

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHIELD UGANDA



Annual Report 2023

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Northern Uganda**

Annual Report for the Year 2023

Vision: “A transformed Community characterized by improved livelihoods, peace and justice.”

Mission: “To contribute towards socio-economic transformation and enhance quality of life for all.”

Values;

Accountability and transparency

Equity and Justice

Commitment to excellence and professionalism

Creativity & innovation

Team work and Voluntarism

Respect for Humanity and dignity


Strategic Program Areas / Objectives

Main Objective	Other objectives
<p>a) To facilitate the development of appropriate capacity building, lobbying and advocacy initiatives for economic and sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>b) To promote and establish mechanisms for innovation and evidence based research to enhance CSOs capacity to influence policy and actions in the key social domains of health and education.</p> <p>c) To promote access to formal and informal education for the vulnerable groups such as orphans, other vulnerable children and youth for acquisition and building of basic knowledge and skills necessary for generation of individual livelihoods.</p> <p>d) To support programs that increase access to safe, clean water and basic sanitation for poor communities.</p> <p>e) To support the provision of high-quality maternal child health services and medical care to the general population.</p>	<p>f) To sensitize communities on government programme and policies.</p> <p>g) To support religious institutions in building the moral pillars of the community.</p> <p>h) To rally the community and support them to fight against corruption and embezzlement.</p> <p>i) To mobilize education materials and to support initiatives for promotion of education for all.</p> <p>j) To support youth/community initiatives to participate in peace building and conflict resolution.</p> <p>k) To support youths to develop and nurture their talents (football, athletics) by Promoting sports, community recreation and play facilities etc.</p> <p>l) To carry out intensive campaign against the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide care and support to Persons living with HIV/AIDS and affected by HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>m) To innovate and promote systems and infrastructural development in order to facilitate the well-being of the community.</p> <p>n) To network and collaborate with different stakeholders and development partners in achieving the goals of the company.</p> <p>o) To carry out all or any other activities that can lead to the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Organization either alone or in conjunction with any other charitable organization, institution, society or body with which this company is authorized to amalgamate.</p>

Word from Executive Director

Despite economic hardships of last year that proceeded COVID -19 Lockdowns of 2020, 2021 and 2022, we still managed to raise in excess of UGX 117,000,000 and other in kind donations. With all the resources attracted last year, we manage to carry out interventions in our core program areas of Health, Livelihoods, Human Rights, Water and Sanitation, Skills Development and Climate Change Response. All that we managed to do last year would not have been possible without contribution from our supporters such as Plan International, Hilden Charitable Fund, United State Mission Uganda, Enventure, Wind Wood Millers, UK Online Giving Foundation, Defend Defenders, National Coalition of Human rights Defenders Uganda, African Germany Youth Office, Lango Civil Society Network, Uganda National NGO Forum, Board of Directors, Staff, Local District and Sub County authorities among other stakeholders. We strongly believe in a saying that “If you move alone you can move fast and crash but together we can reach far”. I therefore do value the strength and yields of the collective efforts and because of that reason I give many sincere thanks to all our supporters and urge all of you not to get tired of what you are doing to support our course and change the lives of the vulnerable populations we are serving.

Best Regards



Oscar Ogole
Executive Director

Funds Received and Other in Kind Donation 2023

Donor	Title Project	Year	Amount (UGX)	Comment
Plan International	I decide	2023	88,981,879	Grant
Hilden Charitable Fund	Help Local Communities Sustain water point functionality	2023	17,610,400	Grant
Wind Wood Millers Limited	Increasing Income and Creating Job Opportunities for Youth In cassava Value Chain	2023	4,869,000	Grant
US Mission Uganda	Construction of 5 protected spring well	2023	1,418,618	Grant
UK Online Giving Foundation	Administrative Support	2023	1,230,713	Grant
Enventure	Cook stove	2023	2,000,000	In kind Donation
Wind Wood Millers Limited	Cassava chippers and accessories	2023	3,000,000	In kind Donation

Strategic Approaches

Building capacity of girls and boys to use their ‘power within’ to confront child marriage and negative norms

Engaging family, cultural, religious and local leaders as community protection mechanism

Peer-to-peer strengthening and engagement to mobilize duty bearers on ending child marriage

Engaging with and improving capacity of government to provide access to quality ASRH for girls

Partnership and networking

Outreaches

Advocacy and lobbying

Skilling

Building Wells

Target Groups

- ✓ Children
- ✓ Adolescent
- ✓ Youth
- ✓ Person with Disability
- ✓ Women

1.0 I DECIDE PROJECT

I decide project II is a SRHR project aimed at addressing the low level of accessibility to adolescent friendly SRHR services. The project uses an integrated approach to address the causes of low uptake of SRH services. In response to the low uptake of contraceptives services and information despite the 90% awareness level, Community Development Shield Uganda in partnership with Plan International Uganda therefore is implementing a 4 year project (2022-2025) aimed at increasing access to Sexual and Reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) services and climate change aspect in Kole District.

