



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Thriving and resilient
families in West Nile,
Uganda



During a year filled with unprecedented change and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) successfully secured UGX 12.1 billion, impacting the lives of over 187,900 people.

Foreword

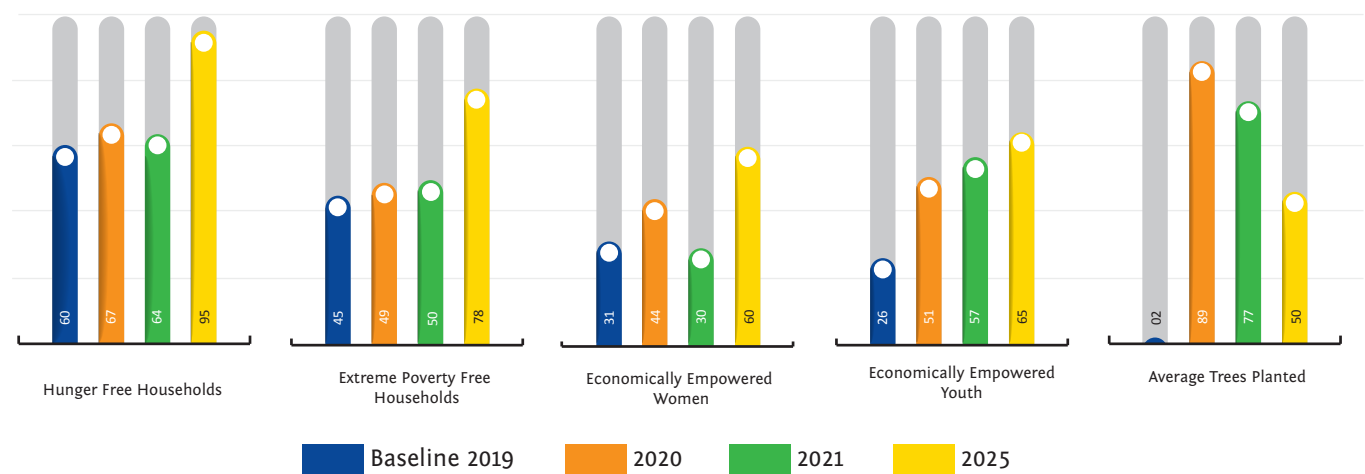
During a year marked with unprecedented loss like the world has never witnessed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are glad that some things remained a constant and a beacon of light in the otherwise dark skyline that the world found itself in.

The commitment from our partners never wavered, enabling AFARD to successfully mobilize UGX 12.1 billion for 13 projects that were implemented in the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Terego, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani.

Of the UGX 12.1 billion mobilized, local revenue totaled UGX 1.0 billion, accounting for 8% of the total revenue (up from 7% in 2020). This is a positive trend that aligns with our vision to become more self-reliant by growing our local revenue sources.

As a result of this support AFARD projects directly impacted the lives of 187,905 people (67% females that make up one of the vulnerable groups besides the children). Because of you – our partners, our vision of reducing hunger and extreme poverty in 20,000 households, directly benefiting 138,500 people in West Nile by 2025 is now within reach.

Key Results



The results above would not have been possible without the support of our partners.

2021 also ushered in the second year of implementation of our five-year Strategy (2020 – 2025) through which we aim to contribute to the socio-economic transformation of West Nile.

Having witnessed the consistency and success in our projects inspite of COVID-19, AFARD will maintain its programmatic approach that will be achieved through the following four pillars:

- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture** for increased production and consumption of diversified foods;
- **Inclusive market participation** for decent employment in strategic agribusiness and vocational labour markets;
- **Voice and accountability** for responsive and people-centered decentralized local governance; and
- **AFARD organizational development** to strengthen AFARD's operational capacity and financial base.

With your continued support we will continue to make significant strides towards the actualization of a socio-economically transformed West Nile.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Ocan Odoki Sabino
Chairman, Board of Directors

Dr. Alfred Lakwo
Executive Director

Acronyms

ACREP	Atyak Child Rights to Education Project
AFARD	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
ALENU	Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda
ATT	Animal Traction Technology
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
CG.	Children Group
CLA	Cluster Level Association
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
FFS	Farmer Field School
FFSF	Farmer Field School Facilitator
FG	Farmer Group
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GGE	Girls Get Equal
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGA-SPM	Income Generating Activity – Selection, Planning and Management
JSFP	Jangokoro Food Security Project
KNH	Kindernothilfe
LC	Local Council
LIFE	Level Income for Equity
MAYEP	MANZO Youth Empowerment Project
NIDP	Nebbi Inclusive Development Program
NURI	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PCDP	Panyango Community Development Project
PMC	Project Management Committee
PSE	Private Sector Enterprise
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RELIP	Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project
SHG	Self Help Group
SHRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSF	Social Structure Fund
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VHT	Village Health Team
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WENAGIC	West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation Project
YEEP	Youth Economic Empowerment Project

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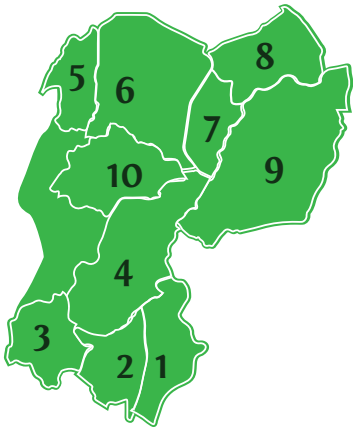
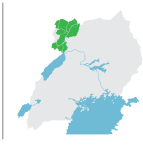
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AFARD aims to equip communities with the right knowledge and skills, technologies and connections through its “Inspire - Empower - Account approach.”





Who we are



Districts of operation	
1. Pakwach	6. Yumbe
2. Nebbi	7. Moyo
3. Zombo	8. Obongi
4. Madi Okollo	9. Adjumani
5. Koboko	10. Terego

The Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), is an indigenous NGO founded in 2000. Headquartered in Nebbi municipality, AFARD works in Pakwach, Nebbi, Terego, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani districts in West Nile region.

AFARD employed 111 staff (32% of whom are female) and worked with 1,907 community facilitators that supported 1,158 community groups in the nine districts.

AFARD in 2021 directly impacted the lives of over 187,905 people (35% of whom are youth) through improved livelihoods, job creation, environment conservation, and peaceful families, groups and communities.

This has been possible through the support of our 13 partners that currently fund AFARD’s projects in Emergency relief, gender inclusion, agriculture and agribusiness.

The generous contribution of our development partners has enabled AFARD to successfully increase its project portfolio from 10 projects in 2020 to 13 projects in 2021 as shown below.

Our Projects

	Donor	Districts	No of groups	Target HHs	Total HH Pop
Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)	Danida	Nebbi Pakwach Zombo	405	10,932	76,524
Secure livelihoods for South Sudanese Refugees and host communities (Migration Project)	ADA/ HORIZONT3000	Yumbe	19	475	3,325
Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)	BMZ/ AWO International	Yumbe	12	300	2,093
Action for Livelihood Enhancement for Northern Uganda (ALENU)	EU/OPM/ CACH	Nebbi, Zombo	68	1,700	11,900
West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation (WENAGIC) project	Sall Family Foundation	Yumbe	10	300	2,013
Panyango Community Development Project	KNH	Pakwach	77	1,386	6,930
Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)	KNH	Zombo	17	500	2,000
Girls Get Equal - Reducing Child Early and Forced Marriage Project	NORAD through Plan International Uganda	Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Adjumani	175	5,250	15,750
Nebbi Inclusive Development Project (NIDP)	INclusion	Nebbi		78	345
Youth Agri skilling for Descent Employment (YADE)	Medicor Foundation and Dka Austria through HORIZONT3000	Pakwach	24	500	5,100
Sustainable Resilient Smallholder Farmers' Project (SURE)	Gobierno de Canarias through Manos Unidas	Zombo	10	277	2155
Street Children-Prevention through Sustainable Graduation from Poverty Project (PSGP)	Swiss Development Cooperation through Caritas Switzerland	Yumbe	15	450	2,700
Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project	EU/GIZ through AFC	Adjumani, Obongi, Arua, Terego	326	8,150	57,070
TOTAL			1,158	30,298	187,905

Our Donors in 2021



KINDER
NOT
HILFE



2021 in Numbers

2020 2021

Revenue
(UGX in billion)



10

12

Number of
Producer
Cooperatives
established



6

11

Number of
projects



10 projects

13 projects

Households
that are
food secure



67%

64%

Number of
full-time
staff



99 people

111 people

Households
that exited
extreme
poverty



49%

50%

Number of peer
/community
facilitators



568 peers

1,907 peers

Households
out of
child
poverty



1%

47%

Number of
groups
supported



1,002

1,158

Access to
latrines
with hand
washing facilities



77%

90%

Number of
households
reached



29,194
(64% females)

30,298
(65% females)

Proportion of
people
practicing
family planning



57%

32%

Number of
people
impacted



152,350
(62% females,
15% refugees)

187,905
(64% females,
17% refugees)

Number of
vocational
graduate
youth



100
(61% females)

1,441
(64% females)

Number of
Producer
Cooperatives
were established



6

11

Number
of trees
planted



168,929

26,450

VSLA total savings
(UGX):



2,443,031,450


3,918,728,300


2021 Project Performance








Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

- 

Duration: 2019-2022
- 

Donor: Royal Danish Embassy under the Uganda Program on Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy (UPSIDE).
- 

Target Group: refugees and host communities (small scale farmers)
- 

Goal: Enhance resilience and equitable economic development in Northern Uganda for refugees and host communities by supporting: Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA); Rural Infrastructure (RI); and Water Resources Management (WRM).
- 

Location: AFARD is implementing the Climate Smart Agriculture component in Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo districts with a goal, “to increase agricultural output of small-scale farmers and for refugees.

Project Achievements

1. In the year, the number of farmer groups was reduced, as planned, from 615 to 405. These groups pursued their Strategic Crop Enterprises (Irish potatoes, onions, sesame, cassava, rice, beans, soybean). They developed production and marketing plans and 352 demo plots that they used for various trainings were established (157 plots using members’ own seeds).
2. The 195 project supported farmer groups received agro-inputs that included assorted seeds and cuttings (805kgs of beans, 800kgs of soy beans, onions-83kgs, potatoes 49,320kgs, sesame 60kgs, cassava cuttings 530 bags), 195 knapsack sprayers, 54 planting strings, assorted agro-chemicals and 1,950 tarpaulins to facilitate learning, pest and disease control and postharvest management.
3. Trained the 415 farmer groups members (109,962 total with females 62,185 and youths 24,544) on climate smart agricultural practices (CSA).
4. A total of 405 groups were also trained on collective marketing. They mobilized and bulk marketed total of 130,081kgs of beans, 15,595kgs of soybeans, 109,117kgs of onions, 234,627kgs of potatoes, 40,298kgs of cassava chips, 24,550kgs of sesame, 10,515kgs of rice and 474 bags of cassava cuttings worth UGX 873,930,150.
5. Meanwhile 544 VSLA groups were trained, monitored and supported by the CBTs, VO’s and the VS to ensure adherence to VSL methodology, and the establishment of household plans and IGAs.



195 project supported farmer groups received **agro-inputs**



UGX 873,930,150
earned from collective bulking and marketing



544 VSLA groups were trained, monitored and supported

Outcomes

- 1. The CSA trainings have enabled 68% of the farmers to adopt climate smart agronomic practices as well as soil and water conservation measures.
- 2. VSL methodology has motivated members to save. By the end of the year, the cumulatively savings from the groups stood at UGX 1,377,251,000. The groups successfully disbursed loans to their members amounting to UGX 2,288,302,750 that were used by members to finance agricultural activities and alternative income generating activities.
- 3. Incomes realized from collective marketing and loan share-out have supported many farmers to implement their household plans such as acquiring livestock, land, utensils, paying school fees, construct/improve semi-permanent houses. Out of the 12,925 VSLA members who developed their household plans, 11,424 members (88%) achieved at least one of their household plans. Members reported starting IGAs (esp. businesses in poultry, horticulture, hawking, grain produce and fish mongering) while others constructed houses, purchased land, goats, sheep, iron sheets and fishing gears.



UGX 1,377,251,000

cumulatively savings from the VSL groups



UGX 2,288,302,750

was disbursed as loans to VSL groups members

CASE STUDY

The power of collective bulking and marketing A case of Dikiri Ene Tego farmer group By Kpeton Noris

Dikiri Enetego a farmer group of 27 members in Paila Village, Fualwonga Parish, Alwi Sub County, Pakwach district are reaping the rewards of collective bulking and marketing having earned UGX7.1 from their cassava project.

The group which was formed in 2017 with the primary goal of promoting saving and lending to its members decided to change their strategy from individual farming efforts to group farming in 2019 after receiving training on enterprise selection from AFARD. “We realized that when you are not in a group you hardly get support from government or development partners. That is why we had to come together and form this group” said Mr. Okumu Abbu Simon the group’s chairperson.

With support from the NURI programme, AFARD staff trained the group on crop selection and how to integrate climate smart agriculture as a good agricultural practice. “We selected Cassava as our strategic crop after a thorough analysis of its profitability including considerations of other parameters,” Mr. Oloya Ronald the secretary to the group said.

That same year (2019), the group established a 1.25-acre demonstration plot of Cassava (NAROCAS I variety) for multiplication of cuttings and sold the proceeds of 1,050 kgs after harvest to a buyer which earned them UGX 578,000. In 2020, the group planted 5-acre block of cassava which performed quite well. As chance would have it, they won a contract to supply cassava cuttings worth 245 bags to Panyango



Community Development Program (PCDP) a sister project being implemented by AFARD in Panyango Sub- County, Pakwach district at a cost of UGX 25,000 per bag. This earned them UGX 6,000,000. They also sold 1,440kg of dried cassava chips at UGX 780/kg to a buyer and earned UGX 1,125,000.

