



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

*Thriving and resilient
families in West Nile, Uganda*





Since 2020, AFARD has doubled its efforts towards the generation of local resources to fund projects as an alternative source of funding. The organization witnessed a significant growth in this area, with 7% (UGX 700 million) of the total UGX 9 billion mobilized in 2022 coming from local revenue sources.

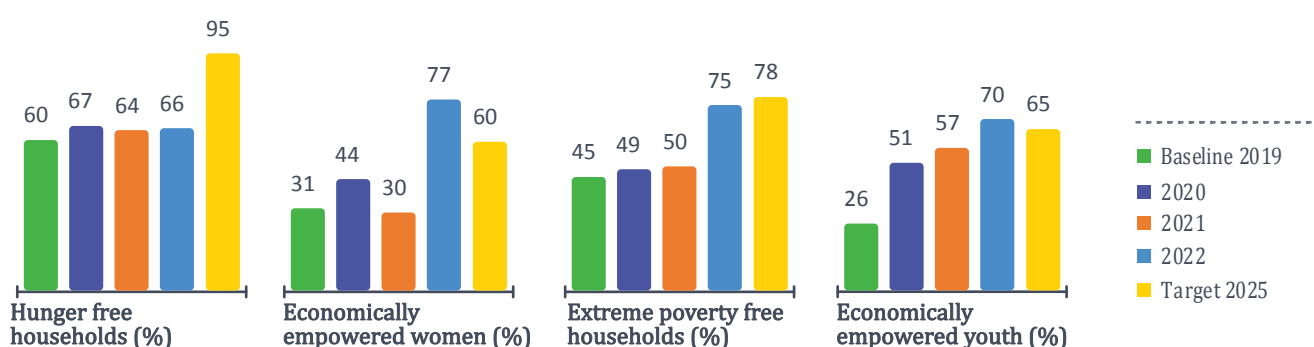
Foreword

The Covid-19 pandemic not only highlighted the vulnerability that institutions face, it also brought to the forefront the importance of diversification, something that AFARD has been focusing on, in line with its 2020-2025 strategy.

Since 2020, AFARD has doubled its efforts towards the generation of local resources to fund projects as an alternative source of funding. I am happy to report that we have witnessed a significant growth in this area, with 7% (UGX 700 million) of the total UGX 9 billion mobilized in 2022 coming from local revenue sources. As a result, AFARD was able to implement 14 projects in the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Arua, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani; impacting the lives of 177,072 people (65% females, 40% youth, and 12% refugees).

Although there was a 25.6% decline in revenue generated during the year under review, in comparison to 2021, AFARD's mobilization efforts are still commendable given the global economic downturn. As an organization we will continue to explore local funding sources to complement the resources from the various development partners that have supported us over the years.

Key results



The figure above shows the steady progress that AFARD continues to make towards the attainment of its 5-year strategy. We are happy to note that in spite of Covid-19, significant progress has been registered in all the four pillars, with the organization surpassing the 5-year targets for economically empowered women and youth during the reporting period (2022).

This would not have been possible without the continued commitment and support that we have received from all the partners that believe in our mission to see a socio-economically transformed West Nile region! While we celebrate the milestones, we still have work to do in addressing the challenges around food security and poverty reduction.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration in 2023, and beyond.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Ocan Odoki Sabino

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

Dr. Alfred Lakwo

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 |
| 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 |
| YEPP | Youth Economic Empowerment Project |

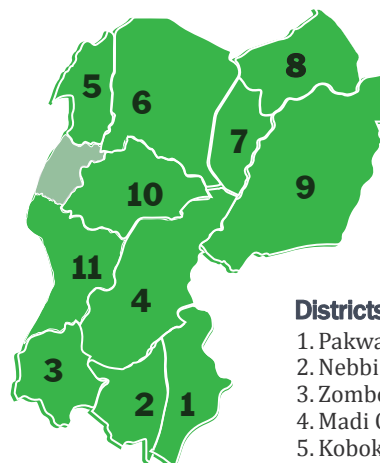
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Who we are

The Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), is an indigenous NGO founded in 2000. Headquartered in Nebbi municipality,

AFARD works in 11 districts in West Nile region (Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Arua, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani).



Districts of operation

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Pakwach | 7. Obongi |
| 2. Nebbi | 8. Moyo |
| 3. Zombo | 9. Adjumani |
| 4. Madi Okollo | 10. Terego |
| 5. Koboko | 11. Arua |
| 6. Yumbe | |

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

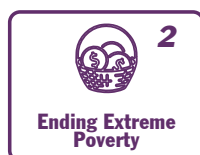
AFARD is also providing technical support to Amuru, Omoro, and Agago districts, under the EU- Government of Uganda DINU programme. Through its six-year strategy (2020 - 2025), AFARD seeks to 'reduce hunger and extreme poverty in 20,000 households, directly benefiting 138,500 people (70% nationals and 30% refugees; 60% females, 25% youth, and 15% men).

In 2022, AFARD implemented 14 projects (up from 13 and 10 projects in 2021 and 2020 respectively). Currently the organization is funded by 8 partners. AFARD's current staffing stands at 87 employees (32% of whom are female) that are supported by 1,775 community facilitators who in turn work with 1,251 self-help groups comprising of 29,341 households.

AFARD's interventions are anchored on 4 strategic pillars:



Nutrition-sensitive agriculture for **increased production and consumption of diversified foods;**



Inclusive market participation in decent employment in strategic agribusiness and vocational labour markets for **economic security;**



Voice and accountability for **responsive and people-centered decentralized local governance;** and



Organizational development to **strengthen AFARD's operational capacity, financial base, and visibility.**

Our Projects

| Name of project | Donors | District(s) | No of groups | Households served | Total HH population indirectly impacted |
|--|---|---|--------------|-------------------|---|
| Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) | Danida | Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo | 195 | 5,460 | 38,220 |
| Action for Livelihood Enhancement for Northern Uganda (ALENU) | EU/OPM through Caritas Switzerland | Nebbi, Zombo | 68 | 850 | 5,950 |
| Building Peace Through Sustainable Access to and Management of Natural Resources in West Nile and Central Equatoria (PAMANA) Project | ADA through Caritas Switzerland | Yumbe, Koboko | 44 | 2,000 | 16,000 |
| Graduating refugee and host community households into resilience to protect vulnerable children from moving to the streets in West Nile, Uganda | Swiss Development Cooperation through Caritas Switzerland | Yumbe | 150 | 450 | 2,700 |
| Migration Project | ADA through HORIZONT3000 | Yumbe | 19 | 475 | 3,325 |
| Youth Agri-skilling for descent employment (YADE) Project | Medicor Foundation and DKA Austria through HORIZONT3000 | Pakwach | 24 | 500 | 5,100 |
| Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP) | BMZ through AWO International | Yumbe | 12 | 300 | 2,093 |
| Climate Action Model Villages (CAM) Project | BMZ through AWO International | Nebbi and Pakwach | 15 | 375 | 3,190 |
| Panyango Community Development Project (PCDP) | KNH | Nebbi | 83 | 1,253 | 6,000 |
| Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP) | KNH | Zombo | 0 | 3,170 | 6,000 |
| West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation (WENAGIC) project | Sall Family Foundation | Yumbe | 15 | 450 | 4,079 |
| Girls Get equal: End Child Early and Forced Marriage | NORAD through Plan International | Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach, Adjumani | 300 | 9,000 | 27,000 |
| Nebbi Inclusive Development Project (NIDP) | INclusion | Nebbi | | 78 | 345 |
| Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project | GIZ through AFC | Adjumani, Obongi, Arua, Madi Okollo, Terego | 326 | 8,150 | 57,070 |
| TOTAL: | | | 1,251 | 29,341 | 177,072 |

Our Donors in 2022



**DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
FOR NORTHERN UGANDA**

Caritas




**BRÜDER UND
SCHWESTER
IN NOT**



**KINDER
NOT
HILFE**



The background image shows a rural village scene. In the foreground, there are two women standing. One woman is wearing a red headscarf and a grey top, and the other is wearing a red headscarf and a maroon patterned dress. They are standing in front of a small hut with a thatched roof. In the background, there are more huts and lush green trees with yellow flowers.

Implementation Context

In 2022, West Nile region experienced significant changes that impacted development programmes and AFARDs activities in the region. These included:

UNRELIABLE RAINFALL

Unreliable rainfall – characterized by prolonged dry spell in the first rainy season, and unpredictable rainfall patterns with variations in rainfall intensity in the second season. This affected plant growth with high losses registered as a result of rotting of tubers, pulses and cereals, especially in the second season.

PANDEMICS

Although the COVID-19 pandemic and Ebola virus disease later in the year did not affect the region significantly, communities were still wary of fully resuming business as a result of the lockdown in 2021, which negatively impacted business operations.

NEW REFORMS

Integration of sector funds that are now channeled directly to parishes as part of the reforms under the Parish Development Model demoralized many extension staff. This however worked in AFARD's favour as the extension staff now had more free time to support AFARD projects.

RESOURCE DISRUPTIONS

World Food Programme reduced refugee food ration by 50% and the cash transfer distorted local food prices and compelled many refugees to seek for land for farming.

EFFECTS OF WAR

The Russia – Ukraine war led to an escalation in fuel prices with a resultant increase in food prices which subsequently triggered high food inflation, impoverishing more households as families disposed of their productive assets in exchange for food.

IMPROVED COLLABORATIONS

AFARD projects increased from 13 to 14 in spite of the economic downturn. This shows a growing trust by donors in AFARD's work and has garnered increased interest in collaboration by other partners.

2022 in Numbers

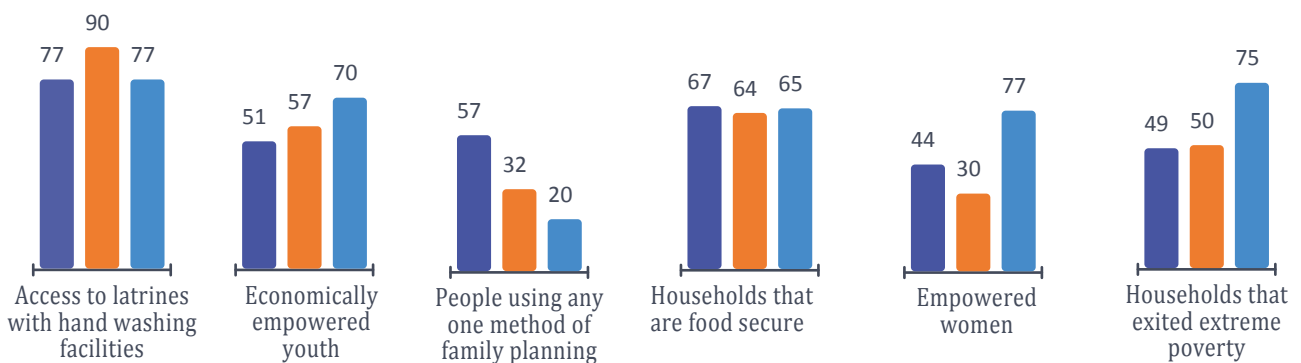
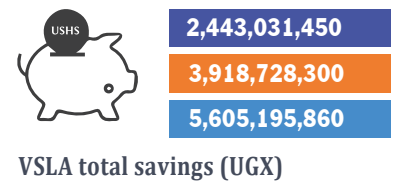
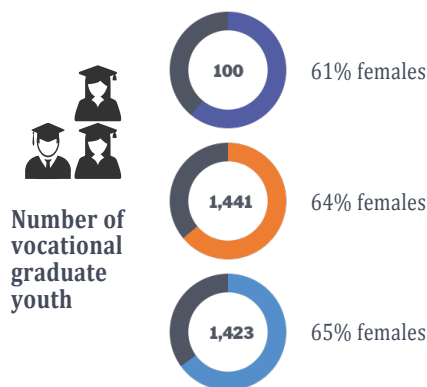
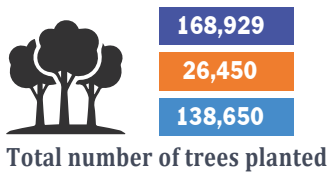
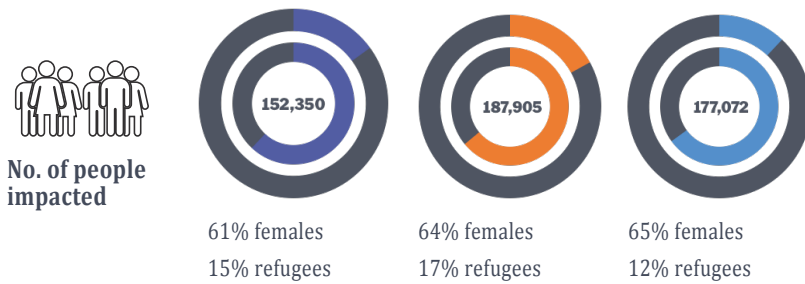
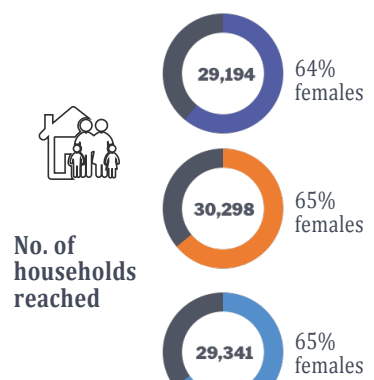
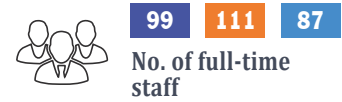
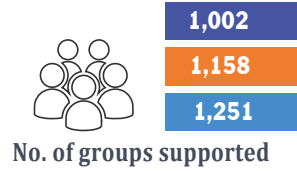


"Life has become easy for me. I have now established myself. From what I have learnt from AFARD and the Migration project, I'm a different person. Thank you AFARD for transforming my life".

