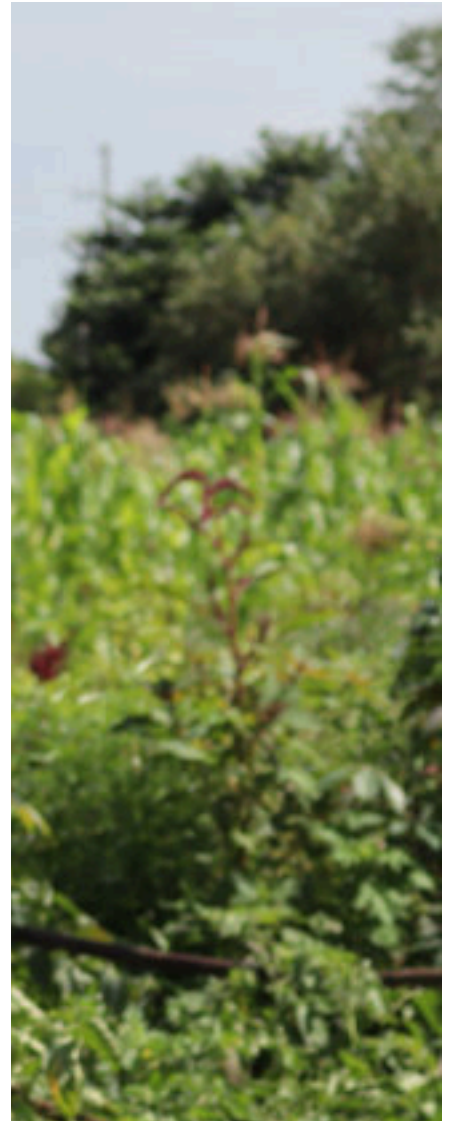




**Agency For Accelerated Regional
Development (AFARD)**

*Thriving and resilient families in
West Nile, Uganda*

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

AFARD programs in 2023 directly impacted 180,088 people in West Nile (a 2% - (3,016) increase from 2022), 67% women and 21% refugees

Achievements

Households that are food secure (%)



Baseline 2019	60
2020	67
2021	64
2022	65
2023	53

Households that exited extreme poverty (%)



Baseline 2019	45
2020	49
2021	50
2022	75
2023	60

Empowered women (%)



Baseline 2019	31
2020	44
2021	30
2022	77
2023	80

Economically empowered youth (%)



Baseline 2019	26
2020	51
2021	57
2022	70
2023	199

Foreword

We are glad to present to you our annual performance report for 2023. Since the launch of the AFARD 2020-2025 strategy, significant effort has been invested in resource mobilization towards innovative impactful interventions.

Revenue mobilization efforts continued to increase, from UGX 9 billion raised in 2022 to UGX9.6 billion in 2023. Additionally, the AFARD portfolio expanded from 14 initiatives in 2022 to 17 projects in 2023, sponsored by 12 partners. These programs have directly impacted 180,088 people in the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Arua, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Amuru, Omoro, and Agago, of which 67% are women and 21% are refugees.

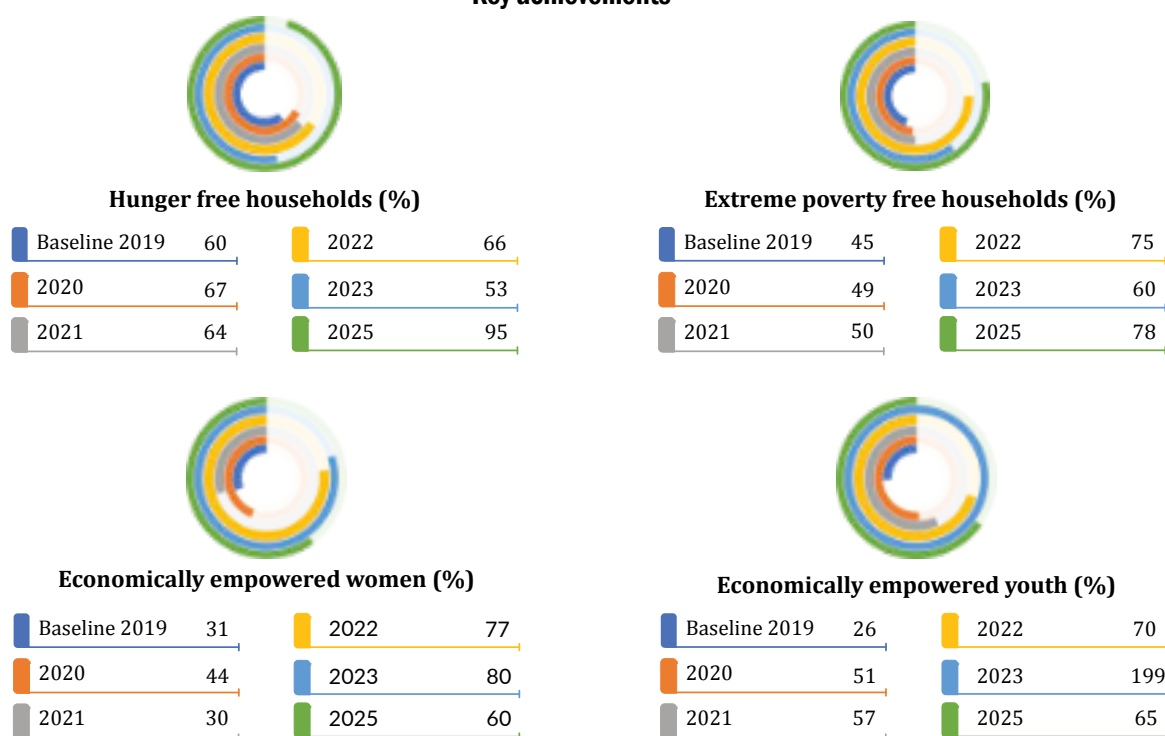
More projects necessitated a corresponding increase in staffing to 94 full time employees (47% female) supported by 2,693 community facilitators reaching out to 1,259 self-help groups in 29,783 households. Our goal as AFARD is to equip these communities with the right knowledge and skills, technologies and connections through our “Inspire - Empower - Account approach.”

We are happy to report that our efforts to skill the youth, as part of our Empower approach paid off during the reporting period with a total of 9,954 youth (73% female) graduating from vocational schools in 2023. It is no surprise that the proportion of young people who are economically empowered increased by more than 100%, from 70% in 2022 to 199% in 2023.

Extremely bad weather (too much rain from May to December) however exacerbated the already poor food security situation in the West Nile region. As a result, the percentage of hungry free households fell by 13%, from 66% in 2022 to 53% in 2023.

AFARD is still committed to reducing extreme poverty by 50% and having 65% of households hunger free by the end of 2025.

Key achievements



These goals and more as contained in our strategic plan 2020-2025 are within reach, courtesy of the partners that have supported us over the years. Today we stand on the brink of realizing our vision for ‘Thriving and resilient families in West Nile’, because of the many partners that still believe in AFARD.

We are forever in indebted to you and look forward to your continued support and collaboration in 2024, 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

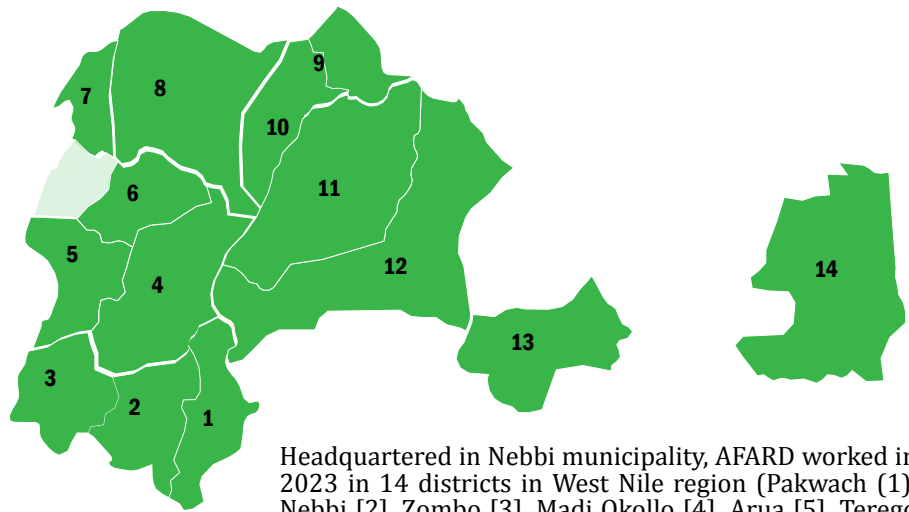
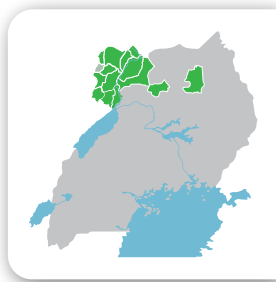
AFARD	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
ALENU	Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda
ATT	Animal Traction Technology
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
CG.	Children Group
CLA	Cluster Level Association
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DIT	Directorate of Industrial 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
YEEP	Youth Economic Empowerment Project

Content

Foreword	iii
Acronyms	iv
Who we are	1
Our Donors in 2023	4
2023 in numbers	5
2023 Project Performance	6
Our Sustainable Development Goals Drives	7
Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)	9
Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)	11
The Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project	13
Sustainable and Resilient Smallholders Agriculture (SURE II) Project	15
Secure Livelihoods/Migration III Project	17
Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)	19
Nature-based Agribusiness for Degraded Land Restoration and Climate Resilience (NA4LRCR or Nature-based) Project	21
Girls Get Equal: Ending Early and Forced Child Marriage Project	23
Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)	25
Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project	27
Street Children Prevention through Sustainable Graduation from Poverty (PSPG) Project	29
Building Peace Through Sustainable Access to and Management of Natural Resources in West Nile and Central Equatoria (PAMANA) Project	31
Climate Action Model Villages (CAM) Project	33
Summary of AFARD's Strategy 2020-25 Pillar Performance	35
Pillar 1: Eliminating Food & Nutrition Insecurity	37
Pillar 2: Ending Extreme Poverty	39
Pillar 3: Voice & Accountability	43
Pillar 4: Strengthen AFARD's Capacity	45
Financial performance 2023	48
Revenue Performance	48
Cooperation Partners' Performance	49
Expenditure Performance	50
Audit Performance	50
Auditor's Opinion	51
Brief Report on Alms Giving Conducted at Akworo Sub-county	56

Who We Are

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



Headquartered in Nebbi municipality, AFARD worked in 2023 in 14 districts in West Nile region (Pakwach [1], Nebbi [2], Zombo [3], Madi Okollo [4], Arua [5], Terego [6], Koboko [7], Yumbe [8], Moyo [9], Obongi [10], and Adjumani [11]) and Acholi region (Amuru [12], Omoro [13] and Agago [1]).