“ “To be honest, this has been like a dream come true. We never imagined that we could earn UGX 7.1million from just selling cassava cuttings and dried cassava chips,” an excited Ms. Afoyorwoth Gladys a group member added.

Dikiri Enetego a farmer group now plans to establish 10 acres of cassava (7 acres have already been secured) and support each member to plant 1 acre so that they can continue marketing their produce collectively. The group also has ambitions to acquire a simple value addition machine and construct a store for their produce.



Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)



Duration: 2020-2023



Donor: European Union



Target Group: Women and farmer groups.



Goal: Increase food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhance household incomes by promoting the diversification of food production and commercial agriculture, and ultimately improve household resilience (notably to climate change) and women empowerment.”



Location: Caritas Switzerland in partnership with AFARD, Advance Afrika, and Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization are implementing ALENU project in the districts of Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Amuru, Omoro,

Project Achievements

1. The focus in 2021 was on eight 8 strategic commodities (Irish potato, groundnuts, apiary, beans, soybeans, local poultry, and onion/tomato). New groups and a select few that lost their yield in 2020 received one-off start up agro-inputs: Irish potato (Rwangume) 312 bags, 13 aphid nets, 1,875 Hives (KTV hives), 375 gumboots, 375 bee suits, 375 smokers, 750Kgs of beans (NABE 4), 7,075 Kgs of Soybeans (Maksoy 3N), 14,700 Kgs of Groundnuts (Red beauty), 200 Kgs of Onions (Red Creole), 9,300 kg of bio-fortified beans seeds (NAROBAN 1), 5,825 local poultry, 7,500 fruit tree seedlings and 20 oxen.
2. A total of 111 Poultry Para-vets (28 females) and 178 Agro-Ecology Champions (49 females) from the groups were trained and equipped with training kits to be able to provide similar training to their group members. An additional 240 agricultural clinics were conducted targeting local government officials.
3. An additional 142 (32 females) VSLA mentors from the groups and local government officials were trained and equipped as peer trainers in VSLA Methodology, IGA-SPM, and Financial Literacy.
4. 68 VHTs received trained on nutrition, family planning, maternal and child health and WASH and 15 dialogue meetings were conducted on family planning for 476 people (259 females).
5. 2,500 households were supported to establish kitchen gardens. Through the 34 cooking demonstrations conducted, communities were taught on safe food preparations for better nutrition and five dialogue meetings were held to improve on nutrition practices for the vulnerable groups (children 0-59 months, PLW, and adolescents). 3,084



111 Poultry Paravets trained and equipped with training kits to train other group members



142 additional VSLA mentors trained and equipped with Financial Literacy skills



250 agricultural Clinics conducted

people were also reached with hygiene and sanitation campaigns, especially with regard to handwashing and latrine use. 200 solar driers were provided to enhance drying of vegetables during harvest seasons for onward use during dry season – period of scarcity.

- 6. 16 school peer mentors and eight senior women/men teachers were trained in SRHR. These are now providing peer education and counselling to students.
- 7. 258 selected community leaders and beneficiary representatives trained in equitable access to land and land conflict management.



200 Solar driers were provided to enhance drying of vegetables during harvest seasons

Outcomes

- 1. The trainings process on family development planning is empowering women to participate in decision making, planning and use of family resources like land, household income etc. This has fostered peace and unity amongst couples in beneficiary households.
- 2. The trainings in VSLA and financial literacy has promoted a culture of saving with a purpose and farming as a business, with more households acquiring productive assets like livestock.
- 3. Agro-inputs fund has boosted agricultural productivity with members having more confidence to buy inputs to boost their production knowing that they are cushioned against unfavorable weather conditions.
- 4. Increased adoption of climate smart agricultural practices has been registered among the beneficiary households especially in the Irish potato and Onion enterprises. Farmers are now planting Irish potato in ridges and Onions on raised beds which was not the case before.
- 5. Working with VHTs on Health and Nutrition, Maternal Child health (MCH), Wash and family planning has improved the use of health services especially for ANC attendance and immunization of children and use of safe sanitation facilities.
- 6. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights education campaigns in schools has improved young adolescent boys’ and girls’ awareness and dialogue on sexuality and family planning. At family level, this has increased the uptake of couple-agreed upon family planning methods (with preference for natural family planning methods) and reduced gender-based violence.
- 7. Women are now cooking nutrient dense food recipes for children 6-23 months using the triple mix (animal protein, plant protein, carbohydrates and vegetable) and steaming more foods.
- 8. The involvement of district and sub-county officials to guide procurement, train and monitor beneficiaries as well as participating in review meetings has improved coordination and collaboration with government officials.



Increased adoption of **climate smart agricultural practices**



Improved use of **Health services**.

CASE STUDY

A family development plan reinstates harmony for a smallholder farmer's household.

By: Maditchan Collins.

For the last 10 years of their marriage Oryema Patrick a 37-year-old farmer and father of 8 children has held a tight reign over his family affairs of his especially finances. While his household participated in the family's agricultural activities, when the produce was sold, Patrick never consulted his wife but spent the earnings as he deemed fit.

“I did not see the importance of involving my wife in planning for our household or how the money we earned was to be used, since I am the household head,” Patrick reflects.

Not only was this solitary planning affecting the harmony in his household, he made some bad choices that resulted in one of his children dropping out of school for lack of school fees.

Additionally, the Oryema family had limited knowledge of farming as a business or of the importance of having a family development plan. Although the family had been growing cassava, cotton, and sesame for over 10 years, there was nothing to show for their efforts save for continuous struggle year in and year out with barely enough food for the family to eat.

“In the second season of 2018 we planted 2 acres of cotton which earned us a meagre UGX 100,000 shillings, we did not have any side business, we relied entirely on farming for all our household needs. With no assets to support us, my family was miserable and I resorted to drinking alcohol to try and escape the chaos I was facing at home,” Patrick added.

In June 2020, the Oryema household, having joined Mungujakisa farmer group under the Action for livelihood enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU) consortium project was selected as one of the beneficiaries in their village in Atego sub county, Nebbi District. The households were trained in enterprise selection, good agronomic practices, VSLA methodology, financial literacy and income generation activity selection planning and management (IGA-SPM).



“The training opened my eyes to the opportunities available and the need for me to work together with my wife to develop our family development plan if we were to get out of poverty,” said Patrick.

Each group was given a savings kit, a measure aimed at promoting savings. Each household also received an agro-input start-up kit that comprised of 50grams of Tomato seeds, assorted vegetable seeds, a watering can, spray pump, two hoes, a tarpaulin and two chicken.

With the agro-input start-up kit the Oryema's planted a quarter (0.25) acre of tomato during the second rainy season of 2020. The harvest exceeded their expectation! They earned UGX 720,000 in revenue from the sale of their tomatoes and decided to plant vegetables from their starter kit and save the 720,000 they had earned from the sale of their tomatoes. Not only were they able to harvest enough vegetables for their home consumption, they also sold of the surplus earning them UGX 250,000.

With their collective savings that now stood at UGX 970,000, they were able to buy four goats, five chicken, some cooking utensils as well as a pair of clothes each household member! In 2021, the family decided to invest in silver-fish business that Mrs. Maureen Oryema would manage. The business is not only thriving, it has enabled the Oryema's to meet their weekly savings obligation, saving UGX 6,000 weekly with their group.

“These days I can spend up to two weeks without giving my wife money for food, but I still find food on the table because I learnt to trust her and plan for our family together,” Patrick said.



Panyango Community Development Project (PCDP)



Duration: 2019-2024



Donor: Kindernothilfe (KNH)



Target Group: 3,100 extremely poor households



Goal: Empower 3,100 extremely poor households (2,400 women, 500 children and 200 youth) through building the capacities of parents, guardians and local government officials to advocate for the rights of children by ensuring that their rights are incorporated into local programs and respected.



Location: AFARD is empowering extremely poor households in Panyango sub-county, Pakwach district.

Project Achievements

1. Established an additional 11 SHGs (with 182 members) that meet and save weekly. Members also get to access loans to support their projects.
2. Formed two new CLAs made up of 37 female members. The selected committee members were integrated into the COVID-19 sub-county and parishes task forces. An additional three CLAs were guided in their selection of where to invest. The three chose to invest in mobile mill, solar for charging phones and water tap points for water sales and saw an increase in the return on their investment, averaging UGX 110,000 monthly. The CLAs were also supported to hold quarterly meetings.
3. A total of 43 SHGs were trained in record keeping, rotational leadership and supported to develop rules and regulations to govern their groups.
4. Two bi-annual self-monitoring and assessments were conducted in 66 SHGs and peer learning visits carried out among CLAs (35 members) and SHGs (38 members).
5. Distributed 240 bags of cassava cuttings to 553 members (all female) in 30 SHGs to plant in their 30 acres of land (01 acre per SHG) for group learning and seed multiplication. The members were also trained on safe nutrition and a majority opened kitchen garden in their homesteads.
6. Three CLAs were trained in advocacy and they in turn spearheaded sensitization of 148 (102 women) local leaders and the 535 members of the 30 SHGs on child and women rights.
7. 120 (55 female) local leaders of Panyango sub-county were supported to develop child friendly by-laws. Dialogue meetings were held with 1,756 (505 women) community members and 487 (278 girls) children. An additional 1,048 community members (734 female) were sensitized on the child protection initiatives being promoted.



UGX 110,000

monthly return on investment accumulated by Female CLAs



43 SHGs

trained in record keeping

30 acres of land

used by the 30 SHGs in learning seed multiplication.



1,048 community members

sensitized on child protection initiatives

- Supported 10 women to participate in local government planning meetings where they shared key concerns including gender-based violence, defilement and rape, child labor and early marriage and pregnancy that are affecting women and children in the community.
- Facilitated 310 children to write annual letters and Christmas cards to their foster parents and a children's Christmas party was organized to crown the year.



310 annual letters and christmas cards

sent out to foster parents.

Outcomes

- SHGs are championing economic transformation and environmental conservation. On average each SHG earns UGX 90,000 monthly, affording the groups alternative sources of income.
- Beneficiary households also use of improved energy saving cooking stoves.
- With improved incomes, 48% of children now eat 3 meals per day with meals incorporating vegetables from their kitchen gardens, 79% households have improved their sanitation, 64% save weekly, 58% own income generating activities (IGA), and 32% of community have functional and sustainable child protection safety nets with 43% of the children aware of the safety nets and 85% of the children reported feeling safer in their communities.
- Working purely with women has created “safe spaces” for women to regain their identity, esteem and visibility.
- The promotion of family engagements has resulted in a reduction in gender-based violence.



UGX 900,000

monthly earnings attained by Self Help Groups



3 meals per day

enjoyed by 48% of children living in households with improved incomes.

CASE STUDY

Self Help Groups, an affordable and sustainable approach to wealth creation for poorest of the poor smallholder farmers

By Apiso Susan

Avur Lucy a 64-year-old widow and mother of seven had on two consecutive occasions been denied the opportunity to join saving groups because she could not raise the minimum amount of UGX 5,000 a week. Her situation changed in 2017 when the self-help group approach was introduced in her village of Nyamwendo in Pakia parish, Panyango sub-county-Pakwach District.

SHG approach encourages extremely poor women to come together in a group, save weekly and take loans while also using their solidarity space to learn and do life together.

Avur was the first to be selected by her community members during the wealth ranking session. The members of her group - Yesu Leng SHG, agreed to start saving UGX 500 weekly. Avur had found her tribe and she knew this was where she belonged! Saving was no longer out of her reach; she could save without straining herself given her meagre earnings as a smallholder farmer.

Avur saved for ten weeks and got a loan of UGX 20,000 with which she bought tomatoes that she sold by the road side. From her business she earned a profit of UGX 5,000. After one month she made UGX 18,000 in profit.

“I cleared my loan and took another loan of UGX 20,000. I topped it up with UGX 10,000 from my saving bringing my business capital to UGX 30,000. The UGX 8,000 balance I set aside for emergencies,” Avur explained.

By 2019, there was visible growth in Avur’s business and she could now afford to smile. She continued with her business for another eight months and was able to grow her capital to UGX 100,000 and savings to UGX 300,000.








With the knowledge on business management that they received as a group, Avur learnt the importance of diversifying her income streams and added salted fish to her tomato business which she sold on wholesale to customers in Pakwach and nearby business centers. From 2019 to date, Avur has bought 3 goats, two of which produced triplets bringing her total to seven goats, a pair of ducks that now have seven ducklings.

Avur intends to keep reinvesting her earnings in livestock and construct a permanent house having already bought 10 iron sheets. She is already thinking to expanding her business further by taking fish to Paidha and bringing bananas and avocado to sell alongside her tomatoes and silver fish.

“I thank AFARD for introducing SHG to my village and opening our eyes to the opportunities around us and for the capacity building. Now money is not a problem. My last born is now in college. I will also be able to pay bride price for my other older boys. Oh! What a joy!” Avur happily shares.



Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)

-  **Duration:** 2020-2023
-  **Donor:** Kindernothilfe (KNH)
-  **Target Group:** School going Children
-  **Goal:** Increase enrolment and retention of children in schools with “30% more girls and 20% more boys enrolled and retained in primary schools in Atyak sub-county, Zombo district by 2023. And championing the protection of girls against harmful cultural norms and practices and against child marriages and encouraging communities to create safe and child friendly environments.
-  **Location:** AFARD is enrolling and retaining in “30% more girls and 20% more boys primary schools in Atyak sub-county, Zombo district

Project Achievements

1. Trained 654 (with 378 male) community members on human and child rights. This was complemented by three radio broadcasts focusing on women and children rights.