Activities Implemented

Facilitating Champion of Change Facilitators (CoC) to deliver SRHR Training to Children Adolescent Youth ; Paying of CoC facilitators’ monthly salaries, allowances (SDA) for meetings, trainings which has enabled them to deliver SRHR trainings to Children, Adolescent and young persons including those with disability in the different CoC groups

CoC Facilitators Reflection Meetings; supporting CoC facilitators to attend quarterly CoC Facilitators reflection meetings

Supporting CoC members with Disabilities to effectively participate; encouraging CoC members with disability to take up leadership roles in the groups, encourage them to participate in discussions during sessions, and encourage them to access SRHR services during health outreaches.

Support CoC Group Activities and Functionality; provision of CoC materials which includes pens, flip charts, books, markers, balls for recreational activities among others

Intergenerational Dialogue; CoC members together with their parents and a few stakeholders being invited to dialogue on issues of SRHR service accessibility by Children Adolescents and Youth and climate change issues in the community of Bala and Ayer.

Facilitating Peer navigators at each facility and outreach; Two (2) trained peer navigators placed at the health facilities to support in mobilizing CAY to access SRHR services from the different health outreaches (1 female and 1 male).

Training of VSLA on governance, financial management; identification of four (4) parents VSLA groups and training the members on the concept of good governance and financial management.

Provision of VSLA kits; The Four (4) parents VSLA groups identified has been supported with VSLA kits.

CSO Institutional Capacity Support; CDSU staff capacity has been built on the different Monitoring and Evaluation tools, report writing by Plan International among others.

Sub-county leader's engagement on SRHR and climate change; sub county leadership meetings has been conducted on quarterly basis to discuss SRHR and information accessibility by CAY and climate change issues.

Conducting SRHR Outreaches

Achievements Registered

Increased knowledge on SRHR and gender equality among young people
Increased access to youth friendly SRHR services among girls f in our project area.
10,300 youth reached with SRHR information and services

Although the initial target was to form 4 CoC groups with a total of 240 members, however in 2023, we were able to achieve a total of 120 CAY who are out of school (60 female and 60 male) under Champion of Change methodology. With this, there is an increase in the number of CAY receiving SRHR services and this has been achieved through the CoC members reaching out to their peers in the community indirectly, through activities like intergenerational dialogues, awareness raising among others.

A total of 14 CSOs have been engaged in a number of trainings in relation to SRHR topics and gender-responsive, and adolescent- and youth-friendly SRHR services
A total number of 102 decision makers were reached out to on SRHR and climate change in both Bala ad Ayer Sub County ie (47 male and 32 female)

8 Village Saving and loan association groups started with kits to enhance saving culture

4 CoC groups supported with income generating activities like liquid soap production, onion and maize seeds



Champion of Change Members attending one of the session

2.0 Help Local Communities Sustain water point functionality.

An estimated 25% water points in Kole District, Northern Uganda become dysfunctional after 5 years. This dysfunctionality rate increases to about up to 30% after 10 years. As a result, a considerable portion of the capital-intensive water infrastructures fails to deliver the envisioned social impact. 169 water points have been non-functional for over 5 years and are considered abandoned. Only about 18 borehole technicians are available serving over 800 water points. With support from Hilden Charitable fund, Community Development Shield Uganda trained 15 youth as Borehole technicians and spring well mansions to enhance the functionality and sustainability of water points. 32 boreholes repaired, rehabilitated and maintained.

Activities Implemented

Recruiting and training of 15 youth as borehole technicians and spring well Manson. The training was hands on for a period of 12 months. The trained youth were supported with basic start up kits like standard tool box after the training to repair, rehabilitate, service and maintain

The project also integrated an innovative financial inclusion approach- the Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) concept into the training of Water User Committees (WUCs) and support them with assorted basic supplies to implement the VSLA concept for WASH sustainability. 450 water user committees trained in water source protection, social accountability, financial management, and basic hygiene and sanitation practices for a period of 6 months

Achievements Registered

Improved management and functionality of water points

Increased access to safe water and basic sanitation services. 32 boreholes repaired, rehabilitated and being maintained

Creation of employment opportunities for the rural youth

Improved health and welfare of local communities



Figure 1. Borehole repair in progress



Figure 2. Meeting of pump mechanics

3.0 . Increasing Income and Creating Job Opportunities for Youth In cassava Value Chain

This Youth in Cassava project was conceived to address youth unemployment in the Lango sub region by creating for them decent job opportunities in the cassava and soybean value chains. Through this, Community Development Shield Uganda and Wind wood Millers Limited will also expand and stabilize raw material supply, strengthen the supply chain and expand into bigger markets.

