

Joint press release - For immediate release  
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## Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security signs output agreement to implement South Sudan livelihoods and resilience project

The project implemented by UNOPS and funded by IFAD aims to contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods of over 93,700 households in five states.

- The project, with an estimated value of over USD 25.7 million, will be implemented by UNOPS, focusing on two components: a community-driven development planning approach to strengthen inclusive community-based organisations and a community agriculture investment fund to increase agricultural production and Rural Livelihoods.
- The project will also focus on Productive Community Infrastructure Development through climate-resilient infrastructure, as well as the construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads and community roads to improve connectivity to markets.

*Juba, South Sudan.*— The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) has officially signed an output agreement with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to implement the South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Project (SSLP), funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

This government-led initiative, valued at over USD 25.7 million, is set to directly benefit more than 93,700 households across five South Sudanese states: Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

### **Project Focus and Objectives**

The project, under the leadership of MAFS, will focus on enhancing the resilience and

livelihoods of rural communities, especially targeting vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons, returnees, and individuals with disabilities. Key demographic beneficiaries will include 60% women and 70% youth.

The core objectives of the SSLP are to strengthen food security, improve climate shock resilience, boost market access, and develop community infrastructure. These outcomes will be achieved through comprehensive efforts in community-driven development and Capacity-building.

UNOPS as implementation partner

While MAFS takes the lead in managing the project, UNOPS has been engaged as a third-party implementation partner. UNOPS will support MAFS in executing two major components of the project:

1. Community-Driven Development Planning – This component will empower local communities by strengthening community-based organizations and enabling inclusive, participatory planning processes.
2. Community Agriculture Investment Fund (CAIF) – The CAIF will focus on increasing agricultural production, improving rural livelihoods, and supporting infrastructure development to make communities more resilient to climate shocks.

## Key Activities and Impact

Through this collaboration, MAFS aims to deliver a range of impactful activities, including:

- Mobilizing communities and strengthening local organizations;
- Providing in-kind grants to support agriculture and rural livelihood;
- Rehabilitating key feeder roads and constructing community infrastructure to improve market connectivity; and
- Offering training, technical support, and capacity-building to boost the institutional capacity of local stakeholders.

These efforts will help increase food security, enhance income-generating opportunities, and build long-term resilience among smallholder farmers and rural populations. The overall goal is to create lasting improvements in the lives of South Sudanese communities by improving infrastructure, empowering local organizations, and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

According to **Hon. Abdelbagi Akol Agany, the South Sudan Minister of Agriculture and Food Security**, the project's community infrastructure development component is both lacking and essential across the region. It aims to provide crucial, climate-smart infrastructure that enhances agricultural productivity, connectivity, and economic resilience, in line with Community Driven Development Plans. The success of this project will mark a milestone in achieving community infrastructure development by connecting agricultural areas and facilitating the flow of products to urban regions.

Mr. **Hakim Luka Yatta**, Project Manager in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety, praised the achievement, stating that the signed output agreement reflects the Ministry's commitment to enhancing inclusive governance for resilient rural livelihoods in South Sudan. He emphasized that the project aims to address chronic poverty, food insecurity, and social exclusion, while promoting community-driven decision-making to revive agricultural livelihoods and promote stability.

Mrs. **Petronella Halwiindi Kasaka**, UNOPS Country Manager in South Sudan, reaffirmed UNOPS commitment, acknowledging close collaboration with the Ministry on project implementation. She emphasized that the project would be delivered per the signed agreement and expressed gratitude to the Ministry for selecting UNOPS as its partner.

### **Commitment to Sustainable Development**

MAFS is committed to driving the success of the SSLP with a focus on climate resilience, inclusive development, and sustainable growth. The collaboration with UNOPS underscores the government's dedication to improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations and ensuring that communities across South Sudan are better equipped to face future challenges.

With funding from IFAD and the support of key partners, MAFS is confident that this project will significantly contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities across the country.

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## Notes to the editors:

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### About SSLRP

The South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Project (SSLRP) supports agriculture recovery and income stabilization efforts through the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach, which contributes to strengthening household and community institutions, enhancing social cohesion, and fostering the economic empowerment of communities.

SSLRP uses a community-driven development planning approach to strengthen inclusive organizations and create community plans. These plans aim to enhance agricultural production and livelihoods through climate-sensitive investments and infrastructure for production and marketing. The project also builds institutional capacity and policy support for MAFS. More information: <https://mafs.gov.ss/ssralp/>

### About IFAD

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised agency of the United Nations, dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries. It works in remote rural areas of the world to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through low-interest loans and grants, IFAD develops and finances projects that enable rural poor people to overcome poverty independently. Read more: <https://www.ifad.org/en/>

### About MAFS

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) in South Sudan is a ministry in the current Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unit with a mission to enhance the quality of life for over 87 percent of the rural population and vision for providing Food security for all the people of the Republic of South Sudan, enjoying improved quality of life and environment. <https://mafs.gov.ss/our-mandate/>

### About UNOPS

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org).