RESULTS SUMMARY

Joint kitchen garden with Sudanese refugees and host communities in Chad strengthen peaceful coexistence and resilience

Author: Mission East – Emergency and Development (MEED) (2024) **Find project on OpenAid**

PROJECT

Title:	Inclusive Kitchen Gardens Strengthen Peace and Resilience in Eastern Chad.
Partner:	LM International Chad
Country:	Chad
Period:	Sept 2024 – Dec 2024

CHANGE

MEED's kitchen garden initiative in Dougui refugee camp and surrounding host villages enabled refugees and host communities to jointly cultivate nutritious vegetables for consumption and sale. The shared farming model not only boosted food security and income for vulnerable households but also fostered social cohesion and contributed to local peacebuilding. Through structured land access agreements, communities secured long-term user rights, paving the way for sustained, locally driven resilience efforts.

CONTEXT

Since the outbreak of war in Sudan, Eastern Chad, particularly Ouaddaï region, has faced a continuous influx of Sudanese refugees—numbering over 485,000 by October 2024, as the project started. New camps such as Dougui were established to address urgent needs. This semi-arid region faces extreme climate stress and resource scarcity, which strain both refugee and host communities. Access to fertile land, water, and income opportunities is limited, raising the risk of tension and conflict over shared and scarce resources.

CONTRIBUTION

Through advocacy and dialogue with local authorities and leaders, MEED secured 24 hectares of land for joint refugee-host community farming. 8 hectares were cultivated during the project, boosting food security, nutrition and income. Initial hesitation gave way to strong local support as host communities saw clear benefits, and authorities and community leaders actively back the initiative. Participation was high among both refugees and hosts. A resilience fund was established to reinvest profits in seeds and tools, supporting sustainability.

IMAGES

Insert photo credit

Insert photo credit

See next page for more details →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

To secure land access and launch kitchen garden farming activities, local advocacy and dialogue sessisons were organized in host villages with local community leaders and authorities, ultimately leading to the signing of land agreements. To strengthen agricultural production, participating kitchen garden farmers were trained in composting techniques and tree planting to improve soil quality and reduce erosion risks. They were also trained in crop selection and natural resource management as well as climate-sensitive production methods and climate change awareness raising. Water access was secured through the digging of irrigation canals and hedges were constructed and fields secured with wire mesh to prevent wandering animals from destroying crops. Additionally, a resilience fund was created amongst kitchen garden farmers to collect savings from crop revenues with the goal to build financial resilience and reinvest in inputs that can further boost farming efforts.

LESSONS

Local leadership and backing emerged as an essential facilitator of the project's nexus, peace and resilience building objectives, providing an essential foundation for sustainability that can enable long-term, locally-led farming activities beyond the lifespan of the project for the benefit of host communities and refugees alike. The inclusive approach taken by the project to bring together both refugees and host communities under joint kitchen gardening activities was highly welcomed by local stakeholders, highlighting the key needs amongst local communities who tend to be overlooked. The project revealed the essential need for building social cohesion, and integrating a conflict sensitive lens to prevent and address community conflicts and grievances that often arise in the context of resource-sharing and negotiating land usage. Ensuring sufficient time and resources for local dialogue and stakeholder engagements, particularly in the project's early stages, emerged as a key lesson learnt.

EVIDENCE

Dialogue and advocacy vis-à-vis local authorities and community leaders in host communities surrounding Dougui refugee camp led to the allocation of a total of 24 hectares of exploitable areas for joint farming activities, of which 8 hectares were utilized during the first project period to grow various crops. Land agreements were drawn up for up to 10 years, supporting long-term efforts and land access. During the first months of the project, refugee and host community farmers jointly cultivated crops in a peaceful, collaborative spirit and joint farming efforts led to the harvesting of 6 tons of fresh vegetables and produce; 2 tons were consumed by the producers and their households and 4 tons were sold on local markets, providing much needed income for vulnerable host and refugee households.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:	climate, nature and environment
Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	x
Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	x
Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights	x
Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights	-
Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability	x

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

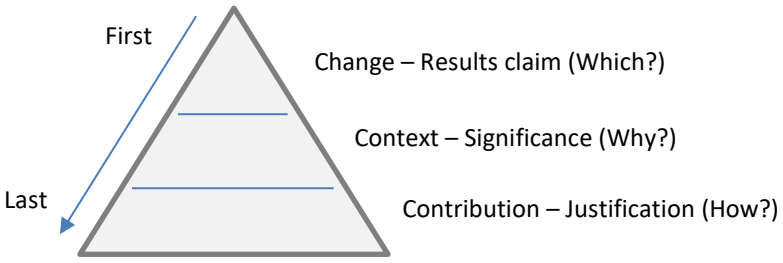
Page 1: Results summary
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a "reverse funnel." First, the "change" section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the "which." Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the "context" section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining "why" it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the "contribution" section should provide examples to justify for "how" the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. "After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z."

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information
The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities:* Whereas the "contribution" section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the "activities" section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- *Lessons:* Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- *Evidence:* A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer "X led to Y, because of Z," although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- *Domains and development strategy:* Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.