



Street children - Prevention through sustainable graduation from poverty

Duration

3 years (01.12.2020 – 30.11.2023)

Geographical area

Yumbe District, West Nile, Uganda

Beneficiaries

3'150 individuals of refugee and host communities, including 900 children and 1'350 youth

Consortium

Caritas Switzerland (CACH)
Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
The BOMA Project (BOMA)

Budget

USD 986,128

Funding

Swiss Development Cooperation
Donations from Swiss foundations and individuals

Context

Uganda has generally achieved impressive economic development in the last three decades as poverty head count declined from 56% in 1992 to 21% in 2018. However, inequality remains high and West Nile persistently stands out as one of the poorest regions in the country. Thirty five percent of the population in West Nile survive on USD 1.25 and over 67% on USD 1.90 a day. In addition, the West Nile region hosts 54% of the total 1.45 million refugees in Uganda, mostly South Sudanese.

Even before the surge in refugee arrivals, Uganda was facing significant pressure on its forests and woodlands and suffered from a high rate of deforestation and land degradation. The environmental degradation has massive consequences on the income and food security of the communities in West Nile mostly depending on subsistence farming.

Children are often heavily affected by the difficult situation of their families. Poverty, famine, domestic violence, discrimination, social exclusion, and migration are considered to be among the main push-factors leading children to live or work in the street. To address these issues, preventive initiatives are required to tackle the root causes of why children end up living or working on the street, such as by enhancing income-generating abilities in the household, provide protection to affected children and support parents to raise their children safely.

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Objectives

The project aims addressing the underlying causes and providing a preventative solution to the main triggers of why children end up working and living in the streets by reducing household poverty and strengthening resilience through increased and diversified income as well as enhanced sustainable management of natural resources. A multi-sectoral intervention approach that includes child protection, livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management is applied to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable refugee and host community households.

Overall objective: Extremely poor refugee and host community households in West Nile, Uganda have built resilience and reduced the risk of children living and working in the streets.

Outcome 1: Children's risk of moving to the street is decreased through improved awareness on child protection and rights, and strengthened related support mechanisms. **Output 1.1:** Community-based structures and families' awareness on key child protection issues facilitated to support children's rights and protection.

Outcome 2: Vulnerable households from refugee and host communities graduate from extreme poverty with improved resilience. **Output 2.1a:** Participating households have the ability to meet their nutritional needs. **Output 2.1b:** Participating households with access to basic healthcare. **Output 2.2:** Enrolled households with diversified and sustainable livelihoods. **Output 2.3:** Enrolled households have greater resilience to shocks from enhanced financial inclusion and increased social inclusion. **Output 2.4:** Enrolled households participating in community initiatives.

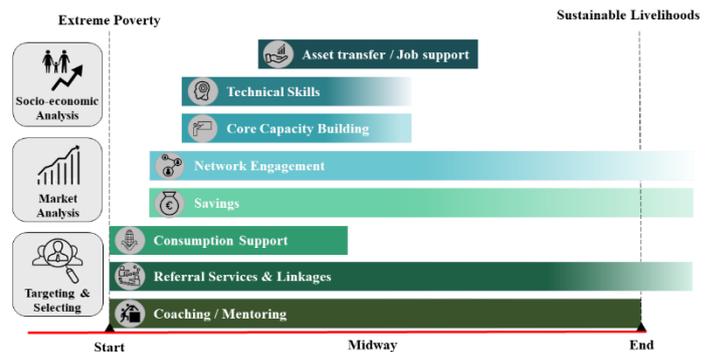
Outcome 3: Natural habitats are regenerated and sustainably managed as basis for sustainable livelihoods. **Output 3.1:** Participatory identification and implementation of Community Environment Action Plans for sustainable natural resource management and regeneration.



Approach

Methodologically, the project builds on the Graduation Approach, and adopts principles of Child Protection, Market System Development as well Agroecology. The Graduation Approach is a targeted intervention that aims to set households on a pathway out of extreme poverty through a series of carefully sequenced, multi-sectoral activities. Participants are guided towards achieving sustained income, asset gains, financial inclusion and improved access to social protection support systems. Most importantly, through the holistic set of interventions, the Graduation Approach aims to build participant's resilience and ensure that they do not fall back into poverty after project end.

Key Components of the Graduation Approach



With the projects focus on both host and refugee communities it operationalizes the humanitarian - development nexus while at the same time incorporating the cross-cutting issues of gender, conflict sensitivity, partner promotion and participation.

The consortium is committed to sustain the impact of the project by advocating for its objectives and influencing government, community and private sector decision makers through relationship building, public education, and the strategic provision or dissemination of accurate and relevant information.

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