

# Secure Livelihoods for South Sudanese Refugees and Host Communities in West Nile Region, Uganda



**Final Report 2017 - 2019**



# 1. Introduction



The civil conflicts in South Sudan has since 2013 resulted into increased influx of refugees into West Nile, Uganda. As at February 2017, the FAO estimated the total refugee population in West Nile region at 628,000 people (86% women and children, 3% the elderly, and 5 people per household). While the progressive Uganda Refugee Act (2006) and Refugee Regulations (2010) allow refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, the right to own a business and property, and access to education and health care, right on arrival, refugees compete with the local citizens for scarce resources such as land, water, housing, vegetation, food, social infrastructures (education, health, water sources, transport) and employment. In a bid to enable refugees and host communities to achieve economic, social and environmental self-sufficiency, HORIZONT3000 in partnership with the Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) and Promoters of Agriculture and Market Linkages (PALM Corps) secured a two-year funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation, Bruder und Schwester in Not Innsbruck (BSI) and Caritas Kärnten to support livelihood initiatives in Arua and Yumbe districts.

The primary objective of the project was, “Refugees and host communities have secure livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development within Rhino camp and Yumbe resettlement areas, in West Nile Region, Uganda.” The specific objectives were: (i) To improve the nutrition status of 750 targeted households (60% female headed) in refugees and host communities; (ii) To increase the income of 750 targeted households and 225 youth in refugees and host communities; (iii) To promote peaceful settlements for refugees and host communities where natural resources are conserved and shared; and (iv) To capitalize and share the experiences made in this project as learning exercise to deal with refugee dynamics.

## 2. Project progress by activities



### Start-up and management activities

#### **A0.0: Sign MoU with relevant authorities:**

The project MoU was signed between HORIZONT 3000 and AFARD and PALM Corps. Meanwhile, AFARD signed a 5-year MoU with the OPM in order to operate in the refugee environment (i.e., Zone 1 - Villages 11 & 12 in Bidibidi settlement for AFARD and Odobu, Ofua and Ocea zones for PALM Corps).

#### **A0.1: Procurement of logistics:**

For effective implementation, the project procured the following assets that were engraved and included in the asset inventory of implementing partners: 06 motor cycles, 06 chairs and desks; 06 laptops; 06 digital cameras; 05 smartphones; 02 filing cabinets; and 10 bicycles.

#### **A0.2: Staff recruitment, induction and training:**

The project recruited 05 project officers (03 females) specialized in agriculture, livestock, and business development. These staff worked closely with the management team at AFARD and PALM Corps. The team received orientation on the project result map, strat

egies, visibility, and relationship management, FFS methodology, GALS and VSLA approach, SAVIX MIS, and Do no harm approach. In addition, 10 Farmer Field School Facilitators (FFSF - AFARD 06, PALM Corps 04) were recruited to work as frontline mentors of Farmer Field Schools (FFSs).

#### **A0.3: Stakeholders briefing:**

The project conducted 04 meetings at the district and sub county levels to inform stakeholders about the project and secure their buy. In attendance were 119 people (18 females) including representatives from UNCHR, OPM, RDO, other implementing partners and Local Government staff. In all the stakeholders appreciated the 50:50 benefit sharing and selected the project outreach areas.

#### **A0.4: Conduct a baseline study and develop Monitoring and Evaluation System:**

A consultant conducted this baseline study and 100 copies of the report were produced and distributed to stake holders including UNHCR, district officials and OPM.

**A0.5: Develop training manuals:**

Using internal competence, AFARD developed training manuals for VSLA, entrepreneurship, and apprenticeship training. These manuals were shared with Project staff, FFSFs and local government officials.

**A0.6: Project launch:**

On 14th November, 2017 a project launch event was conducted at Yelulu cluster, Odobu zone in Rhino camp refugee settlement in Arua district. It was attended by representatives from ADA, HORIZONT3000, UNHCR, OPM, District and sub county officials, partners staff as well as refugees and host communities. During the event 160 jackets, 90 T-shirts, 100 fliers, and 1 banner were produced and distributed. The event increased the project visibility and deepened awareness and stakeholders buy-in.

**A0.7: Monitoring Field Visits:**

A total of 117 visits were conducted by management, the board, district/sub county officials, and OPM/UNHCR working committees to backstop the field team, monitor progress and recommend changes to optimize results. These visits involved interactions with FFS members and youth entrepreneurs.

**A0.8: Bi-annual group performance review meetings:**

771 group performance review sessions were conducted through: a) monthly review of VSLA operations so that best practices are adhered to; b) seasonal assessment of farming activities; and c) periodic tracer visits of youth business performance to explore sales, customer, income, savings growth and records keeping. These reviews helped the groups and individual youth to conduct self-assessment of their progress, hold their leaders accountable and get solutions to their challenges.