*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).*

AFARD’s interventions are anchored on 4 strategic pillars:

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



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



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



D
Organizational development to strengthen AFARD’s operational capacity, financial base, and visibility.





Our projects

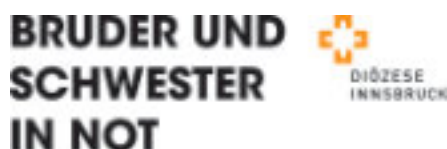
In the course of 2023, AFARD implemented 17 projects with increased outreach composed of 1,259 beneficiary groups having 29,782 household and 180,088 people as is summarized below. These projects were implemented amidst challenging context that negatively impacted the development results. These included:

- ❑ Weather variability characterized by too much rains that led to high pest and disease outbreaks, flooding/water logging, and rotting of tubers, pulses and cereals. In animals, Pakwach, part of Nebbi and Madi Okollo also experienced outbreaks of animal diseases (Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia – CCPP and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia – CBPP) in addition to the common poultry diseases that led to death of many animals.
- ❑ Reduction in World Food Programme food ration for refugees triggered hikes in local food prices, high mobility of refugees between their settlements and other settlements and South Sudan. It also forced many refugees to seek for land for farming – action that met with landlord hikes of land rental dues.
- ❑ The high (above 10%) food inflation caused high food price variability and it increased the cost of living in any families.
- ❑ Foreign currency instability exhibited by variable exchange rates led to reduction in actual project budgets thereby affecting the delivery of planned outputs.
- ❑ The crackdown on illegal fishing gears spearheaded by MAAIF, especially along the Panyimur-Pakwach Nile belt continued to hamper market participation of fisher households.
- ❑ The Parish Development Model that instead built the hand-out mentality in the rural populace.

However, on a positive note, during the year, the political situation was generally calm. There was free movement of various goods and services. Our team worked in close collaboration (monitoring, skills sharing, access to agroforestry inputs, etc.) with the District Local Government (DLG), Lower Local Governments (LLG) and other development partners.

PROJECTS	DONORS	DISTRICT(S)	NO. OF GROUPS	TARGET POPULATION	INDIRECT POPULATION
Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)	Danida	Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo	182	5,096	35,672
Action for Livelihood Enhancement for Northern Uganda (ALENU)	EU/OPM	Nebbi, Zombo	68	850	5,950
Panyango Community Development Project	KNH	Nebbi	97	1,854	11,124
Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)	KNH	Zombo	0	3,170	6,000
Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project	EU/GIZ	Adjumani, Obongi, Arua, Madi Okollo, Terego	260	6,500	45,500
Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder and Resilient Agriculture (SURE) Project (Phase II)	Manos Unidas	Zombo	10	227	1,800
Youth Agri-skilling for descent employment (YADE) Project	Medicor Foundation and DKA Austria through Horizon 3000	Pakwach	24	500	5,100
Migration Project	ADA through HORIZONT3000	Yumbe	18	450	3,150
Girls Get equal: End Child Early and Forced Marriage	NORAD through Plan International	Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach Adjumani	300	9,000	27,000
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
Farmer-managed Market Information system (FAMIS)	ADA through HORIZONT3000	Nebbi, Yumbe, Pakwach	50	1,250	8,750
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	3,150
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
Advancing access to integrated life-saving assistance and protection services to promote self-reliance and resilience for refugees and host communities in Uganda	US Bureau of Population, refugees and Migration through IRC	Yumbe	23	700	4,200
Nature-based Agribusiness for Degraded Land Restoration and Climate Resilience (NA4LRCR) Project	Sall Family Foundation	Nebbi	6	152	1,064
Nebbi Inclusive Development Project (NIDP)	INclusion	Nebbi	0	78	345
			1,259	28,782	180,088

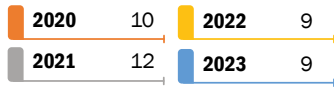
Our Donors in 2023



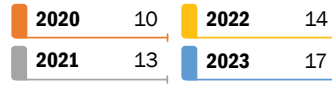
2023 in Numbers



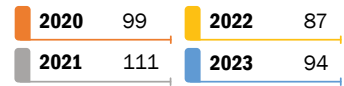
**Total revenue
(UGX in billion)**



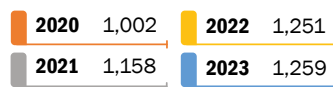
**Number of
projects**



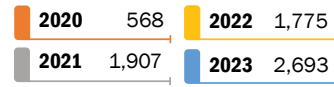
**Number of full-
time staff**



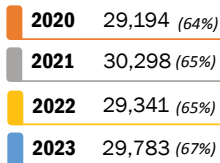
**Number of
groups
supported**



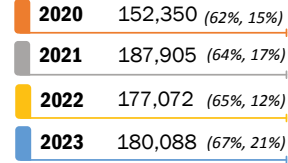
**Number of peer/
community
facilitators**



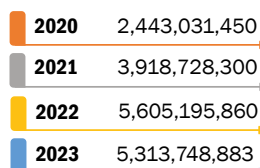
**Number of
households reached**



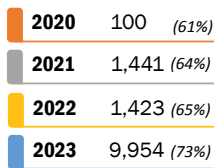
**Number of people
impacted**



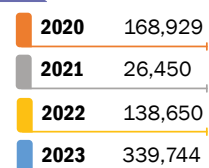
**VSLA total savings
(UGX)**



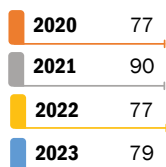
**No. youth graduated
in vocational skills**



**Total number of
trees planted**



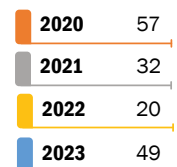
**Access to latrines
with hand washing
facilities (%)**



**Number of Producer
Cooperatives
established**



**People using any
one method of
family planning (%)**



2023 Project Performance



Two brothers Buth Gatwech and Luth GatKhor, residents of Yelulu village in Rhino camp refugee settlement, take time to bond with their family's goat kids.

In November 2020, the family of Nyak Tounng received two goats from the RISE project that has since delivered five kids (twins and triplets).

Our Sustainable Development Goals Drivers

*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).*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



15 LIFE
ON LAND





Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

-  **Duration:** 5 years (2019 – 2023)
-  **Donor:** Royal Danish Embassy
-  **Target Group:** Vulnerable smallholder farmers
-  **Goal:** Enhance resilience and equitable economic development for refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda
-  **Location:** Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo districts
-  **Approach:** Farmer Marketing School, Local Seed Business, Business Development Services (BDS), and Tree and Food Forest growing, Climate Smart Agriculture

Annual assessment found out that:



VSLA cumulative savings from all the farmer groups amounted to over UGX 300 million.



152,250

multipurpose tree seedlings were planted



Annual agricultural income increased from UGX 1.6 to 2.0 million

Food insecurity reduced from 45% to 23%



Climate smart agricultural practices was adopted by 91% with 22% increase in crop yields

Quantity of produce harvested that was sold increased from 61 – 70%



For details see:
<https://nuri.ag/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NURI-RESULTS-SUMMARY-2022-FINAL-2.pdf>

Main picture: Atimango Lucy planting a tree

CASE STUDY:

Farmers successfully plant 103,412 tree seedlings with support from the NURI project

The Northern regions of Uganda, including the West Nile sub-region, have experienced an increase in average temperature and heatwaves, more unpredictable rainfall and increased crop and land exposure to drought. The livelihoods and food security of people in West Nile are highly dependent on rain-fed subsistence farming which is vulnerable to shocks and adverse weather events related to climate change and climate variability.

Droughts in West Nile have already resulted in scarcities at local food markets and inflated the prices of food staples. Even people with access to normally fertile lands have faced severe climate driven variability in recent years, contributing to increasing livelihood insecurity.

Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI), one of the three engagements under the Uganda Program on Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy (UPSIDE) aims to improve climate change adaptation for small-scale farmers in West Nile through 3 thematic areas:

- 1) Climate Smart Agriculture
- 2) Rural Infrastructure
- 3) Water Resources Management

In collaboration with RDE AFARD is carrying out the project, which has been extended by one year to the end of 2023, in the districts of Nebbi, Pakwach, and Zombo. During the extension phase, a number of initiatives were piloted. AFARD implemented tree growing, local seed business, business development services, food forest follow-up, and farmer marketing school.

In order to raise 30% of the cost of tree seedlings, AFARD encouraged farmers who were interested in planting trees by teaching them about the benefits of tree growing. The goal of cost-sharing tree seedling distribution was to increase beneficiary households' dedication and sense of ownership.



The goal of planting trees was to increase the amount of trees in the area so that households could obtain sustainable biomass energy. NURI extension staff, with assistance from District Forestry Officers and other forestry staff on short-term service contracts, provided the farmers with extension support and training. Farmers also had the choice to select their preferred seedlings.

Following a successful tree-growing pilot in Pakwach district in 2022, household tree-growing on a cost sharing approach was expanded to Nebbi and Zombo districts, targeting 182 NURI farmer groups. With an average of 25 members per group, the activity was expected to benefit approximately 4,550 households.

By the end of 2023, the project had;

- 1) Successfully trained 3,409 household members on tree growing.
- 2) Mobilized up to UGX 25.1 million from farmers in co-funds towards tree growing.
- 3) Resulted in farmers transplanting a total of 103,412 tree seedlings across the 3 districts with an 83% survival of the transplanted tree seedlings.

The high success and adoption rate of tree planning has been largely as a result of the extensive consultation with farmers and key stakeholders in tree species selection, as well as the co-funding that gave the farmers a sense of ownership of the intervention.



Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)



Duration: 3.4 years (2020-2023)



Donor: European Union through Caritas Switzerland



Target Group: Vulnerable smallholder farmers



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



Location: Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Amuru, Omoro, and Agago



Partners: Caritas Switzerland, Advance Africa & GEWD-G



Approach: Holistic Family-Centered Approach, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) and Linkage Banking, Farmer Field School (FFS) with Peer-to-Peer Demonstration-based Extension Approach, Market Systems Development (MSD) and Value Chain Approach (VCA), and Agro-ecology for climate change adaptation.

The endline programme evaluation found out that:



% decrease in poverty rates in West Nile sub regions

Baseline	62	% Achieved
Achieved	49	127



% increase of the target population with acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Baseline	11	% Achieved
Achieved	78	609



% increase in monthly household incomes (UGX)

Baseline	147,486	% Achieved
Achieved	317,105	215

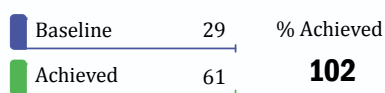


% women participation in decision making

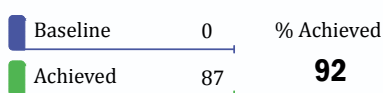
Baseline	69	% Achieved
Achieved	83	120



% of farmers adopting improved technologies at least 4 of the improved technologies (TIMPs - Technologies, Innovations, Mgt Practices)



% of smallholder farmers who are active users of informal and formal financial services



% increase in Households with Income Generating Activities (IGAs)



For details, see:

<https://afard.net/publications/evaluation-and-research/270-alenu-final-evaluation-report-cach-2023/file>

CASE STUDY:

A Widow's dream of owning a permanent house becomes a reality courtesy of ALENU project



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

Mandhawun had long dreamed of building a permanent home where she could live. Sadly, despite her best efforts, she was unable to succeed because of her little experience in farming, which was her only source of money. She used to plant cassava and beans for both food and money, but this was insufficient to even guarantee her food and financial security. "This made my life difficult because I was unable to own any animals, not even chickens. This made my life difficult because I was unable to possess any animals, not even chickens to sell and earn an income. "I could barely afford two meals (breakfast and dinner) a day for my children who were often chased from school for not having school fees or uniforms," she added.

Taking care of her children, Mandhawun was the lone breadwinner in the family. Nevertheless, the 52-year-old widow Mandhawun Jenety has been the sole breadwinner in her family, having lost her husband. Her households comprises of nine people including herself and three children under five. She resides in the Nebbi district's Jupugeta Upper Village Payera Parish Erussi Sub- County. Ms. Mandhawun begged for assistance during the Jupugeta Upper village beneficiary registration process for the second year in 2021, and she was registered. Mandhawun is now a member of the Mungumiyo farming group and a beneficiary of the Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU) project.

Following her recruitment in February 2021, Mandhawun and her fellow group members have been receiving assorted vegetable seeds, Irish potato foundation seeds at the group level, training in kitchen gardening, training in good farming practices of Irish potatoes, training in poultry production and management, training from the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA), financial literacy, planning and management of income-generating activities, and planning for family development. She gained the perfect knowledge and skills from the various inputs and trainings to put her dream of owning a home into action.

She stated that she wanted to build a permanent home by the end of 2023 during the family development planning.

"The vegetable start-up kits I received enabled my household to plant a 0.125-acre kitchen garden. Later, with the revenues from the demo, I received seeds that allowed me to grow a 0.25-acre Irish potato garden using the training I received in proper agronomic principles. In addition, I was raising chickens and participating in VSLA. I did all these with a goal of building a permanent house. Fortunately, all of these endeavors earned me UGX 2,700,000, something I had never seen before," Mandhawun said. This assisted her in building her brick home's wall, installing roofing materials, and purchasing three goats.

By the end of 2023, Mandhawun had raised the walls of her permanent structure, bred 38 chickens, 3 goats, and 0.5 acres of Irish potatoes, from which she is anticipating earning 1 million shillings for roofing her house. Thanks to the ALENU project, her family can now afford three meals a day, timely academic resources for her three children, and most importantly, she is now respected in her community.

In 2024, Mandhawun says, "I want to finish my house, keep giving my kids timely school supplies, and buy a cow."

By Maditchan Collins-AEO AFARD



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



Duration: 4 years (2019 -2023)



Donor: European Union/GIZ through AFC Germany



Target Group: Vulnerable refugee and nationals



Goal: Component 3 (Creation of economic opportunities) with the objective of increasing income for the beneficiaries through agricultural production, processing, and marketing.



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



Approach: Inclusive learning groups, VSLA, and agribusiness development

Programme evaluation found out that:



6,359 vulnerable farmers served (3,248 refugees and 3,111 nationals of which 4,497 women))



Average income per annum increased from UGX 284,930 to 5,305,138



VSLA savings peaked to UGX 1.8 billion in cycle 1



Households selling value added products increased from 12 – 59% (processed cassava, rice, maize, sesame and g-nuts).



Households with non-farm IGA increased from 65% to 74%

For details, see:

<https://afard.net/publications/evaluation-and-research/271-rise-evaluation-bericht-2023/file>

CASE STUDY:

Solar Powered Irrigation System Changes Farmers Fortunes



158 farmers in Obongi District's Itula Subcounty, including Tabule Michael, are profiting from year-round vegetable production as a result of enhanced irrigation methods.

In the past, tomatoes brought Michael an average of UGX 100,000 per season. Long dry seasons and unpredictable rains typically had an impact on his produce.

The EUTF-funded GIZ RISE project constructed seven state-of-the-art solar-powered irrigation systems in 2022.

Michael sold tomatoes he raised in a quarter-acre garden for a million shillings in a single season after the irrigation system was installed. In addition, he planted eggplants, from which he expects to earn UGX 400,000.

By Juma B. Bale



Sustainable and Resilient Smallholders Agriculture (SURE II) Project



Duration: 1 year (2023)



Donor: Manos Unidas



Target Group: Vulnerable smallholder farmers organized in Jangokoro United Farmers Cooperative



Goal: Enhance resilience and equitable economic development for refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda.



Location: Zombo district



Approach: Sustainable agricultural intensification, agroforestry, cooperative development, financial inclusion, community-led advocacy

Programme endline evaluation found out that of the targeted 277 households:



100%

had own kitchen gardens and at least 10 surviving fruit trees



52%

(from 23%) had both farm and non-farm income generating activities



93%

(from 38%) saved €5 monthly in their VSLA



61%

reported awareness of their rights to local government development plans



100%

(from 49%) were food secure



71%

(from 61%) exited extreme poverty



70%

(from 28%) of the women reported being empowered

For details see:

<https://afard.net/publications/evaluation-and-research/272-web-sure-project-final-evaluation-report/file>

CASE STUDY:

Banana Production Transforms a Youth's Life



Kingson in his banana plantation garden

32-year-old Akoyambe Kingson is a member of the Merber group in the Zombo district's Olyeko village, Dindu parish, and Padea town council. Pacunega Gloria and Kingson are wed, and together, they have three kids.

Kingson joined the Merber group in 2021, which was receiving support from the SURE phase one project. Kingson started growing bananas after receiving start-up kits and instruction on several CSA procedures.

After planting 100 banana suckers as a combination banana-coffee garden, he was able to produce an average of 20 bunches of bananas in 9 months and earn UGX 300,000 every month. From the same banana crop, food is guaranteed.

Kingson has now purchased four goats, all of whom are female, and put aside UGX 800,000 to purchase an acre of property thanks to his consistent income. He has increased his wife's business with UGX 100,000 and saves UGX 10,000 per week.

"My focus is on accomplishing our family development plan in order to lead a happy life," a happy Kingson said.

By Trinity Abidok



Secure Livelihoods/ Migration III Project

-  **Duration:** 2 years (2023 – 2024)
-  **Donor:** Austrian Development Cooperation, Bruder und Schwester in Not Innsbruck (BSI) and Caritas Kärnten through HORIZONT3000
-  **Target Group:** Youth and adult refugees and host communities
-  **Goal:** Support refugees and host communities improve their livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development
-  **Location:** Yumbe district
-  **Partner:** Palm Corps
-  **Approach:** Enterprise development, peaceful co-existence, and capacity building

Annual assessment found out that:



Number of birds increased from 450 to 4,476 excluding the 572 birds sold for UGX.14,300,000.



59%

have IGAs as alternative sources of income



92%

of the households established kitchen gardens to enable them to supplement their diets as 341 and 228 acres of cassava and sorghum respectively were planted.



100%

of the households use improved energy saving stoves.



207

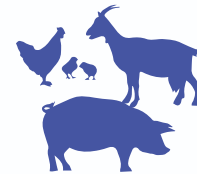
youths skilled in various trades are working.



Romogi Kiri Multipurpose Cooperative membership grew to 317 fully paid members of cooperative and it earned a net revenue of UGX.8,180,000.



VSLA savings totalled UGX; 24,392,000, loans UGX.9,560,000 and agro-input savings UGX. 6,111,000.



Through the family development plan approach, many households acquired assets (e.g., 38 cattle, 666 goats, 326 chicken and other assets).

CASE STUDY:

Diversification of income sources through commercial farming

A case story of John Ibaga

Mr. Ibaga John is a 36-year-old refugee from South Sudan. He is a member of Food is Life Farmer Field School and is married with three children. He lives in the Bidibidi refugee community, village 12, Zone 1.

His family's standard of living has improved as a result of his involvement in commercial farming. John worked as a machine operator for a local grinding mill before joining the Migration III project in 2020. Each month, UGX 50,000 was his salary. Due to his limited finances, he took up subsistence farming.



John rented two acres of land with the project support, and his family farmed cassava there.

In a year, they made UGX 4,000,000. He immediately purchased a UGX 3,200,000 grinding mill, which he personally runs and generates UGX 400,000 in profit each month.

Considering that he employs workers to assist him in cultivating his 4 acres of cassava, John was able to save UGX 2,300,000 in 2022 which he used to purchase a motorcycle to oversee his farming operations. The boda earns his revenue daily revenue.

In 2023, John planted five acres of cassava and purchased two oxen to lower agricultural expenses and generate revenue from user-hire fees. He has put aside at least UGX 8,000,000 to ensure his family's financial stability.

