

Final Baseline Study Report

YOUTH AGRI-SKILLING FOR DECENT EMPLOYMENT (YADE)

June 18, 2021

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Acknowledgement

AFARD, with funding support from Medicor Foundation and Dka Austria through HORIZONT3000 is implementing the Youth Agri-Skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project in Wadelai Sub County, Pakwach district, Uganda to address the high rate of youth underemployment and youth poverty. This baseline study was therefore conducted as part of the project start-up activities.

The completion of this study was through the invaluable efforts of many stakeholders. The study team is grateful to the Project Officers for supporting the data collection process. Our thanks also go to the Robert Bakyalire (Director Programmes) and Dr. Alfred Lakwo (Executive Director) for their invaluable inputs in the design of the study and timely review of the report.

However, AFARD takes the full responsibility for the views and errors expressed herein.

Partnership for Development Capacity Consult
June 18, 2021

Acronyms

AFARD	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
DLG	District Local Government
GAAP	Good Agricultural and Agribusiness Practices
ILO	International Labour Organization
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UGX	Uganda Shillings
US\$	United States Dollars
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
YADE	Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment
YIG	Youth Investment Group

Summary

About the project

The Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project seeks to address the high youth unemployment and youth poverty in Wadelai Sub County, Pakwach district, Uganda by organizing 24 youth groups across various marketable agribusinesses, providing them both foundational and technical skills together with start-up inputs and business development services so that they are able to be self-employed in trades that will guarantee them adequate income to afford decent living. The goal of the project is, “to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development” and the specific objective is, “to increase access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youth in Pakwach district through marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training by 2024.”

Why the baseline study

AFARD conducted this baseline study to determine the baseline status of the project outcome indicators through assessing the: The employment and income status of targeted youth; Participation in youth-led and savings groups; adoption of climate-smart agricultural, business and financial management practices; Envisaged impacts – youth poverty; and to ensure harmonization with current AFARD Strategy.

The methodology used

Data was collected from all the targeted youth using a quantitative-based survey questionnaire designed and uploaded on Kobo Collect tool.

The findings

- Distribution and characteristics of beneficiary youth: The 500-youth aged 15-30 years selected in the four parishes of Wadelai sub county are distributed in Mutir (34%), Pakwinyo (43%), Ragem (11%), and Punit (12%). The mean age

of these youth is 22 years and their average household size was 4.5 people. While 87% had some form of education, 50% are already married.

- Access to skills training: Majority of the youth have never attended any form of skills training. But those who did attend are using their acquired skills.
- Youth employment status: Only 32% of the youth were employed (16% males and 17% females) as compared to 68% who were unemployed (30% males and 37% females); mainly in own-account enterprises (65%). However, the jobs were in very vulnerable trades with on average, 6.4 hours a day and 3.8 days a week work period and UGX 124,105 monthly income.
- Participation in VSLAs: Only 24% of the youth were members of any VSLAs where they save and take loans; and only 0.8% were able to save an equivalent of € 5 monthly.
- Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices: Only 7.8% of the youth used all the required selected improved practices that are resilient to climate change.
- Business and financial management practices: Only 5% and 66% of the targeted youth use good business and financial management practices respectively.
- Income status: The average total youth income was UGX 567,353 (€ 135.08).
- Ownership of Productive Asset: The targeted youth own some assets especially low-cost value assets like mobile phones, poultry, mattresses, and shoats (goats, sheep, pigs). but few youth (28% - 9% females and 19% males) own land.
- Youth asset poverty status: The average total financial net worth of the targeted youth was UGX 1,704,096. No doubt, 80% of the youth were asset poor (highest among females (51%), youth in horticulture (83%), and agri-skilling (81%)).

Poverty headcount declined from **56%** in **1992** to **27%** in **2018** and **33%** of the total population belongs to the middle class. However, the rosy economic growth is marred by inequalities and social exclusion.

01 ▶ Introduction

1.1 About the project ▶

Uganda made impressive economic development in the last three decades. Poverty headcount declined from 56% in 1992 to 27% in 2018 and 33% of the total population belongs to the middle class. However, the rosy economic growth is marred by inequalities and social exclusion. Youth; majority of the total population have largely not benefited from the jobless economic growth. There are few employment opportunities for young people, who enter in thousands into the labour market every year. While in the last decades the labour force grew annually with 390,000 new job seekers, only 8,120 jobs were created each year. This has resulted into a steady increase in unemployment rates from 1.9% in 2009 to 9.4% in 2016. The majority (64%) of unemployed people is the youth and especially female youth. It is worrying, that at the current population growth rate and public-private sector absorption capacity, it will likely take one generation before the majority of the labour force has a non-farm salary job.

The above youth unemployment situation is not different in the West Nile region where the Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) operates because youth lack relevant and marketable skills and access to business finance. Addressing this high youth unemployment requires “a holistic and bundled-package approach that improves youth employability with agri-skilling, business start-up kits, and business development services” so that the youth (15-30 years) can join the world of work in sustainable and viable agribusinesses (targeting the ready local markets) that can lift them out of poverty. To do so AFARD, a local non-denominational NGO formed in July 2000 with a vision of “a prosperous, healthy and informed people of West Nile” strives in its current 6-year Strategic Plan (2020-25) to “build thriving and peaceful families.” To achieve this goal, AFARD secured a three-year funding

from Medicor Foundation and Dka Austria through HORIZONT3000 to implement the Youth Agri-Skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project in Wadelai Sub County, Pakwach district, Uganda to address the high rate of youth unemployment and youth poverty. The project goal is, “to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development” and the specific objective is, “to increase access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youth in Pakwach district through marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training by 2024.” YADE will target 5,100 people (500 youth direct and 4,600 indirect) that includes 02 Sub county local governments will gain from produce tax; 3,000 smallholder farmers will use animal traction services; at least 05 market vendors will buy youth products; and at least 100 youth who will be wage employee.