**A0.9: Hold annual district review and learning workshops:**

The project held three district-level workshops for officials from OPM, UNHCR, Refugee Welfare Committee, the project district and Sub county sub-county leaders, FFS leaders and AFARD management. The workshops started with joint beneficiary field visits (e.g., to Green Valley and Food is life refugee groups, and Yelulu, Ocea, Ariwa, Ilanga and Amatanga host community groups) and was concluded by reflection meetings. The main issues from the joint monitoring included: Access to tree seedlings for woodlot planting for landlords who provided free land for refugees, and the need for access to social services (safe water, latrines, etc) by refugees who farm outside

the settlements. These visits also enabled beneficiaries to cross learn from one another.

**A0.10: Conduct annual financial audits:**

The audit for year one was conducted by HORIZONT3000 by Jasper-Semu & Associates CPA. In year 2, BVL & Co, Certified Public Accountants provided auditing services on behalf of HORIZONT3000.

**A0.11: Conduct terminal external evaluation**

This was conducted by RECD (an external consultant) and the findings were.

**A) Relevance and Responsiveness:** The design of the project involved consultation meetings with targeted communities and this led to a package service delivery approach that combined agriculture for food and income security and skills development, which are in line with the Ugandan Government's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The beneficiaries also stated that their needs were incorporated during project implementation, for instance, in the provision of seeds and skills training for youth.

**B) Effectiveness and impacts:** Findings from the external evaluation show that 87% of beneficiaries said the project had supported them to meet their household food needs. On the number of meals per day, 73% stated they were able to have three meals. On average 70% adopted the various GAPs. There was high (94%) uptake of kitchen gardening (98% in Arua and 92% in Yumbe). On average, the monthly incomes for the families declined to UGX 63,962 from a baseline of UGX 140,636. Among the youth, the average monthly income was UGX 148,780. 78% of households (74% refugees and 83% nationals) had woodlots 585 with an (average of 27 trees per households) A taskforce was formed to prevent burning of trees.

**C) Efficiency:** Regarding use of resources, the project used the smallest possible resources for training of farmers and youth through the use of demo plots or on-site, FFSFs, local Master Artisans (including refugees). However, the lower staff salaries is a potential risk to the two organisations as staff will also be on the lookout for more competitive offers.

**D) Peaceful-coexistence:** The fact that the refugees were able to plant quick maturing varieties of trees provided them with firewood that reduced conflict over natural resources. Refugees sourcing for more land from host communities also led to harmonious relationships.

**A0.12: Conduct district close out meetings:**

Two district-level close-out meetings were conducted in Yumbe and Rhino camp. In attendance were officials from OPM, UNHCR, Refugee Welfare Committee, the project district and Sub county sub-county leaders, FFS leaders and management of AFARD and PALM Corps and in Yumbe and Arua respectively. In Yumbe, beneficiaries exhibited their products. While in Rhino beneficiaries shared their

change stories and the local government pledged to identify registered groups for further support.

**A0.13 Sensitization meetings on migration:**

This activity was always conducted when project staff and management had interactions with the community since awareness creation is part of the promotion of peaceful co-existence and motivation to exploit local economic opportunities.

# Result 1: To improve the nutrition status of 750 targeted households (60% female headed) in refugees and host communities by 2019



**A1.1: Forming Farmer Field schools (FFSs):**

The project team formed 30 FFS (Yumbe 20, Arua 10 WITH 750 MEMBERS) through a) consultation meetings with officials of the Parish and RWCs to identify intervention villages; b) Joint village sensitization meeting organized by the POs and

village leaders. These meetings developed simplified participatory beneficiary vulnerability assessment method that was then used by the village leaders ,c) community vetting meetings where the names of all selected members. In household where the selected beneficiary member was a PSN they were allowed to

appoint their representatives to the group. Overall, in Yumbe 500 beneficiaries who formed 20 FFSs were selected. These were composed of 250 refugees (61 males and 189 females) and 250 nationals (74 males and 176 females). In Arua, 250 beneficiaries who formed 10 FFSF were selected. Important to point out is that beneficiary selection process used “Do No Harm” approach and gender responsiveness.

### **A1.2: Identify and train FFSFs:**

The project recruited 10 FFSFs (1 female; AFARD 6, PALM Corps 4) and trained them in basic FFS/agronomy methodology, Do No Harm approach, GALS methodology (in Yumbe) and VSLA methodology to enable them perform their tasks.

### **A1.3: Establish farmer field school learning sites:**

With the help of the PO's, FFSFs supported farmers to set up and supervise 67 demonstration plots (learning sites) to aid group-based learning related to good agronomic practices. Groups in Village 11 continued to have challenges of acquiring land for group farming because they are located in the Centre of the settlement, away from the host community.

### **A1.4: Provide agro-inputs:**

The various FFSs selected their preferred food and commercial enterprises aware of nutritional needs, land sizes, weather conditions, and market availability. Using these priorities, procurement was conducted in consultation with Abi ZARDI (the regional National Agricultural Research Organization) and the District/Sub county Agricultural Extension Officers. Finally, the following inputs were procured and distributed: 750 hoes and hoe handles; 85 watering cans; 60 spray pumps; 125 pic bags; and various seeds of Cabbage (60 tins and 25 sachets); Cassava cuttings (1,432 bags); Collard seeds (329 sachets); Cow/pigeon peas (6,450 Kgs); Eggplant (90tins and 374 sachets); groundnut (6,688 Kgs); Maize (248 Kgs); Okra (90tins and 5,620 Sachets); Onion (686 tins and 300 sachets); Sorghum (1,500kgs); Sunflower (562Kgs); Tomatoes (90 tins); and Simsim (3,561 Kgs). Also provided were fertilizers (10,975 Kgs); Marking ropes (10 rolls); Tufgar 10 bottles of 500ml; Rocket 10 bottles of 500ml; 70 liters of mancozeb; and Carbon furan 10 pkts of 1kg.

