services and animal husbandry advice to livestock keepers.



# PRODUCER GROUPS

In South Sudan, farmer households typically do not participate in farmer groups, cooperatives, or unions. However, when they are managed well, farmer associations can grant access to resources and agribusiness services for producers, such as production credit, collective bargaining, and improved market access. To help enhance community productivity and production RASS, is forming and supporting farmer groups across thirteen counties. So far, RASS has established **514 producer groups** comprised of **12,933 members**.

## ENHANCING HARVEST MANAGEMENT

In addition to increasing productivity at the farmer level, RASS is helping communities reduce post-harvest losses. The World Bank (2020) estimated that post-harvest losses in South Sudan are currently as high as 40-50%. RASS provided training to address severe food loss affecting farmers during harvesting, processing, and storage. As a result of RASS support, **1,953 farmers** are applying improved post-harvest handling and storage practices. In addition to training, RASS distributed **15 different types of agricultural processing equipment** to farmers, such as grain mills, maize shellers, and sorghum thrashers. Not only does the equipment improve the quality of produce by reducing grain breakages and opportunities for pest infestation, but also saves communities, especially women, from labor-intensive hand shelling. RASS also distributed improved storage and record-keeping materials to farmers, including hermetic storage bags and weighing scales. By securing a good quality harvest and improving post-harvest crop management, farmers are improving their access to nutritious diets and increasing their income from the sale of quality produce that otherwise would be lost.

To date, RASS-supported farmer groups have produced **5,860 metric tons of agricultural products** and earned **\$1,000,796 in sales**.



## RASS PRODUCERS BY TYPE



**539** SEED PRODUCERS



**1,000** SHEA NUT PRODUCERS



**1,254** HONEY PRODUCERS



**982** FISHERFOLK



**9,158** CROP & VEGETABLE PRODUCERS

# IMPROVING FAMILY NUTRITION

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimates that roughly 7.76 million people in South Sudan (nearly two-thirds of the country's population) experience food insecurity. Malnutrition is a severe issue for children under the age of five as well as the elderly. To build community resilience, RASS activities are addressing the challenges of food security and malnutrition at their core. RASS's social behavior change campaigns are encouraging communities to diversify their crop production and grow nutritious vegetables in their home gardens year-round. Tailored messages are educating mothers and caregivers on crucial nutrition and hygiene-specific guidance in caring for children under the age of five. RASS focuses on sharing crucial nutrition best practices for families, such as promoting exclusive breastfeeding for an infant's first six months, providing adequate diets for children between the ages of six and 23 months, and ensuring that the foods young children consume are age-appropriate in both quantity and variety. Cooking demonstrations and nutritional awareness messages are encouraging the consumption of balanced diets made up of vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, milk, and eggs. With the knowledge from USAID RASS, families in South Sudan are better equipped to provide their children with adequate, age-appropriate diets, helping them to grow up healthy and strong. RASS's nutritional awareness campaigns are also sharing best practices in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). By training cohorts of community-based healthcare professionals and volunteers, RASS ensures nutritional awareness messages spread rapidly and that the information stays in the communities RASS serves. This messaging is part of RASS's effort to educate and empower local communities to take charge of their health and well-being. By prioritizing nutrition and diet, RASS participants are improving their health outcomes and strengthening their ability to thrive in their communities.

## RASS NUTRITION ACHIEVEMENTS



Reaching **3,651** children under the age of 5 through nutrition activities



Training **768** mothers and caregivers of children under five on good nutrition practices



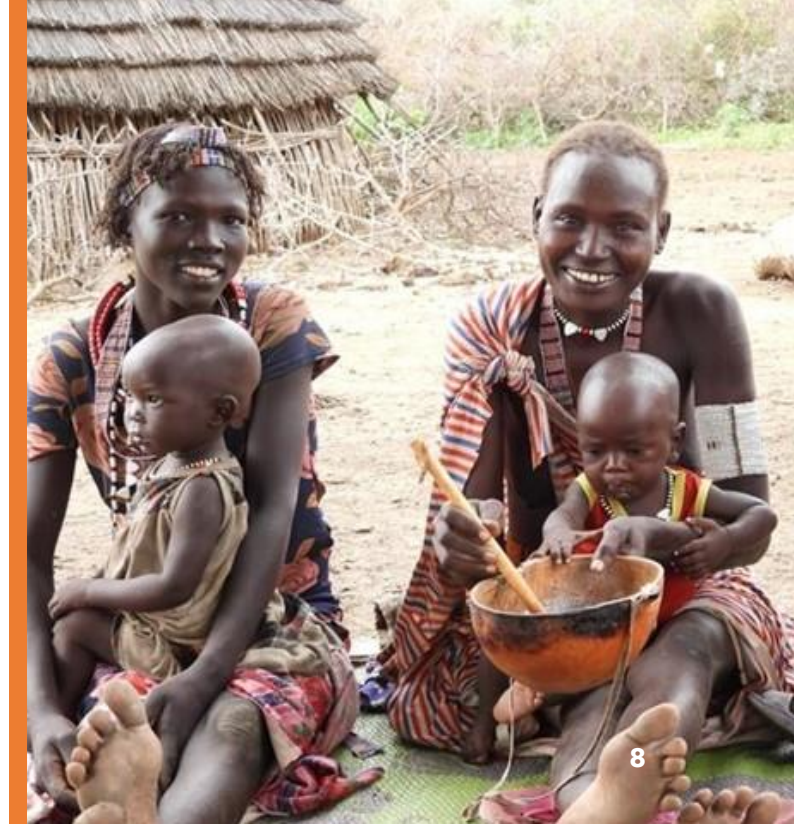
Building a network of **727** community-based health workers and volunteers