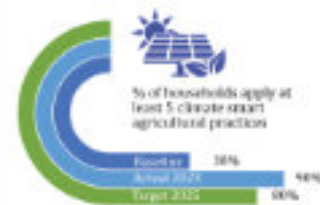
By Limio Rose



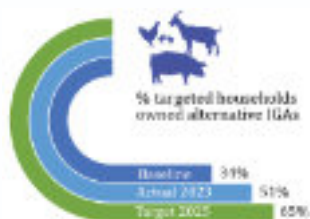
Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)

-  **Duration:** 3 years (2023-2025)
-  **Donor:** BMZ through AWO International
-  **Target Group:** Youth and adult refugees and host communities
-  **Goal:** South Sudanese refugees and host communities in Yumbe district have improved incomes, are food secure and peacefully co-exist
-  **Location:** Yumbe district
-  **Approach:** Sustainable and climate smart agriculture and agribusiness, capacity building of Romogi Kiri cooperative and other social structures, VSLA Plus methodology, and peaceful building

Annual assessment found out that:



Main picture: Processed cassava and rice from Romogi cooperative



Increased value of average annual income

Baseline:	601,355
Actual 2023:	1,342,157
Target 2025:	1,500,000



Number of joint interventions implemented by refugees and host community groups.

Baseline:	0
Actual 2023:	1
Target 2025:	3



CASE STUDY:

Creating Wealth Through Animal Traction

The case of Tiolipa farmers group



Animal traction handlers of the group ploughing the garden

Animal traction is turning into a labour-saving strategy that benefits farmers and helps increase agricultural output. It involves using animals to perform tasks such as ploughing, planting, and transporting goods. It makes it possible for farmers to work bigger tracts of land more effectively, leading to increased yields and quality of produce, which can result in higher income for farmers.

AFARD knowing the potential that animal traction has in increasing incomes promoted the technology in refugee settlements and to households within West Nile.

One of the districts where the technology was promoted in is Yumbe. It is also one of the districts that was faced with unprecedented levels of food and income insecurity and conflicts over natural resources. Through the **Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)** funded by BMZ, AFARD and AWO International sought to economically integrate refugee and host communities in Yumbe district by; improving their food and nutrition security; increasing their incomes among other interventions.

Tiolipa Farmers Group, a South Sudanese refugee group in village 2, zone 1 of Bidibidi (one of the largest refugee settlements in the world), was introduced to the animal traction technology by AFARD in 2019. There are twenty-eight female and seven male members in the group.

Although the group started using the technology in 2020, charging members and non-members a fee to plough their fields, they only earned UGX 300,000 for the entire year. This was mostly brought about by insufficient marketing of the technology to their members and communities, as well as a lack of understanding of the benefits of animal traction.

Upon realising the lacklustre performance and uptake of the technology, AFARD in 2021 organised a refresher training for the group and animal traction handlers. The training was aimed at helping them appreciate the potential of animal traction as an income generating business.

For the group, this turned out to be a game changer. They started marketing the technology within and outside Yumbe. Their efforts paid off.

In 2023, they ploughed 26 acres in Yumbe, earning UGX 2,320,000; and 32 acres in Moyo earning UGX 3,840,000, earning them a total of UGX 6,160,000 in 2023. The money was shared between the animal handlers and the members of the group who walked away with UGX 120,000 at the end of the year. Farmers are now more motivated to take good care of their animals having seen the commercial potential in animal traction

By Enyaru Juliet



Nature-based Agribusiness for Degraded Land Restoration and Climate Resilience (NA4LRCR or Nature-based) Project



Duration: 4 years (2023 - 2026)



Donor: Sall Family Foundation



Target Group: Peri urban degenerated landscape community



Goal: Communities in Nebbi district are resilient to climate change shocks



Location: Nebbi district



Approach: Landscape regeneration, apiary agribusiness, and livelihoods

Annual assessment found out that:



A total of 58 acres of land at Got Ayei was planted with various apiary supportive tree species under a cash-for-work arrangement with the local communities.



Short-term agro-inputs (poultry, vegetable seeds, farm inputs) were provided with requisite trainings.



VSLA was initiated and savings totaled UGX 15.4 million.

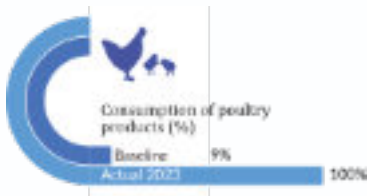
Main picture: NB Mrs. Munguryek Saidi poses in her Kitchen garden.

The change we want in targeted households are increased:



Investments in productive assets
(UGX value of assets)

Baseline:	5,488,412
Actual 2023:	16,154,661



Uptake of new opportunities in
nature-based livelihoods (%)

Baseline:	0
Actual 2023:	0



Tree density (average number of
trees planted - Number)

Baseline:	51
Actual 2023:	71

CASE STUDY:

Nature-based approach inspires poultry rearing

A case of Awekonimungu Mourine



Mrs. Awekonimungu Mourine is a 35-year-old married woman with a household size of 12 members. She is a member of Can Lalomer FG in Ayila hill Cell, Namrwodho ward, Thatha Division, Nebbi Municipal being supported by Nature-based project.

All Mourine did to support her family was subsistence farming that with climate change proved unproductive (low yields, inadequate food supply, etc) that forced her into risky businesses.

However, Nature-based project trained and equipped Mourine as a poultry paravet. Inspired by the huge opportunity she foresaw, she decided to use her transport refund provided during the training to buy 05 hens to add to the 05 chickens she received from the project to start a poultry agribusiness.

Being knowledgeable in poultry production and management, Mourine started programmed hatching techniques with adequate pest and disease control practices.

This has led to a rapid increase in the number of her chickens. Currently, she has 43 birds after eating 06 birds and an unknown number of eggs and is to sell of 15 mature birds worth UGX 450,000.

She plans to expand her business to sustain her family needs and development.

By Maditchan Collins P.O



Girls Get Equal: Ending Early and Forced Child Marriage Project



Duration: 5 years (2020-2024)



Donor: NORAD through Plan International Uganda



Target Group: Vulnerable girls, boys and families



Goal: 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.



Location: Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo and Adjumani districts



Approach: Youth skilling, financial inclusion, and business development services

Annual performance assessment found out that:



7,226 members are accessing financial services from their member owned 248 youth savings and loan groups



80 vulnerable family groups with 2,255 members are engaged in multiple economic activities that enable them to shun early marriage of their children for economic reasons



VSLA savings totaled UGX 727.4 million



UGX 120,000,000 Booster fund was provided to 20 groups.



100%

All youth trained in vocational skills have an enterprise

CASE STUDY:

A Mother's Fortunes Change Courtesy of the Booster Fund



Anirwoth Doreen, a 58-year-old mother of 7 had reconciled herself to a hand-to-mouth existence, running a small-scale unprofitable business due to limited resources. Her luck however soon turned when she and her group members of Canupoja VFG in Zale center, Papoga parish, Zeu sub-county in Zombo District joined the GGE project in 2020. The group members were trained on VSLA methodology especially visioning which motivated her more to stay in the group.

After receiving training, their group was awarded a booster fund, from which Dorine borrowed UGX 300,000 in August 2023 to supplement her existing cash to start a fish selling business.

Doreen claims that she typically purchases fish from Zeu market on Tuesdays and resells it to consumers in her neighborhood and occasionally in the nighttime market next to the Zale training center, where there is a ready market for fish. She makes UGX 100,000 every week in profit for every UGX 300,000 she spends on fish.

"With the profit I made, I was able to cover the UGX 30,000 monthly loan interest and plant two acres of cassava with the remaining funds.

I can now afford to buy sanitary pads, cosmetics, and other school supplies for my two girls, as well as pay their tuition at Papoga Primary School.

Since they have all they need, my girls are now content and well-established," Doreen said.

Her intention is for her daughters to finish their education, get additional goats, and expand the amount of land she farms.

Numerous colleagues express remorse for not joining the GGE group, as it prevented them from obtaining loans from the booster fund.

Dorine continued, "I am incredibly appreciative of AFARD and PLAN International for bringing such innovation to families like mine" Doreen concluded.

By Maditchan Collins P.O



Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)

-  **Duration:** 7 years (2020- 2027)
-  **Donor:** INclusion
-  **Target Group:** Vulnerable people
-  **Goal:** a dignified and income secure life for all people, free from the injustice of poverty and exclusion.
-  **Location:** Nebbi district
-  **Approach:** Unconditional cash grant

Annual performance assessment found out that:



86%
of beneficiary households
were food secure



45%
of beneficiary households
exited extreme poverty



85%
of women in the community
reported being empowered



20%
of beneficiary households live
in (semi) permanent houses



The community set and is
implementing a bye-law
against child marriage

Main picture: The LCIII Atego sub-county and other sub-county officials and the steering committee during the sub-county monitoring.

CASE STUDY:

How a UGX 56,060 Monthly Stipend Changed a Young Family's Life



Olworngom at his apiary site

Olworngom Johnson, 30, a resident of Welle Village, Pamora Upper Parish, Atego Sub-County, Nebbi District, is a father of three children. Johnson found it difficult to provide for his family before the NIDP project in Welle started. He regularly took odd jobs to make ends meet because he was an impoverished and illiterate young man who found it difficult to get work.

With the consent and assistance of the Nebbi local government, the Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) chose Welle village as a project area in 2017 through its project Nebbi Inclusive Development Program (NIDP), funded by INlcusion, a Dutch NGO.

Johnson became one of the beneficiaries of the non-conditional grant the village benefits from. Johnson like other beneficiaries began receiving his LIFE benefits in 2020. All beneficiaries who had been registered were eligible to receive UGX 56,060 per month.

From the little support they were receiving, Johnson saved part of it and was able to enroll in a three-month beekeeping life skill training course at ADRAA. He subsequently used the grant money to purchase eighteen bee hives.

"The little grant money we received transformed our lives. In 2023, I harvested 120 liters of honey, which I sold at UGX 25,000 per liter, earning UGX 3 million. I plan to reinvest in the business to boost the production.

I am grateful to NIDP and AFARD for their ongoing support through the grant." Johnson explained.