### **A1.5: Train in climate smart and Good Agronomic Practices (GAP):**

FFSs with PO support conducted 320 sessions of training in GAP and climate smart practices on group demo plots. The sessions covered included: site selection, land opening, planting, weeding, Soil and water conservation practices such as soil bands, raised

beds and cover cropping. The POs customized the trainings according to the cropping calendars so that each FFS member transfers the learning from the demo plots there and then to her/his garden. The Chairman of Green valley farmers group, Mawa Emmanuel, from village 11, Bidibidi settlement boasted for having practiced what he was taught. He said; group,” I had never done contours, and or seen them in any garden in Southern Sudan. But when AFARD taught me, I did not hesitate, but took up the practice since my land on which I planted simsim was on a slope. I had to do ‘Fanya cini –fanya ju’ to protect my crops. What makes me happy is that when my neighbors are busy complaining of their crops being swept away by rains, mine are beautifully standing. I also learnt how to plant simsim in rows, and I am practicing it. I will use this knowledge even when I go back to Sudan.”

### **A1.6: Train in Backyard gardening:**

The project promoted backyard gardens to maximize productivity from the limited land available, especially for refugees, and to ensure households have adequate micronutrients rich foods for balancing their diet. A total of 160 training sessions were conducted. These kitchen gardens benefited the households as one refugee, Lucy Keji said; “I thank AFARD for teaching me a simple way of getting money. I have a small garden of vegetables from which I have earned UGX. 70,000 now, besides harvesting from it for food. I use the money for buying other foods (diet diversification) such as fish and meat for my children to eat.”

### **A1.7: Train in food processing and nutritional practices:**

This training was conducted in all the FFSs with a focus on safe nutrition. In Yumbe, AFARD worked with the Nutrition Officer and emphasis was laid on awareness of safe nutrition, food hygiene, and the uptake of vegetable in family diet. The training on vegetable preservation aimed at enabling women to have a long shelf life so that there is nutrient-rich vegetable throughout the year.

### **A1.8: Conduct Field Days for graduation, peer learning and exposure:**

In Yumbe, AFARD partnered with the District local government, Dan Church Aid and other Livelihood Sector Working Group (LSWG) partners under UNHCR/OPM to engage in Agricultural fairs that was held at Yumbe Boma ground to allow different farmers learn from each other. . These farmers exhibited the different cassava varieties, preserved vegetables, and Sunflower and sesame in a stall with project visibility banners.

## Result 2: To increase the income of 750 targeted households and 225 youth in refugees and host communities by 2019



### A2.1: Train FFS members in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA)

The project trained the POs and FFSFs as trainers in VSLA. They then cascaded the trainings to all the 30 FFS's. The trainings supported by the provision of VSLA kits enabled the FFSs to save for two cycles. After year 1, an assessment was conducted and it was evident that there was high loan uptake in Rhino camp than in Bidibidi. It was also found out that the use of agro-input fund was low. As a result, PALM Corps conducted a refresher training for 10 FFS in VSLA record keeping and constitutional review while AFARD retrained its POs and FFSs in agro-input savings for investment. To date, the savings of the FFS is as summarized below.

#### FFS VSLA Performance

District	Years	Total Number Of Members	Total Savings (UGX)	Total amount loaned out (UGX)	Average Savings (UGX)	Average loans (UGX)
Yumbe	1	500	59,106,800	19,832,200	118,214	39,664
	2	500	52,111,300	18,311,000	104,223	36,662
	TOTAL	500	111,218,100	38,143,200	222,436	76,286
Arua	1	250	15,374,300	30,525,300	61,497	122,101
	2	246	25,851,800	57,259,100	105,089	232,761
	TOTAL	250	41,226,100	87,784,400	164,904	351,138
OVERALL		750	152,444,200	125,927,600	203,259	167,903

### A2.2: Train in poultry production and disease control

AFARD conducted this training for only the 05 youth groups (3 refugee and 2 host) that are engaged in poultry agribusiness. This training focused on skilling and equipping the 08 poultry para-vets to be able to manage basic common poultry diseases. A poultry specialist from Makerere University was conducted this training in Yumbe. Training for all group members was also conducted and 386 (267 female) members attended. To operationalize disease control, community-wide vaccination against new castle, Gomboro and fowl pox diseases was established and routinely.