Ibaga John, a 32-year-old South Sudanese Refugee and member of Food is Life farmer field school and resident of village 12, zone 1 – Bidibidi refugee settlement.

SHGs receiving the cassava cuttings for planting.

- 2020 2021 2022 -



Key inputs distributed in 2022



138,150 assorted
tree seedlings



2,535 bags of
drought-& -
disease resistant
cassava cutting



7,551 local hens with
414 Kuroiler cocks

2,705 spray
pumps, and 2,393
watering cans



1,500 mosquito nets
and 390 hand
washing facilities



1,152 improved
energy making
stoves made



2022 Project Performance



Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

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

Project Achievements

- A total of 81,000 tree seedlings (including 14,293 fruit tree seedlings - oranges, Jack fruit, Avocado) were distributed to 1,260 households and community members on a cost sharing basis (70% by the program and 30% by the farmers). The households were also trained in tree growing.
- Farmers are embracing horticulture with 364 purchasing vegetable seeds (cabbages, sukumawiki, jute mallow and spinach) during the reporting period. To support the establishment of nursery beds, the project provided 195 spray pumps to the farmer groups. Farmers were also able to access beans and soybeans from the proceeds of their demo gardens which has aided the establishment of additional group gardens across the three districts.
- Groups were supported to develop production and marketing plans, with a total 195 farmer groups finalizing their plans. At household level, the members were supported to formulate family development plans and trained on climate smart agricultural practices, kitchen gardening, and sanitation and hygiene. The 195 farmer groups participated in an open day event aimed at promoting peer to peer learning and got to exhibit and market their products.
- 21 groups were linked to Centenary, Equity and Post bank, a measure aimed at encouraging good financial management practices and increased access to capital among the groups. All the 21 groups are now saving with the banks.
- Collective marketing which is at the heart of group formation has enabled members to sell produce at fair prices with the groups earning UGX 196,061,150 in revenue.
- Farmer-managed VSLAs accumulated savings worth UGX 2,440,521,200, with the VSLAs loaning out UGX 656,338,000 to their members.



Duration: 4 years (2019 – 2022)



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



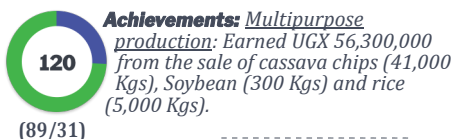
Target group: Refugees and host communities (small scale farmers)



Location: AFARD is implementing the Climate Smart Agriculture component of the project in Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo districts with the objective of "increasing agricultural outputs of small-scale farmers and refugees."

NURI Supported Districts - Nebbi District

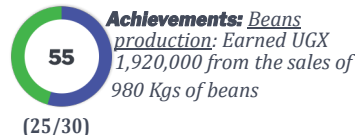
GROUP 1: Kudiol



GROUP 2: Canberkukwer



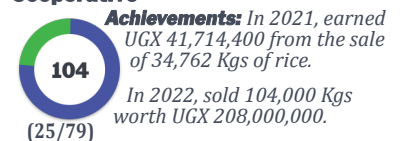
GROUP 3: Canberkumer



GROUP 4: Furber



GROUP 5: Dikiriber Rice Grower Cooperative



■ Female ■ Male



NURI FPO and CSAC happy about the potato performance in ZDLG

Outcomes

- Adoption of Climate Smart Agricultural practices has led to an increase in the tree cover as many households planted shade and fruit trees.
- Increased use of safe sanitation and hygiene practices was reported to have reduced the incidence of diarrhea and dysentery.
- Kitchen gardening has improved household nutrition as families embraced diversified diets and explored additional sources of income. The incomes earned enabled many beneficiaries to hire more land for production, purchase household assets, livestock, making of bricks and construct semi-permanent houses.
- Collaboration with the different lower local governments (LLGs) enabled 65 farmer groups to access government support (maize, beans, coffee seedlings and cassava cuttings) to aid their production activities.

My life changed when I became a member of Dikiriber Farmer Group

Ms. Oguti Florence Olama, a 40-year-old married woman and mother of six children could barely sustain her family. A peasant farmer from Japiemonen East village, Panyango Sub- County in Pakwach district, Florence practiced subsistence farming with minimal surplus left for sale at the end of the harvest season. In 2014, she decided to join Dikiriber farmer group and soon became one of their most active members, having realized that she could not succeed at farming alone.

Little did she know that her life was going to take a dramatic turn for the better. In 2015, her group was selected for support by AFARD under the DAR3 program. The group selected sesame as their strategic enterprise of choice. Florence and her group members underwent a series of trainings on good agronomic practices for sesame, cassava and maize, as well as training on post-harvest handling, collective marketing and VSLA.

This marked Florence's introduction into farming as a business.

In 2019, the group was again selected as one of the 50 farmer groups to undergo training in farming as a business under the NURI program with the goal of getting their produce to market. main aim of producing for market. The groups underwent several trainings that included, FaaB, realistic PMP development, Vision Road journey, household planning, cooperative formation, value addition, CSA, resilience design, PHH, and collective marketing.

This time around, Florence knew that it was time to diversify her enterprises. After careful analysis she decided to take up cassava as her second crop. With guidance and support from the Subcounty Agricultural officer, she secured 7 bags of NAROCASS 1 cassava cuttings (7 bags) which she planted on an acre of land for her home consumption as well as for multiplication of the cuttings. In 2020, with more cassava cuttings now available to her from her multiplication efforts, Florence planted 2 acres of NAROCASS 1 using the CSA practices she had learnt.

That same year, she sold 270 bags of cassava cuttings and 500kgs of dry cassava chips earning her UGX 500,000 and UGX 2,600,000 respectively. "From the money I earned, I

purchased 2 acres of land at UGX 1 million which I am using for cassava production. I also started constructing a semi-permanent house with UGX 1.5 million and bought 3 goats (all female) at UGX 300,000 that have now multiplied to six goats," Florence proudly explains. She even had UGX 300,000 extra to contribute towards her children's school fees and to cater for some of her family's basic needs.



Florence poses in front of her semi-permanent structure and the acquired goats

Despite the above successes, Florence was just getting started. In 2021 she planted 6 acres of cassava (NAROCASS 1 variety) in her land and hired additional gardens. The production was good, and she collectively marketed 2,831kgs of dry cassava chips at UGX 1,200/kgs and 300 bags of cassava cuttings at UGX 10,000/bag. This earned her UGX 3,397,200 and UGX 3,000,000, respectively. "I used the money to complete my house", exclaims a joyous Florence. I roofed, fitted the doors, and plastered my house. I also used part of the money (UGX 450,000) to invest in my fish mongering business," Florence added.

Today, Florence is a happy, fulfilled woman and member of her group who is witnessing her household plans come to fruition. Because of the program and the support from the Danish government, Florence is able to cultivate bigger dreams. Her plan is now to buy 2 cows and an additional 2 acres of land, and continue with cassava production.

By: Kpeton Noris

Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)

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."



Duration: 3 years & 4 months (2020-2023)



Donor: European Union



Target group: 200 registered farmer groups with a total membership of 5,000 (3,000 of whom are females).



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, and Agago

Project Achievements

- To compensate for the losses farmers incurred in 2021, the project distributed a total of: 2,675 local chickens to 925 poultry beneficiaries, 750 Kgs of red beauty groundnut seeds to 25 groups, and 690 Kgs of Maksoy 3N soybean seeds. This has restored farmers confidence and bolstered their hope for better days ahead.
- The project also distributed assorted poultry vaccines to the 12 cold chains established in the sub-counties and trained 163 farmer groups in crops and apiary good agronomic practices and 200 farmer groups in poultry production and management.
- Animal traction inputs (28 oxen and 7 ox ploughs) and assorted animal drugs were distributed to 7 farmer groups in Pakwach district and the groups trained in animal traction operation and management.
- A total of 200 groups and their members developed group/family development plans that guided their production and marketing plans for the year.
- 113 farmer groups were linked to banks and are now using banking services for their financial operations.
- Through collective marketing, farmers in Nebbi district earned UGX 80,732,500 from the sale of their produce, and a cooperative is being formed for potato farmers in Zombo.
- Can Juriemu kutic and Dikiriber, 2 Apiary farmer groups in Zombo were supported to diversify their value chain and are now making additional products such as propolis, candles, petroleum jelly and shoe polish, besides honey. One potato producing group was also supported to get into the market and are now making and selling potato crisps in the local market. The two groups earned over UGX 37 million in 2022.
- By the end of the reporting period, the VSLA had cumulative savings of UGX 309,182,500 with a loan disbursement of UGX 278,362,600, social fund of UGX 52,830,500, and agro-input savings of UGX 42,627,100. A pilot booster fund worth UGX 33,000,000 was given to 22 groups to enhance their VSLA borrowing given the constraints experienced from the ban on fishing on L. Albert and R. Nile as well as the bad weather.
- Trainings in kitchen gardening, sanitation and hygiene, tree planting, and family planning were conducted for all group members. This was also enriched by 132 integrated health outreaches focusing on nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers, and infants under 5, adolescent boys and girls.
- The project supported 65 groups to participate in national events like the Northern Uganda Agricultural show in Gulu, the day of the Elderly in Nebbi and Independence Day mini shows.



Bidong Brian of Winjirber FG in Athuma sub county inspects his cabbage field financed using his VSLA share out

Outcomes

- Adoption of kitchen gardening and increased rearing of chicken at household level has improved nutrition and incomes especially of the women. This has been reinforced by the increased adoption of good sanitation and hygiene practices by 65% of households.
- Adoption and use of good agricultural and agribusiness practices has led to 35% increased yield, family investments in strategic agri-enterprises, and income, with a resultant accumulation of productive assets (especially livestock).
- Access to better market information due to use of smartphones has improved farmers decision making on who/where to sell thus reducing their exploitation by middlemen.
- VSLA has driven the achievement of family development plan and improved gender relations as women contribute to their family wellbeing.
- Family resilience to climate change has improved with the adoption of diversification in enterprises (from crops and poultry) thus affording families additional security from the alternative income streams and productive assets.

A woman's dream of sleeping in a permanent house becomes a reality

Mandhawun Jenety a 52-year-old widow and mother of 8 member had always nursed a dream of one day constructing and sleep in a permanent house. Having known only one way to live – subsistence farming, Jenety who hails from Jupugeta upper village, Payera parish, in Nebbi district had shelved her dream as nothing but wishful thinking.

Despite her hard work she had failed to break through the hand to mouth ceiling. “Life was just hard for us. At 52 years of age, I did not own any livestock, not even one chicken. My children were frequently chased from school due to lack of uniforms and school fees and at home we could only afford two meals a day (breakfast and supper),” she explained.

During the registration of ALENU beneficiaries in 2021, Jenety was also registered, giving her access to assorted vegetable seeds, Irish potato foundation seeds, as well as trainings on; on kitchen gardening, good farming practices, village savings and loans association (VSLA), financial literacy, income generating activity selection planning and management, and family development planning.

The knowledge and skills acquired enabled Jenety to prioritise in her family development plan a goal to construct a permanent house by the end of 2023.

With the start-up inputs, she planted 0.125 acre of kitchen garden and 0.25 acre of Irish potato that together earned her UGX 2,700,000.

“I had never seen this amount of money in my entire life! With the money, I managed to raise the walls of my brick



Ms. Mandhawun Jenety poses in front of her house under construction in Jupugeta village Erussi SC in July 2022

house and deposit towards the timber for the roof, and even buy 3 goats. My dream to sleep in a permanent structure is materializing before my very eyes. I know that with the income I will earn from the second season, I will be able to complete work on my house, thanks to the ALENU project that gave me the startup inputs,” Jenety said.

Her household can now afford to eat three diversified meals a day and scholastic materials for 3 younger children.

By: Maditchan Collins, Project Officer ALENU

Panyango Community Development Project (PCDP)

Goal: Empower 3,100 extremely poor households (2,400 women, 500 children and 200 youth) by 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.



Duration: 6 years (2019-2024)



Donor: Kindernothilfe (KNH)



Target group: 3,100 extremely poor households



Location: Panyango sub-county, Pakwach district.

Project Achievements

- In 2022, the project supported 91 Self Help Groups (SHG) with 1,737 members, 4 Children Groups (CGs) with 100 (48 girls) children, 310 children under sponsorship, 6 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) with 109 members, 2 youth groups with 30 members (15 girls); and indirectly reached 2,851 (1,906 female) community members.
- 14 new SHGs with 272 members were formed and they met weekly to save, take loans, and discuss social issues affecting them in their community.
 - 4 Children groups (CGs) with 100 (48 girls) members were formed with focus on empowerment and holistic development. The children met weekly to discuss through music, dance and drama issues that affect them in the community. The children were also supported with 500 tree seedlings through NURI project so as to conserve the environment
 - 30 youths (15 girls) were trained in vocational skills (tailoring, carpentry, low-cost building and salon), saving and credit management, group dynamics, rotational leadership and conflict management.
 - Two outside radio broadcasting activities were held with a focus on girl child education. Issues such as substance abuse, fishing during school hours, child marriages, neglect and pregnancy, hygiene and sanitation, and lack of feeding programmes in schools were discussed.
 - 30 SHGs with 564 members were supported with 240 bags of NAROCAS1 cassava cuttings for seed multiplication and trained on good agronomic practices.
 - The project joined the world in celebrating the Day of the African Child, 15 Days of Activism and Women's Day.
 - 7 community advocacy dialogue meetings were held and 975 community members and children (623 females) attended. Of great significance was the resolution to close some discos and video halls in a bid to reduce child pregnancy and marriage, as a result of the meetings.