By Bashir Ibrahim



Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project

-  **Duration:** 3 years (2021-2024)
-  **Donor:** Medicor Foundation and DKA Austria through HORIZONT3000
-  **Target Group:** Vulnerable youth
-  **Goal:** increasing access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youths
-  **Location:** Pakwach district
-  **Approach:** Agri-vocational skills, entrepreneurship, Business Development Services (BDS), and Tree growing

Programme endline evaluation found out that:



595
targeted and non-targeted youth are employed



Hours worked increased from 3.8 – 5.6/day



8-56%
Adoption of climate smart agriculture



65-72%
Adoption of good financial management practices



1-34%
Saving €5 monthly



Agribusinesses value:
UGX 1,7 – 2, 0 M

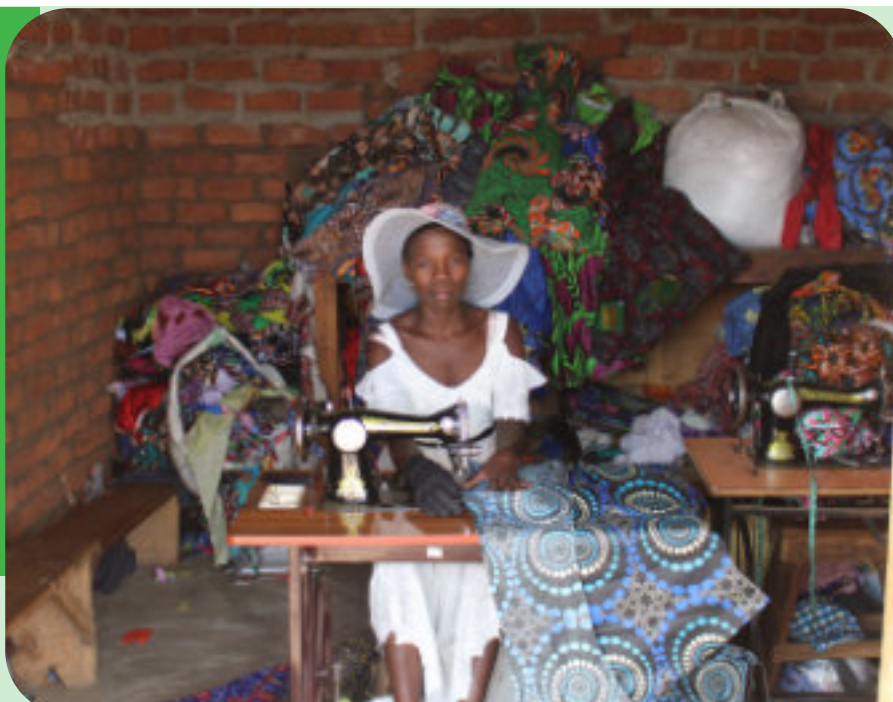


Monthly income:
UGX 0 – 846,263

CASE STUDY:

A Young Mother Moves from being an Unemployed School Dropout to an Entrepreneur

Piracel Peace in her tailoring workshop knitting customer dress.



Peace is a 25-year-old mother of three living in Kabamba Village, Wadelai Sub-County's Pakwinyo Parish. Peace lost her job as a senior three dropout and was left to raise her family as a homemaker without any means of income. She enrolled in the Wadelai sub-county Pakwach district's Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) program in May 2021, which catered to young people in the district between the ages of 15 and 30.

Through several training programs and agroinput support for climate-smart agriculture, she produced tomatoes in 2023's second growing season, bringing in UGX 1,200,000.

Thanks to this, she was able to learn how to sew, purchase two sewing machines, and acquire other necessities for starting a tailoring business that currently brings in UGX 300,000 every month.

Today, Peace's family runs successful enterprises in tailoring and horticulture both of which are managed by her husband.

By Bashir Ibrahim



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



Duration: 3 years (2020- 2023)



Donor: Swiss Development Cooperation and Swiss Foundations and individuals



Target Group: Refugees and host communities



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



Location: Yumbe district



Partners: IUCN (International Union of Conservation of Nature) and BOMA



Approach: Graduation out of poverty

Programme endline evaluation
found positive gains between
baseline and endline status:



90%

graduated out of poverty
from 30%



74-94%

Children felt safe in their
families



66-95%

Children of primary school
age in school:



64-91%

Food secure



24-39%

Ability to lean on others
during time of adversity



56-94%

Had at least 2 sustainable
income sources



56-94%

Increased Total Business
Value (TBV): UGX 1,400,000
- 2,115,618

CASE STUDY:

VSLA Loan Helps Abibu Nasuru Diversify His Household's Income



Abibu Nasuru, a 33 year old father of three and resident of Milinga Village in Ewafa Parish, Kululu Sub County has long desired to improve his household income in order to finance his children's education and satisfy the needs of his home.

Nasuru was prompted by the different trainings on entrepreneurship, financial management, nutrition, kitchen gardening, and business-specific technical trainings to question himself, "Why am I poor and how can I get out of poverty?"

My thoughts were plagued by this question day and night, he stated. In addition to creating a family development plan and coming up with a novel business concept, he and his wife also took out a loan (UGX 120,000) to supplement his funds from consumption support and purchase a manual paste grinding machine. Grinding simsim and groundnut paste in the village brings in a net income of UGX 15,000 a day for Nasuru.

He is now able to provide for his family's basic needs and academic requirements. Furthermore, Nasuru has paid back all of his loans and has UGX 1,500,000 in net savings. To triple their income, the family intends to purchase two more machines with this money.

"I have made the decision to succeed in life, and nothing will stop me from doing so," Nasuru declared.

By Okwonga Moses



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



Duration: 3 years (2022-2024)



Donor: Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



Target Group: Vulnerable groups in host and refugee communities



Goal: To significantly reduce conflict over and pressure on natural resources in West Nile (WN) and Central Equatoria (CES)



Location: Yumbe and Koboko districts



Partners: CDC, OFAO, BOMA and Swiss Peace



Approach: Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus approach

Midterm assessment
found out that:



99%

reduction on conflict over natural resource use



90%

acquired assets like goats, poultry which in turn produced and is helping them



food sufficiency reduced from 50% at baseline to 35%

CASE STUDY:

Improved energy cook stoves reduces conflict over natural resources

Woman in Lodonga with her shielded stove cooking



Awoko Nusura, 60 years old and a mother of eight children, lives in Kerikula Village, Nyori parish, Lodonga subcounty. She is a part of the Yumbe Nyori Multi-Purpose cooperative.

Because of the increasing number of refugees and the resulting damage to the environment, she used to walk 3 kilometers (to and from) every week for more than 3 hours in order to collect firewood for her family's daily meals.

When they encroached on other families' or communities' lands in order to get firewood, women frequently experienced severe violence. This was altered, though, when the PAMANA project unveiled the upgraded cook stove to take the place of their customary three-stone burners.

"The stove produces no smoke and requires less firewood. I'm no living under threat of violence because of encroaching on peoples land because I now use less firewood which I can buy and have more time to spend on my little business as a result.

By Arubako Godfrey



Climate Action Model Villages (CAM) Project

-  **Duration:** 3.5 years (2022 – 2026)
-  **Donor:** BMZ through AWO International
-  **Target Group:** Vulnerable communities
-  **Goal:** Communities in Nebbi and Pakwach districts are resilient to climate change, health and economic shocks.
-  **Location:** Nebbi and Pakwach districts
-  **Approach:** Sustainable agricultural intensification and value addition, livelihood diversification, public health, and environment and biodiversity conservation.

Annual assessment found out that in the targeted households:



54%
are food secure



38%
are income secure



57%
are planning their family sizes



57%
use improved energy saving stoves

Main picture: Various Health activities - malarial screening, health assessment and Antenatal care being given to community members during health outreach in Warathum village.



96%

of the members never fell sick of infectious and vector-borne diseases



25%

own income generating activities

CASE STUDY:

Food forest, a solution to climate shocks and connection to sustainable nature

Avone displays part of his newly established food forest in his homestead



47-year-old Avone Vincent is contentedly married to his wife, with whom he has nine children. He lives in the Nebbi district's Akworo Village in the Mbaru East parish of Nyaravur Sub County. Three native trees were available for fire wood at Vincent's house before the CAM project.

He was given 43 different tree seedlings as part of the project, and he is taking excellent care of them now that he has attended several trainings on FMNR practice, basic tree agronomic techniques, tree management on farm, and protecting trees and biodiversity.

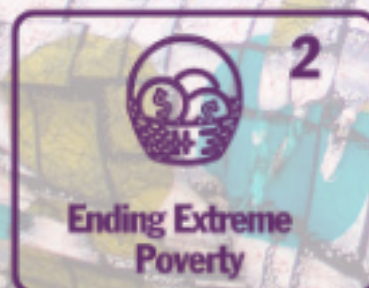
He purchased more tree species in 2023. "I hope to have a green home in a few years to come," he states, glad that his home is well-forested with a variety of plants for fruits, medicines, fire wood, timber trees, and nitrogen fixing.

By Mungujakisa Tobias

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.







Eliminating Food & Nutrition Insecurity

OBJECTIVE:

Increase production and consumption of diversified foods in hygienic homes

APPROACH:

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

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 main outputs were delivered during the year:

INPUTS & TRAINING

- ▣ Inputs distributed include: 7,112 local chicken, 954 Kuroilers, 2,850 bags of orange flesh sweet potato vines, 3,750 banana suckers, 32.25 kg of assorted vegetable seeds, 536 bags of cassava cuttings, 1,365 kg of sorghum seed, 1,129 hoes, 406 spray pumps, 152 solar driers, 372 watering cans, and 393 pairs of gumboots,
- ▣ 122 peer trainers were trained on agronomy and climate smart agricultural practices, and they trained 782 groups on Climate Smart Agricultural Practices.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

- ▣ 1,132 beneficiaries were trained on safe nutrition.
- ▣ 3,128 beneficiaries trained on kitchen gardening.
- ▣ 1,500 mosquito nets distributed and training on their use conducted,
- ▣ 43 integrated health outreaches held with 3,892 members reached.