The birds census conducted by PO found out that 25 youths engaged in poultry agribusiness, had 280 live birds and sold 150 birds (and were using the income to acquire assets like goats and more birds). Yet, they also gain in food security as Imran said, "I had up to 70 birds. I sold 27 birds and earned UGX 675,000. Out of this money, I bought two goats, and saved UGX 180,000 in the VSLA. Now I have 50 birds, and have access to eggs that my family often use also for food."

### A2.3: Train in entrepreneurship skills and farming as a business:

A total of 590 training sessions (290 Palm Corps and 250 AFARD) were conducted on farming as a business, and start and manage your own business.

These trainings focused on visioning, development of plans, customer care, and basic record keeping.

#### **A2.4: Place youth for apprenticeship training in marketable vocational skills**

A total of 225 youth (AFARD 150, PALM Corps 75) were trained in various marketable trades using the apprenticeship model. The youth identified their preferred skills/trades and the project identified and contracted local artisans to conduct the trainings for up to 4 months. At PALM Corps, majority of the youths were attached to businesses in Arua Town and

they acquired skills on job. To enhance the quality of the community-based training approach, the project engaged with the contracted trainers to identify the core training materials inevitable necessary to conduct the training as well as to provide as start-up kits. All the training materials were procured and distributed to those who completed their trainings. Finally, weekly training follow ups were conducted by both the POs and management to check training progress, and the reports shared with the Livelihood Sector workingGroup.

### Youth placement on apprenticeship training by marketable trade

Marketable trades	Project Total		
	Males	Females	Total
Horticulture	10	3	13
Poultry	21	4	25
Carpentry	21	0	21
Tailoring	7	40	47
Motor cycle repair	11	0	11
Soap making	4	3	7
Phone repair	2	0	2
Brick laying	3	0	3
Hair cutting/dressing	6	28	34
Bakery	2	4	6
Agro - forestry	24	7	31
Art & craft	3	17	20
Aluminum fabrication	3	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>225</b>

#### **A2.5: Provide business start-up kits.**

As is noted above, all the training sites were provided with training materials. For the 150 youth under AFARD, start-up kits were procured and provided in-kind as and when they completed their training and were ready to start their own-account enterprise. At PALM Corps the start-up kits were officially handed over to 75 youths in a ceremony attended by the Deputy CAO Arua, the Speaker Arua District Local Government, representatives from OPM, RDO, subcounties of Uriama & Odupi and RWCs. In Rhino Camp, PALM Corps also conducted tracer studies for 40 youth in which 92.5% were doing business related to the courses they undertook while 7.5% were not using the kits provided for business.

#### **A2.6: Train in collective marketing:**

The POs after training by the Marketing Coordinator at AFARD conducted 160 training sessions for both

FFS members and their marketing committee (403 beneficiaries-285 females) in collective marketing. The 10 FFSFs supported the management of bulk marketing while the project team handled linkages with buyers. Through these efforts, the FFSs bulked 5.7MT of sunflower and 16.2 MT of sesame worth UGX 69.2 million. In Rhino Camp, FFS bulked and sold 7MT of sesame worth UGX 28.7 million directly to exporter (Capital commodities at an additional UGX 100 /Kg). Produce of nationals and refugees were bulked together and bought at the same price. In 2019 in Rhino Camp, 246 farmers produced 60.6 MT of sesame, and sold 19.7MT worth UGX 67,661,800

#### **A2.7: Train in multi-peril crop insurance scheme.**

This activity was not feasible because Jubilee Insurance that was the main partner of AFARD pulled out of the region because of high annual claim settlement making no business case to them.

### **A2.8: Business mentoring and coaching:**

461 mentorship and coaching sessions were conducted (AFARD 261, Palm 200) with a focus on the identification of enterprise specific challenges, on-spot skills improvement support. The visits were divided into 3 parts namely; (i) business diagnosis to find out gaps; (ii) matching challenges so as to come up with business owners with similar business challenges and (iii) joint/individual mentorship and coaching. This process allowed POs to offer tailor-made support. As a result, beneficiaries have started adopting good business management practices. For example, two youths, Alaru and Abdallah, who were not keeping any records before now have records even when they have limitations in writing. Alaru's business net worth has now increased to about UGX 12.8 million. In Rhino Camp, Palm Corps also mentored youth in customer care, stock management, savings, recoding keeping, etc.

### **A2.9: Conduct market linkages:**

The project team brokered market deals for the beneficiaries, namely; a) Agro forestry to PALM Business Consult and they sold 16,000 tree seedlings worth UGX 4,100,000; b) Draitga Festo a beneficiary farmer with NIN /school feeding project and water melon worth UGX 100,000; c) Winnie's art and craft shop to supply beads for making bags and later the youth traded worth UGX 2,340,000; d) Secured 1500 tree seedlings from DCA for LEC's environment action plans; e) Mungudri, Emmanuela and God's Grace Salon to Jordan Hair products suppliers; f) Elite drug shop for vet drugs for the poultry beneficiaries; g) The project linked farmers in Rhino Camp to Osawa, AgriExim, Shares, GADCO, Capital Commodities, Metino Produce buyers to market their sesame. Nurturing this linkage is an ongoing process.