To achieve this goal, the project will: (i) Mobilize 500 youth (60% females) into 24 Agribusiness Youth Investment Groups (a-YIGs) using a youth-led Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs); (ii) Improve youth employability skills through trainings in entrepreneurship and life skills, financial literacy and collective marketing together with non-formal agri-vocational skills training in niche agribusinesses (animal traction, horticulture, cage fish farming, bakery, catering, agroforestry, and food processing); (iii) Provide start-up kits together with training in good agricultural and agribusiness practices (GAAP); and (iv) Offer business coaching and market linkages with agro-input dealers and produce buyers. With increased productivity, the youth will achieve increased incomes to: a) grow their agribusinesses, b) increase their average savings and c) acquire and own more productive assets. Together, these will lead to the reduction in youth poverty.

Table 1: A summary of the project

Project name	Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE) Project					
Location	Wadelai Sub County, Pakwach district, Uganda					
Beneficiaries	Direct: 500 people					
	Indirect: 4,600 people					
General Goal	"To contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development"					
Specific aim	To increase access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youth in Pakwach district through marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training by 2024.					
Direct beneficiaries						
	Trades	# of targeted youth	# of youth per group	# of groups	# of YMF (peer trainers)	# of youth provided technical training
	Horticulture	330	30	11	33	33
	Animal traction	60	10	6	20	20
	Cage fish farming	10	5	2	10	10
	Agri-vocational skills	100	20	5	-	100
TOTAL	500		24	63	163	
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 750 targeted and non-targeted youth are employed in the project promoted agribusinesses Average income of targeted youth increased by 50% 					
Results	Result 1: To establish and strengthen 24 agribusiness Youth Investment Groups (YIGs) with functional VSLA by 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 youth investment groups established and functional 90% of members participate in average monthly savings 			
	Result 2: To improve the employability of 500 youth through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, collective marketing and non-formal vocational skills training by 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% of targeted youth adopted climate smart and good agricultural practices 65% of targeted youth adopt good finance management practices 			
	Result 3: To increase the ownership and growth of 500 youth agribusinesses for self-employment by 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% increase in the value of agribusinesses and productive assets owned by targeted youth 75% increase in the average number of hours/ days worked among targeted youth 			

1.2 Purpose and Objectives ► of the study

Although the YADE project was developed in a participatory manner, it had no baseline study. This study was therefore conducted primarily to determine the baseline status for the project performance indicators in order to guide the project implementation processes (planning, monitoring and evaluations) with: (i) Pre-intervention status of the beneficiaries; (ii) Implementation strategy review, if needed to achieve maximum results; and (iii) Effective monitoring and evaluation system. To achieve this, the study assessed the indicators related to:

- a) Access to foundational and technical skills;
- b) Participation in youth-led savings groups;
- c) The employment and income status of youth;
- d) Adoption of climate-smart agricultural, business and financial management practices;
- e) Envisaged impacts - youth poverty; and

- f) Harmonization indicators like food security, safe homes, and child poverty in line with the current AFARD Strategy 2020 -2025.

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1.3 Scope of Work ►

The terms of reference agreed upon with the consultant for this study spelt out that the team: 1) Conducts the study covering all the project targeted youth; and 2) Develop, collect and analyze the data using standard tools aligned to the study objectives and the results. As a result, the study key activities included:

- Inception meeting to review and approve the methodology;
- Design and review of the study tool as well as its configuration on the digital Kobo Collect Tool;
- Training of data collectors and piloting the Kobo Collect Tool;
- Data collection and analysis; and
- Report writing, review, and production.

The baseline study was conducted in Wadelai sub county, Pakwach district with all the **500** directly targeted youth. It used a census approach given that all the project beneficiaries were surveyed.

02 ▶ Study Methodology

In order to gather comprehensive evidence-based information for the above objectives, this section explains the methods that were used in data collection and analysis as well as the limitations faced.

2.1 Study sites, sampling methods and sample size ▶

The baseline study was conducted in Wadelai sub county, Pakwach district with all the 500 directly targeted youth. It used a census approach given that all the project beneficiaries were surveyed.

2.2 The study phases ▶

To elicit comprehensive data for the study, a 4-phased approach of quantitative data collection and analysis was used as below:

- **Phase 1 - Study inception:** This phase involved a review of the project proposal (especially the log frame) to enable: (i) developing a relevant data collection questionnaire taking into consideration AFARD Strategy 2020-25 and previous youth employment project performance indicators; and (ii) Designing the questionnaire in a digital Kobo Collect Tool by a Consultant so as to reduce data collection errors and data entry time loss.
- **Phase 2 – Training data collectors:** This phase involved the 1-day training of data collectors (who had diploma and university levels of education, were familiar with the local project area and language, and had previous experience with digital data collection). The training paid emphasis on ethical and quality issues in good data collection, how to conduct interviews, coded data, child

protection requirements, and pilot testing the questionnaire for relevance. The finding of this pilot enabled the refinement of the tool for final use.

Phase 3 - Field data collection: Data collection was conducted between May – June 2021 using smartphones onto which the final digitalized questionnaire was deployed (through Kobo collect App). With routine supervision of field work, there was daily real time submission of data and quality checks.

- **Phase 4 - Study reporting:** The study team used a reflexive approach in this reporting phase. Given that data collection was digitalized, a data entry mask was developed in SPSS (V25) to ensure quick export of clean data from the Kobo Tool through the Excel worksheet. As such, report writing was an on-going process. The draft report was reviewed and a final report was produced. A copy of the report is expected to be uploaded on AFARD website.