SANITATION & HYGIENE

- ▣ 217 members trained in reusable sanitary pads making for own sanitation and sale for income.
- ▣ 121 awareness sessions held on sanitation and hygiene with 5,814 members in attendance.
- ▣ 375 hand washing facilities procured and distributed.

ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

- ▣ Trained 152 energy saving stove champions who made 896 energy saving stoves at an average fee of UGX 5,000 each stove
- ▣ 339,744 tree seedlings were planted with trainings on tree growing.
- ▣ 20 food forests measuring a cumulative 32.5 acres were established,
- ▣ 2,853 beneficiaries trained on Resilience Design.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

- Increased production of diverse crops and livestock which improved dietary diversity.
- Improved environment conservation due to more trees grown and reduced tree cutting.
- Kitchen gardening has improved integration of vegetables into diets and diversified income sources.
- Poultry production has improved nutrition and women control over income.
- Improved sanitation and hygiene practices with reduced disease burden.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Household food security status



Grow 4-5 food crops (%)

Baseline 2019	56	2022	69
2020	63	2023	90
2021	64	2025	95



With kitchen gardens (%)

Baseline 2019	47	2022	58
2020	68	2023	67
2021	71	2025	100



With latrines with hand washing (%)

Baseline 2019	75	2022	78
2020	77	2023	79
2021	90	2025	100



With 50 trees or more (%)

Baseline 2019	11	2022	27
2020	13	2023	29
2021	25	2025	85



Number of trees planted (0,000)

Baseline 2019	0	2022	14
2020	17	2023	34
2021	3	2025	50



Ending Extreme Poverty

OBJECTIVE:

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

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 main outputs were registered during 2023:

STRATEGIC ENTERPRISES

- Cassava (especially cuttings, dry cassava chips and cassava floor), rice (hurled rice), beans, soybeans, poultry, onions, potatoes, orange flesh sweet potato, bananas, coffee, cabbages, groundnuts, goats rearing, piggery, animal traction as a business.

AGRO-INPUTS

- Inputs provided were: 60 oxen with 15 ploughs, 10 piglets, 2,480 bags of cassava cuttings; 1,950 kg of sorghum; 108 bags of Irish potatoes, 560 kg of beans, 120 kg of soybeans, 7,752 coffee seedlings, and 15,200 banana suckers.
- Post-harvest handling included 10 Aphid nets for Irish potato seeds, 1,365 tarpaulins and 375 PIC bags for pulses/cereals.
- 100 smart phones with 100 solar chargers for digital market information collection.

EXTENSION

- Trainings were conducted for 398 peer trainers on crop agronomy, 116 peer trainers on resilience design, and 22 groups on local seed business for production of quality declared seed.
- 780 groups were trained on farming as a business in different value chains.
- 1002 groups were supported to make their group Production and Marketing Plans.
- 7,521 households were supported to make or review their household development plans.
- 542 groups received Business Development Services support.

MARKETING

- 240 production and marketing committees were trained on collective marketing.
- 100 Marketing committee members trained on digital market information collection and dissemination.
- 612 groups sold produce collectively at UGX 3,255,806,830.
- 947 new members joined different cooperatives.

VSLA

- 15 VSLA Plus methodology was mainstreamed in all programs.
- 193 farmer groups were linked to the bank, and they opened bank accounts
- VSLA performance was as below.

NO. OF PROJECTS:	6	10	11	13
NO. OF GROUPS:	389	876	1,198	1,056
NO. OF MEMBERS:	10,298	30,128	32,891	28,915
% FEMALES:	64%	66%	67%	65%
	2020	2021	2022	2023
AMOUNT SAVED:	2,443,031,450	3,918,728,300	5,605,195,860	4,629,131,431
AMOUNT LOANED:	1,027,066,855	2,604,959,700	2,933,777,400	5,298,041,412
SOCIAL FUND:	161,777,000	394,204,000	1,041,045,130	365,374,852
AGRO-INPUT FUND:	69,222,545	81,380,000	81,236,900	319,242,600
FINE:	8,625,135	13,587,200	16,362,900	1,225,000

YOUTH SKILLING

- 9,954 (73% females) were provided different (agri)vocational skills training together with entrepreneurship and soft skills and start-up kits.
- Youth were included in VSLA Plus methodology, collective marketing, business mentorship and linkage banking.

CASH GRANT

- UGX 603,156,540 was given to beneficiaries as cash grant to meet their immediate needs.
- UGX 120,000,000 was given to 23 VSLA groups as booster fund on a revolving loan basis.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

- Family development goals were adopted by many households and continued to guide future development goal setting, farm size planning, labour pooling, and gender equality (women owning assets bought with the fruits of their labour).
- Increased accumulation of productive assets e.g., cattle, goats, chicken, land, houses, etc.
- A buyers' database for the enterprises promoted (cassava and rice) was developed for use by the coop marketing committee.
- Stronger savings with a purpose culture and hence improved personal financial management.
- Increased access to finance and ownership of alternative sources of income
- Cooperative membership has continued to increase with all the cooperatives posting positive net revenue.
- Increased uptake of agricultural produce value addition and compliance to standards.
- Increased acreage using animal traction.
- Farming as business has been embraced by the youths.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Household income security status



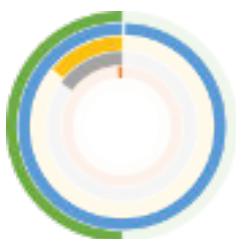
Households with profitable agribusiness (%)

Baseline 2019	00	2022	81
2020	70	2023	82
2021	76	2025	85



Cooperatives established (Number)

Baseline 2019	00	2022	11
2020	06	2023	12
2021	11	2025	10



Trained youth with own-account enterprises (Number '00)

Baseline 2019	00	2022	14
2020	01	2023	99.5
2021	15	2025	50



Households taking business loans (%)

Baseline 2019	12	2022	91
2020	55	2023	42
2021	77	2025	95



Households with alternative income generating activities (%)

Baseline 2019	35	2022	30
2020	38	2023	40
2021	35	2025	75





OBJECTIVE:

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

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.

During the year, AFARD contributed to children, youth and women participation in their development through provision of information, engagement platforms and capacity building of the beneficiaries to enable them engage with their leaders for planning and accountability. There was also mainstreaming of gender, conflict management as well as child and women rights.

The following outputs were realized.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- ▣ 246 new groups developed their by-laws, group vision journey and completed registration with the respective LLGs.
- ▣ Cooperatives acquired copies of by-laws and the cooperative act.
- ▣ Peer trainers were skilled: 60 on the GALS methodology, and 50 on community paralegals services.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

- ▣ 303 dialogue meetings were held on land access for refugees, peaceful co-existence, male involvement in family planning, teenage marriage, women and children's rights, SRHR, and gender equality
- ▣ 117 cases of child abuse reported were followed up and concluded.
- ▣ Engagement with media houses (local FM radios) was initiated

FAMILY PLANNING

- ▣ 328 awareness raising were conducted on Family Planning.
- ▣ 513 community health outreaches were conducted besides moon bead distribution & education.

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

- Landlords offered 380 acres of land to refugees.
- Increased peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities.
- Reduction in gender-based violence and forced marriage in beneficiary households
- Increased participation of women in decision making and asset ownership
- Increased consciousness of child protection and children and women's rights
- Increased male support for use of family planning methods.
- 101 groups were linked and benefitted from different government programs like the Parish Development Model (PDM).

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Social inclusion status



Empowered women (%)

Baseline 2019	31	2022	77
2020	44	2023	80
2021	30	2025	65



Economically empowered youth (%)

Baseline 2019	26	2022	70
2020	51	2023	199
2021	57	2025	65



Family using one form of family planning method (%)

Baseline 2019	03	2022	20
2020	57	2023	49
2021	32	2025	25



Refugees reporting no conflict with host communities (%)

Baseline 2019	26	2022	94
2020	93	2023	63
2021	96	2025	75



Community groups accessed government support (Number)

Baseline 2019	00	2022	89
2020	40	2023	90
2021	64	2025	250



Strengthen AFARD'S Capacity

OBJECTIVE:

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

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.

To ensure that AFARD is organizationally fit for purpose, emphasis was placed on:

- strengthening the Board's oversight function,
- building technical competency of the staff, and
- capital investments (logistics, software, office space, etc.).

Below are the key activities carried out during the year:

GOVERNANCE

- Board and Board Committees' (Programmes and FAARM) meetings were held.
- Board project monitoring visits were conducted
- Key policy/guidelines were approved – Personal Liability Statement, Data Protection, and Audit Charter

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

- Trainings were conducted on child safeguarding, monitoring and evaluation, and Advance Excel skills.
- One Agricultural Extension Supervisor had a 2-weeks course in Denmark on green transitions, circular economy, and environmental sustainability.
- 7 interns from different institutions were given placement opportunities

VISIBILITY

- Improved on AFARD branding with more visibility materials and stakeholder engagements. And invested in high quality digital camera (together with staff training in photography)

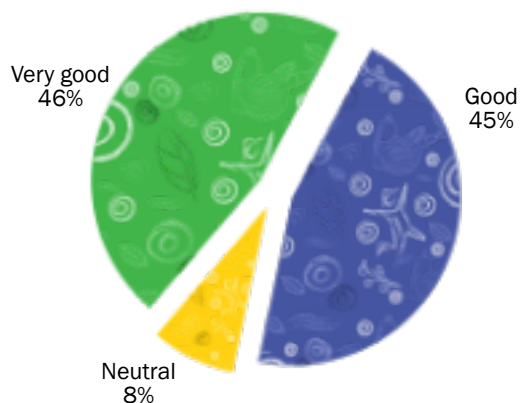
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- AFARD retained membership and participation in district and national networks such as: Uganda National NGO Forum and District NGO Forum in Nebbi, Yumbe, Pakwach and Moyo; PELUM-Uganda Chapter; Uganda National Aids Service Organizations (UNASO) and Network of AIDS Service Organizations in Nebbi; and Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET)
- Renewed the memorandum of understanding with Office of the Prime Minister.
- Effective collaboration was maintained with the various local government structures through joint monitoring and sharing of work plans and reports.
- Periodic staff and management planning, coordination and review meetings were held in-house and with stakeholders (UNHCR, OPM, Sector working groups, local governments, etc.).
- All critical assets were comprehensively insured and staff were covered on both medical and group workmanship.