## **Result 3: To promote peaceful settlements for refugee and host communities where natural resources are conserved and shared**



### **A3.1: Conduct community and school-based awareness on natural resource conservation:**

After the LEC's were trained and they facilitated their communities to developed the CEAPs, the project supported them to conduct 22 environment conservation awareness raising sessions in primary schools, secondary school, markets, health centre and villages in the host community. PALM Corps also sensitized 2,077 pupils in 04 schools and 40

local leaders in Uriama sub county. 4 Exhibitions of briquette machines was done in Ocea, Imvepi and Ofua to increase the adoption and use of energy saving technology. The LECs reported that previously bush burning was involuntarily accepted as a normal practice but with this action, elders in some communities have already started setting conditions against any persons who try to burn bushes even if they are not seen. The LECs also planted 1,500 trees in host community schools and churches.

### **A3.2: Train in wood lot establishment and maintenance:**

20 training sessions were conducted for the FFSs with a focus on why environment conservation, and woodlot management, especially on pruning, weeding, and setting fire lines. The training enhanced the survival of the trees planted.

### **A3.4: Train in briquette making and use of energy saving stoves:**

90 selected beneficiaries (34 female) were trained in this technology. To boost trade in briquette, added inputs (drums) were provided for 5 selected market-oriented briquette producers who now are producing and selling profitably. In Rhino camp, Ms. Hawa Dudu reported saving 50% cost from charcoal after adopting briquette use for own cooking. Through Hawa's efforts, there is increased adoption of briquette in Ocea trading centre. By the time of reporting, Hawa had made UGX250,000 from sale of briquettes by November 2019. Additionally, due to the increased demand from the female beneficiaries, PALM Corps contracted Ms. Hawa Dudu as a resource person to train 90 women on briquette making. 30 wooden briquette machines were awarded to the first adopters. PALM participated in the World Environment Day on 20th June 2019 where exhibition of briquette making and use was done.

### **A3.5: Form and train Local Environment Committees (LEC's):**

The District Environment Officer had already selected the LECs, but the department had no resources for training them. Since this activity was carried out in collaboration with the District Environment Office,

the project worked with the already selected LECs at parish levels. After their training, the LECs developed CEAPs and were supported with its implementation. Follow up by the District Forestry Officer showed that the LECs were raising awareness on natural resource conservation and engaging elders in talking to the community about the dangers of destroying their environment.

### **A3.6: Develop Community Environment Action Plan (CEAP):**

5 Parishes which represent 20 villages (of which 2 were for refugee) were supported by the project to develop CEAPs. These plans highlighted key environment and natural resource management challenges and their remedial strategies. For instance, task-force was formed in Rhino Camp to prevent burning of trees in Awa Hills and Cinya village areas that are considered as important tourist site. The LEC's are already implementing the plans as reported under A3.1, A3.5, and A3.7.

### **A3.7: Mentor and support LEC to implement CEAP:**

Project staff, and the District Forestry Officer mentored and supported the LEC's to implement their planned activities. The LEC's were supported with stationary, tree seedlings, posters with messages against bush burning, mobilization of schools for awareness creation and mentored on how to handle specific tasks

like working in collaboration with School agriculture teachers and production committees.

## Result 4: Capitalize and share the experiences made in this intervention as Learning exercise to deal with refugee dynamics



### **A4.1: Experience capitalization:**

An experience capitalization team representing (AFARD and PALM Corps) was set. Guided by Annika Witte, a Flying TA from HORIZONT3000, the team received capacity building training and mentorship on knowledge systematization. This helped the team to develop a communication structure for the sharing event as well as the work plan, concept note, work sharing.

### **A4.2: Documentation:**

The project team documented five good practices and one learning from failure on, namely: Enhancing access to land for refugees in refugee settlements for livelihood transformation; Collective marketing; Agricultural input distribution; Tree planting as a sustainable business for refugees; and Giving tree seedlings to landlords as incentive to ease access to land for agriculture by refugees.

### **A4.3: Sharing event.**

The Sharing Event “Sharing Knowledge on Securing Livelihoods for Refugees and Host Communities” was organized by PALM Corps, AFARD and HORIZONT3000 at White Castle Hotel, Arua from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019. Participants were drawn from Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR, District Local Governments, livelihood partners such as Welthungerhilfe as well as members of local and national press. Project donors were represented by Sandra Schett, Program Coordinator at Brothers and Sisters in need (BSI). PALM Corps and AFARD presented both success stories and learnings from failure. 50 participants attended the event. In the event, 8 beneficiary representatives from both refugee and host communities exhibited their products and shared their achievements and challenges. It involved interview with project