The specific objectives are to:

- (1) Facilitate 4000 youth (70% of whom are females) to produce and sell to Wind Wood Milers 144,000 MTs of fresh cassava roots, and 6,000 MTs of soybeans to other buyers.
- (2) Strengthen Wind Wood Milers raw materials supply chain so as to enable it absorb and process fresh cassava roots, soybeans, from the farmers for sale to end use industries;
- (3) Strengthen business development services and agro-service providers to support the key actors along the cassava and soybeans value chains.
- (4) Facilitate the scaling up and expansion of markets and the use of HQCF in the manufacture of industrial end use products.

Activities Implemented.

Training of youth in cassava and soybean agronomic practices

Distribution of cassava cuttings

Establishment of cassava chipper processing plant

Establishment of demonstration site. Soya bean and cassava

Data collection on planting and harvesting from project beneficiaries

Training on farming as a business

Achievements Registered

1,500 bags of cassava cuttings distributed to project beneficiaries

1500 youth reached with basic agronomic practices

Cassava chipper installed and working.

4 model cassava and soya bean garden established for learning purposes



Youth receiving the cassava cuttings, support from CDSU in partnership with Wind wood milers



Training youth on Farming as a business



Figure 3. Training on the use of Cassava Cipper



Safe use Training of cassava cipper

4.0 Construction of 5 protected spring well

The project targeted 1300 direct female, 1000 direct Male, 4000 indirect female and 3000 indirect male in the rural villages of omoladyang parish where Community Development Shield Uganda focuses its activities, we identified villages with low water coverage. For example, there are up to 8 villages that do not even have a single source of water but we also have villages that have over 3 sources. Some of those villages don't even have a spring or borehole are Aparango, Adim, Omatolongo, Atira, and Teyao .Community Development Shield Uganda conducted a needs assessment in the above villages and zeroed on them as the worst performing in terms of water coverage. These villages has been reached with training, sensitization activities and construction of spring wells were done.

Activities Implemented

Community mobilization and Sensitization. Communities of the five affected villages with low water coverage were mobilized through their Local Council I. they were educated and sensitized about the need to construct spring wells in their villages. Site selections were done with their help and preparations started with bush clearing paving ways for the construction.

Construction of the spring wells were done with communities supporting in bringing aggregates, food and offering manual labor. Yield test was carried out on the wells and each had an average of 50 seconds in filling 20 liter jerrican. This was observed to have reduced the waiting time at water points.

Each water point submitted 9 names of water user committee with greater representation of women. They were trained on water source protection, basic hygiene, sanitation practices, basic repair and maintenance of spring wells.

Lessons learned

Conducting need assessment is key before any project activity is carried out. The beneficiaries should actively participate in it.

Involvement of community in every phase of project implementation creates a sense of ownership and acceptance of the project by the community.

This spring well is constructed with the communities taking a leading role while being provided with technical backstopping by technicians. This infused a lot of ownership.

Some communities are so defiance and the local council I is key in enforcing contribution for food, manual labor and materials.

Constraints and difficulties

Change in the water level of some water points that required more material since mapping was done during rainy season.

Distraction of materials by stray animals especially at night since it's a culture in lango that animals are left in complete free range during dry seasons.

High demand of similar spring wells by other village but limited funding.

Defiance by some few communities to contribute food, labor and materials after political interference. This also delayed work since a lot of sensitization had to be done time and again.

Achievements Registered

Increased access to safe water and basic sanitation
Introduction of cost effective water supply infrastructure
Increased water coverage
Improved health and well being



Figure 4. One of the constructed well



Figure 5. Group photo with US Mission small grants Coordinator during Project Monitoring



Figure 6. US Mission grants Coordinator conducting Yield testing during project Monitoring Visit.

5.0 . Renewable Energy project

Community Development Shield Uganda collaborated with ENventure on creating a sustainable enterprise that will distribute ENventure approved energy products including solar kits, non-electric water filters, improved cooking stoves, Heating Retaining cooking Bags and briquettes to local community members.

Activities Implemented

Capacity of 50 adolescent girls and young women in their groups of 10 built to response to the economic damages created by impact of covid 19, Russian- Ukrain War and Climate Change by diversifying their income source. These women were skilled hands on in how to make charcoal briquettes using Local Materials. Cook stove and Solar lamps have been made available at affordable rate to local communities

Achievements Registered

Cost effective cook stove and solar lamp made available for the rural communities

24 young girls started their own production of charcoal briquette

Increased income for the rural adolescent girls and young women



Figure 7. Adolescent girls undergoing charcoal briquette production training



Figure 8. Sample of the briquette produced after acquiring the training



Figure 9. Cook stove Depot

Other important activities in 2023



Figure 10. Soya bean Demonstration garden established to support learning



Figure 11. Group photo with JICA Team under Oversea Volunteer program .



Figure 12. Visit by JICA Team to CoC groups. Preparation under way to send Japanese volunteer to support Community Development Shield Uganda programs in 2025.



Figure 13. CoC group members during JICA Team Visit



Figure 14. Program Visit by Coordinator PEPFAR project US Mission Uganda.



Figure 15. Project Site Visit by MTN Foundation Representative.