Launching nutritional awareness training that reached **720** people



Empowering **16,864** producers to diversify their crop production







# HAWA'S STORY

FROM CONCERNED MOTHER TO EMPOWERED PODUCER

“

I joined RASS activity as a participant, my 10-month-old daughter was suffering from malnutrition and was looking lean and weak. I did not see much improvement at all until I participated in the nutrition training for mothers of under-five children where I learned food and diet diversification and consumption, which types of nutritive food to plant in my kitchen garden, and how to mix different types of food for my children. I started with planting some vegetables around and some other crops I received from RASS. As I was waiting for my vegetables and crops to mature, I was buying from the market, following the instructions from RASS nutrition training. With that, my daughter's health visibly improved. I started harvesting vegetables after two months and crops after three months and continued the nutrition practice from the harvests of my own farm. My baby was discharged from the nutrition stabilization center and with my continuation of nutrition practice mixing food varieties for my daughter, her health improved. She gained more weight and now looks very healthy. I sincerely appreciate RASS for the knowledge and short-duration seeds I received from them, which has brought a positive change to my baby and family. All my family is happy with RASS.

- Hawa Hessen Saad

31-year-old mother of six and member of RASS supported Kabi Producer Group in Wau County

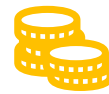
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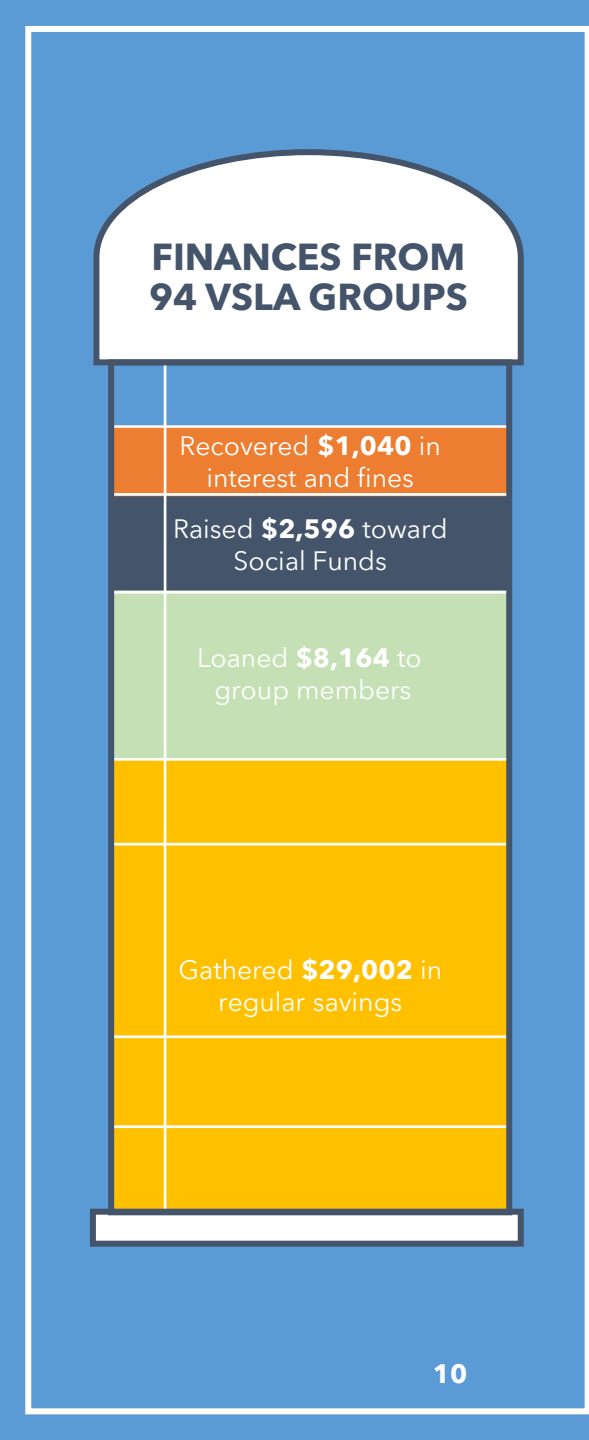
# COMMUNITY ACCESS TO FINANCE