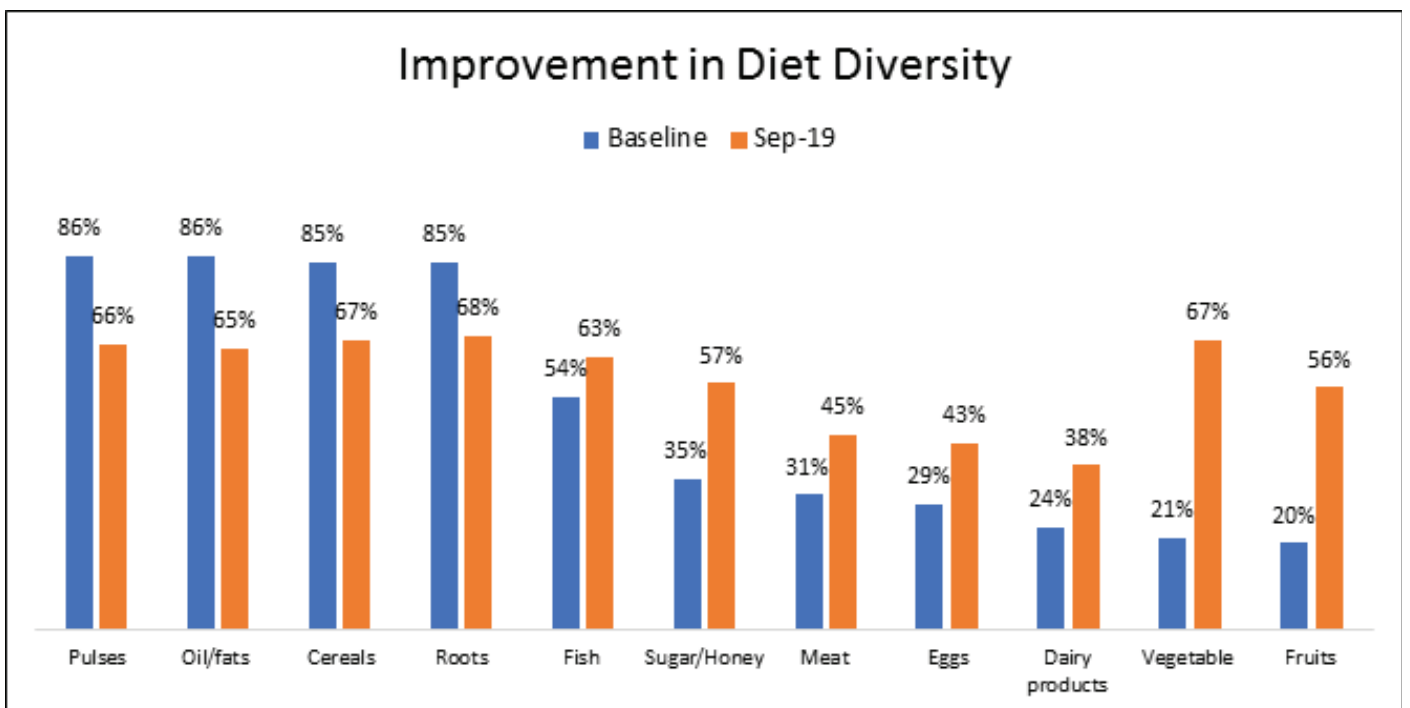
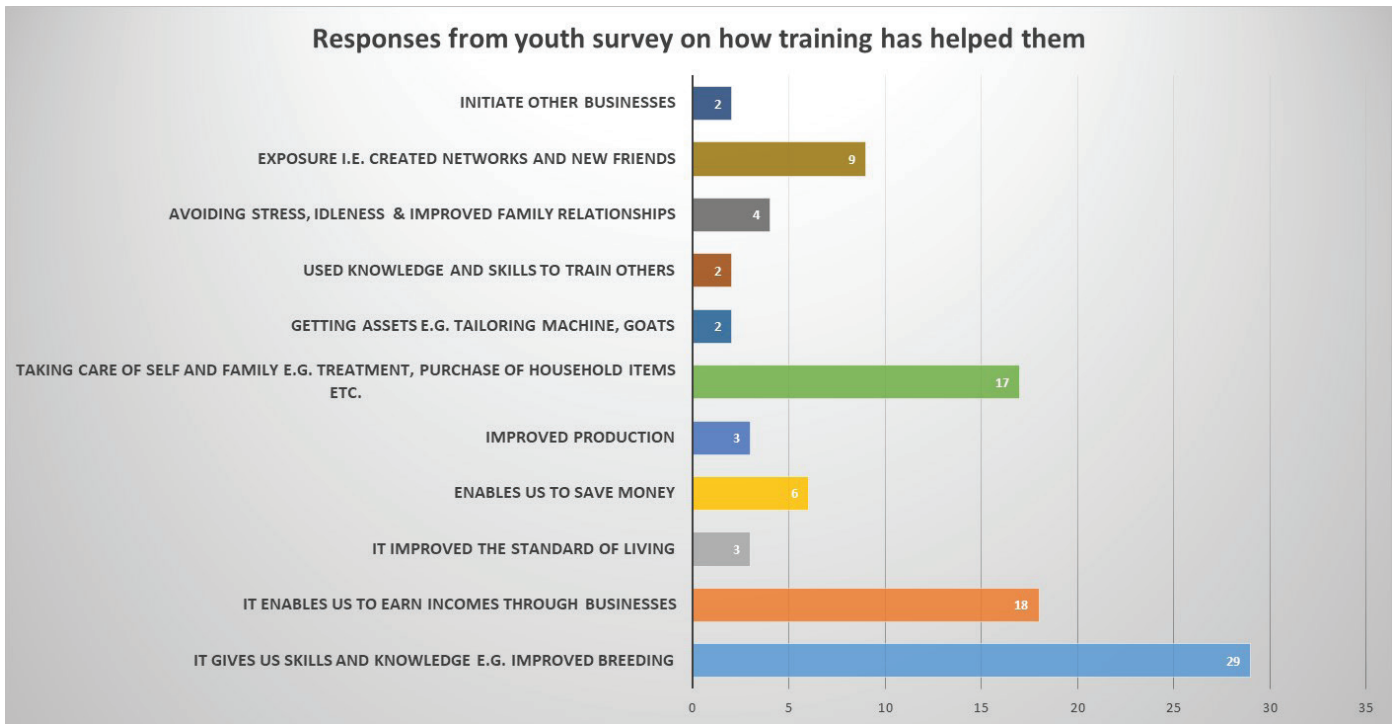
team, story-driven exhibition by 8 beneficiaries from refugee and host communities. The key recommendations from this event included the need to expand outreach to over 5,000 direct beneficiaries, pilot water for production animal traction and smallscale farmer irrigation systems, and increased youth skilling trades.

