



**Peace  
Corps**  
UGANDA



## AGRI-BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (AED) PROJECT



## ▶ **ANNUAL REPORT**

**November, 2020**



Prepared by: AED Team

Prepared for: AED Stakeholders and partners

## Peace Corps Uganda Sectors and Projects of

# Focus



Agriculture



Agribusiness and Economic Development Project



Education



Primary Literacy Project



Health



Uganda Health Project

### Agribusiness and Economic Development (AED) Project details Number of staff: Three

#### Project Purpose

Household members especially women, youth, and farmers, pursue new economic opportunities and achieve improved food and nutrition security

#### Project Objectives

The AED project aims to:

1. Increase the capacity of women, youth and farmers (as individuals or groups) to apply improved money management practices.
2. Develop the entrepreneurial potential of women, youth (aged 18-30, in and out of school) and farmers' groups.
3. Increase capacity of women, youth and farmers (as individuals or groups) to implement Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
4. Increase households' adoption of nutritious diets and food choices.

#### Key interventions

- Support new and existing Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with basic business skills, financial literacy and money management best practices.
- Promote entrepreneurship behavior through training, coaching, mentoring, camps and clubs.
- Support creation and management of Income Generating Activities (IGAs).
- Train key household decision makers and learners on the importance of nutritious diets and food choices.

## Some of the accomplishments

2,692

individuals (2,046 female and 646 male) trained and coached to apply money management skills.

1,799

individuals trained in entrepreneurship behaviors such as risk taking, innovation and creativity in agriculture and record management among others.

1,362

individuals supported to participate in group based, micro finance or lending programs including the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).

1,213

individuals reached with knowledge and skills on how to identify, start and sustain an income generating activity to supplement on individual, and or household income.

934

individuals trained in nutrition. 76 gardens created and maintained. These included 6 keyhole gardens, 50 sack mounts and 20 permagardens.

736

(397 female youth and 339 male) supported to participate in programs to increase access to productive resources.

213

youth trained in entrepreneurship skills under the Start Up Uganda Camp Model



## Some of the outcomes

It has been observed that individuals trained in money management practices have exhibited the following: improved money management practices, saving with a purpose and have explored various investment options and opportunities. Some of the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) improved on their record keeping, acquired equipment for drip irrigation and others started their own businesses to help improve standards of living of members.

Through Start-Up Uganda training, youth have improved in areas such as: visioning and goal setting, innovations in agriculture, public speaking, business planning, financial literacy, marketing and leadership.

A female youth trainee from South West Uganda had this to say:

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“Start-Up Uganda training helped open my mind to a lot of business options. Now I plait fellow girls' hair in my village at a fee. I get one customer a day and this income is supplemented by the earnings from vegetable gardening and vending. I will continue to educate my fellow youth to be open minded about business opportunities in our community”.



## Examples of the success stories

### Promoting income generation among youth through fish farming by PCV Shayna

**T**he Oluvu Youth integrated Fish Farmers Association which started in 2010 in Oluvu sub-county in Maracha District is composed of youths below 35 years with a total membership of 45 i.e. 15 female and 30 male most of whom come from poor families. With little education, they decided to form a group so that they could increase their income earnings and improve their standards of living through fish farming. To qualify for the association's membership, farmers must be involved in multiple enterprises such as fish farming, fruit growing, livestock rearing, food crops, apiculture, coffee growing and agroforestry to ensure financial stability. The group builds ponds for members who are interested in fish farming by offering communal labor on a rotation basis at no cost. The 45 members have among them 70+ functional ponds ready for stocking. Having no fresh fish available in Maracha district, they supply a ready market, and have drawn the attention of larger buyers from hotels, restaurants, to even markets across the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Though the local market for fresh fish is huge, the group has faced a huge challenge in stocking their ponds to full capacity. Hatchlings were previously being purchased from Jinja and Kajjansi more than 535 kilometers away. But with the construction of the hatchery, the issue of procuring hatchlings from far would be something of the past. The transportation costs plus the cost of buying all of their hatchlings has continuously caused the farmers to under-stock, inhibiting them from meeting their market's demands. Several years ago, the group raised money through voluntary contributions to begin the process of constructing their own hatchery in order to supply their farmers with hatchlings from within their own community. Though some initial construction was done and the group registered as a company, they have not had enough money in their business account to pursue the hatchery idea, as money is continually being spent on procuring hatchlings.

Upon arriving at my site in Maracha district, my counterpart and I set out to fulfil our Participatory Analysis for Community Action (PACA) assignments. We decided to visit 10-20 of the most motivated farmers' groups in the district to begin planning for future trainings and activities. One of the very first groups that was recommended to me was Oluvu Youth Integrated Fish Farmers Association. During our initial needs' assessment with this group, I was

stunned by their model site. For example, they could point out the implementation of what they had learned in several previous trainings, had a five-year work plan, and almost all of their 45 group members attended the meeting. We identified a few trainings that the group should receive, such as records keeping, but the completion of their hatchery was the major project identified that had the potential to dramatically improve the lives of the farmers, their families, and the surrounding communities that they help to support. Shortly after this meeting, my counterpart and I attended a Peace Corps organized In-Service Training. Following a presentation on small grants, my counterpart and I immediately thought of Oluvu Youth. We had several meetings with the group to complete every step of the application process. It was clear from the very start that they took complete ownership of the project, since it had been their dream for years. Through the Peace Corps Small Project Assistance grant and the generous support of nearby expert fish farmer Yangu Charles of Koboko, the group was able to complete construction of their fish hatchery, including digging a shallow well, incubation tanks, hatchling tanks, and water storage tanks. All the construction labor was done as a community contribution by skilled group members, and the dedication shown by the group was truly inspiring. The group members were also given training in records keeping and financial management by my partner