To help strengthen communities' financial backbone, RASS is supporting village savings and loans associations (VSLAs). The primary goal of VSLAs is to offer savings services and micro-loans to its members to create access to credit and cultivate a savings and lending culture. VSLA members build an interest-bearing group fund, provide short-term micro-loans, and distribute group funds proportionally to each member at the end of a savings cycle. **56% of VSLA borrowers are women**, most of whom invest in small-business enterprises. Investments in peanut butter making, roadside kiosks, bread baking, and grain sales are providing entrepreneurial opportunities for community members and diversifying their livelihoods. To date, RASS has supported the growth and establishment of **1,222 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**. Members who were previously living from hand to mouth are now harvesting surplus food and have liquidity to save and invest.

Since 2021, RASS has supported **116 VSLA groups** with startup kits and training, attracting **more than 3,000 members**. Start-up kits provide VSLAs with essential management tools such as savings boxes, locks, calculators, record books, and other materials that accommodate members with lower literacy levels. To promote sustainable management of VSLAs, RASS trains members in business management, group leadership, and financial literacy. Building member's literacy skills not only protects them against personal fraud but also enables them to manage their businesses more effectively.



VSLA members are also encouraged to contribute part of the money towards a Social Fund. The **Social Fund** is a small emergency grant that can be given to members who encounter unexpected health problems, housing damage, or other severe livelihood issues. This provides VSLA members with additional financial security and peace of mind in the face of tragedies



RASS taught me to find an opportunity in every difficulty and that every problem has a solution. After participating in the USAID RASS smallholder livestock and animal husbandry training program, I used a loan from the VLSA group also formed and supported by RASS. The newfound skills and the loan helped me procure the medicines and materials needed to start the treatment of common livestock diseases in my community. With the profits I am making, I can now afford to take care of my family's needs as well as expand my services to the community.

- Marino Lokuru (Kapoeta North County)



”

We replaced the broadcasting of seeds with line planting of my grains and planted early as RASS instructed. We also received training on seed variety selection and the results were excellent. Our situation has significantly changed. We have enough to eat now, with the surplus I have sent 4 of my children to a boarding school in Narus. The VLSA has helped me save and borrow money that I have invested in processing my harvested grains into flour, earning more money from its sale. I borrowed 10,000 SSP and earned 18,000 SSP in profits. With these opportunities, life can only get better

- Magdalena Naboi (Budi County)



”

I am proud to be the secretary of Jumali Najie VSLA group. This has helped me grow my leadership skills. I am also very disciplined as this is also expected of me as a leader. The RASS VSLA training helped me have confidence in myself as a leader, a woman, and a youth.

- Lucia Nawii (Kapoeta North County)



”

RASS is putting food on our tables and our living condition has improved. Since RASS taught us the importance of preparing paste with the groundnut we harvested from our farms and adding the paste in our children's porridge instead of sugar alone and I started doing it. My children are now looking fresher and healthier than before. I have also made a lot of money that I have never made before from the sales of my farm produce and have been able to take care of my children school and hospital bills.

- Regina Dominic (Wau County)



”

We were hungry, we asked for fish, but we were not given fish, instead we were taught how to catch fish. We will not know hunger again. RASS gave us life skills in teaching us how to fish to generate income and not just to eat. That is the best thing anyone can ever ask for!

- Yien Maluil (Akobo County)



”

We have never experienced such large onion harvests. Thank you, USAID RASS, for your support with good quality seeds and training us on how to do good farming.

- Santina Laouta Lawrence (Budi County)



”

We were like blind men without any direction wondering in the wilderness of our farmlands without good results until RASS came, opening our eyes, and showed us the way. With my bountiful harvest and sales which have increased my household income, I am now able to take care of my 29 children as well as make savings for the next planting season. RASS intervention is an eye opener and a lifesaver. He who teaches you how to produce your food is better than one that gives you relief items. Now I know that what counts is not the number of workers on your farm, but the skills and knowledge acquired and applied. Thank you, USAID and the American people.