Board addressing the CLAs

Outcomes

- SHG members are now able to take loans and invest in profitable businesses, with 65% owning an income generating activity and earning an average of UGX 95,000 per month. With this income, formerly ultra-poor families now own productive assets (rabbits, chicken, goats, and pigs), are improving their housing units, ably provide scholastic materials to support their children's education, and are able to afford basic needs (food, medicines and clothes).
- Capacity building for women is changing gender norms. Vulnerable women are taking up leadership positions in their communities (e.g., Local Councils, School Management Committees, Water User Committees and COVID-19 Task force committees). Through vision building and goal setting, married women have become active decision-makers in their households. Through the CLAs and Child Protection Committees the women are now actively collaborating with village Councils to report and manage cases of child abuse. This has instilled fear among the perpetrators of child abuse. For instance, 02 child marriages were dissolved by CLAs with support of LCs and parents.
- Vocational skilling of youth has led to the reduction in anti-social behaviors such drinking and smoking of marijuana, loitering in urban centres and gambling with cards.

Gloria's journey from codependence to interdependence

Oyubcwinyu Gloria, has always lived in her husband's shadow. Having been married off young with no business skills whatsoever, Gloria embraced a life of codependence, living off her husband's meagre earnings as the sole bread winner.

As their family expanded with the arrival of their 4 biological children and 7 other dependents, their family's situation also worsened and they were now ranked among the poorest families in Dispensary village, Pakia parish in Pakwach district.

Out of desperation, the 34-year-old Gloria decided to join Cacidolandu Self Help Group, after all there really was nothing else to lose. As part of the group requirements, each member was tasked to save UGX 500 per week.

With her husband's support, Gloria was able to raise the weekly savings. After 5 months of painstaking sacrifices, Gloria's savings had grown and could now be used as collateral for a loan. She took a loan of UGX 20,000 to start a retail business selling tomatoes. "My tomatoes sold very quickly and in four days I had sold all my stock. I made a profit of UGX 6,000 which I saved with my group and used the capital to restock.

This time around she earned a profit of UGX 5,000. In the first month alone, I restocked thrice and made a cumulative profit of UGX 20,000, Gloria narrates. She was able to pay back the loan within one month and this time borrowed UGX 50,000.

With the increased revenue, Gloria was able to diversify to other commodities including onions, beans and silver fish. For the first time, Gloria could see a glimmer of hope in the horizon. At the end of 2 years, she had raised capital worth UGX 300,000. "I shared my success and plans with my husband. He was impressed and gave me additional UGX 100,000 to boost my business, Gloria said.

Gloria took another loan of UGX 100,000 as a top up, bringing her capital to UGX 500,000. With the money



First step of Gloria's business

she was able to open a small retail grocery shop along Pakwach Wadelai road that had more foot traffic.

Reflecting on her journey, Gloria credits her growth to being a member of Cacidolandu SHG her group and the trainings she got on rotational leadership, business skills etc., that boosted her confidence and gave her an appreciation of the value of planning together as a family. Now she proudly supports her husband which has strengthened their family bond.

"My family is happy and our children are healthy and in school. We can now eat at least two meals every day and still take care of the necessities at home. I plan to expand my business so that I can support my husband with the education of our children. Our children must study beyond secondary school so that they don't end up marrying young like I did," Gloria added at the end of our interview.

By: Apiso Susan Bua

Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)

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. The project is also 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.

Project Achievements

- In 2022, the project worked with nine Child Rights Advocacy Club (CRACs) and four Child protection Committee (CPCs) reaching 1,616 children (904 girls), 1,587 parents/community members (699 female) in 2022
- Conducted four training sessions on human rights for 132 community leaders (79 female), as well as four refresher training sessions for 13 CRACs and four CPCs on child abuse follow up and cases management.
- Supported nine schools to hold outdoor games (football, netball and debate) competitions on the theme “Education cannot wait; marriage can.” In addition, the project organized one music, dance and drama show on children’s right to education under the theme “Am proud to be a school girl, not a bride”.
- Distributed vegetable seeds, farm implements like watering cans, spray pumps and insecticides to 9 schools to kick start their school feeding programs through school gardens.



Duration: 3 years (2020-2023)



Donor: Kindernothilfe (KNH)



Target group: 2,000 children (60% girls) of primary school going age, 50 teachers, 100 local, cultural and religious leaders and school management, and 1,000 parents



Location: Atyak sub-county, Zombo district



Guest of Honour gracing the Day of African Child

Outcomes

- Child abuse case management has improved significantly with 09 cases reported on time, with clear records and effective follow up mechanisms. Nine cases are currently in court.
- The project registered an increase in enrolment of girls in school, with 21 out of school CRACs members returning to school (nine of whom were pregnant and three successfully sat for their Primary Leaving Examination)
- The increased awareness on rights to education among parents has spurred many parents to become more involved in their children's education and actively participate in school management committees to discuss academic progress of their children

A teenage mother's courageous journey back to school

Ngamadit Fancy (Not real name) a 17-year-old girl from Nagulu Village, in Zombo District was a happy innocent teenager.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Fancy, the second born in a family of six was in primary five at Anyola primary School. Her life took a drastic turn when her father succumbed to COVID-19 during the first lock down. With no school to occupy her and a difficult life at home, Fancy soon succumbed to the trap of engaging in pre-marital sex and became pregnant at the age of 15.

Once her relatives realized that she was pregnant, Fancy was sent to the boy's home. "I ended up becoming a wife, something I had never anticipated. I was filled so much regret and confusion and yet I could not go back home," Fancy narrates.

Fortunately for Fancy, a number of her friends were members of the Child Rights Advocacy Committee (CRAC). Upon realizing that their friend was pregnant and had been sent to live with the boy, they reported the case to the Child Protection Committee (CPC). "My friends used to visit me regularly and became my source of hope and comfort. They reminded me that all was not lost and I could still go back to school," she explained.

The CPCs engaged the parents of the young couple and reminded of the legal implications of marrying off minors. "We did not know that we could legally be prosecuted and jailed for condoning marital relationships between minors," one parent explained. With the guidance of the CPC, Fancy and Raymond (not real name) were counselled and encouraged to end their relationship so that Fancy could go back to their home. The parents agreed to support the teens and take Fancy back to school after she gave birth.



Ngamadit Fancy breastfeeding her child in the Headmaster's office

As soon as school opened in January 2022, Fancy went back to school and registered as a student in primary 6 in her old school. Because of the high population of students at school (1,000), the students were split into two shifts, morning and evening.

Fancy registered for evening lessons (the second shift that starts from 12:30pm to 6:00pm), which was convenient for her as it gave her time to attend to her baby and do her homework before reporting to school.

Today Fancy dreams of a better future and looks forward to completing her education. "Education is the only way to get out of early marriages. I encourage my fellow teenagers not to fear to return to school if they conceive." Fancy concluded

By: Okot Onegi George

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

Goal: Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to deliver services to all people in the refugee hosting districts and create economic opportunities that will build their resilience and self-reliance. AFARD and AFC are implementing Component 3 (Creation of economic opportunities) with the objective of increasing income for the beneficiaries through agricultural production, processing, and marketing.

Project Achievements

- Supported and mentored 260 learning groups with 6,447 members, comprising of 3,305 refugees, 4,502 women, 3,098 youths, and 1,582 single women. The learning groups have been trained in different topics under GAP, CSA, Financial literacy, Farming as a business, and marketing.
- 14 solar-driven irrigation systems have been installed supplying production water for 38 acres of land for production of vegetables like cabbage, tomatoes, onions etc, these schemes serve 344 beneficiaries both refugees and Ugandan nationals.
- Mentored and accompanied 255 functional VSLAs, these VSLAs were able to save and borrow for investment in different IGAs e.g., commercial farming, boda boda business, produce business etc.
- 2 Motorized rice hulling machines of 40hp, with a capacity of hulling 5 tonnes per day were installed and are serving two newly registered cooperatives with 542 members.
- The capacity of 49 field extension consultants was built in gender-based violence to help them mainstream gender issues while delivering extension service.
- A total of 136 beneficiaries were trained for 4 weeks at ADRAA agriculture college; 72 in bee keeping and 64 in sustainable agriculture practices.
- Two cooperatives were instituted and formalized.
- Certified high-quality inputs and improved livestock species were distributed to refugees and host communities (54,200 kgs of groundnuts, 4,162 cassava cuttings, 9,390kgs of beans, 2,600kgs of soybean, 40kgs of onions, 4.1kgs of tomatoes, 7.6kgs of cabbage, 3,413 goats, 205 pigs, 444 bee-hives. The project also distributed other apiary equipment distributed included 441 hive stands, 150 bee suits, 150 gloves, 147 smokers, 147 buckets, 150 harvesting knives, 150 bee brush, and 10 catcher boxes).



Duration: 3.5 years (2019 -2022)



Donor: GIZ with funding from European Union Trust Fund and German government



Target group: Local Authorities and Refugee hosting communities



Location: Arua, Moyo, Madi Okollo, Terego, Obongi, and Adjumani



Sitima, a member of Yupet group, drying her rice

Outcomes

- 255 VSLAs with 6,533 members are functional and saved UGX 4.6 billion, over 3 cycles.
- Farmers increased their income through cultivation of different inputs (cassava, onions, tomatoes, sunflower, beans, soybean, groundnuts, cabbage, rice) earning gross revenue of UGX 4.7 billion and a net income of UGX 4.5 billion.
- Asset base of the beneficiaries also increased especially live-stock as a result of support the from RISE, with the current asset value being valued at UGX 5.2 billion.

Alimodoa Geoffrey Embraces Farming as business

"I would only farm for home consumption," Alimodoa Geoffrey a father of 13 children in Odroo Village Imvepi parish Odupi sub-county narrates.

Geoffrey was however lucky to be selected as one of the beneficiaries of the RISE project in 2019. The project provided inputs to the beneficiaries and Geoffrey received two goats, and 20kgs of rice seed, as well as extension support through trainings like Faab, financial literacy, good agriculture practices, post-harvest handling of rice and marketing.

In his first year of rice production, he planted 1 acre and harvested 765kgs which earned him UGX 2,448,000.

Inspired by his earnings, Geoffrey increased his acreage the following season to 2 acres and harvested 1,900kgs, earning UGX 6,650,000. He bought 20 iron sheets to roof his house, 4 cows, and 5 additional goats that have now



Alimodoa Geoffrey poses with his livestock bought with income from rice production and marketing under RISE project

multiplied to 25. "RISE has positively impacted my life and I am forever thankful to the project and AFARD," Geoffrey added.

Secure Livelihoods/Migration II Project

Goal: Support refugees and host communities improve their livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development. The project worked directly with 500 vulnerable households and 207 youths (60 females; and 50% refugees) in Zone 1, Bidibidi refugee settlement and Romogi Sub-County, in Yumbe District.

Project Achievements

- Groups were supported to develop production and marketing plans (PMPs), and 60 demo plots were established and used for experiential trainings in climate smart agriculture, a measure aimed at increasing crop production for both food (sorghum, pigeon peas, cow peas) and income (cassava, simsim) at household level.,
- All the beneficiary households set family goals, which guided their family investment plans.
- Agro-inputs were distributed to all the 500 households for both cash and food e.g., seeds of vegetable, sorghum, and sesame together with cassava cuttings, tree seedlings, local hens/ cocks, hand hoes, wheel barrows, tarpaulins, digital weighing scales, cassava chippers, and a small-scale cassava mill. In addition, 300 training sessions on Climate smart agricultural practices and 40 training sessions on safe nutrition were conducted.
- The project developed the collective marketing skills of FFS using one product cluster. A total of 72 training sessions on collective marketing and value addition were conducted for the FFS.
- 69 training sessions were conducted on Income Generating Activities and FFS members and youths mentored on how to use business health checks to improve their business management and growth.
- 207 youths were trained in various vocational skills using the competence-based apprenticeship training model. Master trainers were provided a pre-placement orientation by Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) Assessors. The project paid for master trainers' fees, trainees feeding and basic training materials and provided basic start-up kits to all the trained youths as they transitioned from training to running their own enterprises.
- 40 Paravets, (20 females) were trained on poultry husbandry and agribusiness. They were provided with kits and linked to the District and Sub-County Veterinary Offices to provide fee for service community wide poultry vaccination and basic treatment against the common poultry diseases.
- 40 Local Environment Committees (LECs) and 20 energy saving stove champions were trained on local natural resource conservation.
- 24 dialogue meetings were held on key issues related to peaceful co-existence between refugees and host community, access to land, how to reprimand those who steal crops from the farmland as well as owners of stray animals that destroy refugee crops.
- For VSLA, 94 training and follow up sessions were conducted to reinforce saving with a purpose, diversification of income sources, saving for agro inputs and how to access VSLA loans as capital.



Duration: 3 years (2020-2022)- Phase I of the project ended on December 31, 2022 and Migration II – consolidation phase commenced in 2023 upto 2024, implemented by AFARD and HORIZONT3000)



Donor: Austrian Development Cooperation, Bruder und Schwester in Not Innsbruck (BSI) and Caritas Kärnten



Target group: Refugees and host communities



Location: Rhino and Yumbe Resettlement areas in Yumbe district



A member of Lomiriji Lower Youth group preserving her vegetables using a solar drier

Outcomes

- Climate smart agriculture has become the backbone for diversified food production, income generation and environment conservation. Kitchen gardening, adopted by 80% of targeted households, improved diet diversity and provided additional source of income. With increased environmental conservation awareness creation by LECs and energy saving stove champions, tree planting (34,260 tree seedlings planted in 64.5 acres of woodlots) and the use of energy saving stoves increased from 245 in 2021 to 429 in 2022. Women reported that a bundle of firewood now lasted longer by an additional three days when they used energy cooking stoves, cutting on the time they spent collecting firewood.
- Through collective marketing, FFS members bulked their produce (cassava and simsim) and sold their produce, earning UGX. 161 million (at prices above the market price). The experience made members realise the importance of starting their own cooperative to oversee bulking and sale on their behalf, leading to the establishment of Romogi Kiri multi-purpose cooperative, that currently has 134 members.
- In VSLA, FFS members built their own agro input fund worth UGX. 55,214,800, that they now use as collateral when buying improved agricultural inputs. In addition, easy access to capital from VSLA enabled 225 more members start new income generating activities (IGA).
- The trainings and health services provided by the poultry paravets did not only earn them income, it also led to a surge in the adoption of programmed hatching technology that increased the average number of birds per household from 2 to 12 birds. During the reporting period, the targeted households vaccinated 8,042 birds at UGX. 2,035,200 and sold 1,285 birds at UGX. 28,095,000 and 2,785 eggs at UGX. 1,333,500.
- The rise in income from the sale of farmers produce enhanced the implementation of family development plans. In 2022, households procured productive assets (125 cattle, 1,479 goats, 119 sheep, 1,607 chicken, 121 ducks, 791 iron sheets, and six motorcycles among other things).
- 139 of the 207 youths trained in vocational skills started their own enterprises, creating additional employment for other youth.
- The dialogue meetings held, did not only contribute to peaceful co-existence between the refugees and the host community, but also led to the refugees accessing more farm land, and the enactment and enforcement of a bye law against stray animals by Romogi Sub- County Local government.