2.3 Data quality control ▶

To ensure that appropriate professional practices were adhered to, a quality control system was put in place through:

- Adherence to sector standards for performance measurement especially of employment, agriculture and enterprise development. The guidelines from International Labour organization, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, and Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) were mainly used.
- Joint review of study instruments: Management and Data collectors were involved in this process to ensure data consistency with the M&E framework.

- Pre-testing of study instruments: This was done prior to the main survey fieldwork to ensure reliability, acceptability, feasibility, question flow, and the duration of the interview. This exercise helped in modifying the survey tool.
- Social mobilization for data collection: To increase the response rate, the project staff mobilized the respondents for a timely administration of the study tool.
- Introduction letter: Apart from communicating about the study to local government officials, AFARD management also availed the field team with a letter of introduction to facilitate acceptance by the various support agencies.
- Consent and confidentiality: Data collectors sought consent from respondents to participate in the study and provided statement of confidentiality to the respondents.

2.4 Limitation of the study

The study process experienced the following limitations:

- COVID-19 pandemic that called for adherence to ministry of health standard operating procedure (SOP) guidelines. This increased the cost for the consultant because data collectors were mandatorily required to secure and use sanitizers and face masks. Every youth who was interviewed was also required to use SOP (sanitizer, and disposable mask).
- The fieldwork period coincided with the on-going swearing in of the newly elected political leaders from the just concluded general electoral process. As voters, many youth were also involved in the celebrations of their candidates thereby extending the study period.

Majority of the youth (**87%**) have some form of education. This situation is important especially for the facilitation of adoption of the recommended agricultural and business and financial management necessary for them to grow their agribusinesses and financial net worth.

03 ► Results

Below the study findings starts by describing the characteristics of YADE project beneficiaries who were engaged in the study. This is followed by an analysis of the baseline status of the project result areas as well as the impact indicators.

3.1 Study sites, sampling methods and sample size ►

3.1.1 Distribution of respondents

Table 2 below shows that data was collected from 500 youth aged 15-30 years in the four parishes of the sub county – Mutir (34%), Pakwinyo (43%), Ragem (11%), and Pumit (12%). Worth pointing out is that during the stakeholders' meeting, each parish was allocated

priority enterprises given their geographical and market suitability. As such, the distribution of youth by enterprise selection is aligned to the approved proposal (see table 1)

Table 2: Distribution of project beneficiaries by group by parish and commodities

Sex	Group selected commodity	Parish				Total
		Mutir	Pakwinyo	Pumit	Ragem Upper	
Female	Agri-vocational skills	25	23	0	11	59
	Animal traction	16	11	0	2	29
	Cage fish farming	2	2	0	0	4
	Horticulture	49	74	37	18	178
	Total	92	110	37	31	270
Male	Agri-vocational skills	15	17	0	9	41
	Animal traction	19	9	0	3	31
	Cage fish farming	3	3	0	0	6
	Horticulture	41	76	23	12	152
	Total	78	105	23	24	230
Total	Agri-vocational skills	40	40	0	20	100
	Animal traction	35	20	0	5	60
	Cage fish farming	5	5	0	0	10
	Horticulture	90	150	60	30	330
	Total	170	215	60	55	500

3.1.2 Demographic characteristics

Table 3 shows the demographic characteristic of the project beneficiaries. It is evident that:

- Each household has very many people (an average of 05) to take care of.
- Female constitute 54% of the beneficiary members as compared to males (46%). This is contrary to the project target of 60%. But consultations with project staff and local council leaders revealed that this shortfall is because female youth unlike male youth do not prefer to work in groups. Although they were mobilized (especially by females youth leaders), many did not turn up for both the awareness and selection meetings.
- The average age of the youth is 22 years however those 15-20 years constitute a good proportion of the beneficiaries (48%).
- Overall, 50% of the youth are married and the remaining 50% are single although a number of them (9%) were involved in marital relations in the past.
- Majority of the youth (87%) have some form of education. This situation is important especially for the facilitation of adoption of the recommended agricultural and business and financial management necessary for them to growth their agribusinesses and financial net worth.

Table 3: Characteristics of youth

Indicators	
Number of respondents	500
Males (%)	46
Females (%)	54
Age-group:	
15 - 20 years (%)	41.8
21 - 30 years (%)	58.2
Mean age (years)	22.0
Education status:	
No education (%)	12.5
Primary education (%)	70.7
Secondary education (%)	16.6
Post-secondary education (%)	0.2
Marital status:	
Single (%)	41.0
Married (%)	50.4
Separated/divorced/Widow(er) (%)	8.6
Household size:	
No child/dependents and 1 person (%)	24.0
2 - 4 people (%)	30.8
5 and more people (%)	45.2
Mean household size (persons)	4.5