- William Bak Ulor (Jur River County)

”





# GENDER EQUALITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION

More than 40 years of conflict and instability in South Sudan have had long-lasting consequences for its population, especially for women, young people, internally displaced people, and people with disabilities. Patriarchal laws continue to limit women and other marginalized groups' access to land, education, and other opportunities that might pull them and their families out of poverty. While women make up the vast majority of smallholder farm laborers, they are routinely excluded from decision-making and control over resources. These limitations reduce women and their family's food security, productivity, and incomes. Ultimately, empowering women in South Sudan is not just about gender equality; it's a catalyst for progress, strength, and a brighter future for the entire community. 55% of RASS program participants are women. As farmers, business owners, members of producer groups, mothers, and caregivers of young children, female participants benefit from a wide variety of RASS activities. With RASS support women are getting access to economic opportunities, receiving vocational training, increasing their yields, and implementing best practices in WASH and nutrition. By investing in women's health, education, and economic opportunities, RASS is building a resilience pathway that supports positive change in the entire social landscape of South Sudanese communities.

## FROM ADVERSITY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Like many in Kuajiena Payam, Ms. Amanga Piny Udong struggled to feed her family for many years. Food rations from humanitarian organizations were dwindling and as a widow without formal education or vocational abilities, Ms. Amanga saw no way out of her predicament. She resigned herself to her fate until joining the RASS-supported Kuajiena Kitchen Gardening Producer Group. Ms. Amanga received improved climate-resilient seeds, farming tools, and training from RASS on good agronomic practices, post-harvest produce handling, and good animal husbandry practices. With hard work and dedication, Ms. Amanga has become self-sufficient, running a mini kitchen in her community and selling fresh eggplants, onions, tomatoes, and okra at the local market. Through RASS support, Ms. Amanga is now able to provide for her family, send her children to school, and feed them a wide variety of nutritious meals. After meeting the needs of her family, Ms. Amanga set aside savings and borrowed additional funds from group earnings to invest in establishing a restaurant.

Ms. Amanga's success exemplifies the transformative effect of empowering women to provide for their families independently. Members like Ms. Amanga, who were previously reliant on humanitarian assistance, are now successful entrepreneurs managing micro-businesses. In doing so, RASS is driving local economies, creating avenues for sustainable development, and lifting marginalized communities out of poverty.

“

It is not an easy task to transform the lives of illiterate people who lack basic survival skills, primarily because of decades of conflict deprived them of opportunities to acquire skills and earn a living. People who previously lacked a sense of purpose in life now have one because of the support we received through the RASS Activity. We joined this group to meet our basic survival requirements, but we now provide fresh vegetables to the local market and town of Wau.

- Amanga Piny Udong (Jur River County)

”



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Youth development is a core priority of RASS interventions. Empowering South Sudanese youth drives economic growth, mitigates violence, and creates meaningful opportunities for young people. In addition to engaging youth as leaders and members of RASS-supported VSLA, seed production, and fisherfolk groups, RASS has partnered with youth organizations, such as **Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT)**, to advance the livelihoods of South Sudanese youth and women. By issuing grants to YSAT, RASS is providing basic vocational skills training on agricultural value chains to youth groups of different backgrounds and tribes. These trainings help youth stimulate innovative thinking, pilot product development, and scale up their successful products. With RASS support, youth are also participating in climate smart interventions, like briquette making and energy saving stove production. To increase youth income generation and enhance their access to markets, RASS promotes youth-led e-commerce and innovation centers that provide off-farm livelihood skills and e-finance services to young entrepreneurs.



**34%** of all RASS participants are youth falling within the age range of 15-29 years.



**57** new business enterprises have been started by youth and women with RASS support



**45%** of participants in RASS activities improving productive enterprises and economic resources are youth





# RE-DEFINING MASCULINITY

RASS Social Behavior Change (SBC) campaigns are aimed at re-defining masculinity and seek to challenge traditional and often harmful stereotypes associated with manhood. These campaigns promote positive and healthier expressions of masculinity by encouraging men to embrace values such as respect, empathy, and equality. SBC initiatives often involve engaging men as allies in gender equality efforts, highlighting the importance of shared responsibilities in households, empowering women, and breaking down societal norms that perpetuate toxic masculinity. Messages of collaborative decision-making within households help ensure inclusive financial investments and agricultural planning for families, especially during harvest season. By consistently engaging program participants through SBC campaigns, RASS plays a crucial role in fostering healthier relationships, re-defining masculinity, and building more resilient communities.