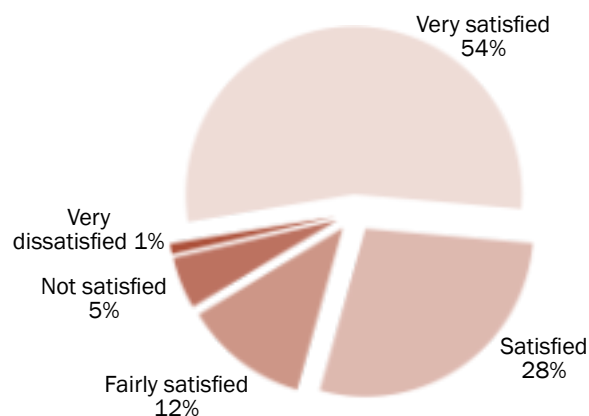
BENEFICIARY SATISFACTION

At the end of 2023, AFARD carried out a beneficiary satisfaction survey to assess the level of satisfaction of its stakeholders with its services. Overall, 95% reported an improvement in their quality of life as result of AFARD's services. As the figure bellow shows 91% rated that the quality of AFARD's services was very good and good; and 82% were very satisfied and satisfied with how the project staff worked with them.

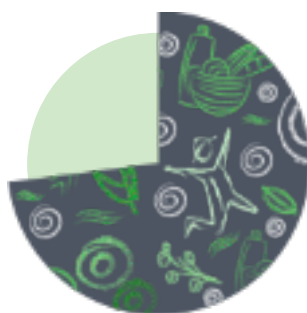
Quality of services offered by AFARD (%)



Satisfaction with AFARD project staff (%)

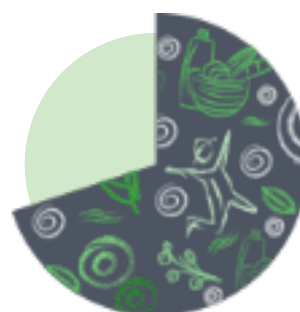


Asked to what extent the various thematic areas of AFARD's work impacted on their families, those who reported very much improved and improved had food and nutrition security ranked top at 73%, followed by women empowerment (70%), youth empowerment (65%), income security (64%) and voice and accountability (61%).



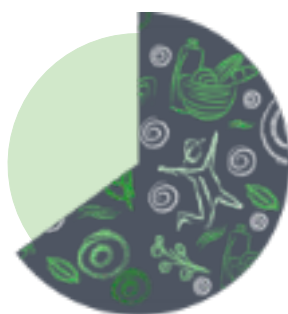
Food and nutrition security

73%



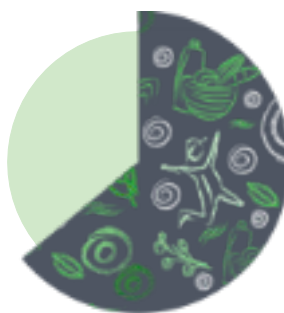
Women empowerment

70%



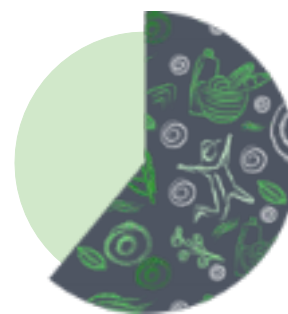
Youth empowerment

65%



Income security

64%



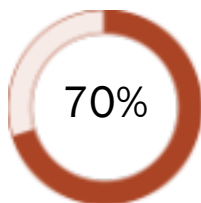
Voice and accountability

61%

STAFF SATISFACTION

AFARD considers its human resource as its heartbeat because staff performance determines its growth and impacts. Given that staff satisfaction directly affects their performance, management conducted the first ever staff satisfaction assessment in December 2023. Below are the findings. Generally, 92% of the staff reported their likelihood of recommending AFARD to others.

Satisfaction with their jobs



Over 70% of all staff reported being satisfied with their jobs in all aspects.



The most satisfying thing for the staff was AFARD Brand (91.7%);

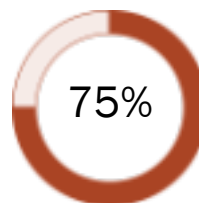


resources available to perform their jobs effectively (83.4%);



and salaries and benefits together with training opportunities to grow (79.2%).

Satisfaction with team performance



Over 75% of all staff reported being satisfied with their team performance.

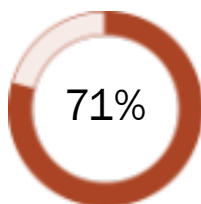


The most satisfying area of team performance was team meeting deadlines (91.6%),



overall competence of the team and efficiency of meetings (87.5%).

Effectiveness of the managers



Overall, 71% rated their managers as very effective.



The most satisfying area of managers' effectiveness were their professional behaviour (79.2%),

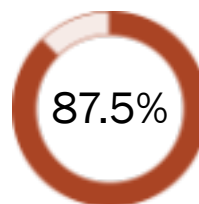


followed by their relationship with the team (66.6%) and



focus on AFARD brand (63%).

Satisfaction with Work-life Balance



Generally, staff didn't express utmost satisfaction with work life balance. Concerns were on limited time flexibility necessary to thrive at work (87.5%),



and inadequate personal time off work for family, friends, and spiritual growth was rated second (58.4%).



The hectic work met with a reported high perceived stress level on a typical workday (45.9%).

Financial Performance 2023

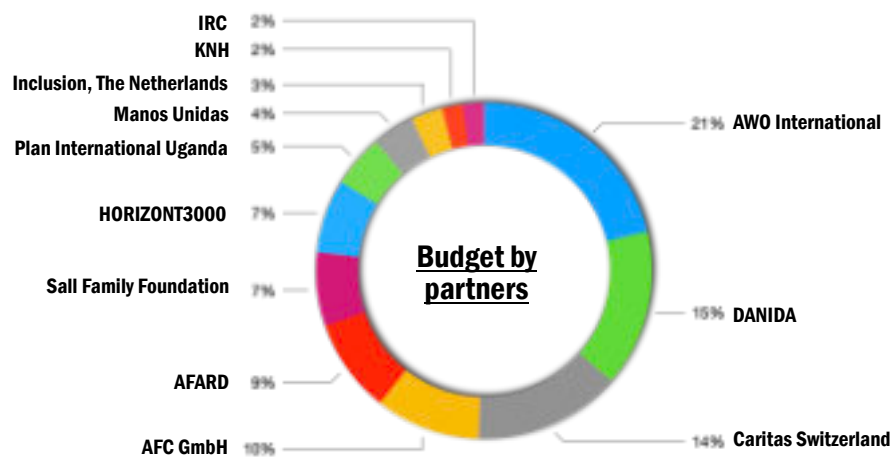
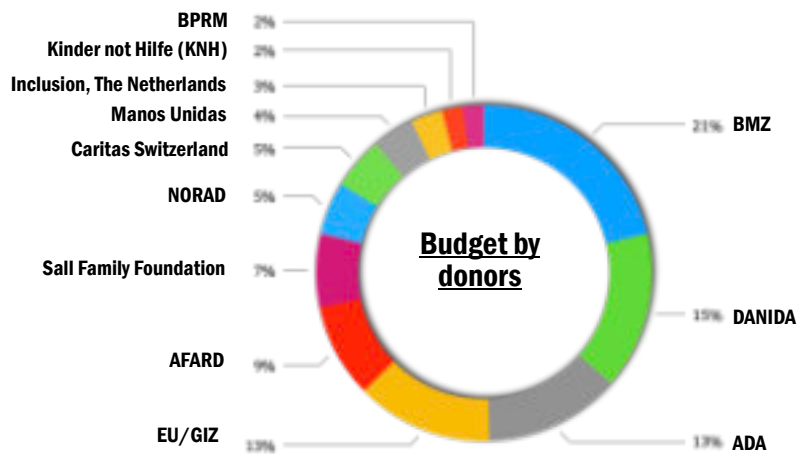
5.1. Revenue Performance

AFARD's annual budget was projected at 10.2Bn. The main sources were Grants (90%) and Members' contribution at 10%. During the year, total income received amounted to UGX 9.6 billion, a 1.2% (UGX 598,537,663) increment from UGX 9.0 billion in 2022. Overall, grants accounted for 92.5% and local revenue, 7.5% of the total revenue in the year.

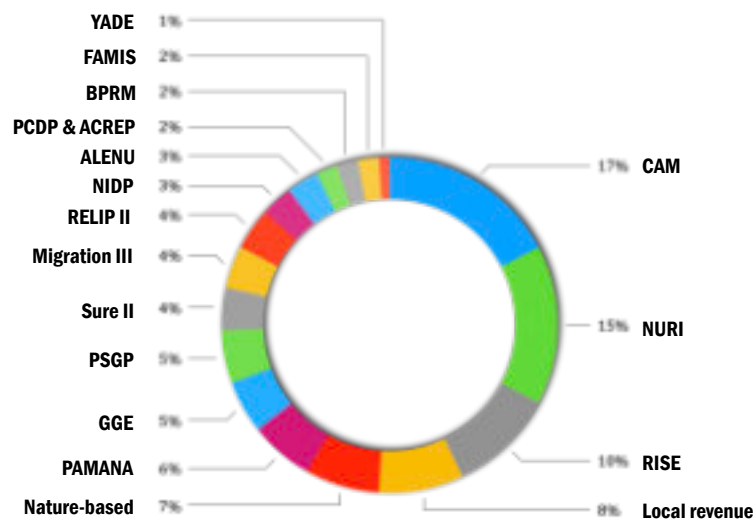
		2023	2022	2021	2020
DANIDA:	NURI	1,416,732,294	1,513,480,346	2,692,154,885	3,402,716,836
EU through CARITAS Switzerland:	ALENU	261,671,952	993,976,748	2,495,618,570	2,238,032,010
Agriculture & Finance Consultants GmbH:	RISE	1,000,204,000	1,338,029,258	1,244,418,577	782,065,245
Awo International:	RELIP II	343,633,104	260,752,094	572,290,760	686,422,094
Austrian Development Agency/ HORIZONT3000:	Migration III	356,734,146	249,937,904	360,027,085	677,659,910
Kinder not Hilfe (KNH):	PCDP & ACREP	218,611,188	493,063,255	636,310,087	566,465,296
Plan International Uganda Funded:	GGE	520,256,051	509,127,338	844,375,460	505,298,004
Sall Family Foundation:	WENAGIC	714,108,000	343,941,264	399,885,273	382,373,246
Inclusion, The Netherlands:	NIDP	301,096,660	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:					1,105,755
Manos Unidas:	SURE			519,980,171	
Manos Unidas:	JFSP				231,724
CARITAS Switzerland:	PSGP	499,288,934	453,049,309	801,548,930	
Austrian Development Agency/HORIZONT3000:	YADE	128,817,122	356,687,436	579,194,336	
Awo International:	ADH			49,850	
ADA through Caritas Switzerland:	PAMANA	607,936,000	883,147,298		
BMZ through AWO International:	CAM	1,639,043,748	718,370,349		
Manos Unidas:	SURE	428,838,034			
HORIZONT3000:	FAMIS	169,897,775			
BPRM:	IRC	190,065,165			
Exchange Gain:		96,425,744			
AFARD (Local Revenue):		717,648,083	608,906,897	1,059,747,501	753,952,568
TOTAL REVENUE:		9,611,008,000	9,012,470,337	12,553,546,465	10,173,732,638