2. Established 13 CRACs with 193 children (82 girls) and 4 CPCs with 54 members (26 female). These were inducted on their roles and responsibilities including case management.


3. Built the capacity of 63 (21 female) school management team (PTAs, SMCs and staff) as champions for child friendly and safe schools, including elimination of corporal punishment.

4. Held nine sensitization meetings for 669 children (268 girls) and 297 (124 female) community members on the importance of education, career guidance and counselling.

5. Trained 224 school children (120 girls) on how to make and use re-usable pads.


6. Supported local leaders to conduct awareness campaigns on the dangers of child marriage and teenage pregnancy for 290 girls, cultural leaders, parents and religious leaders (139 female) and to make local appropriate education bye-laws.

7. Held four community dialogue meetings on the dangers of harmful cultural practices with 235 (107 males) community members and children and conducted 3 radio broadcast and radio talk shows on the dangers of child marriage.



224 school children

trained on how to make and use re-usable pads



2,016 children

participated in indoor and outdoor games held in CRACs

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Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) Annual Report 2021

Outcomes

1. The community engagements increased awareness on the rights of children to education. Many parents (80%) and 95% of the children reported being aware of children rights and 75% of parents, cultural leaders and girls mentioned having a positive perception on girl child education.
2. A total of 13 CRACs and 4 CPCs in the informal community structures created safety nets for vulnerable children. Six perpetrators of child marriages and defilement were arrested and eight children who were forced into marriage had their marriages dissolved.
3. The relationship between the community and the police has improved and now acts as deterrent against child abuse within the communities.



80%

Parents with awareness of children rights



95%

Children with awareness of children rights

CASE STUDY

The power of community in championing for child rights

By Onegi Okoth George

The COVID-19 pandemic wretched havoc in families, leaving many families to deal with bereavement. The pandemic however also heightened the vulnerability of girls in rural communities with many becoming victims of sexual abuse and early marriages as school activities were suspended for close to two years.

Afeyorwoth Scovia a 15-year-old orphan girl from Ajigo Village Ogusi Parish Atyak Sub-County in Zombo District fell victim to forced marriage. Having lost her dad at an early age, Scovia was forced to leave school because her widowed mother could not afford to educate her and her 6 siblings. During the prolonged lockdown, Scovia moved to stay with her aunt Liberty Apio and baby sit her new born baby. The move was a welcome respite for the young girl and she quickly adapted to her life in Ajigo village.

In mid-April 2021, a group of young men from Ombakali Village, Omoyo Parish Zeu Sub County in Zombo District came to visit in the neighboring village of Omoyo , Atyak Sub-County in Zombo District. As culture would have it, the young girls from the nearby villages were invited to attend and cook for the boys and Scovia happened to be one. Unfortunately, the young men from Zeu and Jenety (the host and Scovia's neighbor) colluded and forcefully abducted Scovia to be taken as a wife for one of the young men.

“I was grabbed and forced to sit on a motorcycle sandwiched between two boys. My attempts at trying to set myself free were futile and I only managed to lose my shoe and tear my dress,” Scovia narrates.



Fortunately, the community in Ajigo had undergone training under the Atyak Child rights to education Project (ACREP). Her aunt on getting the news immediately informed the Community facilitator (CF) of Ogusi Parish for further management. The CF worked closely with CPCs, LCI office and the police to track Scovia's whereabouts.

The LCI of Ajigo Village, the Child Protection Officer, the Police and the Community Development Officer (CDO) collaborated with Police, and CDO of Zeu Sub County. Follow up was made to find out the village Scovia had been taken to. Within four hours from the time, she had been kidnapped, Scovia was found at the home of her abductor - Kumakech David.

“I was so glad to see the police and people from our village,” Scovia added. The boy was immediately arrested and taken to Paidha Police post. A case (defilement and forced marriage) with case number “Atyak CPR 15/2021” was opened at the police.

This incident has been an eye opener for me. I now live with more caution because the world is not as innocent as I thought,” Scovia confessed.



The Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project



Duration: 2019-2022



Donor: European Union Trust Fund and German government



Target Group: Women and farmer groups.



Goal: Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to deliver government services to all people in the refugee hosting districts, through creating economic opportunities that will build their resilience and self-reliance.



Location: AFARD and AFC are implementing Component 3 (Creation of economic opportunities) in Moyo, Madi Okollo, Terego, Obongi, and Adjumani.

Several interventions have been instituted to achieve this goal i.e., provision of agriculture inputs to farmers, training farmers in GAP, veterinary/livestock management skills, CSA practices, VSL methodology, marketing skills etc. In 2021, the project worked with 6,518 beneficiaries comprising of 4,431 were women, 3,405 refugees, 3,629 youth and 1,603 single mothers.

Project Achievements

1. The project distributed livestock to 4,767 beneficiaries: 7,600 goats, 880 pigs, and 8,445 chicken which they multiplied and sold worth a net income of UGX 151,517,300 besides food (10,173 eggs, 3,321 chicken). Apart from the livestock that the beneficiaries sold, they still have 9,071 goats, 85 pigs, and 2,819 chicken.
2. A total of 653 farmers received 9,500kgs of rice as start-up seeds; 228 farmers received 1,368 bags of cassava cuttings; 108 received 5.4Kgs of tomato seed, 398 received 2000Kgs of sunflower seed, and 725 farmers 18,125Kgs of beans. The farmers opened a combined 1,351 acres of land from which they harvested produce and sold, earning them a net income of UGX 852,870,150.
3. Farmers were also trained on farm planning, production, post-harvest management and, marketing. A total of 5,982 farmers were trained in value chain selection; 5,030 farmers on site selection; 1,775 on vegetable nursery management; 2,536 on soil and water management; 3,536 on planting methodology; 2,702 on pest and disease management in crops; 2,649 in weed management; 1,643 in harvesting and post-harvest handling; 1,905 in mulching of vegetables; 575 in composting for people; 3,629 diseases and parasites management in goats; and 99 in pig health.



4767 beneficiaries

received 7,600 goats, 880 pigs, and 8,445 chicken



1,351 acres

of land were cultivated by farmers that received startup seeds. earning them a net income of UGX 852,870,150

4. To build entrepreneurship, the project provided training in farming as a business for 1,833 people and financial literacy for 1,382 people.
5. Under VSLA, the first cycle 257 VSLAs with a total membership of 6,461 (4,439 females) shared out UGX 1,196,503,800. By the end of the year (2021) the second saving cycle had raised UGX 93,795,800 towards their social fund; UGX 1,303,551,650 for investments and UGX 730,556,600 earmarked for loans.



UGX 1,196,503,800

net income gained from the sell of the livestock.

CASE STUDY

VSLA becomes an anchor for a young female farmer

By Leonard Asiku

Aniko Paula's entire face radiates happiness as she sits inside her mobile money kiosk in Oriama Village, Uriama sub-county, Terego District. The 23-year-old entrepreneur and farmer knows what it means to survive the COVID-19 pandemic with hope. At the height of the lockdown, Paula – a nursery teacher by profession did not despair when schools were closed for nearly two years due to the pandemic.

Having been a member of Ojondemate savings group, Paula was able to stay financially afloat using soft loans from her savings group. The savings group with support from the GIZ RISE project opted to venture into goats, onions, and ground nuts growing. The project supplied each member with seed and trained the members in good agricultural practices and tools.

Armed with the knowledge and seed, Paula planted onions on a quarter of an acre from which she harvested 34 Kgs which was less than the 75 bags she was expecting due to unfavorable weather.

In November 2020, she received two goats from GIZ, one of which delivered a kid. She used UGX 250,000 that she earned from the sale of her onions and took out a loan from her savings





group to purchase two additional goats bringing the number of her goats to five in a period of six months.


At the end of the year Paula earned UGX 1,000,000 from her savings group annual share-out which money she combined with another group member to start their mobile money business.


For Paula, there is no turning back, she has seized her future with both hands and is determined to succeed as an entrepreneur and a farmer.



Migration II Project

-  **Duration:** 2020-2022
-  **Donor:** Austrian Development Cooperation, Bruder und Schwester in Not Innsbruck (BSI) and Caritas Kärnten.
-  **Target Group:** refugees and host communities

 **Goal:** Support refugees and host communities have improve their livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development within Rhino and Yumbe resettlement areas in West Nile Region, Uganda.

 **Location:** AFARD and HORIZONT3000 are implementing the Migration II Project in Yumbe district.

Project Achievements

1. All beneficiary households were supported to establish kitchen gardens. In addition, 54 solar driers were distributed to the communities to enhance drying of farmers' vegetables and ensure all year-round consumption and marketing of good quality vegetables. This was complemented by 19 cooking demonstrations for 342 households (271 female headed) aimed at supporting households add value to their vegetables by incorporating soy beans, ground dagger fish, and eggs to increase the nutritive content of their meals.
2. 1,100 chickens were distributed and 40 paravets (20 females) were trained and equipped for user-fees community-based poultry management. They were linked to the District and Sub-County Veterinary Offices for easy access to safe vaccines and technical advice. Within a period of three months, the Paravets had vaccinated 5,088 birds within the communities at a fee of UGX 200 per bird earning them combined revenue of UGX 1,017,600.
3. POs continued providing technical support in agronomy. FFS learning sites especially for water melon were established and 19 training sessions undertaken that were attended by 315 FFS members (227 female).
4. A total of 19 training sessions on collective marketing were also conducted for 317 FFS members (227 females). In addition, 4 representatives (1 females) participated in a joint market survey, in the districts of Arua, Koboko and Moyo to identify, discuss, and profile with potential buyers.
5. 41 Members (32 females) of 5 farmer groups were mobilized and they joined the newly formed Romogi – Kiri Multipurpose Cooperative Society.



54 Solar driers were distributed to the communities to enhance drying of farmers' vegetables



50 business coaching sessions were conducted for 286 members (50 female)

- 6. Follow ups were conducted for all VSLA and support provided to ensure youths trained on vocational skills joined the existing VSLAs and were saving with a purpose. An additional, 50 business coaching sessions were conducted for 286 members (50 female).
- 7. The LECs intensified awareness creation against bush burning and stray animals that destroy crops. They also supported 7 individual farmers to secure and plant 6,500 tree seedlings. In addition, they mobilized for 6 dialogue meetings that were attended by 212 people (124 female) to enhance peaceful co-existence between refugees and the host communities in Obero, Tritri, Gboro villages.
- 8. 40 Energy savings stove champions from the refugee and host communities were trained. These constructed 274 stoves (130 stoves by refugee champions) at a fee of UGX 10,000 each earning them combined revenue of UGX 2,740,000.
- 9. The project team also attended 12 UNHCR/OPM coordination meetings and organized 12 management monitoring and review visits, one annual Board monitoring visit, and two joint stakeholder monitoring and learning workshops.



247 Stoves
(130 stoves by refugee champions) constructed earning them a combined revenue of **UGX 2,740000**

Outcomes

- 1. Food security situation improved with 333 households establishing gardens using local seeds.
- 2. 217 new IGAs benefited from VSLA loans while 143 out of the 174 trained youth got jobs.
- 3. Refugees were able to access 240 acres of land for commercial farming up from 121 acres in 2020.
- 4. The uptake of energy saving stoves within the communities increased by 69% and 17 acres of woodlot were planted during the year to promote reforestation.



refugees increased land for commercial farming by **200% from 2020**



CASE STUDY

My eyes have opened to the benefits of commercial farming

By: Lyimio Rose

Ijosiga Rasul, a 42-year-old small-scale farmer and resident of Twajiji village, Bidibidi parish, Romogi Sub County has witnessed firsthand the transformation that training brings. Prior to the introduction of the migration project by AFARD in his village, Rasul practiced subsistence farming which was not enough to take care of his two wives and 12 children.

By the time the migration project was introduced in Twajiji village, Rasul was ready to listen, he was in need of solutions to get his family out of poverty. He signed up for the farmer field school training, becoming the first person in his village to join. At the start of the project, farmer groups were given farm inputs like hoes and high-quality seeds especially cassava cuttings (Narocas 1) as a commercial crop of their choice. The farmers were also trained on agronomy and post-harvest handling that helped to guide Rasul on the areas in which he could improve his farming practices.

Armed with new knowledge, Rasul opened 1.5 acres of land for cassava in 2020, with the aim of multiplying the cuttings for sale and expand the fields once he had mastered the art of growing cassava.



In the first harvest of 2021, Rasul sold 50 bags of cassava cuttings at UGX 1,000,000. With the income he had earned, he expanded his cassava field to 2.5 acres. His first harvest from this field worth 15 bags of cassava chips earned UGX 1, 500,000 which he used to pay for his daughter's blood transfusion.

“My daughter became anemic and needed blood transfusion. She was referred to Yumbe Health Centre IV and I had no money but after I sold the cassava, I used UGX 360,000 to pay for my daughters' medical bills for blood transfusion” Rasul said.

He also harvested 40 more bags of the cassava and earned UGX 4,000,000 which he is using to build a permanent house. Rasul has completely embraced farming as a business and is encouraging his fellow farmers to do the same. With the skills and knowledge, he has received from AFARD, Rasul is optimistic about the future and believes he cannot fail to take care of his family going forward.



Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)



Duration: 2020-2022



Donor: BMZ and AWO International.