## Project impact

Apart from the impacts indicted under A0.11 above (from external evaluation), the internal project monitoring visits by the project team, district/sub county leaders, and joint UNHCR Sector working groups showed that:

- The project contributed to SDG 1 – 2 by combating poverty and hunger of South Sudanese Refugees and host communities in Uganda. Income increased for youth, food availability and diversity increased in the vulnerable households. The trainings in kitchen gardening and safe nutrition enabled farmers to establish bigger kitchen gardens and harvest and preserve some of their vegetables (egg plants, cow peas leave, okra) for home use and sold the surplus. For refugees, this helped to diversify the insufficient food rations distributed by World Food Programme.
- Women have continued using the branches of the quick maturing trees especially the Sesbania Sesban for fire wood, reducing the stress they had when it came to looking for firewood. They now use this time productively to participate in other activities to better their livelihoods.
- Through the peaceful coexistence efforts by the project staff, the host community group, Ilanga in Bidibidi, has increased the land they gave to refugees for farming to 225 acres. This has improved relationships between the host communities and the refugees since they now know the importance of sharing resources and living together in harmony.
- Women were using better preservation methods, making a shift from the traditional smeared ground for drying to using smaller carpets, and serving variety of foods at one meal time, which was not the case previously and households still had preserved vegetables from the previous seasons, improving food access.





## Cooperation/networking.....

AFARD and PALM Corps closely cooperated in planning and implementing the project to their mutual benefit. Regular project steering committee meetings ensured that decisions are jointly made. Regular communication ensured that quick consensus was built on emerging issues.

The project also partnered with other stakeholders such as Dan Church Aid (DCA) in supporting LEC's activities with 1,500 tree seedlings. OPM and UNHCR were engaged beyond coordination functions to address WASH and health challenges refugees are facing in their gardens within the host community. UNHCR promised to talk to WASH

partners to provide a water source for the refugees, slabs for digging public latrines and OPM registered the landlords.

In supporting the active participation of beneficiaries in the market, the project worked closely with the private sector enterprises in secure markets for farmers produce. Osawa, AgriExim, Shares, GADCO, Capital Commodities, Metino Produce buyers and True Trade Africa have been contacted for possible engagement in simsim marketing.

Local authorities of both refugee and nationals and zonal agriculture research and development institute (ZARDI) were involved in planning and implementation of the project activities. District production, environment, and health departments were involved in monitoring project activities, ensuring vaccines for vaccination of poultry, and offering mentorship support to the LECs and FFSFs in agronomy and Nutrition education.

## Sustainability

Saving and borrowing for Agro inputs in the VSLA has been maintained. This money has started enabling members to buy improved seeds and other agro inputs. At this pace, it can move beyond the project period.

The FFSFs have continued to provide peer support to the farmers and have used the advocacy skills they learnt to help refugees access land for agriculture from the host communities. This peaceful co-existence that can be seen in the sharing of local resources has and will continue helping the members stay free from conflicts that could arise and

break the groups. The mentorship and coaching support offered to youth businesses has seen them improve on their business skills.

Agro forestry youths continued raising seedlings within the communities. This has and will increase the use of own-planted trees, and conserving the ecosystem. Working in partnership with local government departments has ensured that government policies are known to the FFS members e.g. sourcing for seeds, Markets for produce and quality assurance.

## Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues

The project implementation targeted both refugees and host communities on a 50% ratio. In some groups, there were mixed membership of nationals and refugees. These groups produced and sold their produce at the same price eliminating price discrimination.

Gender responsiveness was maintained as in the project design. For all activities for which selections were needed, a slot of 60% was given to women. This was evident in group leadership, skills training, nutrition education, and collective marketing. Local environment committees were formed, trained and are frequently mentored to help the communities to live in peace while conserving their environment.

The increasing use of briquette and other energy saving technologies is reducing pressure on depletion of trees.