Income diversification, the way to go for better youth livelihoods

The non-formal youth skilling approach through apprenticeship that was promoted under the Migration project has changed the lives of many youths, one being Regina Aloko. Regina is a 25-year-old South Sudanese refugee, married with 3 children. She is a resident of village 12, Iyete parish, zone 1, in Bidibidi settlement.

Before she was selected for the tailoring course under the project, life was very difficult for her. She did not have enough money to support her family and her husband who lives in South Sudan was not supporting her and the children. She was solely dependent on the support from the UNHCR and food from the World Food Programme.

In 2020, she was selected as one of the promising youths to undertake a course in design. She was able to perfect her tailoring skills and started earning better income as customers began making more orders because of her creative designs. Accompanied with business mentorship skills and follow up by the project staff on the implementation of her family development plan, Regina was able to keep very clear business records that showed progress and growth.

In 2021, Regina's plan was to save UGX 1,500,000, which she achieved through saving in one farmer field school VSLA. From her savings, she used UGX 180,000 to rent a 1.5-acre farmland, re-invested UGX 500,000 into her tailoring business, spent UGX 300,000 to support household needs and school requirements of her children, UGX 250,000 for constructing a better business shelter and saved UGX 370,000 as a downpayment a motorcycle she intended to purchase in 2022.

Spurred by her targets, Regina continued to work hard towards achieving her goals. Because of her excellent designs and tailoring skills, Regina had doubled her earnings by mid-2022, earning UGX 3.6 million by June of 2022. She used UGX 600,000 to restock and buy more cloth



A youth of tailoring in a her shop making clothes

materials and bought a motorcycle at UGX 2,500,000 for the 'boda boda' business she wanted to start, UGX 300,000 to support her family and saved UGX 200,000 in her VSLA group.

Besides the two income streams above, Regina is also offering tailoring classes to three youths who pay her UGX 50,000 monthly. *"My business has been a success because I always follow the business mentorship advice I am given. The project has empowered me to become self-reliant and run successful businesses. I have a bank Account in my names, which I use to save. I plan to start saving the profit I make from my boda boda business in the bank so that I can pay my niece's school fees since she will be joining Secondary school. I am very grateful to the Migration project, long live AFARD,"* Regina said.

By: Limio Rose

Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)

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 groups and community members.

Project Achievements

- Agro-inputs for staple food production and income - cassava cuttings, seeds of vegetable, beans, pigeon peas, and rice, and tools like hoes, watering cans, spray pumps, and tarpaulins were provided to households to enhance their food and income security. A diesel engine rice hurler with polisher was procured and installed at Romogi trading center to enable farmers change from selling unhurled to hurled rice. In addition, local birds, oxen, ox-ploughs, carts, and ox planters were provided. Farmers were also taken through experiential trainings on climate smart agricultural practices, poultry husbandry, agribusiness and low-cost and intensive homestead backyard kitchen gardening as well as nutrition education that culminated in a competitive cooking gala.
- VSLAs was promoted together with trainings in financial literacy and selection, planning and management of IGAs.
- Targeted households received Moon beads together with training, dialogues and outreaches on family planning. These trainings focused on understanding of family size dynamics, household economic stress, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and family planning services.
- Awareness was created on environment conservation and tree seedlings (secured from UNHCR and bought from private nursery operators) distributed. Energy saving stove champions were trained and started constructing and selling energy saving stoves to both groups and non-group members.
- Land dialogue meetings were conducted to ensure refugees access arable land for farming and to settle disputes arising from theft of crops from refugee farm lands, stray animals, bush burning and land grabbing.



Duration: 3 years (2020-2022).



Donor: BMZ and AWO International



Target group: 300 vulnerable households (196 females) in 12 Farmer Groups (FGs) in Yumbe district



Location: Yumbe district



An energy saving stove champion from Atekiku farmers group showing stake holders one the stoves she made, during a livelihood sector joint monitoring visit

Outcomes

- The project ignited a process of family development planning which gave married women an opportunity for the first time in their marriages to discuss with their husbands what their family development aspirations were.
- The energy saving stove champions have increased the use of improved cook stoves among households with a resultant reduction in tree cutting, time spent in search of firewood and exposure to violence for women and girls
- Communities have embraced tree growing on farm borders, homesteads, and on community woodlot co-owned by nationals and refugees which is greening the community.
- Livelihood diversification initiatives have led to many households owning alternative IGAs. The majority of the women business owners attributed their success to peaceful co-existence in their families, since they are now allowed by their spouses to trade so as to make a contribution to their annual family development goals. Poultry has moved from being a source of protein to a family business enterprise. During the year, families sold an aggregated 1,508 chickens bringing in UGX 37,650,000 in revenue. The rise in earnings has also increased the savings value in VSLAs and led to more acquisition of productive assets (88 cattle, 219 goats, 232 chicken, 417 iron sheets, 29 bicycles, and nine motorcycles) at household level.
- Dialogues promoted peaceful co-existence between refugees and nationals and led to refugees acquiring additional 50 acres of land for farming. A 6.5 acres commercial woodlot co-owned by refugees and the host community was established in Ilanga village. To address stray animals, Romogi Sub-County enacted and is implementing a by law against stray animals. To encourage resource sharing, Romogi Cooperative was registered with 33 refugees as members. The newly registered cooperative started providing opportunities for value addition and collective marketing for its members. For instance, the cooperative bought 13,426 Kgs of cassava chips from its members at UGX 12,083,400.
- The project has diversified employment opportunities for targeted beneficiaries. Animal traction handlers, poultry paravets, and energy saving champions continued to earn side income from fees they charged for services rendered.
- Uptake of family planning improved as men and religious leaders supported the use of traditional methods.

Romogi Sub County Kiri Multi-Purpose Co-operative off to a good start

It is often been said that organizations like any business go through growth stages, starting with the existence, survival before they reach maturity. Romogi Sub County Kiri multipurpose cooperative society that was formed in 2021 to serve both refugees and host communities in Yumbe district is proving to be an outlier.

Created with the aim of; pooling resources together for investments, increasing members bargaining power in the markets, availing access to affordable credits, increasing income and wealth amongst the members and providing better linkages for her members; the cooperative has taken its responsibilities seriously and has skipped the crawling stage and is determined to run.

A year after its establishment, the cooperative started collective marketing and opened eight acres land for for cassava, intercropping it with simsim.

This attracted many local partners who got interested in working with the cooperative. One of these partners is Uganda farmers an organization that works with registered farmers on agreed terms, giving support to the farmers inform of loan inputs, market information and offers ready market for farmers produce.

After seeing the level of organization in the cooperative, coupled with commitment of the members in the group activities, the organization discussed with the cooperative's leaders the terms of their engagement in building business linkages. This has led to 42 members of the cooperative being supported in the first phase of their business linkage to produce 44 acres of simsim at a minimum cost of UGX 95,000.

The farmers were supported with agricultural inputs which included; simsim seeds, tarpaulins, agro chemicals and bags at the total cost of UGX 95,000 for producing one acre each, with each member only required to contribute

20% (UGX 19,000) of the total cost. Not only are the members growing simsim for Uganda farmers, the organization has committed to offtake all the simsim from the members.

"This kind of engagement is the beginning of contract farming that we have been desiring for our members. We intend to engage Uganda Farmers for more linkages next season especially for our priority crops cassava and rice" the cooperative chairperson said.

The cooperative also started produce buying i.e. buying cassava from members at the market price and selling in other markets. This offers marketing opportunities for the cooperative members to earn at two levels; as sellers to the cooperative and as shareholders in the cooperatives who earn dividends from the profit that the cooperative will make.

In April 2022, the cooperative bought a total of 13,426kgs of cassava chips at UGX 900 per kilogram from 4 groups (3 host, 1 refugee) and earned a profit of UGX 1,342,600 after selling each kilogram at UGX 1,000 to produce dealers in Yumbe market. This has given the 19 members from the 4 groups great motivation as they used to spend UGX 10,000 to transport each bag of cassava chips to Yumbe market in order to get better prices. This cost of transport plus other handling costs greatly reduced their earnings.

With the cooperative now buying directly from the members at the prevailing market price and saving them the transportation costs, many members are beginning to appreciate the cooperative and encouraging more members to always sell directly to the cooperative. The cooperative is clearly doing something well and community members are signing up to be part of its success.

West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation (WENAGIC) Project

Goal: Support sustainable and equitable food and income security for 450 smallholder farming communities.” Efforts in 2022 focused on strengthening the smallholder farmers formed primary cooperative; Kei sub-county Rodo Rice Producers’ Cooperative Society Limited (KRORP limited)- a producer cooperative engaged in the production, value addition and marketing of rice. The project also seeks to increase smallholder farmers’ collective voice and space in the market and politics of their communities.

Project Achievements

- Family development plans were adopted by all members and it continues to guide the annual family production and investment planning
Members sustained their food production (beans, cassava, and kitchen gardening of vegetables), tree planting and animal traction technology without additional project funding. Lead farmers supported the use of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices
- A total of 384 members constructed improved energy cook stoves.
- The cooperative was provided with basic operational equipment – solar power, tri-cycle, pallets, weighing scale, moisture meter, and a laptop. A VIP latrine was also constructed.
- A Business Support Officer was recruited to support the cooperative leadership and management capacity.
- The nutrition study was completed and the report provides critical insights to guide nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming e.g., improved communication strategy to promote the production of nutrition local foods and safe food preparation practices.
- West Nile Holdings was supported and it planted 10 acres of trees (although due to the prolonged dry weather the survival rate stands at about 5-6 acres). It also started a piggery unit that currently has 78 pigs.
- Furniture, a beamer and white board procured for the new office block.



Duration: 6 years (2017 – 2022)



Donor: Sall Family Foundation (SFF)



Target group: Smallholder farmers



Location: Yumbe district



Team leader Yumbe welcoming guests during the first AGM meeting organised by Kei -Rodo rice producer cooperative

Outcomes

- The cooperative is creating employment opportunities for the community with three skilled members of the community being on-boarded as Office Administrator, Security Guard and Machine Operator.
- To boost rice production, the cooperative distributed rice seeds to its members on loan basis and linked non farmer group members to trained lead farmers to acquire improved agricultural production knowledge. The cooperative is also providing ready market for farmer's produce thus cutting off the former middlemen exploitation.
- As a result of the Business Support Officer's support, the cooperative held its first AGM chaired by the District Commercial Officer after an external audit by CHUCKLE & Co Certified Public Accountants for which it paid UGX. 500,000, and initiated VSLAs. The cooperative also earned a net income of over UGX 10 million.
- The cooperative has built linkages with different organizations: Kei Sub-County local government which provided it with 140kgs of rice seeds, PAMANA project which provided members with vegetable seeds, watering cans and spray pumps.

Farmer cooperatives the missing link between the market and farmers

In a time of transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture, small farming households need to be better organized in order to match the market demand in terms of product volume and quality. However, spontaneous initiatives are often discouraged by the lack of proper support in terms of credit, infrastructures, legal framework or relevant information.

In Yumbe district, the active informal associations tend to be credit groups or small income generating groups. Small farmers' groups and Agro-enterprises have been created - in most cases with the help of donor funded projects as a precursor to the formation of future cooperatives.

However, policy distortions tend to favor large-scale enterprises and create unfair competition for small agro-enterprises in mobilizing capital, a condition that led AFARD to re-strategize in response to protect its beneficiaries from the unfair competition and to enhance collective market participation by introducing an inclusive cooperative business model (multi-purpose cooperatives).

One of the results of this endeavor is the creation of cooperatives such as Kei Sub- County - Rodo rice producer's cooperative society limited, a collection of seven small holder farmer groups (Avanga, Nidro, Ada, Ayikochi, Amaechora, Kidea and Warakala).

In 2021 the cooperative engaged in joint production of rice on 4 acres of cooperative demonstration garden which produced 600 kilograms of rice that the cooperative sold at UGX. 3,500 per kg, earning UGX. 2,100,000.

In 2022, the cooperative strategized to support individual production of rice to provide equal opportunity for the members to sell to the cooperative. The production



The marketing committee members pose for a photo with their rice

committees together with the marketing committee jointly planted 294 acres of rice in coordination with the cooperative members, 211 acres of cassava and 190 acres of beans. Together, they harvested 34,964 kgs of beans which they collectively sold and earned UGX. 104,892,000. Of the 294 acres of rice planted the members expect to harvest 176,520 kgs, which will fetch them an expected UGX. 617,820,000 in revenue.

This increase in production places the cooperative in a better position in the market, and once they embrace value addition, they will be in a much stronger position to represent their members in the market.

By: Onono Francis

Girls Get Equal: Ending Early and Forced Child Marriage Project

Goal: Address the rampant and socially accepted practices of child marriage in the West Nile region of Uganda. AFARD is primarily implementing Outcome Area 3: Education to increase girls' economic empowerment that focuses on increasing economic empowerment of girls and 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.