Target Group: refugees and host communities



Goal: Impact the lives of 2,614 refugee and host communities by increasing food, nutrition and income security and promoting peaceful co-existence within families and among group and community members.



Location: AFARD is implementing the RELIP project in Yumbe district.

Project Achievements

1. The project procured and distributed 150 tarpaulins, 1,500 chicken, 75 Kgs of onion seeds, 15 Kgs of eggplant seeds, 5,550 Kgs of MET-12 rice and 3,000 Kgs of NERICA 4 for seed multiplication. 12 farmer group members (300 people, 198 females) underwent training in good agricultural and climate smart practices; kitchen gardening using local vegetables (229 people, 147 females); safe nutrition (248 people, 182 females), and conflict management (185 members, 120 females). The 24 model farmers trained in year one were provided refresher training in MET-12 production and they in turn were able to carry out 60 training sessions for 242 members (142 females).
2. Organized three cooking galas under the theme: adding value to locally available food sources. The competition promoted cross learning between the refugees and the nationals.
3. POs continued with routine VSLA follow-up and promotion of best practices (e.g., complete documentation of all required records, agro-input fund and the need for income diversification.)
4. Refresher training was conducted for the animal traction handlers to enable them look at animal traction as an agribusiness and to effectively use the secondary implements (carts and planters) in labour saving for FG members and as a source of income for the FGs.
5. To strengthen entrepreneurship, the project conducted 26 follow-ups of IGA management for 257 members (187 females); financial literacy training for 235 members (151 females), collective marketing for 199 members (134 female), value addition for 188 people (121 females).
6. 6 paravets were trained on community wide vaccination and linked to District Veterinary Office (DVO) to access vaccines.



6 Poultry Paravets trained on community wide vaccination



235 members (187 females) were trained and equipped with Financial Literacy skills



60 training sessions for 242 members (142 females) were carried out in MET-12 production

7. The Uhuru Institute for Social Development trained 20 AFARD staff (6 females) on cooperative development. This facilitated the mobilization and recruitment of members and registration of Romogi – Kiri Multipurpose Cooperative Society for whom a produce store and office were built, equipped and fenced.
8. 36 training sessions on family planning were conducted for 215 members (173 females) with a focus on couple joint decision making on family planning. An additional 11 staff (5 females) were trained on natural family planning methods and 12 outreaches conducted during the period.
9. In collaboration with UNHCR, 8,650 tree seedlings were secured and planted to promote reforestation efforts. 36 “Energy saving stove champions” (18 females) were trained on the techniques of making energy saving stoves, a measure aimed at reducing environmental degradation.
10. 6 dialogue meetings on stray animals were conducted to address the challenge of refugee crop destruction by stray animals. As results, the Sub- County started arresting and charging owners of stray animals.



36 training sessions on family planning were conducted for 215 members (173 females)



8,650 tree seedlings were secured and planted to promote reforestation efforts

Outcomes

1. From the project interventions, 96% of beneficiary households attained 96% food and nutrition security. Their incomes increased from a baseline UGX 209,197 to UGX 1,430,029 and average weekly members’ savings increased from UGX 2,772 to UGX 4,684 in 2020 and to UGX 7,320 in 2021.
2. More beneficiaries (from 48% to 60%) set up alternative family businesses during the reporting period. Peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities improved remarkably with 91% of refugees reporting great collaboration with host communities over natural resource use. Harmony in families improved significantly with 96% of the women reporting being actively involved in family decision making.
3. During the reporting period, 204 kitchen gardens were established using own vegetable seeds; Poultry has supplemented household diet and diversified income.
4. A total of 892 chicken were sold for UGX 22,895,000. In addition, Romogi Kiri Multipurpose Co-operative is now fully registered and functional with 123 registered members (59 refugees).
5. Through community dialogues there was increased land access for refugees (210 acres); a bye law on stray animals was put in place and is now being implemented; and a 6-acre commercial community woodlot for refugees and host community was set up to promote reforestation and facilitate peaceful co-existence between the host communities and refugees.



96% beneficiary households were secured and planted to promote reforestation efforts



beneficiary households incomes increased from UGX 209,197 to UGX 1,430,029

CASE STUDY

Community ordinances on stray animals reduces the rate of crop destruction in Romogi sub-county

By Eyotre Moses

Crop destruction by stray animals poses a significant challenge to farmers in Yumbe district. Despite several discussions with key actors, little to no punitive action has been enforced. Subsequently farmers have experienced crop loss leading to escalated conflict between crop and livestock farmers.

The biggest loss has mostly been experienced by smallholder farmers in the refugee settlements cultivating cassava, rice, sorghum and potatoes, many of whom have been left with minimal to no planting material for the subsequent seasons.

In 2021, the Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP) organized community dialogue meetings in Romogi sub-county in a bid to find lasting solutions to the problem. The meetings involved sub-county, district production department, Refugee Welfare Committee (RWCs) staff and the community members.

The community members were sensitized on the devastating effects that the stray animals were causing to the farmers and the notorious animal keepers in these villages and corrupt local council officials were identified and cautioned. Punitive measures were also proposed and the sub-county tasked with the responsibility of drafting an ordinance on stray animals with clear penalties for the culprits. The following penalties were endorsed for enforcement:

Any stray animal was to be arrested and the owner fined. Stray goats attracted UGX 10,000 and cattle UGX 20,000. If a farmer kept the stray animal overnight, the owner was to pay an additional UGX 3,000 for a goat and UGX 5,000 for cattle. Where crops were destroyed, an assessment of the damage was to be carried out by the agricultural officer so that the farmer was compensated.

The ordinance was put to the test when one notorious animal keeper Aluma Siraji Musa's livestock strayed into the gardens belonging to Tiolipa farmers group in the refugee settlement. His cattle destroyed two acres of rice belonging to the group and the animals were arrested by the group members who took them to the sub-county.



A community dialogue meeting at Gboro Village

The local court ordered Aluma to pay UGX 350,000 which he accepted but later started intimidating the refugees and failed to pay within the agreed time. This forced the refugees to escalate the matter to the sub-county. The Agricultural Officer was sent to assess the damage. Following the assessment report by the Agricultural Officer Aluma was told to pay UGX 850,000 which he also failed to pay within the agreed period of time and was eventually forced to surrender his two bulls to the sub-county.

The sub county sold the bulls at UGX 1,350,000 and UGX 850,000 was paid as a compensation fee to the refugees, UGX 440,000 paid as transport for the sub-county and District officials and the balance of UGX 60,000 returned to Aluma.

The enforcement and fair handling of the case by the sub-county acted as an eye opener to other animal keepers in the sub-county. Since then, the cases of animals straying and destroying neighbors' crops has reduced significantly with more communities appreciating the efforts of AFARD RELIP project in bringing communities together to find a lasting solution to the problem.



West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation (WENAGIC) Project



Duration: 2017-2022



Donor: Sall Family Foundation (SFF)



Target Group: farming communities



Goal: Support sustainable and equitable food and income security for 450 smallholder farming communities with Efforts in 2021 focusing on increasing market participation and promoting community involvement in the enactment of local development policies using a cooperative approach.



Location: AFARD is implementing the WEGANIC project in Yumbe district.

Project Achievements

1. Beneficiary households developed family development plans to guide their 2021 production and marketing plans. The development plans acted as a guide towards family savings goals and many committed to saving in their VSLAs.
2. The construction of the Cooperative produce store with an office space was completed under the supervision of the District Engineer and the facility handed over to the cooperative members. Cooperative members contributed local materials worth UGX.17 million towards the construction. The Cooperative was also supported to develop a three-year business plan and to conduct market research for its hurred rice.
3. To strengthen visibility efforts, 300 t-shirts and 20 bicycles were procured and delivered to support members' mobilization and monitoring efforts.
4. A Business Support Services Officer was hired and placed to support the Executive Committee in operationalizing the cooperative guidelines. 30 new cooperative members underwent refresher training in cooperative management.
5. Given the shift in focus from small farmer groups to Cooperative, a training of trainers on financial literacy was conducted for 28 people (14 females). The ToTs in turn were able to train an additional 217 members (42 male) on personal financial management with a focus on growing wealth over time. An additional 20 cooperative members (02 females) underwent training of trainers on quality silage and hay making. Beyond the trainers learning how to make silage as a business, they also trained 220 people (121 females), a measure aimed at supporting livestock



220 people (121 females) trained on silage making as a business, by previously trained cooperativr members



A new rice variety (MET-12) was piloted on a 4 - acre land for seed multiplication

farmers prepare adequate feeds to combat seasons of scarcity.

- 6. A new rice variety (MET-12) was piloted on a 4-acre land for seed multiplication. This will be distributed to farmers in a bid to sustain and increase production.
- 7. 14 group representatives (7 females) were trained in energy saving technologies such as production of single and double pot rocket Lorena cook stoves. This has built a critical mass of energy saving stove champions within the community. By the end of the year the champions had made 381 stoves worth UGX 3,810,000. They also trained 194 group members (117 females) on the benefits of using improved energy saving stoves.
- 8. A consultant - Marita Foods Limited was hired to assess the nutritional value of most of the traditional foods in West Nile. The study which will be concluded in 2022 will develop local recommendations to guide nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming within the region.



14 group representatives (7 females) trained in energy saving technologies further trained **194 group members (117 females)**

Outcomes

- 1. The Kei – Rodo Rice Producer Cooperative saw an increase in their membership numbers, closing the year with 151 members while their rice stock value stood at UGX. 7.2 million. The cooperative successfully built their office space with a produce store co-funded by members to aid bulking and collective marketing of their produce.
- 2. Food security in the beneficiary households improved with all the households having at least one acre of cassava in the field for food, a kitchen garden for vegetable production and consuming three diverse meals daily.
- 3. Weekly saving has become common practice with more members accessing loans for investment and emergencies. Women’s social space and self-esteem continues to improve as they take on more responsibilities in the home.
- 4. Promotion of animal traction technology (ATT) has increased agricultural production of rice, beans and cassava giving household diverse food and extra sources of income.
- 5. The cooperative is pursuing environmental conservation with 381 energy saving stoves worth UGX 3.8 million being sold during the year.



Food Security in the beneficiary households improved.



Environmental conservation with 381 energy saving stoves sold

CASE STUDY

Cooperatives create new market opportunities for farmers produce.

A Case of Kei Sub- County Rodo Rice Producers Cooperative Society

By Julie Flavia Vuni

Access to markets is a challenge for many rural farmers. As a result, many end up selling their produce to middle men at giveaway prices or losing their entire crop for perishable commodities. Cooperatives provide a good reliable market for farmers where they can bulk and sell collectively at better prices as a result of volumes.

Kei sub-county Rodo Rice producer cooperative society is one such market that is restoring farmers confidence in agriculture once again. The cooperative which was established in 2020 in Kei Sub- County, Rodo parish currently has a total of 151 registered members, up from the 23 it had five months ago. The exponential increase is attributed to capacity building provided to the cooperative by CEDIL Uganda a community development organization contracted by AFARD with support from the SALL Family Foundation.

The cooperative society started its operations with seven farmer groups. Member registration however remained very low because of limited knowledge by the community on the importance and benefits of cooperatives. With support from AFARD, a consultant was recruited to train the management of the cooperative on effective management of cooperatives. This included recruitment of staff and election of an executive interim committee to oversee the affairs of the cooperative.

The elected committee and co-operative leadership were trained on their roles and responsibilities.



District monitoring of Kei Rodo Cooperative Rice Garden

The cooperative was also supported to develop a business plan which was endorsed by the board of directors and subsequently adopted for implementation.

Mobilization of members commenced earnestly with the cooperative growing its numbers from 132 to 151 members.

By December 2021 the cooperative had raised capital of UGX 3,360,000 from its member savings. This was used to buy two tons of rice from the members, thus providing members with access to ready market for their produce. The cooperative intends to sell part of its rice stock to external parties and to its members as seed for the next planting season.


Not only is the cooperative creating an alternative market for its members, it also has opportunities to grow its members savings and give them a good return on their investment in the near future.





Girls Get Equal: Ending Early and Forced Child Marriage Project

 **Duration:** (2020-2024)

 **Donor:** NORAD

 **Target Group:** adolescent girls and boys 14 to 24 years old;

 **Goal:** Address the rampant and socially accepted practices of child marriage in the West Nile region of Uganda, through implementing Outcome Area 3:

 **Location:** AFARD in a partnership with Plan International Uganda is implementing Girls Get Equal: Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage Project in Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo and Adjumani districts.

Outcome Area 3: Education to increase girls’ economic empowerment that focuses on increasing economic empowerment of 30,000 girls and 30,000 families at high risk of the vice that targets adolescent girls and boys 14 to 24 years old; as well as vulnerable families that are likely to marry off their young daughters.

Project Achievements

The economic empowerment component focuses on three main approaches: a) vocational skills training, b) farming as a business and c) improved access to finance for businesses through the VSLA activities. During the year, the project worked with 4,260 youths (2,639 females) and 660 vulnerable families (463 female headed) and achieved the following:

1. Trained 103 youth (66 females) in selected Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) assessed vocational skills (Horticulture (25 youths), Building and construction (18 youths), Tailoring (43 youths) and Saloon and Hairdressing (17 youths).
2. Trained 151 youth groups with a membership of 4,260 members (2,639 females) on VSLA methodology and trained an additional 1,235 youths (744 females) in good agronomic practices for onion, water melon, cabbage, Irish potato and soybeans using a peer-to-peer learning approach.
3. Supported 22 vulnerable family groups (with 660 members, 463 females) with both VSLA training and VSLA kits.
4. Provided agro-inputs to 1,235 youth (744 females) and 600 vulnerable families (415 female headed). These inputs included 1,235 spray pumps, 1,235 watering cans, 1,235 hoes, 1,235 pairs of gumboots, 363 litres of cypermethrin, 317 kg of onion seed, 1,235 kg of Dithane M 45 and 1,235



62%
of the project
beneficiaries are
women



600 vulnerable youths
received agro inputs

litres of supergrow, 39 kg of cabbage seed and 37 kg of water melon seeds. The vulnerable family beneficiaries received cassava cuttings (216 bags), Irish potato seed (480 bags), rice (960 kgs), onions (64 kgs), groundnuts (1,920 kgs), and soya beans (480 kg).