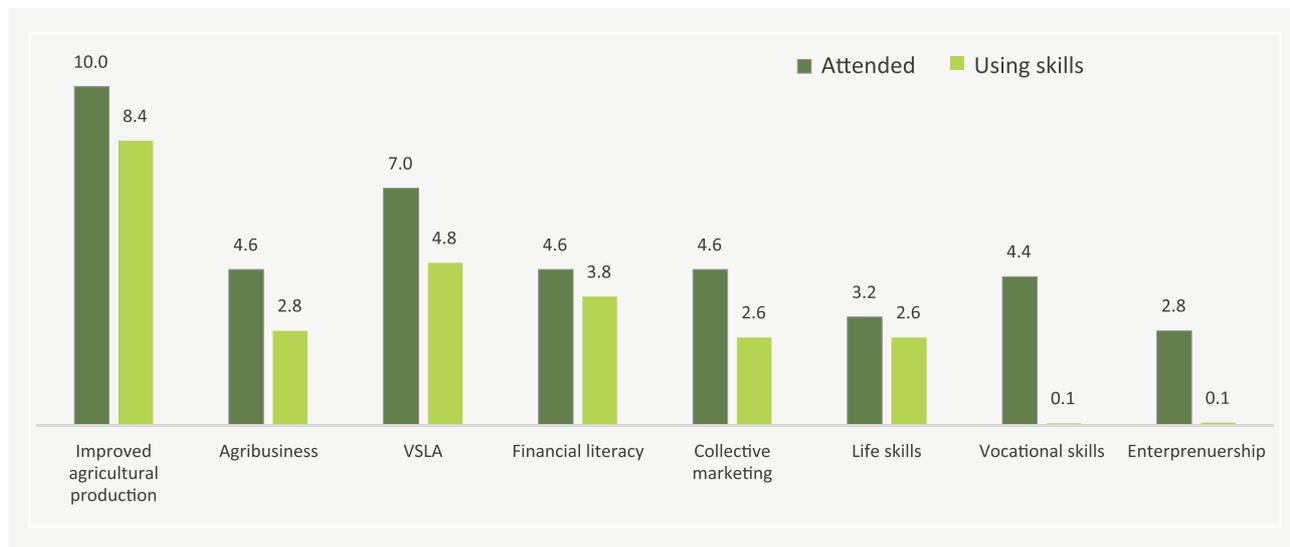
3.2 RESULT 1: YOUTH READINESS FOR WORK ►

To enable the targeted youth join the world of decent work, YADE project seeks to organize the youth into agribusiness groups so that members are provided foundational and technical skills necessary for them to start their own-account enterprises where they and other youth will be employed. In addition, to boost their business capital, the project will also train these agribusiness groups in VSLA methodology and equip them with VSLA kits so that they are able to save weekly and access loans. Below are the findings of youth access to skills and participating in VSLA activities. However, it is important to point out that in all the 24-youth group formed, none of the members belonged to any agribusiness group.

3.2.1 Youth access to skills training

Access to labour market is contingent to the necessary and relevant skills. To ably assess the employability of the project youth, the study asked them whether or not they had attended any practical skills training in the past and if so, how they are putting it to use. The responses as figure one shows reveal that majority of the youth have never attended any form of skills training. However, for the few cases who attended these trainings, there is a relatively higher use the skills acquired save for vocational skills and entrepreneurship skills. The project team will therefore need to ensure that for the lot that selected agri-vocational skills, their employment aspirations are adhered to.

Figure 1: Skills trainings attended and put to use by youth (%)



3.2.2 Youth employment status

The International Labour Organization (ILO) categorizes employment as below:

a) **Employed youth** refers to “all those young people aged 15-30 years who during 30 days preceding the study were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay (wages) or profit.”

b) **Unemployed youth** refer to “all those young people aged 15-30 years who during 30 days preceding the study were not engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay (wages) or profit.”¹

c) **Underemployed youth** refer to “all those young people aged 15-30 years who during 30 days preceding the study were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay

¹ Unemployment is defined as the situation of a person who: (a) did not work in the reference period, (b) was available to take up a job had one been offered in the week prior to the reference period, and (c) actively sought work within the 30 days prior to the reference period. However, given that “seeking work” best fit an organized labour market, this criterion can be relaxed.

(wages) or profit but the value of their pay/profit was unable to meet their basic needs above US\$ 1.90 per person per day.”²

d) **Decent employment** is limited to refer to “any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay (wages) or profit whose value is able to meet the basic needs of young people and their dependents at a quality of life above US\$ 1.90 per person per day.”³

However, to find out whether or not these youth were employed, the UBOS definition of employment was used because it is directly applicable to the local rural employment market where the “ideal job is lacking.” The response indicates that only 32% of the youth were employed (16% males and 17% females) as compared to 68% who were unemployed (30% males and 37% females). Of all those who were employed, they were self-employed in own-account enterprises (65%) as compared to only 35% who worked for other people.

The various employment trades in which the youth worked included hired labour (farming, maid, construction), agribusiness (produce, bakery, fishing

and fish mongering), boda boda, brick laying, masonry, carpentry, petty business, farming (horticulture), selling firewood and charcoal, salon, brewing local potent gin, loading music, sand mining, and tailoring.

Further, it is evident that employed youths worked in very vulnerable trades from which they can hardly earn a decent living as the labor market analysis found out that on average, these young people worked for only 6.4 hours a day, 3.8 days a week, and earned UGX 124,105 monthly.

3.2.3 Savings in VSLAs

To assess the level of youth financial inclusion, respondents were asked whether they were saving and accessing loans. Table 4 shows that:

- Only 24% of the youth were members of any VSLAs where they save and take loans;
- Only 0.8% were able to save an equivalent of € 5 monthly.
- There was generally a very low savings accumulation given the dismal share out values.

Table 4: Participation in saving and loan groups

Saving group participation	Females	Males	Total
Member of a saving group (%)	13.6	10.8	24.4
Weekly average saving value (UGX)	6,419	5,815	6,152
Saves € 5 monthly (%)	0.8	0.8	0.8
Took a loan (%)	13.6	10.8	24.4
Average share out amount (UGX) by selected trades			
Agri-vocational skills	493,694	231,400	385,158
Animal traction	445,714	416,000	434,087
Cage fish farming	312,000	520,000	468,000
Horticulture	341,467	383,760	360,691
Total	400,553	362,844	383,862