## Challenges faced

The following challenges were experienced: Land access has remained difficult for refugees in Village 11.

The humanitarian hand-out approach has made refugees to shift from one organization to another thereby increasing competition and conflicts among beneficiaries and development partners.

Savings in refugee groups was generally very low as compared to host community group savings both in Bidibidi and Rhino camp. Loan up take continued to be low in Yumbe than in Rhino camp. Climate change experienced through too much rainfall, prolonged dry period, strong winds, and hailstorms caused deleterious effects such as pests and diseases outbreak, flooding that washed away crops, crop abortion and hence low yields (and the resultant food stock and income).

Youth tracer visits also showed that their business growth is hampered by getting married; illiteracy which makes keeping records difficult; business competition since most of them are engaged in similar businesses; limitations in identifying better business opportunities due to lack of business information; and low demand due to the generally high poverty levels.

## Lessons learnt

A participatory beneficiary selection process reduces conflict and enhances acceptability of a project.

Refugees have both small land sizes (30\*30 meters) and short-term settlement plans. Promoting environmentally-sensitive farming as a business calls for a focus on agricultural intensification of high-impact crop (horticulture) and small

livestock (poultry) together with quick maturing firewood and fruit trees. Land dialogue should also be part of peaceful co-existence.

Youth employment is largely driven by their passion for vocational skills. However, the labour market is often dynamic (in terms of emerging markets and trade returns-for-efforts). This requires periodic labour market scan with profitability analysis and decisive decision to promote only those options that provide decent employment opportunities. Market linkages between smallholder farmers and youth graduates with factor market actors alone is insufficient to ensure effective market participation. Nascent enterprises are often exploited by established market actors. There is therefore need for business development services including deliberate marketing of beneficiary products as the firms grow to self-manage their business-to-business relationships.

Agricultural productivity in the region is largely dependent on international market forces – big buyers, volatile prices, changing quality demands,

etc. Exporters and their agents who buy raw produce largely dictate prices. There is need to pilot value addition options targeting ready and growing local urban markets

Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) is a critical platform upon which rural socio-economic transformation and gender equality can be anchored. It provides the poor “spaces for identity, voice, and economic action.” However, it needs to effectively integrate beyond savings and loans, critical skills for income generation, dialogue, and knowledge of gender dynamics.

Peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities is achievable. Through mixed group membership, refugee and national trainer contracting, and community-initiated dialogues “mutual acceptance” was realized.

The Achievement of Project Targets				
Expected results/ outcome(s)	Baseline status	Target	End line status	Remarks
<b>Refugees and host communities have secure livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development within Rhino</b>				
85% of the 750 households eat at least 3 meals daily	36%	85%	73%	↑ 103% increase
Income of beneficiaries increased by 25%				
FFSs (UGX)	140,636	175,795	63,962	↓ 55% decline
Youth (UGX)	68,900	86,125	148,780	↑ 116% increase
Monthly savings of beneficiaries increased by 25%				
FFSs (UGX)	45,896	57,370	17,182	↓ 63% decline
Youth (UGX)	48,850	61,063	25,385	↓ 48% decline
<b>Result 1: To improve the nutrition status of 750 targeted households (60% female headed) in refugees and host</b>				
50% of the households adopt climate smart and good agricultural practices including post-harvest management of selected crops	40%	90%	70%	↑ 75% increase
25% of the households increase in yield (Kgs/acre) of selected crops above baseline				
Cassava	3,855	4,818	960	↓ 75% decline
Maize	535	669	596	↑ 12% increase
Groundnuts	403	503	359	↓ 11% decline
Beans	323	404	267	↓ 17% decline
Sesame	126	157	163	↑ 29% increase
Sorghum	426	533	567	↑ 33% increase
Soy bean	241	302	No data	
Rice	800	1,000	No data	
50% of the households practice better food preparation, preservation and storage compared to baseline				
Preparations	5%	10%	88%	↑ 1,660% increase
Preservation	5%	10%	88%	↑ 1,660% increase
Storage	5%	10%	84%	↑ 1,660% increase
<b>Result 2: To increase the income of 750 targeted households and 225 youth in refugees and host communities by</b>				
450 households and 200 youth apply income generating activities successfully				
Farmers	0	450	No data	
Youths	0	150	225	Target surpassed
75% of targeted producer groups sell through collective marketing	0	75%		
<b>Result 3: To promote peaceful settlements for refugee and host communities where natural resources are conserved</b>				
At least 350 households have own woodlots				
Woodlots	100	350	583	↑ 485% increase
Average number of trees planted	18	35	27	↑ 50% increase
50% more households use briquette and other energy saving technologies	17%	50%	59%	↑ 250% increase
At least 10 communities have functional community Environment Action Plans(CEAP)	0	10	07	70% achieved
75% reduction in the number of occurrences of bush fire from base line	100%	25%	28%	↓ 72% decline
<b>Result 4: Capitalize and share the experiences made in this intervention as Learning exercise to deal with refugee</b>				
At least 4 experiences/case studies are capitalized and documented until end of project	0	4	4	Target achieved