To date, the project has formed 206 youth groups with 6,068 members (3,656 females) and 30 vulnerable family groups with 848 members (584 females).



Duration: 5-years (2020-2024)



Donor: NORAD through Plan International Uganda



Target group: 9,000 Girls and Boys and 3,000 vulnerable families



Location: AFARD in a partnership with Plan International Uganda is implementing the project in Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo and Adjumani districts.

Project Achievements

- The project supported 1,260 youth in agribusiness in five key enterprises (soybeans, Irish potato, beans, groundnuts and cassava) with agro-inputs: 126 spray pumps, 72 bags of Irish potato foundation seeds, 2,295 bags of cassava cuttings, 2,835 Kgs of soybean seed, 3,150 Kgs of beans seed and 650 Kgs of groundnut seed. Practical learning facilitated by AFARD's other projects' extension officers, was conducted through group-based demonstration gardens. In addition, the youths were sensitized on collective marketing.
- Youth and vulnerable family groups continued with VSLA savings as below:
- Five vulnerable family groups also received UGX 5,000,000 as rotating booster fund to enhance their VSLA borrowing for investment but also pilot reduction of dependence on project one-off agro-input supply (that is highly exposed to climate change).
- Different monitoring visits to the project beneficiaries were conducted with the district leaders, AFARD Board of Directors, and donors. In addition, management held four reflection, learning and planning meetings for all the project partners.

| Category | Savings | Loans | Agroinput fund | Social fund |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Youths | 245,716,500 | 252,314,600 | 21,683,000 | 37,148,500 |
| Vulnerable families | 31,557,700 | 7,724,300 | 5,163,500 | 2,653,200 |
| TOTAL: | 277,274,200 | 260,038,900 | 26,846,500 | 39,801,700 |



Members of Dikiri Ber Youth Group, Parwath village in Ndhev sub county receiving inputs

Outcomes

- Savings rebounded in beneficiary households in the wake of COVID-19 and was complemented by a positive attitude towards hard work among the youth.
- A number of youths have emerged as role models to other youth in the community. Cohesion and togetherness has also improved among the youths.
- Improved food availability especially for groups supported in farming as they use some of the harvest for food before they sell the rest.
- A significant number of youth are becoming self-employed.
- Both targeted youth and their parents are championing against early marriages.

Girls Get Equal project gives Acikani Jenety's two girls a way out of early marriages

"When I heard about the Ending child early and Forced marriage project by Plan International and AFARD, I was motivated to join the Vulnerable Family Group (VFG) group because I do not want to marry off my daughter at an early age" are *Acikani Jenety's first words when asked about her motivation for joining the group. Now a 37-year-old mother of six, Acikani had her childhood taken from her, having been married off at 16 years old after dropping out of school in primary four.*

Life has not been easy for Acikani and her family being subsistence farmers who live each year 'farm to mouth.' The idea of savings has thus been very far from their minds given that they eat almost everything that they harvest each season.

Being a member of Watemu Itokwu (VFG) in Akworo Sub County, Kampala village, Nebbi district, Acikani soon discovered that you could not continue living life as usual.

Her group was introduced to the VSLA and the Income Generating Activities (IGA) and Vision Road Journey methodology, and Acikani was challenged to start saving and to start an IGA.

"I had no IGA in mind and I learnt that in order to save effectively there must be a business that one is doing to generate income and I realized that without a household plan there is no development. Because of this, I set a vision to buy a motorcycle which would help me raise money for fees," Acikani explains.

Besides Farming, Acikani started selling fish to help take care of the family and to generate the UGX10,000 that she needed to save weekly.



Ms Acikani Jenety with her motorcycle

By the end of 2021 received UGX 640,000 from her share out and topped up UGX 600,000 from the sale of her soya beans and bought a used Motorcycle at UGX 1,200,000. "With this motorcycle, I know that I will be able to raise fees for my children since I intend to hire it out. With this, my two daughters who were on the verge of dropping out of school due to lack of school fees and requirements will be able to study. I will not allow them to get married young," Acikani emphasizes.

By: Adokorach Annet, Project Officer GGE

Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)

Goal: Contribute to “a dignified and income secure life for all people, free from the injustice of poverty and exclusion.” The programme provides unconditional basic income grant (BIG) called Level Income for Equity (LIFE) as a social protection intervention.

The program is based on the principle that *every individual has a right to receive an income that is enough for basic needs, full participation in society and a dignified life, without any conditions in line with the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)*. The definition of basic income is “income unconditionally granted to all without any conditionalities.

Project Achievements

- The project was officially launched at an event attended by the beneficiaries, representatives of the donor and local governments. The launch also provided the donor representatives an opportunity to monitor the project impact within the village. During the event the covenant between INclusion and the target community was reviewed, agreed, signed and launched.
- Through the Yearly Review Date (YRD) exercise, the village register was updated, with an additional 26 new members (18 females) added.
- The project continued to provide LIFE cash transfer worth UGX 56,060 to 361 people (185 females) each per month (including transaction fee but excluding the deductions for Community Fund) for 12 months. Children continued to get paid through their mothers or guardians.
- A study was conducted in December 2022 to assess the effects of the unconditional cash transfers after two years of the LIFE disbursement. The results of the study will be shared in 2023.
- 232 mobile phones were distributed to the beneficiaries in Nyakumba, the project control village.
- Routine monitoring was conducted by AFARD Board of Directors and management as well as by political and technical officials from the district and Sub- County Local Governments.



Duration: 7 years (2020-2027)



Donor: INclusion



Target group: Vulnerable people



Location: Welle – Atego sub-county, Nebbi district



Dr. Lakwo Introducing the INclusion representatives to the community and other stakeholders during the project launch

Outcomes

- All school going children were able to report back to school when the school reopened after the COVID-19 lockdown and they completed the year without any encumbrance such as lack of scholastic materials or hunger.
- Steady access to income has improved the general wellbeing of the population. Families feed on three meals a day and women go to market twice a week to buy food (including sugar, fish and meat) and other basic needs (soap, paraffin, clothing, etc.). Besides, they are able to access better health care from private facilities as government health units are in perpetual stockout of essential medicines.
- The consumption of the clean borehole water has improved the sanitation and hygiene of the community. Women also spend short time fetching water unlike in the past when they stayed overnight in queues waiting to tap some water from an underground well.
- To diversify their income sources, families are investing in other income generating activities such as produce buying and selling, mini grinding mills, sewing machines and apiary for self-employment. Youth are also using their LIFE to pay for vocational skills training e.g., tailoring skill and self-employment.
- To build resilience to shocks and increase wealth accumulation, families have continued to buy animals (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, poultry) and other assets (mattresses, bicycles, solar lamps, and motor cycles) using their LIFE. In addition, 12% of the beneficiaries are now living in semi-permanent houses that they built using LIFE. Many more houses are under construction too making Welle village a model village in the sub county.
- The community has also used the social cohesion promoted by the project to set up and enforce a by-law against child marriages. This has discouraged both their young girls from marrying out of their village because they will be excluded from the cash grant. The boys as well are not permitted to marry any young girl into the village as the new entrant will not be included in the LIFE Village Register.
- With available and steady income, the village has stopped commercial charcoal and bush burning. Instead, they have resorted to regenerating their degraded land thus LIFE has inspired environmental and biodiversity conservation as well as bee keeping.

NIDP Non- Conditional Grant turns a struggling youth into an apiary farmer

Olworngom Johnson a 30-year-old youth and father of three is a classic example of why it pays to teach a person to 'fish' than merely giving them 'fish'. Today he has moved from being known as a struggling uneducated youth providing casual cheap labour to community members to being an Apiary farmer with 18 hives. From his hives, he has already harvested 120 litres of honey which he sold at UGX 25,000 per litre earning him UGX 3 million, an amount that he had never seen in his life.

Johnson's story changed with the coming of the NIDP project in 2017 to Welle village where Johnson lives. In 2020,

Johnson was registered as a beneficiary and entitled to receive a basic income grant (BIG) of UGX 56,060 monthly that is commonly known as Level Income for Equity (LIFE). The LIFE is aimed at helping the vulnerable meet their basic needs and live in dignity. Johnson however knew that he had to move from barely surviving on the 56,060 and do something more, if his family was to move out of survival mode.

He saved up part of his monthly allowance for three months enrolled for a life skilling course in bee keeping at ADRAA, after which he bought 18 bee hives using the money he had continued saving from LIFE.



Olworngom Johnson installing bee hives to diversify his income

"LIFE has taught me that every drop in the ocean counts. No matter how small the amount if you save it becomes substantive. This grant has changed my life and that of my family. I intend to reinvest the money I have earned from the sale of my honey into buying more hives so that I can expand my business. I will always remain grateful to NIDP and AFARD for the support through the grant," a happy Johnson explained.

By: Ibrahim Bashir

Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project

Goal: Contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development. 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

- VSLA share out and second saving cycle management were followed up in all the 24 agribusiness youth investment groups (a-YIGs). The VSLA mentors were also supported as they cascaded trainings to their group members in VSLA, entrepreneurship and life skills, and financial literacy. A total of UGX 49,336,630 of the first saving cycle was shared out in 2021. So far, the VSLA has cumulatively saved a total of UGX 21,001,100, lent out UGX 17,540,000 to members and saved UGX 2,269,000 as a social fund from the second savings for 2022.
- The 33 Young Model Farmers (YMF – 15 females) were offered a 3-month training at Jabara Agricultural College and they supported their youth agribusiness group (a-YIG) members with climate smart agricultural practices training.
- 10,500 tree seedlings were distributed to and planted by the 500 youth in their homesteads and garden boundaries.
- 100 youth (64 females) underwent vocational skills training in bakery, poultry, juice making and catering and provided with startup inputs to help them manage their transition into entrepreneurship.
- 55 youth (22 females) were trained as marketing committees and continued to actively provide the leading role in market information collection and guidance to their groups on who and where to sell.
- All youths were provided business mentorship and coaching as well as market linkages with input and output actors where they could buy inputs and sell their produce.



Duration: 3 years (2021-2024)



Donor: Medicor Foundation and DKA Austria through HORIZONT3000



Target group: Youth



Location: Wadelai Sub-County, Pakwach district



The Jwigiriber youth Group doing fish harvesting from the cage for sale

Outcomes

- 500 youth are now self-employed and running their own enterprises and saving UGX 7,000 weekly in their VSLAs up from UGX 2,150 in 2021.
- With improved agricultural and business management knowledge, youth in horticulture diversified into rice production and youth in cage fish farming into piggery.
- Animal traction has enabled the community to increased land acreage under cultivation.
- The environment has been conserved through planting of the various tree types by the youths.
- Access to loans from VSLA has enabled many youths to establish additional IGAs like, produce buying and selling, fish mongering, retail shops and bakery.
- The youth increased their average annual individual income from UGX 560,000 in 2021 to UGX 922,000 in 2022.

Leadership re-ignites one youth's dream to pursue a career in teaching

Okech Felix a 27-year-old a father of two and a resident of Pailo west village, in Wadelai sub-county, Pakwach district has always wanted to become a class teacher.

Having completed senior four and obtained a certificate in education, Felix was happy volunteering as a class room teacher at Mutir Primary School for free. He supplemented his volunteer work with fishing to help him get some little money but spent all his earnings as quickly as it came.

In May 2021, AFARD through Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) turned their focus to Wadelai sub-county, targeting youths between the ages of 15 to 30 years old.

Felix expressed interest and was selected to join one of the horticulture groups that had been formed (Fur en elonyo) in greater Pailo villages, of Mutir parish, Wadelai sub-county. The group selected onion farming as their enterprises.

Felix was trained as a mentor and gained knowledge on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM, Financial Literacy, which knowledge he was expected to pass on to his group members. This turned out to be a challenge and his saving grace as well.

As a youth leader, he was expected to lead by example and been seen to be practicing what he had learnt. "I was forced to start saving UGX 5,000 weekly. The more I saved however, the easier it became and suddenly the dreams that had been lying dormant in my head were awakened. I realized that I could save to raise money to enroll for a



Okech Felix with his newly bought goats from VSLA share out

teaching course and become a qualified class teacher' Felix said.

In August 2021, Felix enrolled for a diploma in primary education using his savings and a loan he got from his savings group. He also bought two goats at a total cost of UGX 210,000 from the income he got out of the share out from their VSLA's first saving cycle.

Felix is no longer simply passing time, he is living with purpose thanks to AFARD and his VSLA.

By: Ibrahim Bashir

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

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. The project is anchored on three objectives: strengthening community-based structures and families to support children's rights and protection; improving resilience of vulnerable households using the graduation approach; and restoration and sustainability of natural habitats as a basis for sustainable livelihood.

Project Achievements

- 11 community dialogue meetings were conducted for 1,073 (626 females) on prevention of teenage pregnancies, early marriage, forced marriage, and a go-back to school campaign carried out.
- A refresher training on child protection was conducted for 50 people (35 females) composed of project staffs, Parish chiefs of Kululu Sub County and community paralegals. This was complemented by orientation of 30 community paralegals (8 females) on child protection reporting tools. This led to 12 awareness raising meetings being held in 7 primary schools and 5 Villages on children's rights in schools and communities for reaching 3,934 people (3,518 females).
- Various trainings were conducted on: food preparation, food hygiene and safety (for 460 members, 334 females); local poultry paravet services and programmed hatching, (for 18 members, 4 females); Resilience Design/Climate Smart Agriculture for water and landscape conservation (for 50 members, 27 females); sanitation and hygiene (for 439 members, 349 females); VSLA methodologies (for 21 mentors and staffs, 7 females); and value addition for 46 Business Groups (BGs) trading in cassava, maize, groundnuts, sorghum, and millet.
- Technical business focused trainings were conducted for 56 BGs in goat fattening business (with 168 members, 120 females); and 32 BGs in poultry production and management (with 96 members, 66 females).
- A Training of Trainer on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) was conducted for 40 mentors and staffs (17 females). The trainers cascaded the training to 443 households that developed their family development goals.
- UGX 58,380,000 progress grant support for business growth was provided to 139 Business Groups that achieved business growth of 25% after 6 months.
- A learning Visit to AVSI International in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District was conducted to facilitate exchange of ideas, knowledge, and best practices in graduation approach.