Brood stock being checked for readiness

organization, Maracha District Farmers Association (MADIFA). Upon completion of construction, the brood stock was collected from some of the farmers to begin the breeding process. The brood stock was kept and fed well until it was ready for breeding and temperatures warm enough to start hatching eggs. Fourteen of the more advanced group members that will be running the hatchery then attended a training with an expert fish farmer in hatching the eggs and operating the hatchery. Over the next few months, the group will work to master their skills at producing hatchlings. They plan to provide hatchlings at a discounted price to their own members. The profits gained will be used for the maintenance of the hatchery, its security, and eventually producing fish feeds.

The construction of the Oluvu Youth Hatchery has helped to accomplish the community's priority objective of self-sufficiency and economic independence by allowing the group to control prices, quality, and grading of the hatchlings that they will be producing and buying. We will continue working with this group through the next year to ensure that the hatchery remains a sustainable enterprise. I am very thankful that Peace Corps Uganda has allowed me the chance to uplift and support this amazing group, and look forward to seeing their progress throughout the rest of my service.



Inside the hatchery

## Enhancing income generation through honey value addition at Nabongo Agri- Enterprise in Namayingo District by PCV Benjamin

Nabongo Agri-Enterprise and I successfully obtained a Peace Corps grant to renovate our honey processing room and train community members on bee keeping business skills. Before this grant was obtained, there was no way to keep the honey process clean as the processing room had crumbled with, dusty cement floors. Though Nabongo had the knowledge and supply to sell the product, the process to obtain it was dirty, unhealthy, and only catered for one beekeeper. Consequently many farmers who participated in beekeeping were not able to sell their product due to the lack of infrastructure and equipment. After realizing the need, we developed a plan to increase production while sustaining a high-quality product.

A mason was hired to demolish the existing cement foundry and lay a new layer of cement then install a tile and water proof cement floor. The tile floor help with sanitation of the food processing area while the water proof cement creates a professional show room that is easy to clean. After the rooms were completed, we purchased a

honey press, wax melting machine, and value addition equipment to fully furnish the processing room.

Now that the room is complete, there is a hygienic procedure to follow so customers can fully respect our high-quality product. Next harvest season we will be able to sell a variety of beekeeping products in order to maximize the assistance to rural farmers. Soon, we will be assisting new members on apiary installation and management to increase their household income.



Renovated honey processing and packaging facility

## Nutrition training through care groups change the lives of women in Nkokonjeru by PCV Dannielle

Over the course of my Peace Corps service, my most successful project has been the implementation of Care Groups in my community. I have worked with three members of the Village Health Team and fifteen Lead Mothers to enact projects in sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition. These women are some of my closest friends in Nkokonjeru, Buikwe district as well as my most valuable allies. Since the formation of the Care Groups, they have mobilized community members to participate in dozens of trainings hosted by my organization called Reach out Nkokonjeru. They advocate for their villages and request for sessions most relevant to their needs. They have helped me to understand the dynamics and culture of Nkokonjeru, and as a result I have learnt how to operate as an effective Peace Corps Volunteer.

During the final training of a series on perma-gardening, I distributed seeds of nutritious vegetables to these women. After a lengthy and intense rainy season, the women began asking me to visit their gardens. When I did, I was greeted by hordes of children and thriving vegetable gardens. Sukuma Wiki and eggplants grew in plenty alongside their usual sweet potatoes and cassava. The women sent me home with more vegetables than I could carry



without reducing the abundant look of their gardens. They were clearly proud of their success and shared with me that they sell the surplus of what their families consume.

I was humbled to have the opportunity to see tangible project results. I am confident that these Care Groups will continue to meet and act as community role models long after my departure.



## Income Generation/ Entrepreneurship skills



Liquid soap demonstration during Startup camp in Masaka



Startup Camp certificate awarding ceremony by PCVs in Masaka



Bio-briquette making in Arua



Diversified solar dried products



Apiary in Maracha district



Chili processing and storage facility in Maracha district

## Personal money management



Growing your money



Financial literacy session, Kaberere, Isingiro district

## Nutrition enhancement



Nutrition demonstration during Pre-Service Training



Demonstrating vegetable gardening in Kibinge



Hands on training on mushroom growing during In Service Training



Community vegetable gardens in Kibinge



# Photo Gallery

## Technologies



Making solar dryers, in Mityana



Community members construct a compost heap in Rubanda, South West Uganda



# SOME OF AED PARTNERS



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Ministry of Agriculture, Animal  
Industry & Fisheries



# Challenges

- Transport difficulties given the remote nature of AED host organizations and poor road infrastructure which was worsened due to excessive rains that make feeder roads impassable. However, the host organizations supported the Volunteers to identify appropriate measures to continue activities amidst this challenge.
- Volunteer housing especially the host organizations failing to sustain rent payments. The strategy is to focus more on a two-year homestay program.

