

Youth Agri-skilling for Decent Employment (YADE)



Duration

3 years (01.04.2021 – 31.03.2024)

Geographical area

Wadelai Sub county, Nebbi District, West Nile, Uganda

Beneficiaries

5,100 people (500 youth direct and 4,600 indirect):

- 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

Implementing entities

Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD)

Budget

UGX1,123,688,000 (Euro 280,922)

Funding

Medicor Foundation and Dka Austria through HORIZONT3000

Context

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. Two-thirds of all jobs created in 2001 - 2011 were confined to only six out of the 112 districts and mainly in central Uganda. Rural areas contribute 96% to national poverty. 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. This situation is due to: Lack of relevant and marketable skills and Limited 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.

Overall objective: To contribute to sustainable poverty reduction among youth through agri-enterprise development

Specific objective: 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

Expected results:

- R1:** To establish and strengthen 24 agribusiness youth investment groups (a-YIGs) with functional VSLA by 2024
- R2:** To improve the employability of 500 youth through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, collective marketing and non-formal vocational skills training by 2024
- R3:** To increase the ownership and growth of 500 youth agribusinesses for self-employment by 2024

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.

Key stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities

Trades	# of youth reached & expected to be successful	# 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

Activities

Start-up, Monitoring and Learning, and Close-out activities

- 0.1:** Procure logistics, recruit and induct staff, and conduct annual planning:
- 0.2:** Stakeholders briefing meeting: This will be to a) inform the participants about the project, b) agree on the implementation areas in the district; c) clarify the stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, and d) agree on the start-up phase work plan.
- 0.3:** Produce training manuals
- 0.4:** Conduct a baseline study
- 0.5:** Monitoring visits by management staff and Board of directors
- 0.6:** Hold annual district monitoring, review and learning workshops:
- 0.7:** Conduct annual financial audits and terminal external evaluation:
- 0.8:** Conduct district closeout meeting:

Result 1: To establish and strengthen 24 agribusiness youth investment groups (a-YIGs) with functional VSLA by 2024

- A1.1:** Form Agribusiness Youth Investment Groups
- A1.2:** Train in VSLA management

Result 2: To improve the employability of 500 youth through entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and non-formal vocational skills training by 2024

- A2.1:** Train Young Model Farmers (YMFs)
- A2.2:** Train youth in agri-business and financial management
- A2.3:** Train youth in marketable agri-vocational skills

Result 3: To increase the ownership and growth of 500 youth agribusinesses for self-employment by 2024

- A3.1:** Train in climate smart and good agronomic management
- A3.2:** Provide one-off business start-up inputs
- A3.3:** Conduct agribusiness mentoring and coaching and market linkages
- A3.4:** Conduct exchange visit

Key stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities

Stakeholders	Roles and responsibilities
Beneficiaries	Participate in the identification of group members; advise project team; actively participate in all group activities including VSLA, capacity building trainings, peer support, monitoring, and provide feedback on implementation of project activities.
Local government	Identify project intervention areas; facilitate access to community structures; provide technical support to groups, monitor and provide feedback on project implementation.
AFARD	Overall project management; facilitate group formation; recruit and equip staff; procure and distribute inputs; coordination and project planning; implementation, monitoring, learning and evaluation; disseminate lessons learnt; and donor reporting and accounting.
HORIZONT3000	Funds disbursement; Technical backstopping; Periodic monitoring; and implementation oversight