Duration: 3 years (2020-2023)



Donor: Swiss Development Cooperation and Swiss Foundations and individuals



Target group: Extremely poor refugees and host communities



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



Schools girls at Ojinga primary school in Yumbe displaying posters on children's rights and protection after awareness raising meeting

Outcomes

- 423 households established kitchen gardens to improve on household nutrition and health in both host and refugee settlement.
- There's a notable improvement in health of children and reduced burden of sickness as result of increase production of nutritious foods and consumption of diversified foods in hygienic homes. 90% households reported in the month of October eating two meals a day.
- Business groups have shown a sustained resilient performance with a notable rising trend in total business values and BGs on track for business value target which is attributed to the improvement in households' income and diverse source of income.
- GALS training has significantly reduced cases of GBV and promoted peace, respect and harmony in beneficiaries' households as many testified to sharing households' chores with their spouses and planning as a family. The family development goal approach has made beneficiaries become focused with families working together with a sense of purpose. In addition, there is a notable reduction in unplanned for expenditures especially on non-productive items, which is a reflection of behaviour and attitude change.
- Communities have become more responsive to calls on child protection and there's increased consciousness with regard to child protection and observation of children's rights. This is evidenced by timely referral of child abuse cases to various service points. Communities are now upholding children's rights and attaching value to children's education. The trend in the number of children attending school especially the girl child has significantly increased.

Entrepreneurship training gave me the knowledge I needed to start and run my own business: A story of Amude Hellen

AFARD in partnership with Caritas Switzerland is implementing Street-Children Prevention through Sustainable Graduation from Poverty Project (PSGP) using Graduation Approach in Zone 3 Bidibidi refugee settlement and host community in Kululu Sub County.

Selected beneficiaries were given a monthly stipend for their basic household needs, a business jump grant, trained in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, kitchen gardening and WASH interventions, measures aimed at enabling them graduate from poverty.

Amude Hellen, a 31-year-old single mother of four children in village 14, Zone 3 refugees' settlement, Yoyo parish attests to the impact that the entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and goal setting training has had in her life. *"After the training, I felt a great sense of worth, I started thinking positively about my conditions and started seeing and visualizing many business opportunities that I could leverage on to change my life"* Hellen said.

Hellen was inspired to start saving and managed to save UGX 300,000 from her consumption support to start a kiosk business at her home. Due to the high demand, her business grew from UGX 350,000 to UGX 670,000 within a period of three months.

Her family now has constant cash flow and is able to borrow money from the business to address any

emergency and meet household needs and demands. She is also able to supplement her income from the sale of vegetables from her kitchen garden. *"My children now eat two meals a day and we have never slept hungry ever since I started the kiosk business"* Hellen narrates.



Hellen in her kiosk in front of her house

Hellen has expanded her kiosk to a nearby trading centre and looks forward to supporting her children complete their education as her business expands to production of crops for sale and household consumption.

By: Bashir Swadik

Building Peace Through Sustainable Access to and Management of Natural Resources in West Nile and Central Equatoria (PAMANA) Project

Goal: Significantly reduce conflict over and pressure on natural resources in West Nile (WN) and Central Equatoria (CES) through building local capacities to support the most vulnerable groups amongst the host, refugee and internally displaced communities (with a special focus on women) by;

- a. meeting their immediate needs and
- b. securing sustainable livelihoods in ways that promote peace, stability and gender equality

The capacities of target groups in CES and WN including governmental structures, religious/traditional institutions, civil society organizations and private sector groups will be strengthened in their outreach to the most vulnerable groups, so that

- a. the most immediate needs of beneficiaries are met,
- b. opportunities for medium and long-term livelihoods based on sustainable natural resource management (NRM) practices are fostered and,
- c. capacities to facilitate dialogue and manage tensions to promote sustainable NRM and climate change adaptation in peace-conducive and gender-responsive ways are strengthened.

AFARD is implementing the project in partnership with Caritas Switzerland (CACH) country programs in Uganda and South Sudan, Community Development Center and Organic Farming Advisory Organization in West Nile (Uganda) and Central Equatoria State (South Sudan), with technical backstopping from BOMA and Swiss Peace.

Project Achievements

During the reporting period, the project worked with 2,000 (1,410 females) in Lobule and Bidibidi settlement. It:

- Provided assorted vegetable seeds to 2,000 households to support the most immediate needs of the household and enable them carry out backyard gardening. The households also received 2,000 watering cans and spray pumps.
- A total of 61 local poultry paravets (20 females) were trained to support households' poultry husbandry and agribusiness management.
- 123 Agroecology Champions (54 females) were trained on natural resource management.
- 4,000 local chickens and 400 Kuroilers cocks were distributed to 2,000 households, a measure aimed at improving household dietary diversity and income.

Outcomes

- Increased diversification in food nutrition and income
- Adoption of knowledge and better practices of Climate Smart Agriculture.



Duration: 3 years (2022-2024)



Donor: Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



Target group: Vulnerable groups in host and refugee communities



Location: West Nile and Central Equatoria



Agro Ecology Champions being taken through Nursery bed establishment

Climate Action Model Villages Project (CAM)

Goal: Strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change, health and economic shocks.

Project Achievements

- 15 Climate Smart Champion Groups (CSCGs) with 375 members (60% female and 10% individuals with special needs) were formed and School Health Environment Clubs (SHECS) established in five schools.
- Peer trainers to support community extension services were trained namely Agroecology champions (30 lead farmers, 15 females); Poultry paravets (15 people, five females); and VSLA Plus Mentors (15 people; 03 females). These trainings were also attended by eight District and Lower Local government officials.
- The project distributed 15 VSLA kits to the 15 CSCGs and 390 hand washing facilities, 1,500 insecticides treated mosquito nets, 375 watering cans, and 375 spray pumps.
- A baseline study and micro climate change adaptation study were commissioned during the reporting period and were still on-going by the end of the year.

Outcomes

- The participatory project area and beneficiary selection processes that involved government leaders and the communities improved ownership of the project by the communities and the leaders. Village leaders have maintained a close working relationship with the project team.
- The provision of health kits specifically handwashing facilities has influenced behavioural changes. Some CSCG have set up internal rules for their members to dig pit latrines so that they can benefit from the better health.



Duration: 3.5 years (2022 – 2026)



Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Target group: Communities in Nebbi and Pakwach



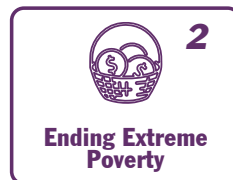
Location: Nebbi and Pakwach



Lead farmers being trained on the spider web approach in explaining the interaction among the different ecosystem components

Summary of AFARD's Strategy 2020-25 Pillar Performance

AFARD seeks to deepen its impact in the region by reducing hunger and extreme poverty by 2025. This will be achieved through the following 4-pillars.



**1****Eliminating Food &
Nutrition Insecurity**

Objective :
Increase production
and consumption of
diversified foods
in hygienic homes



Yield comparison between Narocass 1 cassava variety and the local one as is demonstrated by the National Program Coordinator and the Director Programs.

PILLAR 1 APPROACH

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

Targeted families are empowered to ably:

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

The following outputs were delivered during the year:

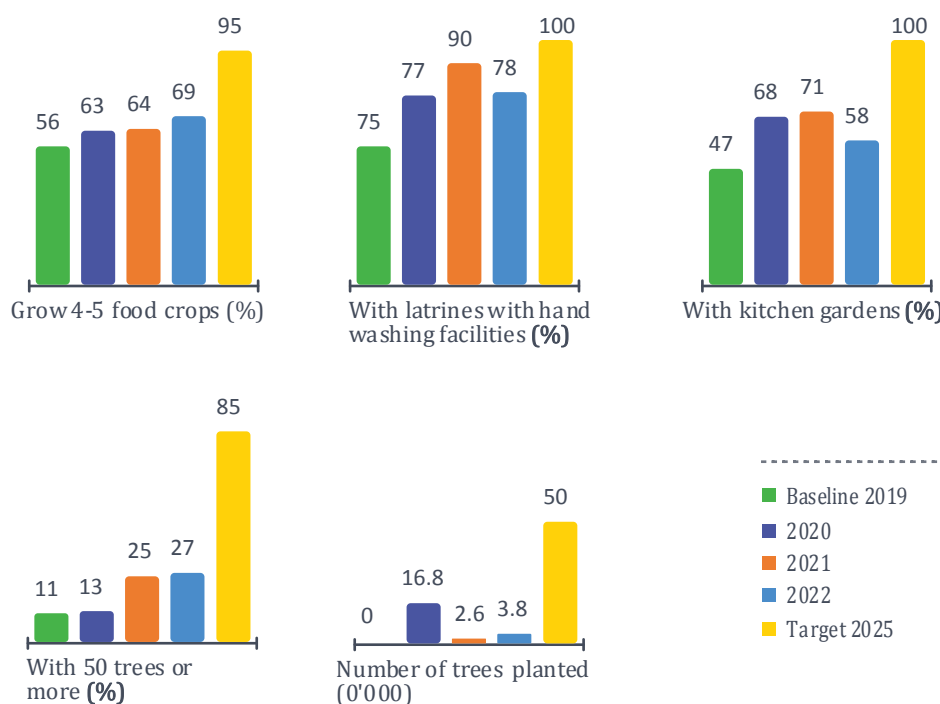
| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| INPUTS AND TRAINING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Various agro-inputs (seeds of assorted vegetables – eggplants, amaranth, collards, kale, onions, cabbage, tomato, 436Kgs of sorghum, 817 Kgs of cow peas, 1,200 bags of orange flesh potato, 1,314 banana suckers, and 139 Kgs of sesame, 3,210 Kgs of beans together with 2,535 bags of cassava cuttings, and 138,150 tree seedlings,) were distributed to farmers to support seed multiplication as well as replications at home following the trainings at the demo gardens. ● A total of 4,000 local chickens and 210 Kuroilers cocks were distributed with the goal of promoting dietary diversity at household level. 112 local poultry Paravets (45 females) were trained to boost households' poultry husbandry and agribusiness management. Assorted vaccines were procured and distributed to the Paravets as part of their medical kit and linked to the District and sub-county Veterinary Offices to provide community wide poultry vaccination and basic treatment against the common poultry diseases at a minimal fee. ● 153 Agroecology Champions (69 females) were trained on natural resource management. ● A permaculture demo site was established during training on resilience designs for water and landscape in Yumbe (llanga village), and 0.25 acre perma garden planted with onions, tomatoes and cabbages. ● Various trainings were conducted on: local poultry programmed hatching technology; Resilience Design/Climate Smart Agriculture for water and landscape conservation. |
| NUTRITION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The nutrition study which started in 2021 by Marita Foods Limited was completed and is informing nutrition-sensitive agriculture project planning. ● Members sustained their food production (beans, cassava, simsim) without additional project funding. Lead farmers supported the use of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices. ● 7,554 households and 9 primary schools received assorted vegetable seeds (tomatoes, eggplant, Okra, kale, cow peas, cabbage, Amaranthus and Nakati) together with 2,375 watering cans and 2,375 spray pumps. A total of 4,250 training sessions in kitchen gardening were conducted. ● A cooking gala was held during the reporting period to enhance farmers knowledge on food hygiene, balanced diet and food preparation. ● 1,367 pregnant and lactating mothers were trained on the basics of nutrition/ prevention of malnutrition. This was complemented by 132 integrated health outreaches that reached out to 4,208 people. |
| SANITATION & HYGIENE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project distributed 390 hand washing facilities and 1,500 insecticides treated mosquito nets. ● 25,000 households were sensitized on sanitation and hygiene. ● A VIP latrine was constructed at the Rodo Cooperative offices. ● A total of 200 children (100 out of school) were trained in re-usable sanitary pad making business. |
| ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A micro climate change adaptation study was commissioned to understand traditional practices relevant to climate resilience programming. ● 15 Climate Smart Champion Groups (CSCGs) with 375 members (60% female and 10% individuals with special needs) were formed. Peer trainers to support community extension services were trained as; - Agroecology champions (30 lead farmers, 15 females); Poultry paravets (15 people, 05 females); and VSLA Plus Mentors (15 people; 03 females). The trainings were also attended by 8 District and Lower Local government officials. ● 40 Local Environment Committees (LECs) and 20 energy saving stove champions were trained on local natural resource conservation. ● 660 groups had their energy saving stoves champions trained and subsequently constructed 1,056 energy saving stoves at a fee to reduce on tree cutting. ● 102,380 multipurpose tree seedlings were distributed to interested farmers, some of them on a 30% co-fund basis. ● 19,793 fruit tree seedlings (Jack fruit, Mangoes, Oranges, Avocado, and brother's heart) were distributed to 2,750 households. ● 777 awareness creation sessions on environmental conservation were conducted and Local Environment Committees (LECs) supported to plant trees in their communities. ● Trained 2,750 beneficiaries and 28 staff in Resilience Design/Climate Smart Agriculture for water and landscape conservation. |

Outcomes

- Increased use of safe sanitation and hygiene practices was reported to have reduced the incidence of diarrhea and dysentery. Almost all households have safe sanitation facilities.
- Kitchen gardening and increased uptake of poultry keeping has improved family diets and incomes especially for women.
- Tree growing on farm borders, homesteads, and community woodlot co-owned by nationals and refugees is greening (with environment and biodiversity conservation) the community.
- The provision of health kits specifically handwashing facilities has influenced behavioural changes. Some CSCG have set up internal rules for their members to dig pit latrines so that they can benefit from the better health.
- There is increased use of improved energy saving stoves and solar lamps, and the use of improved cook stoves has reduced exposure to violence for women and girls.
- The general food security situation in beneficiary households has improved.