- 5. Conducted trainings on family planning and nutrition to improve sexual and reproductive health in the communities for 625 people (412 females).

Outcomes

- 1. The VSLA approach has inspired many youths to embrace work other than being idle. Equally, with alternative income sources, vulnerable families now discuss the risk of marrying off their teenage daughters. This has resulted in a reduction of child marriages.
- 2. The improved saving culture resulted in an increase in members savings to UGX 353,695,410, with loans worth UGX 365,680,300 disbursed to members, a social fund with UGX 53,940,200 generated and funds for agro input standing at UGX 50,988,000.
- 3. Being part of the VSLA has improved social cohesion and created a sense of belonging among members. The attitude of the youth with regard to agriculture has improved with many now perceiving it as a potential income generating stream.



625 people (412 females) were trained on family planning



loans worth UGX 365,680,300 were disbursed to members

CASE STUDY

VSLA, a journey to assets acquisition and wealth accumulation
By Atimango Desire, P.O GGE

Odaga Christino aged 35yrs is a member of Awozolebue vulnerable family group in Tholi village, Paduba parish, Kango Sub County, Zombo District. He is married with three children (2 boys and 1 girl). Coming from a remote area, no NGO had ever reached their village so they lived in isolation, cut off from any development programs.

When the VSLA methodology was introduced to their village through the Girls Get Equal (GGE) project, Christino didn't need much convincing to join the VSLA group.

“What motivated me most was the vision road map that was shared with us. I knew that I had an opportunity to grow and change the lives of my family members,” Christino said.

He started saving with enthusiasm and has a goal of buying five goats by the end of this saving cycle. With mentorship from his mentor, Christino's ambitions have also expanded and he has his eyes set on constructing a two bedroomed house for his family.

To kick start him on his journey to wealth creation, Christino sought consent from his



Mr. Odaga in his compound with the goats he bought

wife Judith to take out a loan from his VSLA group. With the UGX 200,000 from the group, he bought two goats at UGX 85,000 each and used the balance start his charcoal business. From his charcoal business he was able to make a profit of UGX80,000 in one and a half months, enough to clear the loan.


“My family had never owned a goat before the GGE project neither had we ever saved any money. Now my savings have grown to UGX 320,000. This is such a big achievement for my family. Now I will be able to buy scholastic materials for my daughter so that she does not miss school in January 2022,” Christino added.


Christine is happy that AFARD ventured into their village and opened the eyes of his village mates to the opportunities around them when they work together.





Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)

 **Duration:** 7 years

 **Donor:** INclusion

 **Target Group:** adolescent girls and boys 14 to 24 years old;

 **Goal:** Contribute to “a dignified and income secure life for all people, free from the injustice of poverty and exclusion.

 **Location:** AFARD is implementing a 7-year Nebbi Inclusive Development Program (NIDP) in Welle – Atego sub-county, Nebbi district, Uganda.

The programme provides unconditional basic income grant (BIG) called Level Income for Equity (LIFE) as a social protection intervention. The essence is simple: every individual is entitled to receive an income that is enough for basic needs, for full participation in society and for a dignified life, without any conditions in line with the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) definition that a basic income is “... an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement.”

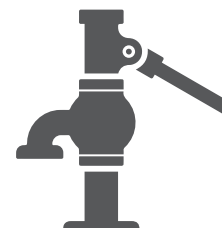
Project Achievements

1. A Village register update was conducted and additional 23 members (14 females) were added. The project provided LIFE worth UGX 60,000 per person per month (excluding transaction cost) to 353 people (173 females) for 12 months. Children continued to get paid through their mothers or guardians.
2. The Covenant between INclusion and the target community was reviewed and agreed. This covenant stipulates the terms and conditions of the project, and the exit strategy.
3. Through the Community Fund (CF), Welle beneficiaries were able to use their own funds to drill a borehole that has solved their water crisis.
4. A study was conducted in collaboration with the University of Groningen (Faculty of Economics and Business) to assess the short-term effects of the unconditional cash transfers after 8-months of the LIFE disbursement. The study found out that there was strong co-relation between receiving the cash transfers for home expenses and the self-esteem and perceived stress levels of the beneficiaries, implying that money is critical in the well-being of individuals.



UGX 60,000

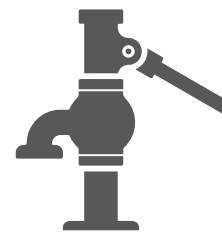
provided per person per month to 353 people (173 females) for 12 months



Beneficiaries used **their own funds to drill a borehole** thus solving their water crisis

Outcomes

1. The first results that the beneficiary village is very proud of is being able to drill their own borehole having not had a borehole since 1974. Now all the families in the village have access to clean and safe water and women's time in search of water has reduced significantly.
2. Using the LIFE funds, families have continued to buy animals and other productive assets. A total of 34% of the households have cattle, 89% have goats/pigs/sheep, 79% have poultry, 5% have bicycles, 73% mattresses and 30% solar lamps. 9% are now living in semi-permanent houses with more constructing or finishing their houses.
3. General well-being of the community has improved. Women reported being able to go to the market twice weekly to buy good food and there is no stress in buying other basic needs (clothing, utensils, etc.) either.
4. The Covenant Committee reported a drastic reduction in gender-based violence in homes. The Chairman during the Board visit pointed out that "money has brought peace in our homes. There are no more quarrels and fighting."
5. Some families are also investing in IGAs such as trading in livestock, purchasing mini grinding mills (Atoti) and sewing machines for self-employment through service provision in the community.
6. All school going children were able to save their monies to continue with their education. By the start of 2021 when schools opened, there was no child at home.



Borehole has improved access to clean water and significantly reduced women's time in search for water

CASE STUDY

Welle Village gets access to clean water after 47 years

By Ibrahim Bashir

Welle village is one of the poorest rural villages in Nebbi district with a population of over 365 people majorly children and women. The village is located in Pamora Upper parish, Atego Sub-County Nebbi District with rocky topography that has made farming impossible. The available land is used predominantly to graze animals and the rest has been converted into a settlement for the many refugees that Uganda is currently hosting.

Since 1974, the village had not had a functional water source ever since their handpump broke down. Welle village is surrounded by seasonal streams that dry up during the dry seasons forcing the men and women to move over 3km in search of water in other neighboring villages that are already crowded. Most women wake up at 3 to 4 am to embark on their journey in search of water.

On average it takes one 40 mins to one hour to fill up a 20-liter jerrycan due to the waiting lines and a total of 3 – 4 hours to make a to and fro journey from the water source. Because of



the scarcity of water, many households ration water, using not more than one jerrycan a day for all their household needs - cooking, washing utensils, bathing and even washing clothes. Attendant infections like head lies, ringworm, typhoid, are common within the village.

In 2021, the village through NIDP project (community fund) was able to drill and construct a borehole and access to clean safe water became nearer and convenient, solving the hustle and problems relating to unclear water and its scarcity.

“We are very happy with the borehole that has eased life in the village. Now we no longer walk for miles in search of water,” Osuna Jusfina a 67-year-old resident of Welle village said.



Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers (SURE) Project



Duration: 2021



Donor: Manos Unidas



Target Group: vulnerable smallholder farm households



Aim: Empower 335 smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro Sub County to increase their production, consumption, and marketing of diversified agricultural commodities.”



Location: AFARD implemented the SURE Project in Jangokoro Sub County Zombo district, Uganda.

SURE Project Focused on addressing the high food, nutrition and income insecurity due to over-reliance on subsistence agriculture, limited income diversification strategy, limited participation in local decentralized governance, and now COVID-19 pandemic, thus organizing the 335 vulnerable smallholder farm households (56% women) into a multipurpose cooperative society where members would pool their knowledge, networks, risks, and finances towards collective action for socio-economic transformation.

Project Achievements

1. Five new groups were formed and added to the five existing ones. These were trained on group dynamics for self-management and supported to develop group/family development plans.
2. Start-up agro-inputs were procured and distributed (125 watering cans, 125 spray pumps, 130 Kgs of malathion dust, 130 Kgs of Mancozeb, 1,250 local poultry, 20 gumboots, 20 overalls for Lead Farmers, 10 digital weighing scales, 2,125 Kgs of beans, 435 bags of Irish potato seeds, 12,500 banana suckers, 6,500 tree seedlings, 5kgs of Amaranth). In addition, 29,000 coffee seedlings from UCDA were distributed. This was complemented by training 20 lead farmers (10 females) in Irish potato agro-ecology and establishment of 35 demo-plot based training sessions on climate smart agricultural practices.
3. All the 10 group members were trained in safe nutrition, kitchen gardening and good sanitation and hygiene practices.
4. Five VSLA Mentors (1 female) were trained and they in turn trained their group members on VSLA methodology and IGA management. Financial literacy training and agribusiness market surveys, market linkages and business coaching were also conducted.
5. 10 sessions of human rights awareness trainings were conducted among the five new groups; two training sessions on advocacy skills were conducted for 27 group leaders and cooperative executive and one dialogue meeting was held with local government leaders.



Start-up agro-inputs were procured and distributed



Jangokoro United Farmers' Cooperative with 169 fully registered members (79 females) was **registered with the Ministry of Trade.**

- 6. Together with the District Commercial Officer, 20 cooperative sensitization meetings were conducted and Jangokoro United Farmers' Cooperative with 169 fully registered members (79 females) was registered with Ministry of Trade. Basic furniture was procured for the Cooperative.
- 7. 58 face masks for staff; 120 units of hand sanitizer; and 345 hand washing facilities (335 for households and 10 for groups) were procured and distributed.



COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPEs) such as hand washing facilities and sanitizers were provided for all members

Outcomes

- 1. There has been a marked increase in food security status (87%), reduction in asset poverty (54%) and increased women empowerment (59%) as the targeted households increased adoption of good agronomic and climate smart practices (61%). Almost all households established backyard/kitchen gardens (94%) and incorporated vegetable consumption into their daily meals (97%).
- 2. All members are saving an average of UGX 5,000 weekly with their VSLAs and accessing loans. By the end of the year, 39% of the members owned a micro-business, a measure aimed at diversifying their sources of income. As a result, many have acquired more productive assets such as bicycles, radios, mobile phones, solar systems, mattresses, poultry and goats, pigs, and sheep.
- 3. A sense of financial liberation amongst female members has increased with many reporting less dependence on their husbands for basic needs. Being able to own and control money is also giving women a sense of self-worth and voice in their families.
- 4. With increased awareness and joint monitoring of homes by the Community Health Front-line Advisor's, sanitation and hygiene practices has improved as evidenced in all households using improved pit latrines with hand washing facilities.



marked increase in food security status (87%), reduction in asset poverty (54%) and increased women empowerment (59%)



39% of the members owned a micro-business thus diversifying their sources of income

CASE STUDY

Irish potato farming inspires a smallholder farmer to dream again

By Abidok Trinity

Onenchan Jedhione 52 years old married with 8 children is a member of Merber group He is one of the group members who have started on the path of building from the proceeds of Irish potato. Below is the story of how Onenchan was inspired to embrace this dream.

In early 2021, a 52-year-old small holder farmer called Onenchan Jedhione joined Merber group in Olyeko village, Dindu parish, Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo district. under the support of SURE project. The group, which is supported through the SURE project received different agro-inputs for their Irish potato enterprise.

“ I received 3bags of improved Irish potato seed variety (Rwangume) to plant on 0.25 acre of land,” Onenchan explains.

Armed with the knowledge that he had received from the different trainings on CSA, Onenchan planted the 3bags with fertilizer, following all the recommended practices and harvested 13 bags of Irish potato.

Having been selected as a lead farmer, Onenchan was inspired to lead by example so that other farmers could be motivated by him.

“ I tried my best to attend all the trainings and apply the lessons in my gardens because I had never planted Irish potato before and these were hands-on trainings,” Onenchan added.

Onenchan sold his seven bags of his Irish potatoes at UGX1,300 a kilo earning UGX 920,000 an amount he admits never having earned at once in his entire life. He reserved six bags as seed for the next season, and one bag for home consumption and to share with friends.



Mr. Onen and Wife infront of the house they are building

With the income, Onenchan’s dream to construct a house was resurrected. Having abandoned his house project in 2020 due to lack of money, he was able to revive his building project.






He immediately started gathering materials for his house. He spent UGX 540,000 on buying iron sheets, UGX 225,000 on timber for roofing and deposited UGX 155,000 for labour towards raising the walls of the house.

In the second season, Onenchan planted 0.5 acre of Irish potato using his saved Irish potato seed from his first harvest. Luck being on his side, Onenchan harvested 21bags of Irish.

He sold 12bags, earning UGX1,450,000 and kept 9bags for seed. For Onenchan, Irish potato farming has been a route out of poverty. He plans to increase his production to at least 2 acres in 2022, buy more productive assets, send his children to school and continue working on building a better life for his family.



Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project

- **Duration:** 2021 - 2024
- **Goal:** Contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development.
- **Location:** AFARD is implementing the YADE project in Wadelai Sub-County, Pakwach district.
- **Donor:** Medicor Foundation and DKA Austria through HORIZONT3000
- **Target Group:** Youth

The project focuses on increasing access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youths through marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training in targeted agri-trades (horticulture, animal traction, cage fish farming, and agro-vocational skills).

Project Achievements

1. 24 a-YIGs with 500 youth (300 females) were formed (11 groups with 330 members were engaged in horticulture; 6 groups with 60 members in animal traction, 2 groups with 10 members in cage fish farming, and 5 a-YIGs with 100 members in agri-vocational sectors). These groups are all registered with Local Government.
2. All the 24 a-YIGs were trained in VSLA methodology and provided VSLA kits. All members saved and accessed loans.
3. 103 youth were trained in cage fish farming (10 youth, 6 females), animal traction (60 youth, 36 females) and horticulture lead farmers (33 youth, 15 females).
4. One-off start-up agro inputs were provided: 341 spray pumps, 341 forked hoes, 341 hand hoes, 341 watering cans, 341 pangas, 330 gumboots, 330 helmets, 330 overalls, 23.25 Kgs (onions), 139.5 Kgs (tomatoes), 15.5 Kgs (eggplant), 40 bulls, 18 ox-ploughs, 2 boats, 20,000 fish fingerlings. This was complemented by 40 sessions of agri-business mentoring and coaching and market linkages conducted by project staff and local government officials.
5. COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPEs) such as hand washing facilities and sanitizers were provided for all members of and the 24 groups so that group activities continued.



24 a-YIGs with 500 youth (300 females) were formed and registered with the Local Government



COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPEs) such as hand washing facilities and sanitizers were provided for all members

Outcomes

- 1. Youths working together in groups with clear group vision personal plans as opposed to before when everyone cared for him/her-self. This has also improved youth leadership skills. Some of collectively owned inputs such as animal traction and fish cages have improved cohesion amongst the group members.
- 2. With VSLA training, all 500 youth are saving weekly and 400 youths (234 females) own businesses such as retail shops, small-sized bakery, etc. from the VSLA loans. The incomes earned have also boasted asset acquisition such as solar lighting systems, mattresses, and livestock.
- 3. Youth have embraced agriculture. Those in horticulture adopted some of the good and climate smart agricultural practices and 3 groups sold collectively to 03 market vendors from Pakwach and Wadelai markets.
- 4. Already five of the six animal traction groups have started ploughing gardens for cash and each have cumulatively saved an average group income of UGX 450,000. This money is also boasting loanable money in the VSLA box. It has also provided decent jobs for the youth as out of 1-acre ploughed at UGX 80,000, the oxen handlers earn each UGX 10,000 (twice the daily wage labour cost); monies they use to pay for feeding, their land ploughing, starting new IGAs, and buying productive assets.
- 5. The project has built good collaboration with the district and lower local government that they were able to fund an exchange visit for the cage fish farming group to Nebbi to learn about market requirements and players for their products and conduct routine back stopping and monitoring.



Youths working together in groups with clear **group vision personal plans**



500 youth are saving weekly and 400 youths (234 females) **own businesses from the VSLA loans**

CASE STUDY

Farming, a wealth creator and a sure way out of poverty
By Bashir Ibrahim

Wokorach is a 28-year-old resident of Pailo west village, mutir parish, wadelai sub-county. Having dropped out of school in senior 3, Wokorach now works as a casual labourer and part time fisherman to earn extra income to support himself. With no savings whatsoever, he lived hand to mouth spending all the money he made with no plan for the future.

In May 2021, AFARD through their Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) project that targeted youths aged 15-30 years old mobilized and sensitized the community and encouraged youths to come together and form farmer groups in partnership with the lower local government of Wadelai.

Wokorach being one of the youths in the village picked interest and joined one of the farmer groups now called Furenelonyo. They selected onions as their enterprise. Wokorach attended several trainings on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM, Financial Literacy, group dynamic and GAP. He was mentored and effortlessly his attitude



changed for the better. He started saving weekly and used his savings as collateral for a loan from his group and invested the money into his onion project.

“It is amazing that I can grow and harvest onions, something that has never been tried in our land. Because of AFARD my faith in farming has been restored and I now appreciate its ability to lift me out of poverty,” Wokorach said.

I planted quarter an acre of onion as a trial, harvested 150kg and earned UGX 345,000 after we sold as a group. From the income I have earned I intend to start another business to support my family,” Wokorach explained.



Street Children Prevention through Sustainable Graduation from Poverty (PSPG) Project

- Duration:** 2020 - 2023
- Donor:** Swiss Development Cooperation and Swiss Foundations
- Target Group:** extremely poor refugee and host communities

Goal: Build resilience of the extremely poor refugee and host communities in West Nile and reduce the risk of children living and working on the streets.

Location: AFARD in partnership with Caritas Switzerland, IUCN (International Union of Conservation of Nature) and BOMA is implementing the PSPG project in Kululu Sub County, Yumbe district.

Anchored on three objectives:

- 1) Strengthening community-based structures and families to support children’s rights and protection;**
- 2) Improving resilience of vulnerable households using the graduation approach;**
- 3) Restoration and sustainability of natural habitats as a basis for sustainable livelihood.**

Project Achievements

- 1. 150 business groups with 450 members (refugee 135 and host community 315) were formed.
- 2. 450 members (female 315, 135 male) were trained in kitchen gardening and supported with seeds such as Cow peas=250kg, collards=7.5kg, Eggplant=8.3 kg and Amaranthus=7.3kg) 446 members (334 females, 112 male) were trained in financial literacy, group dynamics, business skills and entrepreneurship.
- 3. 150 Business groups received UGX 980,000 each as seed capital to start their different businesses.
- 4. 30 community-based paralegals (female 7, male 23) were trained in child protection and were able to rollout 10 community sensitization on prevention of child abuse and GBV in their in both refugees and host communities.
- 5. 9 community dialogue meetings for 813(543 females) were conducted on prevention of GBV and child abuse.
- 6. 450 (female 315, male 135 male) received phones and consumption support digital cash grants worth UGX 116,950 each for 4 months.



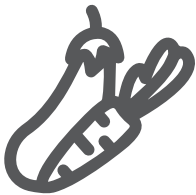
150 business groups received **UGX 980,000** each as seed capital to start their different businesses



9 community dialogue meetings for **813(543 females)** were conducted on prevention of GBV and child abuse.

Outcomes

- 1. Consumption support to households has helped households diversify foods, invest in productive assets (especially livestock – goats and chickens), construct improved energy saving stove, bathing shelter and pit latrines. The LC 1 also used part of his fund to plant banana as a future IGA.
- 2. The business grant enabled the business groups to venture into various businesses such as produce trade, goat fattening, poultry, grinding mill, Dukas/Kiosk, butchery, fish mongering, brick laying among others from which they increased their incomes (although many are re-investing in growing their enterprises). Besides, a number of women changed their livelihood strategies away from menial work like sale of labour away from home to starting their businesses close to home.
- 3. With the vegetable seeds, 98% of the targeted households established kitchen garden in their backyards from which they had steady supply of vegetables for both domestic consumption and sale in the local markets.
- 4. Through the work of community-based paralegals, 18 referral cases on rape, domestic violence, child neglects and defilement were reported as a result of increased community conscious. In addition, notable changes in behavior and attitude of the community and religious leaders towards negative cultural/religious belief and practices that promote child abuse and GBV.



98% of the targeted households established **kitchen gardens in their backyards**



18 referral cases on rape, domestic violence, child neglects and defilement were reported as a result of increased community conscious

STORY OF CHANGE

Consumption support boosts a woman's confidence to plan and budget

By Bashir Swadik

Never Zamuradi is a 25-year-old married woman and mother of five children (2 are boys, 3 girls). She is a member of Drileba business group in Jomorogo village, yoyo parish, Kululu sub county, Yumbe district. The group was formed in June 2021 with three members under PSGP project.

A peasant farmer with little or no say on any matters pertaining to her family, Never was left feeling powerless and inadequate because her husband made all the decisions without consulting her or her involvement.

“I depended on my husband for everything including salt because I was financially incapacitated. This left me feeling powerless. Sometimes my husband would come back with nothing. This occasionally forced me to borrow some money from friends because it was hard for me to get money. That is something I was very ashamed of,” Never recalls.

“When AFARD officials came to our village they were welcomed by the area LC1 chairperson. News spread within the community that they were going to rollout a project called PSGP and that they would be working with women in particular. I prayed to Allah to be considered and fortunately my name came out among the people selected to benefit from the project. We were trained by the project officers on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, natural resource management (NRM) and hygiene and sanitation which has broadened my knowledge,” Never adds.



Never initially did not have any plans of doing business thinking about the high costs of starting a business. However, as she continued to interact with project officers and participate in the trainings and listen to the success stories emerging, she realized that she could also do it.

With the two-months consumption support grant that she received totaling UGX 232,172 she decided to explore doing something. With her husband, she developed a budget and used UGX 160,000 to buy a mattress, UGX 20,000 to buy two chickens for rearing and remaining balance of UGX 52,172 was saved in her mobile money account.

For the first time in her life, she had participated in planning and budgeting for family money. Going forward, the family agreed to be meeting together to plan on whatever funds they will use so that everybody's interest is taken care of.

Summary of AFARD's Strategy 2020-25 Pillar Performance





Pillar 1: Nutrition-sensitive agriculture



Objective 1:
Increasing production and consumption of diversified foods in hygienic homes.



Approach:
AFARD uses climate smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach to ensure food and nutrition security.



Target group: Targeted families are empowered to ably:

- i. plan what nutritious foods to produce;
- ii. diversify food intake to include staple foods with animal protein, fruits and vegetables;
- iii. adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices;
- iv. and promote green villages through tree planting and use of energy saving technologies.

The following outputs were delivered during the year

Inputs and training

- Distributed seeds (11,425 Kgs of bio-fortified beans, 700Kgs of Soy beans, 250 Kgs of cow peas, 75 Kgs of onions, 15 Kgs of Eggplants, 8 Kgs of Amaranth, and 7Kgs of collards), planting materials (240 bags of cassava cutting) and 5,000 chicken and improved cocks to target groups and households. These were also trained on agricultural and climate smart practices.
- Lead farmers (10 females) were trained in agro-ecology and paravet practices and demo-plots established to facilitate hands on training on climate smart agricultural practices.

Nutrition

- AFARD conducted nutrition education attended by spouses of married couples in 948 farmer groups, 102 cooking demonstrations in 88 groups, and three cooking gals.
- Monthly integrated health outreaches were conducted in 84 farmer groups for deworming, vitamin A supplementation, nutrition screening and counselling.
- Kitchen garden training was mainstreamed in all projects.
- 254 solar driers were distributed for preservation of vegetables to ensure all year-round availability and consumption.
- A nutritional expert was hired with funding from Sall Family Foundation to assess the micronutrient density of local foods in order to “bring back local foods on the table.” This study will be concluded in 2022 with a focus on local food sensitive nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming.



Sanitation and hygiene

- One borehole was constructed in Welle village, Atego sub county using Community Funds to increase access to safe water in the community.
- Sanitation and hygiene education was mainstreamed in all activities and became a mandatory “must have” home facility. Home visits were done to ascertain availability of rubbish pits, drying rake, cloth lines, latrines, kitchen and animal shelters.
- COVID-19 SOP adherence was mainstreamed in all activities – 1,175 hand washing facilities with liquid soap, 8,727 face masks were distributed to groups and social distancing and vaccination promoted.

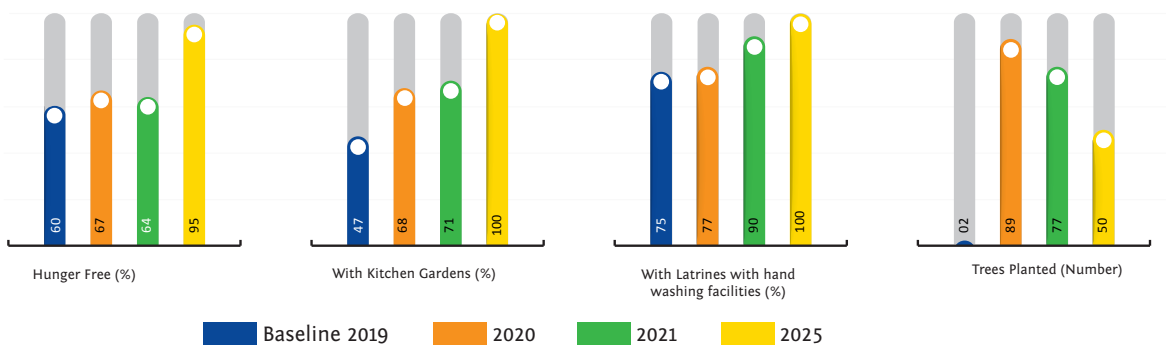
Sanitation and hygiene

- 26,450 tree and fruit seedlings were distributed to targeted farmer households (with 87 survival rate) and 10 woodlots were planted by refugees and host communities to reduce pressure on the natural tree cover whilst enabling peaceful coexistence between the refugees and nationals.
- 37 staffs were trained in resilient design which focusses on soil and water management and this has been cascaded to 405 farmer groups.
- A total of 100 refugees and nationals were trained in improved energy saving stoves making and business. A total of 899 stoves were produced and sold at a fee of UGX 10,000 each. 15 AFARD staff were also trained as trainers in energy saving stove making.
- Sensitization on environment conservation and tree growing was mainstreamed in all project implementation. Farmers were able to plant trees around the boundaries of their gardens and as woodlots.
- Held dialogue meetings on peaceful co-existence between refugees and host community farmer groups, attended by 419 people.
- 15 Community Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) at parish and sub county levels were developed in Yumbe pending district political level approval.