## RASS REACHES A WIDE AUDIENCE



Using existing community forums **across 9 priority counties** to directly share messages



Broadcasting messages in **8 local languages** across **6 radio stations**



Distributing **555 hand-cranked, solar-powered radio sets** to community members



Placing **13 billboards** across Juba, Wau, and Jur River Counties



Encouraging **40 women** and other listeners with mobile phones to download and share audio recordings



## RASS SBC CAMPAIGNS

- **Combating toxic masculinity and enhancing women's decision-making and technical skills** to ensure families are well-nourished with diverse, nutrient-rich foods
- **International Women's Day DigitALL:** Innovation and technology for gender equality
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence:** Women's Resilience against GBV and Femicide - Connect, Collaborate, Contract!



# GBV PREVENTION

The ongoing conflict, instability, and socio-economic challenges in South Sudan have exacerbated the prevalence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), disproportionately affecting women and girls. Harmful societal expectations of masculinity can promote entrenched gender roles, power imbalances, and normalize violence and aggression. Through RASS grants, partner organizations such as Support for Women and Children in Conflict (SWCC), Rural Women for Development in South Sudan (RWDSS), and Saint Monica for Peace and Development (SMPD) are directly addressing women's empowerment, handling GBV cases, and helping survivors navigate referral pathways. RASS is also working to change societal norms that perpetuate gender inequality and violence by conducting awareness campaigns. Through targeted SBC messages, RASS has successfully reinforced community awareness and understanding of GBV, the role of women in decision-making, and gender equality and social inclusion at the household level.

## Promoting Women in Decision Making

When women are involved in decision-making processes, their unique perspectives contribute to more holistic and inclusive solutions to community challenges. A gender assessment conducted by RASS found that at least 60% of respondents across target counties affirmed that women were marginalized in decision-making. RASS utilized these findings to design activities and SBC campaigns that support the active participation and empowerment of women.

Gender biases within the legal field and traditional expectations of family responsibilities often prevent women's participation in the judiciary. Traditional courts in RASS-supported counties are mostly comprised of male members. Through RASS SBC interventions, two women in Jur River County were appointed as panelists in their local bench court, increasing women's representation in the court to 40%. Not only are these women contributing to judgments on GBV cases, but they are ultimately enhancing the credibility of the legal system and inspiring future generations of women and girls.

“

Women were not allowed to make decisions in this court, they were merely called as observers to verify if their husbands' claims against them were true in court trials in which only men made decisions. But thanks to USAID RASS awareness on gender equality and inclusion during their social behavior change campaigns, we now have two women as panelists in our local bench court of five that passes judgments on domestic issues. This has reduced the GBV cases and women now have a voice and representation.

- Kon Angor Kott (Jur River County)  
Mapel Payam Court

”





# LOCAL SEED PRODUCTION

A significant portion of farming seeds in South Sudan are imported from other countries, due to limited local production and lack of access to improved seed varieties. Seed quality is known to account for at least **10-15% increase in agricultural productivity** and the lack of quality seeds in South Sudan continues to be one of the greatest challenges to bridging the country's vast yield gap. Enhancing local seed production serves as a pivotal strategy in building agricultural self-sufficiency and resilience. The high costs associated with importing seeds include expenses like transportation, customs duties, taxes imposed by the government, handling charges, and sometimes additional fees for certifications or quality checks. To boost farmer's access to quality local seeds and diminish the reliance on costly imports, RASS has formed and supported **21 seed producer groups** comprised of **539 program participants**.

In partnership with the **Seed Trade Association of South Sudan (STASS)**, RASS is providing seed producer groups with plowing services, verified early-generation seeds, and direct mentorship and hands-on training from seed agronomists to cultivate quality planting materials. RASS's customized **Seed Production Training Manual** is building farmers' knowledge on land preparation, isolation distance, agronomic practices, field management, pest and disease scouting, as well as seed harvesting, processing, and packaging.



## PRODUCER GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS



Received **6.8 tons** of climate-resilient seeds



Cultivated **over 468 acres of land** with different seed varieties



Produced **1,574 tons of seeds**



Surpassed RASS's Year 2 **seed production goal by 3,147%**





# CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is a group of practices that seek to transform agri-food systems into more ecologically friendly and climate-resilient practices. CSA is a globally recognized approach promoted in international accords such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. RASS aims to accomplish **3 basic objectives** using CSA approaches:

- 1) Sustainably improve South Sudanese agricultural output and incomes
- 2) Strengthen community resilience and ability to adapt to climate change
- 3) Lower or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions

To achieve these objectives, RASS is promoting CSA practices such as mulching, crop rotation, small-scale irrigation, cover crops, crop diversifications, sunken vegetable beds, and environmentally friendly pest and disease control. As a result, RASS has surpassed numerous Year 2 annual targets for the project's climate-smart investments.