Summary of Outcomes Achieved

Household food security status





2

Ending Extreme Poverty

Objective : Increase income from decent employment opportunities in diversified on-farm and non-farm labour markets



The distribution of starter kits to the Agri-vocational youths at Wadelai Sub-county headquarters

PILLAR 2 APPROACH

Promoting market-led income diversification through *climate smart agribusiness and youth skilling* to support families increase their income and net worth.

AFARD trained 20,838 households in the principles of village saving loan associations (VSLA) and business management, and partnered with technical vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and private sector enterprises (PSEs) to train youth for self-employment in marketable labour markets.




The following outputs were delivered during the year:

Strategic enterprises: Beans, soybeans, cassava, onions, Irish potatoes, sesame, rice, poultry, apiary, groundnuts and beans.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| AGRO-INPUTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distributed 3,551 local chicken and 204 Kuroiler cocks together with assorted vaccines for fee-based community-wide vaccination, trainings in poultry production and management, technical support linkages to local government veterinary departments, and market linkages to veterinary drugs and markets. ● 7 farmer groups in Pakwach district were trained on animal traction operation and management and provided with Animal traction inputs (oxen, ploughs, and assorted animal drugs). ● Assorted start-up agri-inputs (72 bags of Irish potato, 4,183 Kgs of soybean seed, 3,150 kg of beans seed and 1,400 Kgs of groundnut seed, 4500 sachets of cabbage seeds, 2,393 watering cans and 2,705 spray pumps, and 334 tarpaulins for commercial production) were supplied to communities to kick-start demonstration plots learning and household production. |
| EXTENSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1,051 groups developed group visions and their 26,011 members developed family development goals to guide their family investment plans. Using these plans, the groups and their members developed production and marketing plans. ● Members of 866 groups were trained on income generating activities and mentored on how to use business health checks to improve their business management and growth. ● 195 farmer groups participated in open day events aimed at promoting peer to peer learning. During the events, farmers were able to exhibit and market their products. ● Members of 470 groups were trained by Paravets on poultry husbandry and agribusiness and provided user-fee based community wide poultry vaccination and basic treatment against the common poultry diseases. ● Technical business focused trainings were conducted for 56 Business Groups (BGs) in goat fattening business (with 168 members, 120 females); 32 BGs in poultry production and management (with 96 members, 66 females); and value addition for 46 Business Groups (BGs) trading in cassava, maize, groundnuts, sorghum, and millet. ● All the 11 functional cooperatives were provided with technical support in governance and business management. ● Value addition is ongoing in 32 groups in different commodity/value chains (apiary, Irish potato, rice). The 02 supported apiary farmer groups (Can Juriemu Kutic and Dikiriber) are making and selling bee products such as honey, propolis, candle, petroleum jelly and shoe polish) and 01 potato producing group making potato crisps for the local market. |
| MARKETING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 742 groups/Coops were trained on collective marketing and they bulked and sold various commodities worth UGX 3 billion. ● 68 farmer groups piloted digital marketing under the ALENU project with improved access to information and avoidance of middlemen exploitation. ● The 11 Cooperatives continued to harness bulk production and marketing. Rodo cooperative turned a positive turnover of UGX 10 million in profits. ● Collective marketing skills of the FFS were developed using one product cluster, and 72 trainings sessions on collective marketing and value addition conducted. ● 15 staff were trained in farmer market systems. ● The project supported the groups to profile and build market linkages with major buyers in major urban areas in West Nile, and Arua and Gulu cities. |

ACCESS TO FINANCE

- A pilot booster fund worth UGX 76,461,600 was given to groups to increase the loan capital available to the members of VSLA, most of whom had been affected by the ban on fishing on L. Albert and R. Nile as well as the bad weather, hence had minimal to no disposable income to save.
- A UGX 58,380,000 progress grant support for business growth was provided to 139 business groups that had achieved substantial business growth.
- 134 farmer groups with 3,350 members were linked to and are using banking services of Centenary, Equity and Post bank - Pakwach branch.
- All new groups had their VSLA mentors trained as trainers and the POs continued to monitor VSLA activities and offered mentorship and coaching visits to running businesses monthly.
- VSLA Savings performance is as below:

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| |  |  |  |
| No. of projects | 6 | 10 | 11 |
| No. of members | 389 | 876 | 1,198 |
| No. of groups | 10,298 | 30,128 | 32,891 |
| % females | 64% | 66% | 67% |
| Amount saved | 2,443,031,450 | 3,918,728,300 | 5,605,195,860 |
| Amount loaned | 1,027,066,855 | 2,604,959,700 | 2,933,777,400 |
| Social fund | 161,777,000 | 394,204,000 | 1,041,045,130 |
| Agro-input fund | 69,222,545 | 81,380,000 | 81,236,900 |
| Fine | 8,625,135 | 13,587,200 | 16,362,900 |

YOUTH SKILLING

- 1,448 youths were trained in various marketable vocational skills (agriculture, bakery, poultry, juice making and catering) using the competence-based apprenticeship training model. The project paid for master trainers' fees, trainees feeding and basic training materials and provided basic start-up kits to all the trained youths to aid them as they transitioned from training to running their own enterprises.
- All trained and equipped youths with enterprises were provided business mentorship and coaching as well as market linkages with input and output actors where they could buy inputs and sell their produce. The youth trade volume stood at UGX 2,2 billion.

CASH GRANT

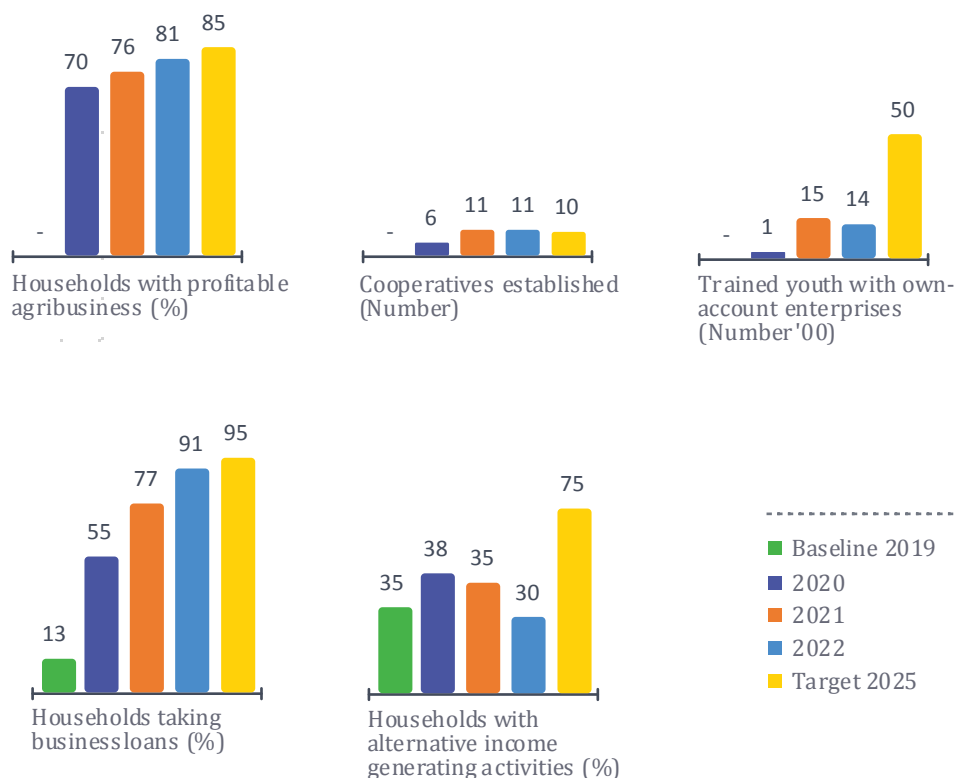
- UGX 560,947,500 unconditional cash grants were disbursed to 811 beneficiaries to support individual household consumptions.
- The Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP) was officially launched and attended by beneficiaries and representatives of the donor, as well as local governments officials. During the event, the covenant between INclusion and the Welle community was also launched.
- 232 mobile phones were distributed to beneficiaries in Nyakumba, the project control village to aid communication.

Outcomes

- Adoption of family development approach has increased family investments in strategic agri-enterprises, and income, with a resultant increase in productive assets (livestock especially) owned by households.
- Access to better market information due to use of smartphones has improved farmers decision on who/where to sell thus reducing exploitation by middlemen.
- Families have become more resilient to livelihood shocks as a result of diversifying their income streams (farming, keeping poultry, accumulating productive assets, and saving with VSLAs).
- The projects have innovatively diversified employment opportunities for targeted beneficiaries such as; animal traction handlers, poultry paravets, and energy saving champion, earning them extra income from the fees charged for the services provided.
- Vocational skilling of youth has led to a reduction in anti-social behaviors such drinking and smoking of marijuana, loitering in urban centres and gambling through playing cards.
- With increase in disposable income, parents are able to take better care of their children's welfare (education, health, clothing and feeding). For the youth, this has led to a reduction in teenage pregnancy and marriage. In Welle village, it led to the enactment of bye-laws against tree cutting for charcoal, bush burning and teenage marriages.

Summary of Outcomes Achieved

Household income security status



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



Hon. Orombi Emmanuel addressing the gathering during the project launch

PILLAR 3 APPROACH

Promoting community connections with local governments through capacity building, multi-stakeholder engagements, advocating for mainstreaming food security, land, gender, child rights, environment, and youth employment in local government development programs.

The following outputs were delivered during the year:

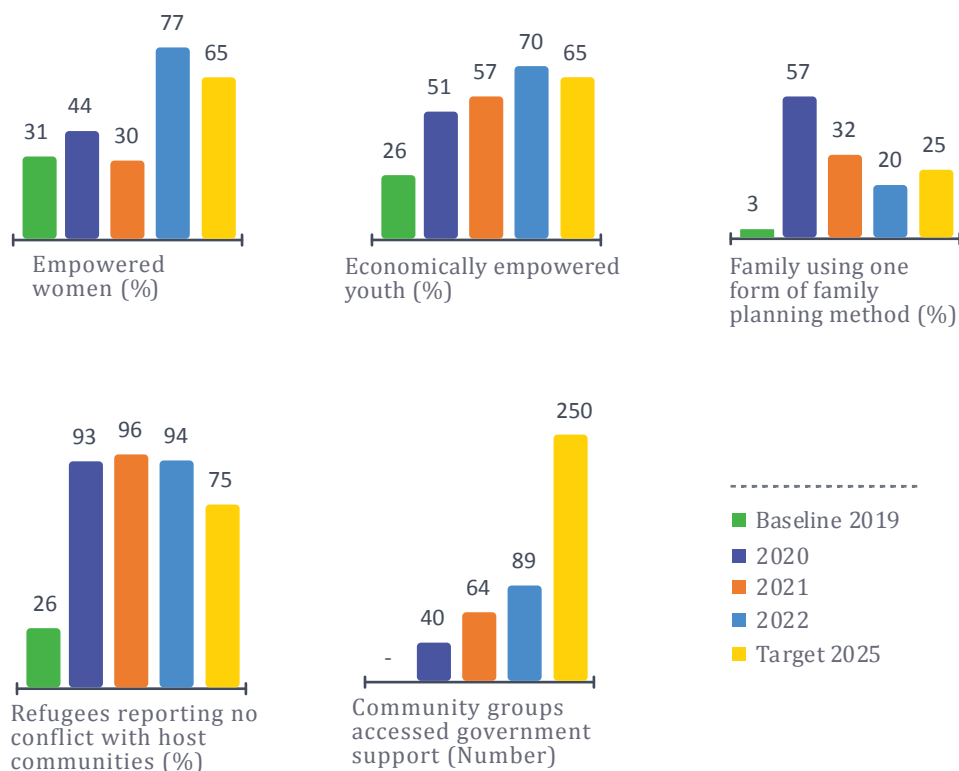
| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| CAPACITY BUILDING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Training of Trainer on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) was conducted for 120 mentors and staffs (67 females). The trainers cascaded the training to 443 groups that developed their family development goals. ● A refresher training on child protection and case management and referral pathways was conducted for 503 leaders and awareness raising meetings on the rights of children held in schools and villages, reaching 23,934 people (13,518 females). ● 589 leaders were trained on human rights, advocacy, women and children rights. |
| AWARENESS & ADVOCACY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 11,730 IEC materials were printed and distributed in communities as an awareness creation and child protection reporting tool. ● Sensitized 21,396 government and community leaders on human rights, women's economic rights, and children's rights to education. ● Gender equality sensitization and dialogue meetings were held with 800 groups. ● Refugee land access dialogue meetings were held with 325 groups. ● Dialogue meetings on peaceful co-existence among refugees and nationals were held with 766 groups. ● A go-back to school campaign and 1,343 community sensitization and dialogue meetings were conducted to curb teenage pregnancies, early marriages and forced marriages and. ● A 12-month campaign on child marriages and pregnancy, education, and women's right was carried out in the Pakwach and Paidha FM. ● Child education was promoted through out-door games, in-school debate, music, dance and drama and educational counselling for 43,657 children (67% females). ● AFARD joined the world in celebrating the Day of the African Child, 15 Days of Activism and Women's Day. |
| FAMILY PLANNING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 67 staffs were trained on basic information about family planning and they in turn cascaded the information to 838 farmer groups. ● A total of 560 family planning dialogue meetings for couples were held. ● 300 moon beads were distributed and recipients trained on their use. ● 2,100 health outreaches for family planning were conducted. |

Outcomes

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The use of family development planning gave married women an opportunity for the first time in their marriages to discuss with their husbands what their family development aspirations were. This has not only reduced exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) but promoted peace, respect and harmony in beneficiaries' families. ● There is increased community consciousness on child rights and protection. Community members are sending children to school and are reporting to and following up with child abuse cases at police stations and the judiciary. ● Capacity building for women is changing gender norms. Vulnerable women are taking up leadership positions in their communities (e.g., Local Councils, School Management Committees, Water User Committees and COVID-19 Task force committees). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is improved peaceful co-existence between the refugees and the host community with both groups joining the same cooperatives, and refugees getting more farm land to cultivate and byelaws against stray animals that destroy refugee crops being enforced. ● Uptake of family planning has improved as men and religious leaders supported the use of natural family planning methods. |
|---|--|

Summary of Outcomes Achieved

Social Inclusion Status





4

Strengthen
AFARD'S Capacity

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



Mr. Norbert, the project accountant, demonstrating the transfer and withdrawal process of LIFE from agent to the beneficiary MoMo account

PILLAR 4 APPROACH

Strengthening the Board's oversight function, build technical competency of the staff, and capital investments (logistics, software, office space, etc.) for the effective operation of the organization.