Summary of outcomes achieved

- The annual performance assessment found out that acreage increased by 12% between 2020 and 2021 as the use of climate smart agricultural practices rose from 60% in 2020 to 71% in 2021.
- The farmer field approach has made farmers who have not used the recommended practices to assess their losses practically and explore means of turning their farming into a business (and many are willingly adopting the promoted practices). During the year, there was a rise in the number of households using own pit latrines with hand washing facilities from 77% to 90%, improved energy saving stoves from 33% to 47%, and solar lamps from 50% to 53%.
- Most importantly, 73% families (up from 68% in 2020) now have a “family development plan” as a key driver for their engagements in AFARD supported projects. Some groups developed their “group development journey” that has contributed to cohesion among the group members.
- This planning approach is transforming family gender relations in areas like pooling labour on cash crop gardens, (increased) savings with a purpose, joint ownership of assets by married couples, and family discussions on use of money. The EU and OPM are greatly interested in replicating the model.

Household food security status



CASE STUDY

Households family investment plans changing lives.

A Case of Iza Zakia of Bidibidi Road Workers, Lobuluchu Village, Bidibidi Parish, Romogi Sub county, Yumbe District.

By: Bayo Richard

Iza Zakia is a 68-year-old resident of Lobuluchu village, Romogi Sub County, Yumbe District. She is a widow, with 9 children, and working hard towards achieving her 3 years plans.

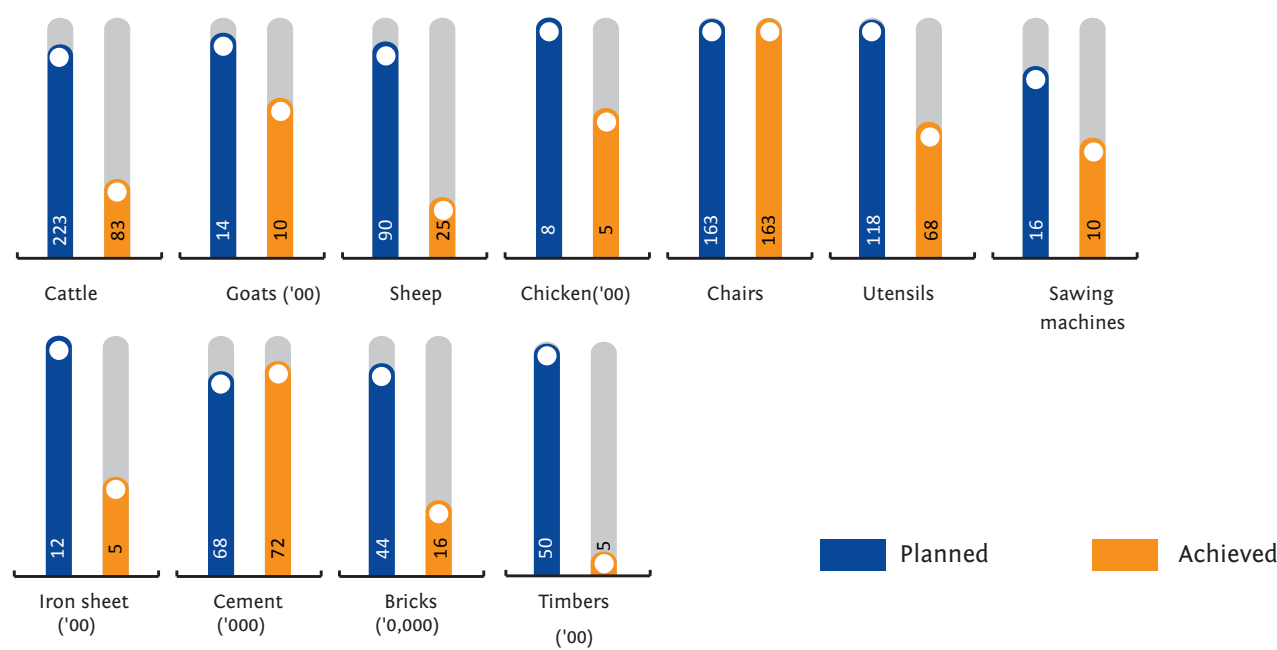
When AFARD introduced the household investment plan to help households come of poverty, it was an eye opener to the community, and Iza Zakia happens to be one of the members who is enjoying the benefit. In her 3-year plan (2020- 2022), she wanted to build an iron sheet roofed house and buy 5 goats. 2 years down the road, from her savings and sale of produce, worth UGX. 2,500,000 and her focus of constructing a better house for the family and acquiring livestock, Zakia was able to buy 15 iron sheets and build her 2 roomed dream house.

Today she has moved from a grass thatched house to a new iron sheet roofed house and bought 3 goats.






“This is what she said; “I lost my husband to cancer, and things looked very impossible for me, since I had to support my family to meet its basic needs such as nutritious food, paying school fees, and medical bills. I did not think about anything close to building a better house or even acquiring an asset in my names, because these seemed too far from reality. Thank God AFARD came to my rescue through the migration project. My life has greatly changed since I joined Bidibidi road workers farmer group. Even at 68 years, they made me I believe I can acquire assets and sleep in better house, and they helped me plan the possibility. I have realized setting goals can transform one’s life. I plan to buy 2 more goats this year and fix a metallic door and windows to my house. I thank AFARD for the guidance. I am now an empowered old woman”.

Achievement of family development plans in Yumbe district, 2021





Pillar 2: Inclusive market participation

- **Objective 2:** Increasing income from decent employment opportunities in diversified on-farm and non-farm labour markets.
- **Approach:** Market-led income diversification through climate smart agribusiness and youth skilling was promoted to support families increase their income and net worth.
- **Target group:** Market-led income diversification through climate smart agribusiness and youth skilling was promoted to support families increase their income and net worth.

The following outputs were delivered during the year

Strategic Enterprises:

- 28,334 households (up from 20,838 households in 2020) engaged in profitable agricultural enterprises such as Irish potatoes, bananas, onions, sesame, cassava, rice, beans, soybean, groundnuts, tomatoes, water melon, cabbage, coffee, cage fish farming, beekeeping and livestock rearing (poultry, piggery, goats).

Agro-inputs

- Agro-inputs namely, 1,917 hoes, 1,701 watering cans, 1,896 spray pumps, 1,585 overalls, 1630 gum boots, seeds/planting materials (60Kgs of simsim, 19,860 Kgs of beans, 7,655 Kgs of soy beans, 687 Kgs of onions, 145 Kgs of tomato, 47 Kgs of cabbage, 37 Kgs of Water melon, 1,638 bags of Irish potato, 2,114 bags of cassava, 19,130Kgs of rice, 2,000 Kgs of Sun flower, 16,620 Kgs of Groundnuts, 12,500 banana suckers, 16 Kgs of Eggplant) and livestock (13,147 chicken, 7,600 goats, 880 pigs, 1,875 hives and 20,000 fish fingerlings) and assorted organic fertilizers and pesticides were distributed.
- Value addition inputs including honey processing equipment, groundnut shellers and potato crisps and chips making equipment were also distributed.
- To improve post-harvest management 4,600 tauplins, 11 digital weighing scales, and 13 aphid nets were distributed.
- 60 oxen with ox-ploughs were provided for labour saving.

Extension

- 151 paravets (41 females), 178 agroecology champions (39 females), 78 lead/model farmers were trained in peer extension service provision of agroecological practices. Together with the 2020 trainees they provided peer extension service to the targeted farmer groups.
- 10 youth from 2 groups trained in cage fish farming and currently have a school of 20,000 fish in their cages.
- District and subcounty technical officers provided training, mentoring and farm clinic services.

Strategic Enterprises:

- Six new cooperatives were registered, bringing the number of cooperatives to 11.
- Two produce stores were constructed with offices for two cooperatives in Yumbe.
- Marketing committees of 182 farmer groups were formed, trained to lead the bulk marketing processes in the various respective groups and 68 mobile phones were distributed to the production and marketing committees for market information.
- 2,352 farmers bulked and marketed the following collectively; 214,659 Kgs of beans, 277,996 Kgs of soybeans, 198,523 Kgs of onions, 1,630,402 Kgs of potatoes, 5,554,827 Kgs of cassava chips, 238,743 Kgs of sesame, 244,999 Kgs of rice and 474 bags of cassava cuttings were collectively marketed. This earned the farmers a total of UGX 4,185,838,525.
- Conducted agribusiness mentorship and coaching, market linkages and joint participatory market surveys to improve on farmers' market engagements.
- Trained 792 farmer groups in business planning and management (IGA-SPM) and financial literacy.

Extension

- 188 VSLAs mentors were trained on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM skills and financial literacy and they cascaded trainings to group members.
- 370 VSLA kits were provided to facilitate savings. Overall, 1,136 groups participated in VSLA.

Youth skilling

- 133 youths received DIT certified training in tailoring, building and construction, hair dressing and horticulture. Those in agriculture became peer trainers for 1,308 youth in horticulture agribusiness.
- 60 youths in animal traction technology, 10 youths in cage fish farming and 100 youth in energy saving stove making are piloting new innovative employment markets.
- One-off startup kits were provided to enable youth start their own account enterprises.
- 4,762 youth were trained in VSLA methodologies, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

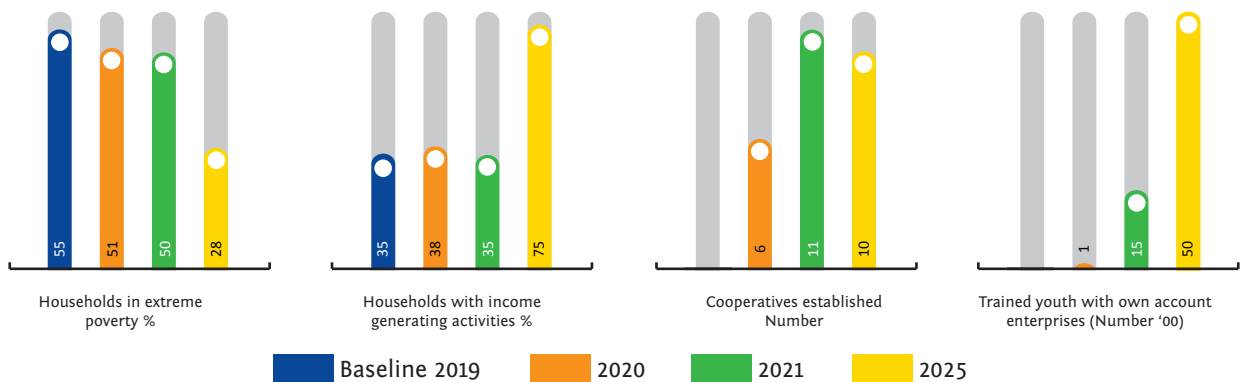
Cash grant

- 795 households benefited from digital cash grants (345 people (169 females) under NIDP and 450 people (315 females) under PSGP). While NIDP offered grant year-round worth UGX 60,000 per month, PSGP only provided consumption support for three months (UGX 114,000 per month).
- A total of 150 business groups (each with three members) also received a one-off business grant worth UGX 980,000. This was accompanied with business skills and financial literacy trainings and a market assessment to identify business opportunities and systemic bottlenecks to inclusive market development.

Summary of outcomes achieved

- 1. Between 2020 and 2021, VSLA savings increased from UGX 2.4 billion to UGX 3.9 billion (although the per capita savings reduced from UGX 132,000 to UGX 130,000). This was largely as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, that led to an overall decline in household income. Alternative IGAs also declined from 38% to 35% and average weekly savings declined from UGX 10,000 to UGX 7,000 as families prioritized household needs.
- 2. Unsurprisingly, only a dismal gain was made in the reduction of people living in extreme poverty during the year. However, 26 groups have already been linked with commercial banks for formal loans.

Household Income security status



CASE STUDY

“I was trained as a para-vet when AFARD started implementing the Migration project in Bidibidi refugee settlement, zone 1 in 2017. After the training we were given para vet kits that included cooler boxes, drugs, gumboots, drug carriers, beak trimmers and vials of vaccines. Our primary role was to support community wide vaccination initiatives for mostly poultry and livestock at a fee. The project also linked us to drug shops and the District Veterinary Department where we could access basic drugs and vaccines. In our village we opted to work as a group so that we could pull resources together to acquire vaccines and drugs which would have been more costly for us to acquire individually. As a result, we managed to vaccinate 2120 birds in 2021 which earned us UGX 530,000. We saved UGX 100,000 to buy more drugs and vaccines.



“I am making more money to support my family from working as part of a group of para-vets vaccinating poultry. We are grateful to AFARD for introducing this program in our village. Communities are not only able to access veterinary services with ease, the training and knowledge we acquired has made us gainfully employed,” Besta Ajiba one of the para-vets said.



Pillar 3: Voice and accountability

Objective 3:
Improving responsiveness and accountability of local governments and peaceful co-existence for refugees and host communities.

Approach: AFARD has continued to promotes community connections with their local governments through political capacity building, multi-stakeholder platforms; advocating for the mainstreaming of issues pertaining to food security, land, gender, child rights, environment, and youth employment.

Target Group: These efforts are aimed at creating a platform to address the low participation of children, youth and women in the affairs of their local governments and seek measures to reduce abuses meted on these vulnerable groups.