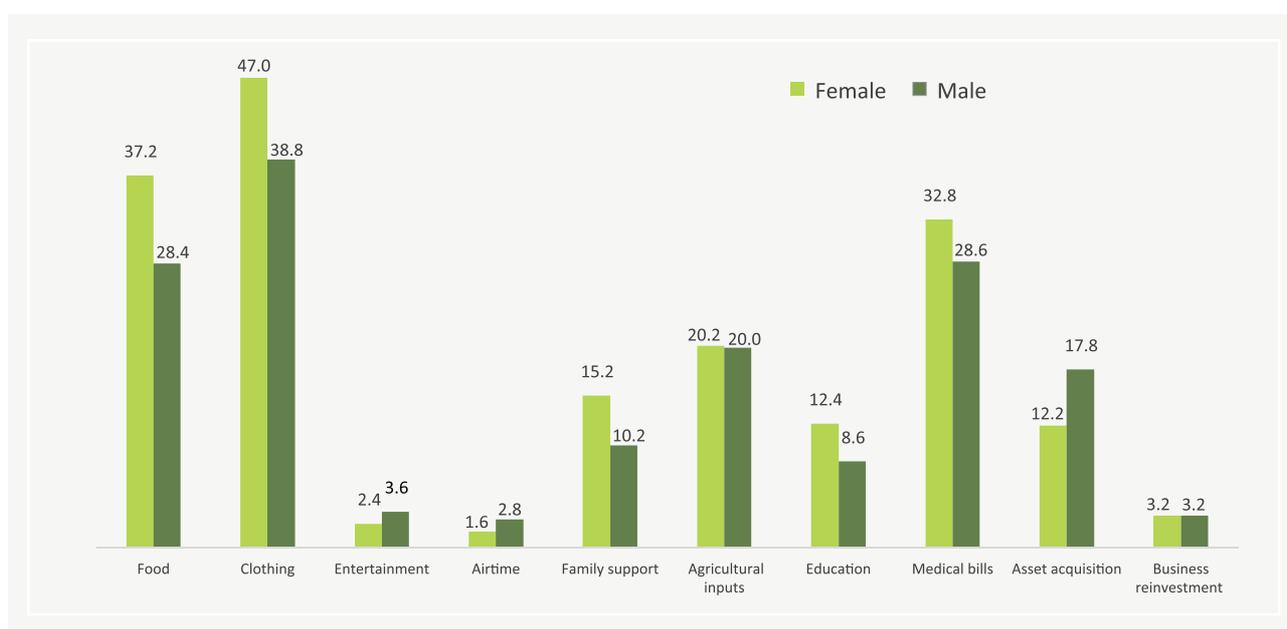
² U Decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

³ UBOS 2012 defines employment as “All those of working age who, during a short reference period [in this case 1 month], are engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit.”

However, looking at the youth spending behaviors (see figure 2 below) it is evident that for both males and females spent more of their share out money on clothing, food and medical bills. With less money spent on business (re)investment and asset

acquisition, there is an urgent need to rightly provide financial literacy to improve financial management practices necessary for improving savings for investment and wealth accumulation.

Figure 2: Share out spending patterns (%)



3.3 RESULT 2: YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY ►

For the organized targeted youth to thrive in their agri-businesses, YADE project will provide foundational ad technical skills aimed at improving “best practices” for agricultural, business and financial management that will ultimately lead to increased net worth of the beneficiaries. Below we present the findings on these key indicators.

3.3.1 Use of good agricultural and climate smart practices

The beneficiary youth were asked about their involvement in agribusiness in 2020 and whether or

not they used selected improved practices that are resilient to climate change and critical for high yields per unit of area. Adoption of good agricultural and climate smart practices in the project focuses on the use of timely planting, drought resistant crop varieties, correct spacing, intercropping with cover crops, organic pesticides, tree planting, and improved post-harvest handling. Table 5 below shows that only 7.8% of the project beneficiaries used all the priority good agricultural and climate smart practices. Apart from timely planting, all the other recommended practices were largely not in use.

Table 5: Use of improved farming practices (%)

Agronomic Practice	Females	Males	Total
Farmed crops for income	33.4	33.4	66.8
Kept poultry for income	7.0	7.6	14.6
Timely planting	32.8	30.4	63.2
Drought/disease resistant seeds/planting materials	8.6	7.0	15.6
Correct spacing	6.4	6.8	13.2
Intercropping with cover crops	8.2	9.6	17.8
Organic pesticides	17.6	19.0	36.6
Tree planting (agroforestry)	6.0	6.2	12.2
Improved postharvest handling (better drying & storage facility)	3.4	2.4	5.8
Using at least 5 promoted practices			
Agri-vocational skills	4.0	-	4.0
Animal traction	10.0	11.7	21.7
Cage fish farming	10.0	40.0	50.0
Horticulture	2.7	2.4	5.2
Total	4.0	3.8	7.8
Average income from farming			
Agri-vocational skills	108,949	180,451	138,265
Animal traction	262,959	379,452	323,147
Cage fish farming	35,000	983,333	604,000
Horticulture	133,393	189,118	159,061
Total	140,510	233,946	183,491

3.3.2 Business and financial management practices

YADE seeks to build the entrepreneurial capacity of youth to thrive in agribusiness. However, to ensure that beneficiary agribusinesses grow, the project target to promote selected better business management practices such as having a legally registered business, conducting sale promotion, separating personal and business finance, and keeping business records. Equally, to ensure that the funds earned from the agribusinesses are well used for the transformation of the family well-being the project will promote selected practices such as having a personal or family development plan, budget, and keeping track of revenue and expenses monthly.

Adoption is only considered when one puts to use all of these practices. Therefore, to assess the status in use of these core practices, the study asked the youth questions that are summarized below in table 6. It was evident that:

- Only 5% of the targeted youth use good business management practices with female youth performing twice as much better than male youth and especially in the area of separating business and personal finances.
- 66% of the targeted youth use good finance management practices with negligible variation between males and females.