Below are the key activities carried out during the year:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| GOVERNANCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AFARD's institutional audit was conducted by RSM Eastern Africa; 03 internal quarterly audits were done by Aquinas while donor project-based audits were conducted for RELIP, ALENU, Migration, PSGP, NURI and Girls Get Equal projects. ● 2 Programmes committee, 2 FAARM Committee, and 1 Board meetings were held. ● The Board, donors and auditors conducted project monitoring visits and engaged with AFARD stakeholders. ● The revised Human Resource policy and finance management manual were developed The Board conducted staff appraisal for the top managers (Executive Director, Director Programmes, and Director Finance and Administration). |
| HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staffing size reduced from 111 in 2021 to 89 full time (females 22 and Males 67) and 5 Part time staff due to the close-out phase of a number of projects. ● 1,775 community volunteer supported community outreaches. ● 56 staffs were trained on Enabling Rural Innovations (ERI), PMP refresher, Plant propagation, FMNR demo establishments, tree growing and Farmer Marketing Schools. ● The Project Coordinator (Panyango) and Human Resource Officer were trained on child safeguarding policy development, implementation and monitoring. ● Performance reviews were conducted for all the programme and finance team. ● A team building event was organized for all staff in Fort Portal. ● A learning visit to AVSI International in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District was conducted to facilitate exchange of ideas, knowledge, and best practices in graduation approach. |
| VISIBILITY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AFARD actively participated in COVID-19 district task forces and the UNHCR coordinated Livelihood sector working groups. ● 1,250 T-shirts and caps were produced and distributed to local government officials, staff, religious and cultural leaders and peer trainers. ● AFARD team (including 65 groups) participated in national events like the Northern Uganda Agricultural show in Gulu, the day of the Elderly in Nebbi and Independence Day mini shows. |
| ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AFARD retained membership and effective participation in district and national networks such as: Uganda National NGO Forum and District NGO Forum in Nebbi, Zombo, Yumbe, and Moyo; PELUM-Uganda Chapter; Uganda National Aids Service Organizations (UNASO); and Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET). ● Periodic staff and management planning, coordination and review meetings were held in-house and with stakeholders (UNHCR, OPM, Sector working groups, local governments, etc.). ● A new accounting system (APLOS) was acquired and staff trained in its use. ● AFARD monitoring and evaluation strategy and compliant handling mechanisms were approved. ● AFARD secured MTN Mobile Money Account to mobile money payments. ● Insurance of assets and staff (medical and group workmanship) was effected. |
| ASSET MANAGEMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New assets were procured and the asset register was updated after on-the groups verification exercise. ● Management continued to furnish the newly completed AFARD Head office. |

Summary of Outcomes Achieved

| | BASELINE 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | TARGET 2025 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| AFARD HQ completed and furnished | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| A profitable social enterprise developed | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Reserve fund in place (UGX 'million) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 |

Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey

During the reporting period, AFARD carried out a beneficiary satisfaction survey to assess the level of satisfaction of its stakeholders with its services.

Overall, 91% reported an improvement in their quality of life as result of AFARD's services; 91% reported that the quality of AFARD's services was very good and good; and 82% were satisfied with the project staff.

Quality of services offered by AFARD (%)



Satisfaction with project staff (%)



To what extent have the various areas of AFARD's work impacted on your family?



Food and nutrition security ranked top at 74%, followed by women empowerment (70%), youth empowerment (67%), income security (65%) and voice and accountability (59%).

Financial Performance 2022

Revenue Performance

In the financial year 2022, AFARD's total revenue amounted to UGX 9 billion, a 28% decline (UGX 3.5 billion) from the UGX 12.5 billion realized in 2021. Locally generated revenue also declined by 43% from UGX 1.1 billion in 2021 to UGX 608 million in 2022. However, local revenue retained its share in total income at 7%.

This revenue decline is attributed to two main factors:

- appreciation of Ugandan shillings against both the dollars and EURO that led to a net loss of over UGX 270 million;
- and four projects (ALENU, RELIP, Migration II, and WENAGIC) that were in their close-up phases (and had 52% income reduction from UGX 3.8 billion to UGX 1.8 billion).

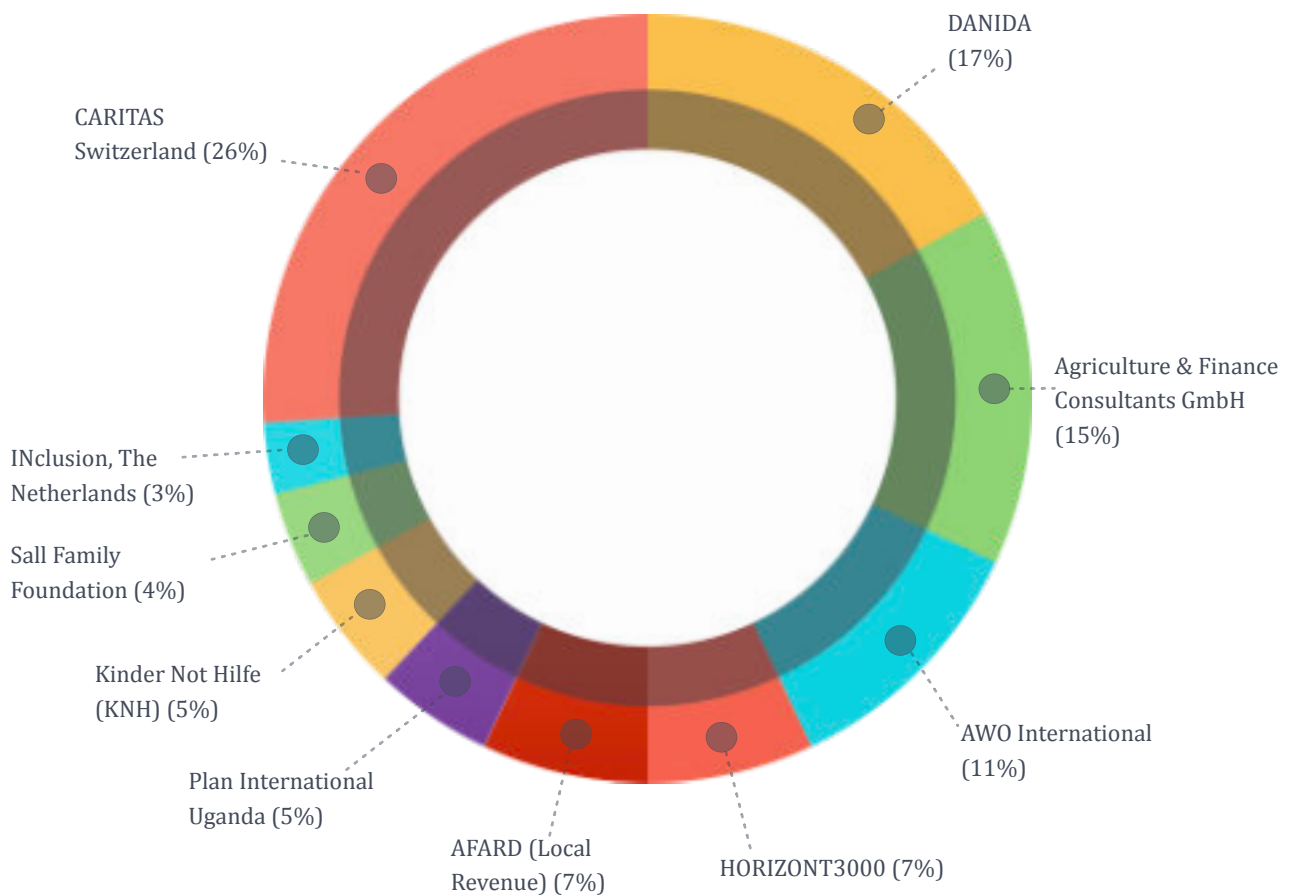
Revenue (in UGX) by sources (2020 - 2022)

| Revenue Sources | Projects | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| DANIDA | NURI | 1,513,480,346 | 2,692,154,885 | 3,402,716,836 |
| EU through CARITAS Switzerland | ALENU | 993,976,748 | 2,495,618,570 | 2,238,032,010 |
| Agriculture & Finance Consultants GmbH | RISE | 1,338,029,258 | 1,244,418,577 | 782,065,245 |
| AWO International | RELIP | 260,752,094 | 572,290,760 | 686,422,094 |
| Austrian Development Agency/HORIZONT3000 | Migration II | 249,937,904 | 360,027,085 | 677,659,910 |
| Kinder not Hilfe (KNH) | PCDP & ACREP | 493,063,255 | 636,310,087 | 566,465,296 |
| Plan International Uganda Funded | GGE | 509,127,338 | 844,375,460 | 505,298,004 |
| Sall Family Foundation | WENAGIC | 343,941,264 | 399,885,273 | 382,373,246 |
| INclusion, The Netherlands | GGE | 290,000,840 | 334,190,040 | 119,545,855 |
| AWO International | SSF | | | 26,618,256 |
| University of Northumbria | Skills Acquisition Project | | 13,754,940 | 19,265,259 |
| Private Sector Foundation Uganda | Poultry Management and post Harvest | | - | 11,980,580 |
| European Union | YEEP | | | 1,105,755 |
| Manos Unidas | JFSP | | 519,980,171 | 231,724 |
| CARITAS Switzerland | PSGP | 453,049,309 | 801,548,930 | |
| Austrian Development Agency/HORIZONT3000 | YADE | 356,687,436 | 579,194,336 | |
| AWO International | ADH | | 49,850 | |
| ADA through Caritas Switzerland | PAMANA | 883,147,298 | | |
| BMZ through AWO International | CAM | 718,370,349 | | |
| AFARD (Local Revenue) | | 608,906,897 | 1,059,747,501 | 753,952,568 |
| TOTAL REVENUE: | | 9,012,470,337 | 12,553,546,465 | 10,173,732,638 |

Note: Total excludes USD 200,000 deferred income from Sall Family Foundation for NB4LRED Project.

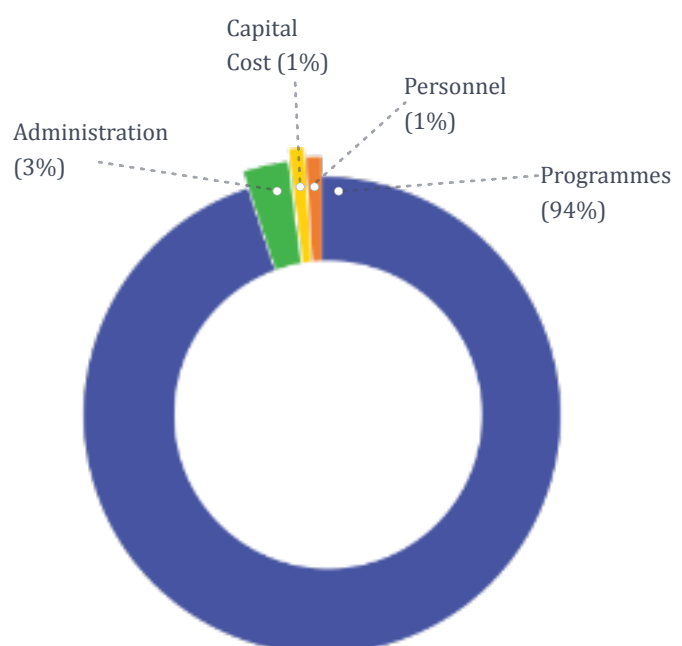
Donor's & Cooperation Partners' Performance

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 more projects with them.



Expenditure Performance

Out of the UGX 9 billion in revenue generated, UGX 7.8 billion (87%) was spent by December 31, 2022. Of this expended fund, 94% was spent on direct project implementation costs, 3% on administrative costs and 1% each on personnel, fund raising and capital cost (towards the furnishing of the newly completed AFARD HQ office).





The Project Audit

The 2022 institutional financial audit was conducted by RSM Eastern Africa. Details of all other specific audits are as below. All the audits had unqualified opinions. Audit response plan was developed and implemented.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| RSM Eastern Africa | AFARD institutional audit, PSGP |
| BIZ and Co. | RELIP |
| BVL & Co. | Migration |
| SK Audit & Advisory Co. | ALENU |
| Kisaka & Company | Girls Get Equal Project |
| KPMG | NURI |
| URA | AFARD institutional audit 2018-2020 |
| NSSF | AFARD institutional audit 2016-2021 |
| Aquinas Consulting group | AFARD institutional quarterly audits |

Auditor's Opinion



**RSM Eastern Africa
Certified Public Accountants**

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Firm number: AF0199

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), set out on pages 12 to 17, which comprise the fund accountability statement as at 31 December 2022, 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 2022, are prepared in all material respects in accordance with the accounting policies described on page 14 of the financial statements.

Basis for 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 is 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.

RSM Eastern Africa

RSM Eastern Africa
Certified Public Accountants
Kampala, Uganda

John Walabyeki
CPA John Walabyeki

25th April 2023



**Agency For Accelerated Regional
Development (AFARD)**

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