The following outputs were delivered during the year

Capacity building

- Trained 78 local leaders, 18 teachers and 27 members of the school management committees on alternative punishment options other than corporal punishment.
- Worked with 13 Child Rights Advocacy Committees (CRAC - 193 children (82 girls)) and four Child Protection Committees (CPCs - with 54 members (26 female)) and 30 community-based paralegals. These were trained on their roles and responsibilities with respect to child protection and abuse and case management.
- Trained 36 AFARD staff and group leaders as GALS methodology Champions.
- Formed two new CLAs with 37 members (all female) and selected committee members who were integrated in the sub-county and parishes task force of COVID - 19.
- Trained 612 people (126 women) and three cooperatives executive leaders in advocacy.
- Trained 654 community members (with 378 male) including children on human and child rights and 63 school management teams (PTAs, SMCs and staff - (with 21 female) on safe and child friendly school environment.
- 224 school children (120 girls) were trained on making and using re-usable pads and supported to hold four quarterly meetings.
- Trained 258 selected leaders and beneficiary representatives on matters of equitable access to land.
- Built capacity of 60 Local Council and leaders to develop education friendly by-laws.

Awareness and advocacy

- Sensitized local 148 leaders (102 women) and 30 SHGs (553 members - all females) and five farmer groups (125 members - 60% females) on human, child and women rights; and 1,048 community members (672 female) on child protection initiatives.
- Held 9 sensitization meeting for 669 Children (268 girls) and 297 community members (124 female) on the importance of education.
- Conducted 12 radio talk shows on family planning, child and women rights, and responsible parenting. An additional three radio broadcast sessions were held for out of school children on women and children rights.
- Held 40 community dialogues on the importance of education, child marriage, GBV, children's rights and refugee access to land in host communities. Training on how to plan commercial community woodlot was also carried out and attended by 3,457 people/leaders.
- 10 Pls members (all female) were support to participate in one local government planning meeting. The women shared on issues affecting women and children in the community for inclusion in the budget.
- Local leaders (cultural leaders, parents and religious) were supported to promote awareness on the dangers of child marriage and teenage pregnancies. This was complemented by radio talk shows on children rights.
- Four out of school outdoor and indoor games were held to promote advocacy around child rights. A total of 2,016 children (1,178 female), 1,000 parents (469 female), 20 traditional leaders and seven officials from the district participated.

Family planning


- 36 AFARD staffs were trained in natural family planning methods.
- Family planning awareness creation was mainstreamed in all project activities.
- AFARD team continued to work with government health facilities to conduct integrated health outreaches to provide antenatal care, post-natal, family planning, immunization and emergency referral for mothers in fetal distress and labor related complications.
- The team also train and worked with 152 people (136 of them VHTs and 16 sub-county Health Workers) on child health and family planning. These now work with the communities to carry out health education.


Summary of outcomes achieved


1. With rising awareness in the community on child and women's rights abuses, in the year 21 cases rape, defilement, child marriage, domestic violence and child neglect were reported to police and the perpetrators were arrested.
2. The cases are ongoing and being managed by the courts of law without family compromises. In addition, there is a rise in peaceful co-existence among refugees and host communities due to better natural resource (especially land) sharing. In Yumbe district, a Romogi Kiri Multipurpose Coop society has both refugees and nationals as members.



Pillar 3: Voice and accountability

 **Objective:** Improving capacity of AFARD to partner, manage, account and learn.

 **Approach:** Emphasis under this objective was placed on strengthening the Board’s oversight function, building technical competency of the staff, and capital investments (logistics, software, office space, etc.)

 **Target Group:** To ensure that AFARD is organizationally fit for purpose.

The following outputs were delivered during the year

Governance

- Board and Committee meetings and project site visits were held.
- 2020 institutional (audit and quarterly) audits were conducted by RSM auditors.
- Risk management and complaint management policies were developed and the human resource and financial and administration policies revised.
- AFARD complied with mandatory filling of annual returns to NGO Bureau, RUBS, OPM, and Financial Intelligence Authority.

Human Resources Development

- Staffing increased from 100 in 2020 to 111 (females 35 and 76 males) in 2021. All the staff had medical and workmanship insurance covers provided by AAR and Gold Star.
- Program staff received trainings to enhance their capacities on: risk management, child protection policy and case management, plant wise plant clinic, collective marketing, family planning, GALS methodology, data entry into the SAVIX, Excel, financial literacy, performance management, resilience design and refresher on applicable CSA practices, documentation and case study writing, resource mobilization, Cooperative development, improved energy saving stove technologies.
- A total of eight interns from Mountain of the Moon (MMU), Kyambogo University and Uganda College of Commerce Pakwach, and Bukalasa Agricultural College were onboarded during the year.
- Five staff completed their courses, graduating with Diploma and degree in agriculture and 11 staff were pursuing professional correspondence courses in various institutions and fields.
- All staff were vaccinated against COVID-19.



Organizational Development

- Construction of the main office in Nebbi Municipality was completed and is currently being furnished.
- AFARD retained membership and participation in district and national networks such as: Uganda National NGO Forum and District NGO Forum in Nebbi, Yumbe, and Moyo, PELUM-Uganda Chapter, Uganda National Aids Service Organizations (UNASO), Network of AIDS Service Organizations in Nebbi and Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET).
- The satellite offices in Pakwach and Zombo became fully functional, staffed by District Team Leaders who support the implementation of projects. Practical and regular real time meetings have improved with the installation of video conferencing facilities in Nebbi, Yumbe and Zombo.
- Periodic staff and management planning, coordination and review meetings were held in-house and with stakeholders (UNHCR, OPM, Sector working groups, local governments, etc.).

Visibility

- 1,017 T-Shirts with caps were produced and distributed to stakeholders and staff.
- Stakeholders' briefing meetings were held for the newly elected Local Government political leaders.
- Active participation was maintained in the UNHCR Livelihood Sector Working Group (LSWG) meetings and monitoring events as well as at the various regional and national umbrella organizations.
- Annual district and Board project monitoring, review and learning workshops were held.

Summary of outcomes achieved

	Baseline 2019	2020	2021	Target 2025
AFARD HQ completed and furnished	0	0	1	1
A profitable social enterprise developed	0	0	1	1
Reserve fund in place (UGX 'million)	0	0	0	500

Financial Performance 2021

Revenue Performance

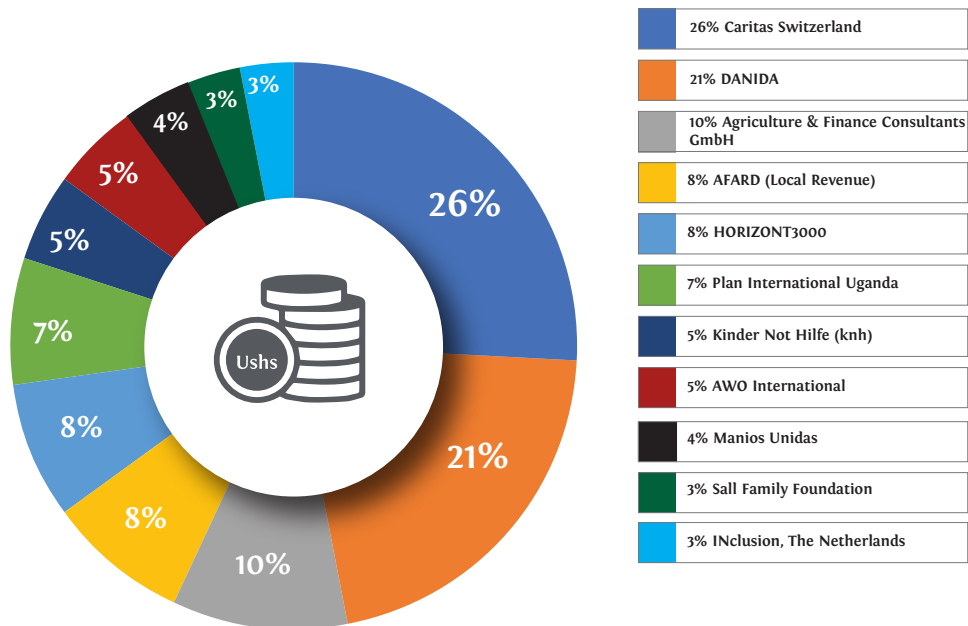
AFARD's revenue in the financial year 2021 was projected at UGX 12.8 billion. Of this, UGX 12.5 billion was realized, a revenue performance increase of UGX 2.3 billion (98%) from UGX 10.2 billion in 2020. Local revenue totaled UGX 1.0 billion, accounting for 8% of the total revenue (up from 7% in 2020). This is a positive trend and aligns with AFARDs vision to grow its local revenue sources.

Total Revenues by sources

Revenue Sources	Projects	2021 (UGX)	2020 (UGX)
Danida	NURI	2,692,154,885	3,402,716,836
EU through Caritas Switzerland	ALENU	2,496,618,570	2,238,032,010
Agriculture & Finance Consultant GmbH	RISE	1,244,418,577	782,065,245
AWO International	RELIP	572,290,760	686,422,094
Austrian Development Agency/ HORIZONT3000	Migration II	360,027,085	677,659,910
Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH)	PCDP	336,781,694	317,748,854
Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH)	ACREP	299,528,393	248,716,442
Plan International Uganda	GGE	844,375,460	505,298,004
Sall Family Foundation	WENAGIC	399,885,273	382,373,246
INclusion, TheNetherlands	NIDP	334,190,040	119,545,855
Manos Unidas	SURE	519,980,171	26,618,256
Caritas Switzerland	PSGP	801,548,930	19,265,259
Medicor Foundation and Dka Austria through HORIZONT3000	YADE	579,194,336	
AWO International	SSF	13,754,940	
University of Northumbria	Skills Acquisition	49,850	
Private Sector Foundation Uganda	Poultry Management & post harvest handling		11,980,580
European Union	YEPP		1,105,755
Catholic Church in Spain through Manos Unidas	JFSP		231,724
AFARD (Local Revenue)		1,059,747,501	753,952,568
TOTAL		12,554,546,465	10,173,732,638

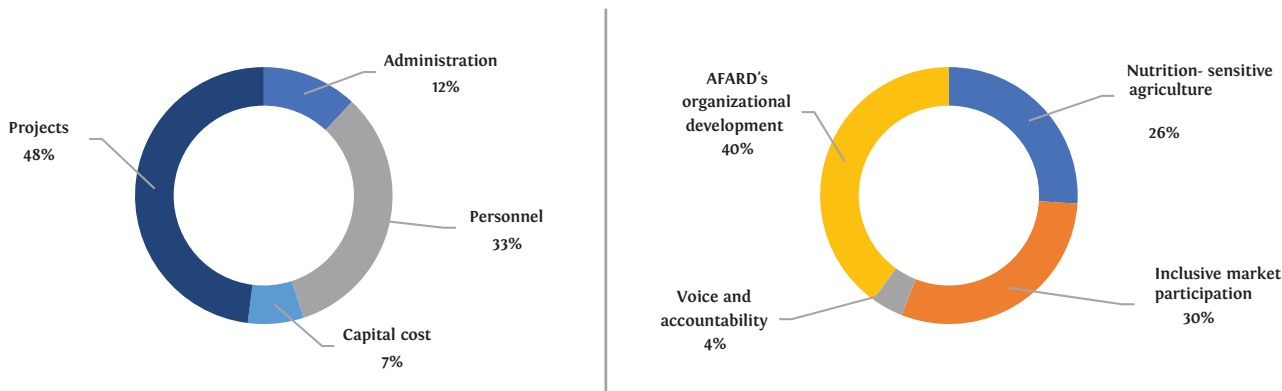
Donor's & Cooperation Partners' Performance

Of the total donor revenue received in the year, the main sources were from Caritas Switzerland (26%), DANIDA (21%), and Agriculture Finance Consultants (10%). As the financial summary above shows, it is evident that for some partners like Caritas Switzerland, HORIZONT3000, and KNH, AFARD has built strong trusts and is able to implement with them more projects.



Expenditure Performance

Out of the UGX 12.5 billion in revenue generated in 2021, UGX 12 billion (96%) was spent by December 31, 2021. Of this UGX 5.7 billion (48%) was spent on direct project implementation costs, UGX 4.0 billion (33%) on personnel largely driven by the Danida-funded NURI project with over 50% of its annual budget on salaries. Administrative costs accounted for UGX 1.5 billion (12%) and UGX 0.8 billion (7%) on capital expenditure; mainly on the completion and furnishing of AFARD HQ office. In line with AFARD Strategy 2020-25, institutional and organizational development expended 40% of the total budget followed by Inclusive market participation (30%) and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (26%).



Project Audit

The 2021 institutional financial audit was conducted by RSM Eastern Africa. Specific project audits were also conducted for RELIP by BIZ and Co.; Migration Project by BVL & Co.; ALENU by SK Audit & Advisory Co.; and Girls Get Equal Project by Kisaka & Company. All the audits had Unqualified opinion.

Auditor's Opinion



Report of the independent auditor to the members of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD)

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) the organisation, set out on pages 12 to 17, which comprise the fund accountability statement as at 31 December 2021, the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development for the year ended 31 December 2021, are prepared in all material respects in accordance with the accounting policies described on page 14 of the financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use

Without modifying our opinion any further, we draw attention to page 13 in the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting used in preparing these financial statements. The financial statements are prepared to provide information to management and the organisation's donors. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the organisation and its donors and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the organisation or its donors. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies of the organisation and financing agreements and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not Detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements continued

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report was CPA John Walabyeki, Practising Certificate No. P0301.


CPA John Walabyeki


RSM Eastern Africa
Certified Public Accountants
Kampala, Uganda

28th April 2022



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