3.4 IMPACT: DECENT EMPLOYMENT AND REDUCTION OF YOUTH POVERTY ►

YADE project envisions that once the youth are organized, provided marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training and are equipped with start-up kits and business support services, they should in groups or individually start their own-account agribusinesses as their self-employment opportunities. As they manage these agribusinesses profitably, they should increase their income and ably employ other youths. In turn these gains should lead to the reduction in youth poverty. Below we present the youth income, asset ownership, and poverty status.

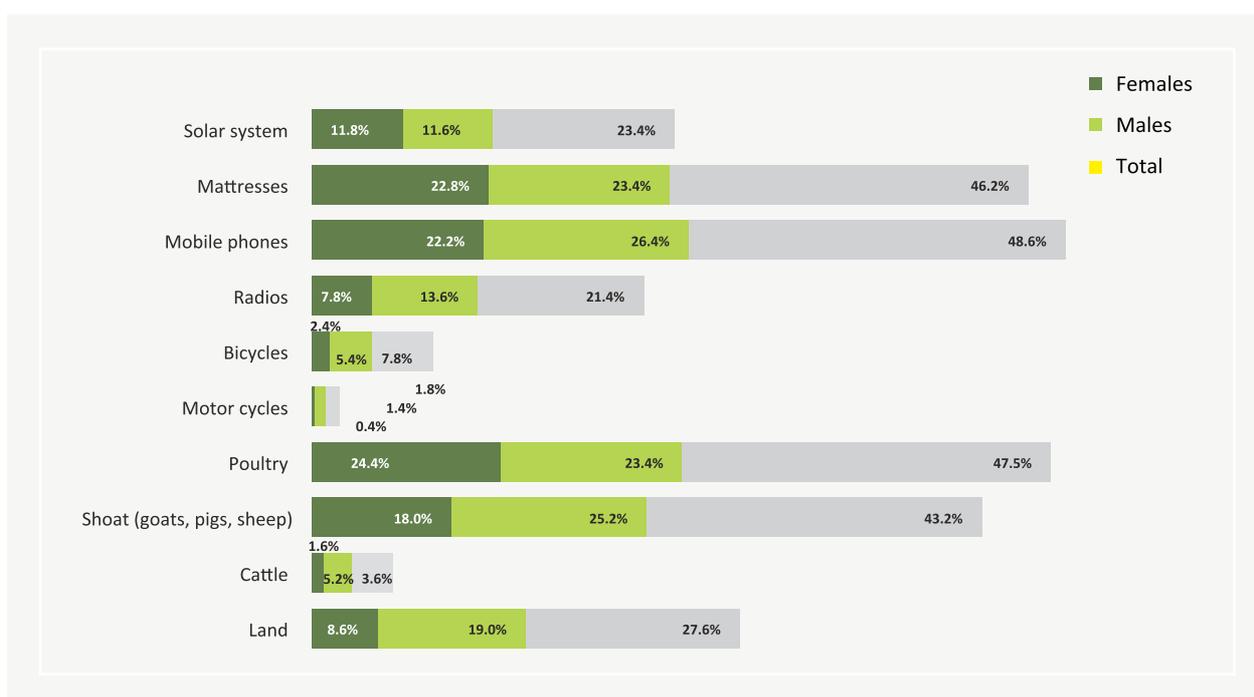
3.4.1 Income status

The baseline study asked targeted youth how much money they earned in 2020 from different economic activities. Table 7 shows that the average total youth income was UGX 567,353 (€ 135.08). This figure is far below the asset poverty line € 2,972 they need for their mean household sizes of about five people.

Table 7: Average annual income

Priority trades	Income last year from farming			Savings last year			Total income		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agri-vocational skills	108,949	180,451	138,265	493,694	231,400	385,158	602,643	411,851	523,423
Animal traction	262,959	379,452	323,147	445,714	416,000	434,087	708,673	795,452	757,234
Cage fish farming	35,000	983,333	604,000	312,000	520,000	468,000	347,000	1,503,333	1,072,000
Horticulture	133,393	189,118	159,061	341,467	383,760	360,691	474,860	572,878	519,751
Total	140,510	233,946	183,491	400,553	362,844	383,862	541,063	596,790	567,353

3.4.2 Ownership of Productive Asset



The study found out that the average total financial net worth of the targeted youth was **UGX 1,704,096** (with male youth six times better off than their female counterpart). This net worth value can barely afford a monthly cost of living for a 5-person household.



Productive assets are critical in asset poverty measurement because they are both stores of wealth but also means of resilience to poverty. Beneficiary youth were asked about their ownership of productive assets. Figure 3 shows that the youth own some assets. The most common assets are the low-cost value assets like mobile phones, poultry, mattresses, and shoats (goats, sheep, pigs) as compared to those assets that need more money to buy like motor cycles, cattle, and bicycles. By gender, there is also a negligible difference among female and male youths in the ownership of the most common assets. However, striking is the fact that few youth (28% - 9% females and 19% males) own land; a key factor for on-farm agribusiness. Thus, the selection of the various agribusinesses such as animal traction, cage fish farming, and agri-vocational skills will enable a number of youth who don't have land to still be gainfully employed in agribusiness.

3.4.3 Youth asset poverty status

Asset poverty explained

To assess YADE project's impact on the reduction of youth poverty, AFARD uses asset poverty measurement approach as proposed by Haveman and Wolff (2004). The preference for this approach is because asset poverty measures the economic ability, using productive assets, an individual or household has to sustain a basic needs level of consumption during temporary hard times for a period of 3 months. Leonard and Di (2012: 1-4) stretched this period to 9

months because asset accumulation at levels equal to nine-months' worth of income at the international income poverty level or greater ably improves a family's odd of permanently escaping poverty. By use of this method, a household is asset poor if its net worth is unable to meet its consumption needs over a 3-month period. It is considered non-poor if its net worth is able to meet its 9-month consumption needs. To compute a household's net worth first, all its productive assets are valued at the current market price. Second, the asset value is added to the current cash savings (i.e., cash at hand, bank, and debt lent to others). Third, the current value of debts taken from other people/firms is deducted from the asset and cash savings value to get a financial net worth. Finally, the financial net worth is subjected to the required household consumption at the international poverty line of US\$ 1.90 per person per day. At USD 1= UGX 3,600 (or € 1=UGX 4,200), this means a household of 5 people needs UGX 34,200 per day or UGX 12,483,000 annually (or € 8.1 daily and € 2,972 annually).