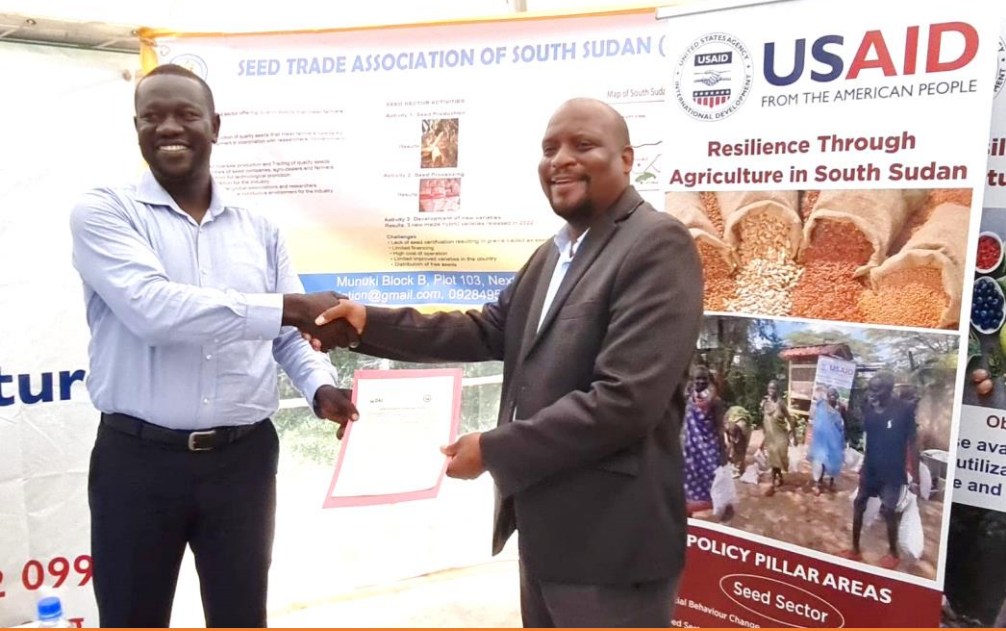
## RASS CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **17,020 acres** under improved management practices and technologies that promote climate risk reduction
- **91.5%** of RASS activities and sub-award scopes have identified climate risk and mitigation measures to improve resilience to climate change
- **10,103 people** are using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience to climate change

**2.75x**  
Y2 target

**3.5x**  
Y2 target

**10x**  
Y2 target

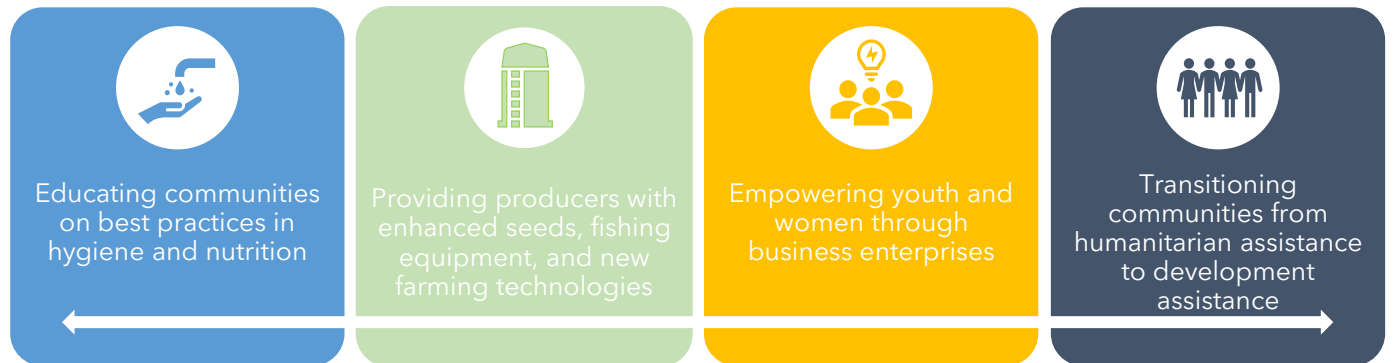


# ADVANCING LOCALIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Localization is crucial for sustainable agricultural and livelihood improvements in South Sudan. By building the knowledge and skills of local actors, RASS is ensuring capacities stay within South Sudanese communities for long-term resilience. Farmers groups, faith-based organizations, women and youth groups, traditional authorities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a critical role in improving food security, community resilience, and household recovery. RASS uses a **Groups Engagement Model (GEM)** to offer these local groups a formal mentorship pathway with sustainability at its core. Under the GEM, RASS is providing local groups with financial management tools and guidance on technical compliance. RASS works hand-in-hand with local partners to jointly identify challenges, tailor activities to local needs, and foster community ownership.

