

## Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region.



### Country Profile *Sudan*



Under the Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in Eastern Africa (DRESS-EA) project, interventions in Sudan are being implemented in El Salam Locality, near Kosti in White Nile State. The project supports vulnerable farming and pastoralist communities to strengthen their resilience to recurring drought and climate change through water resource management, drought adaptation, ecosystem conservation and climate-resilient livelihoods.

The project is targeting over 58,169 beneficiaries across the project intervention areas.

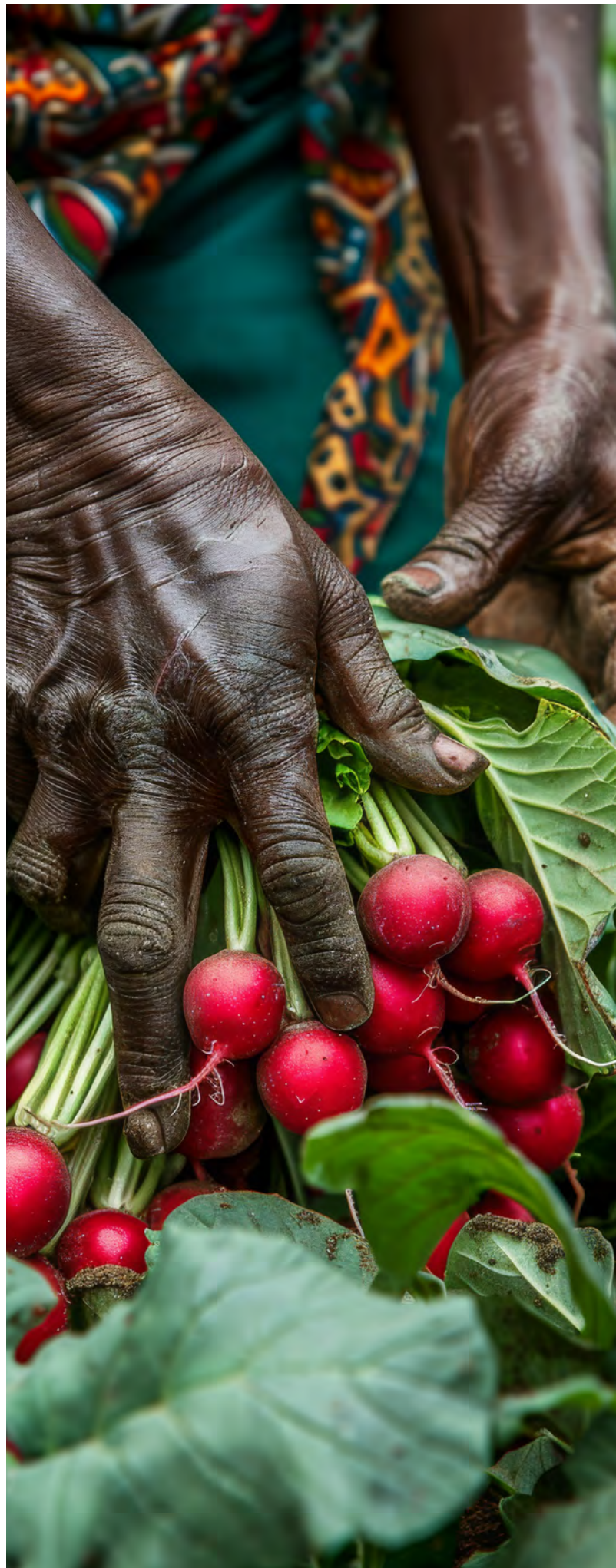
### Challenge

El Salam Locality is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, experiencing:

- Recurrent droughts
- Flooding
- Heat waves
- Increasing rainfall variability

More than 80% of the local population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. Declining rainfall, deteriorating rangelands, and environmental degradation have reduced agricultural productivity, weakened food security, and increased pressure on already limited natural resources.

The area also hosts large numbers of refugees and returnees, further increasing demand for water, grazing land, food, energy, and social services.





El Salam Locality has an estimated resident population of approximately 136,000 people, in addition to around 120,000 refugees and 68,000 returnees. Settlements are generally dispersed, with larger concentrations around productive agricultural land, trading centres, and reliable water sources. The locality is home to both settled and mobile pastoralist communities, including:

- Permanent pastoralist tribes: El Selame, El Ahamd, El Gemea, Awlad Hassan, Mashalga and Uwesab
- Cattle-keeping communities: Hasaneya and Husonat
- Camel-herding communities: El Kababeesh and Bany Garar
- Seasonally mobile pastoralists: Taisha, Mesarya and Hawasset, who migrate in search of pasture and water throughout the year.

Seven camps accommodating refugees and returnees are located within the project area, where access to food, healthcare, energy and livelihood opportunities remains a significant challenge.

### Key Development Challenges

Communities in El Salam face several interconnected challenges:

- Increasing population pressure due to refugees and returnees.
- Competition among farmers, pastoralists and displaced populations for productive land and water resources.
- Growing risk of conflict over scarce natural resources.
- Environmental degradation driven by overgrazing, deforestation and unsustainable land use.
- Reduced agricultural and livestock productivity caused by recurrent droughts and declining rainfall.
- Climate projections indicate continued temperature increases and more frequent droughts by 2030 and 2050, placing additional pressure on people, livestock and ecosystems.



# DRESS-EA Response

The DRESS-EA project is helping communities strengthen resilience by promoting integrated approaches that improve livelihoods while restoring natural ecosystems. Key interventions include:

- Improving water resource management.
- Promoting climate-smart and drought-resilient agricultural practices.
- Restoring degraded rangelands and ecosystems.
- Supporting sustainable natural resource management.
- Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, refugees and host communities to climate-related shocks.

By addressing both immediate livelihood needs and long-term climate risks, the project contributes to improved food security, reduced vulnerability and more sustainable management of natural resources.

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## Project Implementation Villages

*Project activities are being implemented in the following villages: Um Elgorah, Assabaa, Alatshan, Elgeleah Eshargeah, Danab Eligil, Mahabooba, Usooda*

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# 58,000+

**beneficiaries across  
the project intervention  
areas.**