

Improved food security through the use of the Participatory Awakening Process in Sudan

The Participatory Awakening Process



Photo: Mari Williams/Tearfund

The Participatory Awakening Process (PAP) is a tool to mobilise local churches and communities to design, plan, implement and evaluate their development process. It also empowers communities to identify and use local resources for development.

The process follows five stages:

1. **Church awakening:** to enable the church to understand its Biblical mandate for holistic ministry
2. **Description:** communities and churches tell their story about who they are, discussing their current situation in relation to their history
3. **Information gathering:** communities gather specific information regarding the issues affecting them
4. **Analysis:** the communities analyse the information and discuss the causes and effects of their problems, and what they can do to mitigate against them
5. **Decision making:** specific goals and objectives are formulated by the communities to help them obtain their vision. Community Development Committees (CDC) are trained to spearhead all the development activities in which the churches and communities are involved.

Impact on beneficiaries

In Yei, Sudan, **Tearfund's partner, Across**, has found PAP to be a driving force in transforming community livelihoods economically, socially and spiritually. The process has inspired community members to form farmers groups, savings and loan groups, women's groups, community development committees and youth groups. Across works with these groups, providing training and accompaniment as required.

Instead of working alone on a subsistence basis, many farmers in the project area are now part of a cooperative. This means they are able to sell some of their produce commercially, increasing their incomes. The Manga group in Goja Village (15 women and 17 men) sold 91 bags of maize (50kg each) generating an income of 4,550 Sudanese pounds. The money was used to hire a tractor to cultivate more ground for the next season, to buy more agricultural tools and to support group members through the provision of low interest loans.

The difference can be seen at a household level with most families in the project area now eating twice a day instead of once, with enough food to last them until the second farming season. Many more of the children are in school and community cohesion is greatly enhanced.

"PAP is like Moses and Aaron who through God's help delivered the Israelites from the bondage in Egypt to the Promised Land. Goja community is in the process of reaching the Promised Land which is full of honey and milk. Look, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, businessmen and household heads are coming to buy our products and more are expected to come.

Household income has increased from 0.5% to 5%. The school attendance children ratio is 20:23 for girls and boys compared to 15:19 in previous years. Maternal health and child mortality have been reduced due to access to drugs, health education and care. 90% of the population is food secure. 5% of the population has access to transport and communication".

Nelson Tabu from Manga farmers group, Goja community

"Through PAP my family was able to plant 100 bananas and also increase the length of my field for other crops like cassava, maize, sweet potatoes and cowpea. This year my family does not go to buy food from the market for consumption because I grow enough to feed them. I am able to cater for part of my children's school fees and medical charges. We are blessed because of the PAP programme."

Michael Ade, Payawa

Food Security