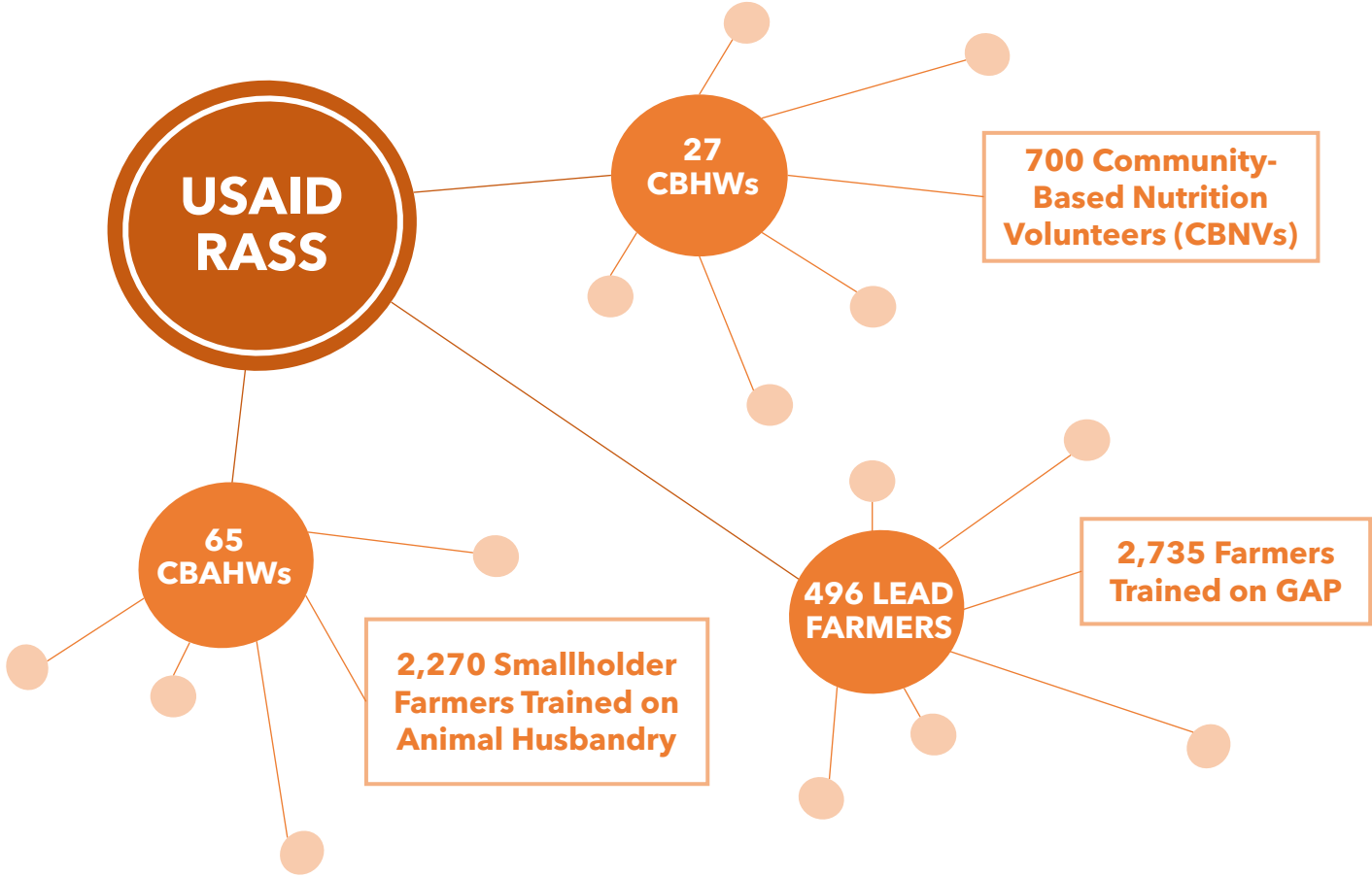
RASS uses grants under contract to work through local partners and build the capacity of South Sudanese NGOs and civil society organizations (CSO). To date, RASS has issued over **\$1.5 million** in grants to **11 national-level and grassroots organizations** across South Sudan.

## THROUGH ACTIVITY GRANT AWARDS RASS IS...



# TRAINING OF TRAINERS

RASS uses a Training of Trainers (ToT) model to identify local change-makers and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and methodologies to effectively train others in their communities. ToT empowers program participants to uplift their own communities and retain knowledge within South Sudan even after RASS ends. In doing so, ToT creates a multiplier effect where local leaders spread information rapidly and create a sustainable cycle of knowledge. RASS has conducted ToT professional training on family nutrition for community-based health workers (CBHW), good agronomic practices (GAP) for lead farmers, and animal husbandry best practices for community-based animal health workers (CBAHWs). As a result, RASS has surpassed its annual goal of the number of participants in USG food security programs by **288%**.