Asset poverty status

Using the above analysis, the study found out that the average total financial net worth of the targeted youth was UGX 1,704,096 (with male youth six times better off than their female counterpart). This net worth value can barely afford a monthly cost of living for a 5-person household. More so, as table 8 below shows, 80% of the youth were asset poor; highest among females (51%), youth in horticulture (83%), and agri-skilling (81%).

Table 8: Asset poverty status (%)

	Females	Males	Total
Average household size (persons)	4.8	4.2	4.5
Required 3-month cost of living (UGX)	3,000,543	2,597,007	2,814,917
Youth Net worth (UGX)			
Agri-vocational skills	363,246	3,808,524	1,775,810
Animal traction	879,718	8,064,865	4,592,043
Cage fish farming	1,100,875	2,630,000	2,018,350
Horticulture	601,804	1,787,103	1,147,760
Total	586,918	3,015,565	1,704,096
Poor youth (%)			
Agri-vocational skills	57.0	24.0	81.0
Animal traction	43.3	23.3	66.7
Cage fish farming	30.0	40.0	70.0
Horticulture	50.6	32.4	83.0
Total	50.6	29.8	80.4

3.5 AFARD STRATEGY RELATED IMPACTS ▶

Although the YADE project is focused on employment, income and asset improvement indicators, AFARD management also pointed out to the need to harmonization of project effects and alignment with its AFARD Strategy 2020 – 25. As such, additional indicators were assessed for mainstreaming in youth group operations as is shown below.

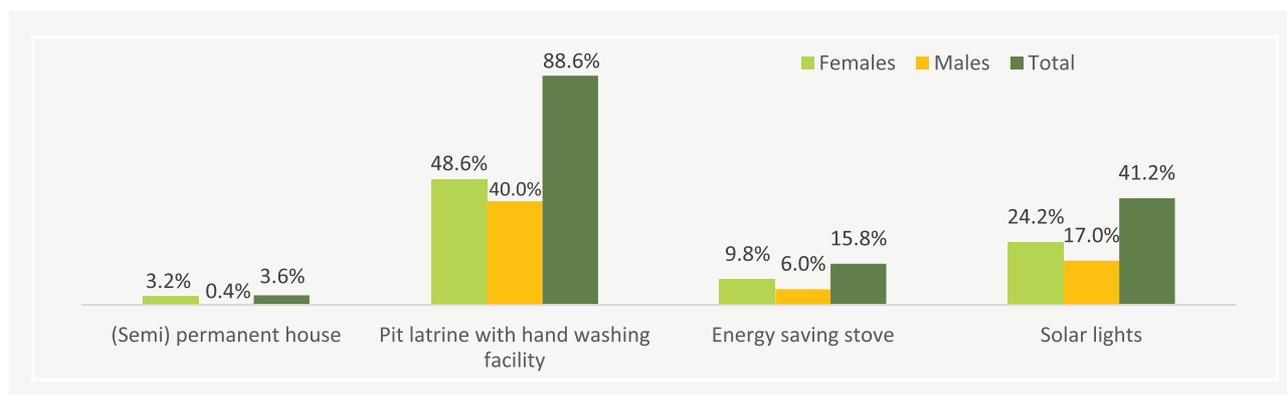
3.5.1 Community Health Practices

Labour productivity is also contingent on safe home environment especially sanitation and hygiene

practices. Respondents were asked about the key questions and figure 3 below shows that:

- Majority of the respondents (96%) use temporary housing units of grass thatched roofs with mud and wattle walls and floor respectively.
- Majority of the beneficiaries (89%) had pit latrine with hand washing facilities.
- Few youth use energy saving stoves (16%) and solar lights (41%).

Figure 4: Households with safe home environment



3.5.2 Tree planting

Agribusiness mines the environment. Thus, to promote sustainable production the project will ensure that beneficiary youth plant trees. Table 10 shows that only about one quarter of the youth have already planted at least 04 trees.

Table 9: Use of improved nutrition practices

Households with	% Planted	Average number per household
Firewood trees	3.2	3.2
Timber trees	24.0	8.8
Fruit trees	29.4	1.1
Have woodlots	1.4	-

3.5.3 Food security status

Aware that half of the beneficiary youth are already married and one-tenth were involved in marital relations before makes the agenda of food security important for the substance of those households. This is assessed against selected indicators. Respondents were asked questions related to these parameters and table 11 reveals that only 44% of the youth families were food secure. Only 73% had food all year round. While diet diversification stood at 89%, girls and women are eating forbidden foods (86%) and boys and men are eating green vegetables without complaints (88%).