5.2. Partnership Performance

Our main donors in 2023 were BMZ which contributed 21% of the total revenue received during the financial year followed by DANIDA (15%), ADA (13%), and EU (13%). AFARD was able to generate 9% of the total revenue locally.

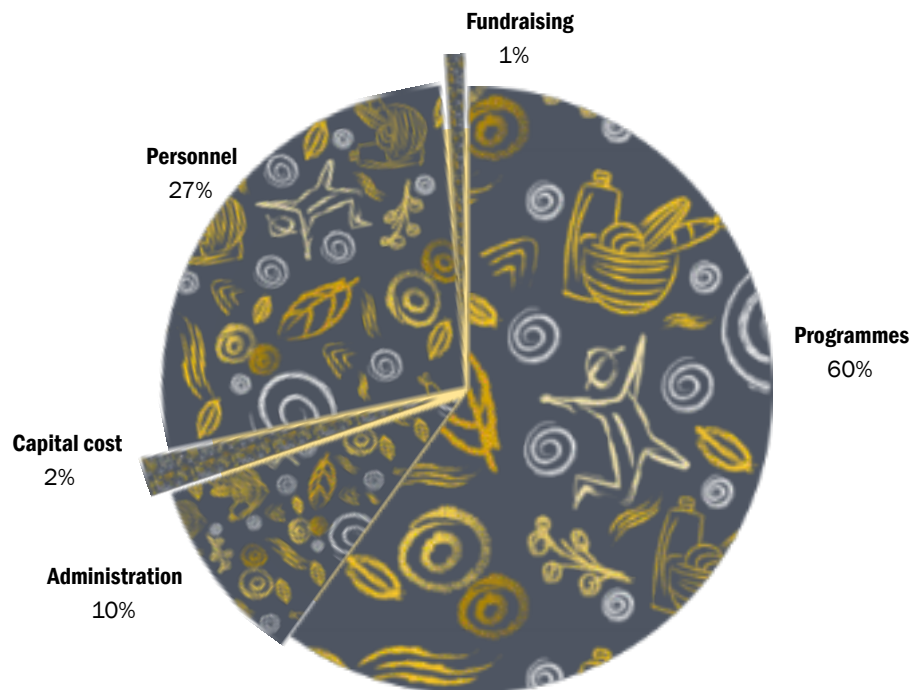


Finally, by projects contribution to the total revenue during the reporting period, the CAM project accounted for 17%, followed by NURI at 15% and RISE at 10%



5.3. Expenditure Performance

Of the total revenue generated (UGX 9,611,008,257) during the reporting period, 98% of the total revenue was expended leaving a bank balance of 2%. The expenditure was composed of project costs (60%), personnel costs (27%), operations (10%), capital costs (2%), and 1% in fund-raising cost. AFARD's expenditure increased by 3.2% from UGX.9.1 billion in 2022 to UGX. 9.4 billion in 2023.



5.4. Audit Performance

During the reporting period, AFARD had both institutional and nine other project-specific financial audits (see table below). Uganda Revenue Authority also conducted the PAYE audit. All these audits had unqualified opinions.

TMK & CO, Certified Public Accountants	AFARD institutional audit, ALENU
BIZ and Co.	RELIP and CAM
BVL & Co	Migration and YADE
PKF	NURI, PAMANA, PSGP
Kisaka & Company	Girls Get Equal Project
URA	AFARD PAYE audit 2021 - 2023

A young man with dark skin and short black hair is smiling broadly, looking down at a large bundle of harvested grain he is holding with both hands. He is wearing a dark grey button-down shirt with a light-colored, abstract pattern. The background is a field of tall, dry grass and green stalks, suggesting a rural or agricultural setting. The overall tone is positive and celebratory.

Auditor's Opinion



TMK & CO.

Certified Public Accountants

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AFARD

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of AFARD, set out on pages 20 to 23. These statements comprise of the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of financial position, statement of changes in accumulated reserves as at 31 December 2023, statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AFARD as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with AFARD's accounting policies and procedures set out on pages 24 to 29.

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 organization in accordance with the International Federation of Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IFAC Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of AFARD. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IFAC Code, and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing the audit of AFARD. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matter

Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the period 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. These matters were addressed in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming the auditor's opinion thereon, and the auditor does not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

There were no key audit matters.

**AGENCY FOR ACCELERATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFARD)
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2023**

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information contained in the report of management. The other information 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 an audit opinion or 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.

Responsibilities of the Management for the Financial Statements

The management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with AFARD's accounting policies and procedures, and for such internal control as the management determine 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, the management is responsible for assessing the organization'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 the management either intend to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism 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

**AGENCY FOR ACCELERATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFARD)
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2023**

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 and to enable us assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the entity's internal control system.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by AFARD.
- 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 organization'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 our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization 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.

We communicate with the management 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.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the Financial Statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**AGENCY FOR ACCELERATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFARD)
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2023**

Restriction on distribution and use of this report

This is a special purpose and confidential report for use by AFARD. The financial statements have been prepared to provide information to AFARD on the use of donor funds disbursed by donors to AFARD. As a result, the special purpose financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is **P0050 Tom Mpagi**.

TMK & CO.

TMK & CO. Certified Public
Accountants 6th Floor, Workers
House, Plot 1 Pilkington Road,
Kampala, Uganda.

Ref: TMK/AFARD/011/24

Date: 5/3/2024



Tom Mpagi - Audit Partner

Brief Report on Alms Giving Conducted at Atego Subcounty

On 7th April 2024, AFARD participated in alms giving event in Atego Sub County, Nebbi District. The initiative aimed to support vulnerable households during the Lenten period by sharing charity items.

The primary objective of this visit was to provide charitable support to vulnerable community members during Lent, reflecting the spirit of compassion and solidarity. Additionally, the event aimed to engage with the local community and foster a sense of unity and support. A total of 20 households were visited, including: Epileptic individuals, child-headed households, elderly individuals, widows and persons with disabilities.

The following items were distributed per households: 5 kilograms of posho, 2 bars of White Star soap, 4 kilograms of sugar, 4 packets of white salt, 1 liter of cooking oil, 5 kilograms of beans, 4 kilograms of rice among others.

Households Visited

■ Epileptic individuals

The team visited a marginalized epileptic man cared for by his brother's wife. Due to his illness, he faces significant challenges, including difficulty eating, taking care of himself. We encouraged the family to continue supporting him, emphasizing that he is a valued member of the family.

■ Grandparents Caring for Neglected Children

This household is managed by two elderly parents who continue to farm to provide for their grandchildren. Their children have left their offspring in their care. We spoke to one of the sons, highlighting the importance of supporting their parents and the blessings that come from honoring and caring for the elderly.

■ Wandering Man

We encountered a psychologically deprived man known as a wandering man. His mother shared that he is unable to stay in one place and often struggles to find food. We encouraged the family to continue supporting him despite the challenges, recognizing his inability to care for himself.

■ Old Widow Caring for Grandchildren

This household comprises an elderly widow caring for her grandchildren. Her children have moved away to seek work but have not been able to provide significant support. The widow is left to fend for herself and the children, struggling to make ends meet.

■ Child headed households

We visited a woman named Sizella Nyingaling, a widow who lives with her eight children (1 female, 7 males). Following an accident that rendered both her arms non-functional, her children have become her primary caretakers. They support her through cash-for-work activities, which has forced them to drop out of school as they cannot afford school fees. The family struggles to make ends meet, with the children's education and overall well-being being significantly impacted.

Another household, headed by a 21-year-old Jakisa Derrick, has faced severe adversity. The children's father passed away, and their mother was chased away due to allegations of witchcraft. As a result, the three children are left to fend for themselves. They engage in manual labor on local farms and sell cassava to support themselves. Their life is marked by extreme hardship, with no support from relatives. They struggle to afford even three meals a day, making their situation particularly dire.

Conclusion

The team also visited Ambere Catholic Church, where they participated in animation of Mass, reinforcing the spirit of community and spiritual support during Lent.

The alms giving event was a significant initiative aimed at supporting some of the most vulnerable members of the Akworo Subcounty community. The distribution of essential items and engagement with the community emphasized the importance of compassion and mutual support. We appreciate the cooperation of local leaders and the community, and we remain committed to our mission of uplifting and supporting those in need.

Compiled by: *Nimungu Godfred*

Selected photos from the visit



Jenefer shares a light moment with Sizella Nyingaling



Acamfua shares a light moment with Executive Director



Apio Magrate, a 48-year-old PWD receives her package as her overjoyed daughter looks on



Jakisa Derrick all in tears as he receives item from the team



Presentation of Offertory



AFARD team during the mass celebration at Ambere chapel

Community Feedback

During this visit, we were accompanied by the area LC1, sub county officials, and church leaders who helped facilitate a productive day.

The Priest encouraged the community to adopt acts of charity, regardless of the scale, reinforcing the idea that "a hand that gives, receives."



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