**UPCOMING TOT OPPORTUNITIES**

RASS will be investing in more ToT activities in 2024. RASS will train village-based advisors (VBAs) on post-harvest management, good agronomic practices, climate-smart agriculture, integrated pest management, hide and skin preparation, and bee keeping. Once equipped with the necessary skills, VBAs will disseminate the same training to 300 program participants across six Farming as a Family Business (FFBs) groups. Through ToT, RASS is continuing to improve agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience in South Sudan.

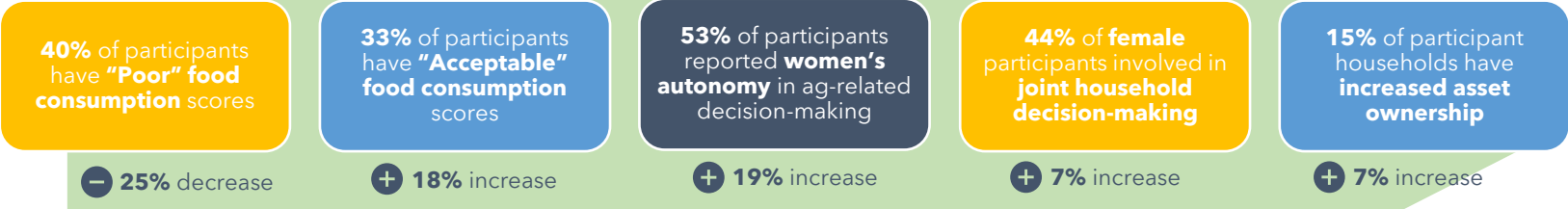




# MEASURING SUCCESS

In November 2023, RASS commissioned an independent consultancy firm to carry out an **Outcome Indicator Survey** measuring the success of RASS activities to date. The assessment covered RASS's nine priority counties of Akobo, Baliet, Budi, Duk, Kapoeta North, Panyijiar, Pibor, Jur River and Wau. The survey used a mixed-method approach to assess project results against 13 key outcome indicators. Quantitative research included face-to-face interviews with 900 participants selected through multistage sampling. Evaluators also gathered qualitative insights through 26 key informant interviews and 29 focus group discussions. The independent survey findings revealed a commendable trajectory of improvements across the assessed indicators. Progress from baseline results is indicative of **RASS's positive influence on household resilience, economic empowerment, and nutritional outcomes**. Positive trends in food consumption and dietary diversity scores demonstrate RASS's ongoing success in addressing household nutritional needs and building sustained access to diverse and nutritious foods. RASS's commitment to gender equality is also evidenced by positive perception shifts in women's autonomy and joint household decision-making. In line with RASS's **Resilience Pathways Approach**, findings from the Outcome Indicator Survey will help RASS identify what activities have worked well, where successful activities can be scaled to other areas, and what to adapt in future interventions to achieve greater program results. Key lessons learned include the importance of diversifying food sources, understanding and mitigating the impact of external shocks, promoting livelihood diversification, adopting inclusive gender approaches, tailoring strategies to community-specific needs, and fostering community engagement and participation. Overall, survey outcomes indicate RASS is making significant strides in improving food security and community resilience. By empowering households and their communities RASS is fostering positive and lasting change in South Sudan.

## SELECT MIDTERM OUTCOME INDICATOR SURVEY RESULTS



# LOOKING AHEAD

As RASS reaches its midpoint, the program is incorporating lessons learned and planning interventions that will maximize impact for the years to come. Looking ahead, RASS interventions will focus on...



## CREATING SUSTAINABLE MARKET LINKAGES FOR PRODUCERS

Through grants, RASS will build local farmer capacities in product development, quality assurance, and market strategies to expand economic opportunities and enhance pull factors for producers.



## BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF PROMISING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Through RASS's Groups Engagement Model, the Activity is enhancing local groups' abilities to directly receive and manage USG funding.



## OPERATIONALIZING THE INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

RASS will bring private sector and civil society stakeholders together using the Inclusive Partnership Facility (IPF) IPF framework, to enhance the provision of credit facilities for rural farmers, particularly women.



## EXPANDING LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES TO FOUR NEW COUNTIES

RASS is officially launching interventions in Rumbek Centre and Wulu Counties (Lakes State), as well as Yambio and Nzara Counties (Western Equatoria State), bringing the total number of RASS-supported counties to 13.