Table 10: Food security indicator status (%)

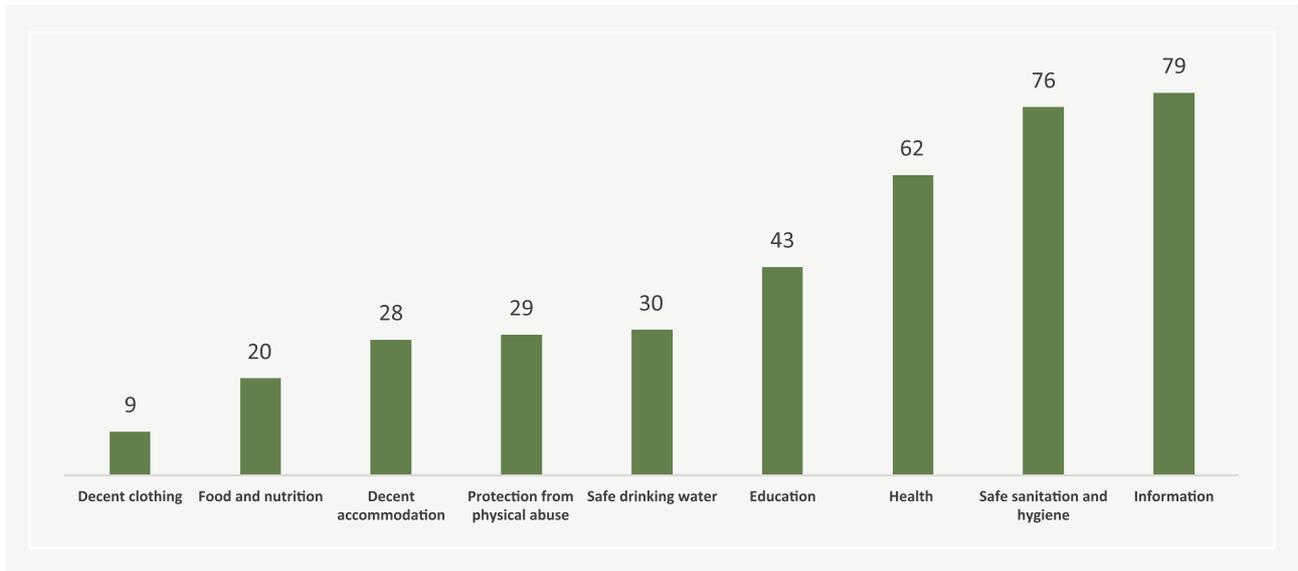
	%
Had food all year round	72.6
Ate at least 3 meals of diversified foods daily	69.6
Ate or shared same food as a family	92.4
Ate 7 food types in the last one week	89.2
Girls and women ate forbidden foods	85.6
Boys and men do not complain eating green vegetables	87.6
Met all indicators	44.4

3.5.4 Child poverty status

AFARD Strategy 2020-25 strives to further inclusive family economic transformation to also benefit children. Child poverty in AFARD is based on the guidelines of the Situation Analysis of Child Poverty and Deprivation in Uganda 2014 report (conducted by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, UNICEF, and Economic Policy Research Centre. Unlike income poverty measures, children worry of how: Lack of education erodes their futures; Poor health destroys family livelihoods; Hunger can be devastating; and Experience of violence evaporates hope. The negative lifetime effects of such deprivations are aligned to the international Bristol multidimensional approach to measuring child deprivation that is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, in Ugandan context, child poverty refers to children deprived in two or more dimensions highly likely to have serious adverse consequences for the health, wellbeing and development of children. These dimensions include: (i) Nutrition; (ii) Water; (iii) Sanitation; (iv) Health; (v) Shelter; (vi) Education; (vii) Information; (viii) Protection; and (ix) Clothing. And extreme child poverty refers to children deprived in two or more dimensions.

To ensure that children in youth households are also poverty free, the study asked children about the various deprivations they experience in their families. A total of 76 children in the targeted households responded. The finding shows that all the children experienced child poverty (100%). The leading dimensions of deprivations as figure 5 shows include access to information (79%), safe sanitation and hygiene (76%), health care (62%), and education (43%).

Figure 5: Children exposure to deprivation (%)



Finding shows that all the children experienced child poverty (100%). The leading dimensions of deprivations as figure 5 shows include access to information (**79%**), safe sanitation and hygiene (**76%**), health care (**62%**), and education (**43%**).



PROJECT OUTCOME INDICATORS

Results Chain	Indicators	Operationalization	Baseline	Targets
To increase access to gainful agricultural employment opportunities for 500 youth in Pakwach district through marketable non-formal vocational and complementary skills training.	# of targeted and non-targeted youth employed in the project promoted agribusinesses	Number of youth directly targeted and non-targeted by the project employed in the supported enterprises	13	750
	Average income of targeted youth increased by 50%	Average annual income refers to income earned (UGX) from supported business and VSLA share out		
	Agri-vocational skills		523,423	785,135
	Animal traction		757,234	1,135,850
	Cage fish farming		1,072,000	1,608,000
	Horticulture		519,751	779,627
Total			567,353	851,029
Result 1: To establish and strengthen 24 agribusiness Youth Investment Groups (YIGs) with functional VSLA	R1.1: # of youth investment groups established and functional	YIGs are those formally registered with local governments and have constitution and registration certificate and have elected leaders	0	24
	R1.2: % of members participate in group savings monthly	Members who save at least €5 in a month	0.8%	90%
Result 2: To improve the employability of 500 youth through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, collective marketing and non-formal vocational skills training	R2.1: % of targeted youth adopted climate smart and good agricultural practices	Good agricultural and climate smart practices include use of at least 5 practices among timely planting, drought resistant crop varieties, correct spacing, intercropping with cover crops, organic pesticides, tree planting, and improved post-harvest handling	7.8%	85%
	R2.2: % of targeted youth adopt good business management practices	Recommended business management practices include having a legally registered business, conducts sale promotion, separates personal and business finance, keeps business records	4.8%	65%
	R2.3: % of targeted youth adopt good finance management practices	Has a plan, budget, and keeps track of revenue and expenses monthly	66.4%	85%*
	R2.4: At least 50% increase in the value of agribusinesses and productive assets owned by targeted youth	Market value of all productive assets owned	1,704,096	2,556,144
	R2.5: 75% increase in the average number of hours/days worked among targeted youth	Refer to number of days worked weekly	3.8	6.7

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