

YESRUD Uganda

Plot 51, Akabwai Rd, North
Division Kumi Municipality

P.o Box 372, Kumi Uganda



Tel: +256786000880 /+256700338634

Website: www.yesrud.org

Email: info@yesrud.org /
yesrud2017@gmail.com

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

1ST JANUARY 2024-31ST DECEMBER 2024



Table of Contents

Introduction:	3
Background:	3
Projects:	4
Beneficiaries:.....	8
Outcomes:.....	8
Lessons learned:.....	9
Recommendations:	9
Acknowledgements of sponsors and supporters:	10
Annex1. Pictorials:	11

Introduction:

This report presents the impact and progress of our community development initiatives in Kumi District Eastern Uganda for selected beneficiaries. The topics explained in this report include; Projects implemented, Beneficiaries, Outcomes, lessons learned and follow up action plan, acknowledgement of sponsors and supporters and pictorials.

Background:

2024 marks our **7th** year of operation as we work towards achieving an economically empowered society free from gender based violence.

By God's grace, 2024 has been a productive year in Uganda with the community being able to freely conduct various activities that bring in income without any fear of lockdown.

The country also continued its efforts to address gender-based violence with a focus on prevention, protection and response. Several initiatives including but not limited to the 16 Days of Activism campaign by CSOs under the theme “**Towards 30 years of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Unite to end violence against women and girls**”, which highlighted the need for legal reforms, increased awareness and support for survivors. The government, Civil Society and communities continue to work together to eliminate violence against women and girls with emphasis on digital safety and empowerment.

Deforestation still continues to be a big problem as community members struggle to get alternative sources of income to sustain their families. Women on the other hand also still face a challenge of access to renewable energy solutions for light and cooking.

Mental health was reported as one of the major concerns in Uganda with over **14 million** people suffering from mental health issues.

With at least 90% of the rural population relying on agriculture, we continued to support women and youth through farming as a business.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) continue to be the most reliable and convenient financial solution to rural communities in Uganda.

On 11th September 2024, YESRUD Uganda was transitioned from a CBO to a National Nonprofit organization after being incorporated with Registration No: **80034199762552**.

Projects:

We engaged communities in Kumi District in five main projects i.e;

1. Indigenous seed program.

The indigenous seed program is a community led project implemented in collaboration with [Ujamaa Empowerment Network](#) under the Ujamaa seed program.

The program aims at promoting the adoption of foundation or locally adopted seed and agro ecological practices so as to preserve biodiversity and seed sovereignty among smallholder farmers. For the purpose of food sovereignty and cultural heritage, we support smallholder farmers to multiply the indigenous seed using climate smart practices so that its used for producing certified seed for other farmers to buy at affordable price. This saves farmers from exploitation from seed merchants selling hybrids and GMOs. The project has supported 120 households. The project was designed to support smallholder farmers with knowledge, skills and resources to scale up their production from subsistence to establishment of community seed banks. This has led to increased household income and savings since the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were incorporated for sustainability purposes. The project has continued to build the capacity of 10 VSLAs under this project. Each household saves an average of Ugx 10,000 (\$2.77 USD) weekly.



2. School-child Empowerment Program:

This program is implemented in collaboration with [NEST4US](#) a US-based Nonprofit organization.

The program is designed to empower young people in school to understand and embrace social responsibility as leaders of tomorrow. We partner with schools to support in building the capacity of their students to be great leaders through virtual and physical sessions. Main topics

include career guidance, leadership, personal development and reproductive health. We also offered some re-usable sanitary pads to fight period stigma in schools. Over 500 students report a bigger impact of this program in their personal life.



3. Mental health program:

This program is implemented in collaboration with [Cure Brain Disease](#), a US-Based Nonprofit organization. We partner with schools to support students struggling with mental health. Over 30 schools have highly rated this program and see it as a catalyst to academic improvement in schools.

4. The 1Million Youth Actions Challenge 1MYAC.

We are proud to be [partners](#) of the [1 Million Youth Actions Challenge \(1MYAC\)](#) an initiative by the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#). In 2021, we mobilized 50 young people

aged 10-30 to take part in the challenge where we organized to donate at least 50,000 Eucalyptus seedlings by September 2022 to individuals in heavily degraded areas in Kumi District, Eastern Uganda. We achieved the goal but continue to mobilize volunteers to take part in this restoration program.

Our program was featured in the [2021 action of the month](#) for October on the [1MYAC website](#).

We welcome other organizations to [join the 1MYAC](#) and help mobilize young people around the world to explore the options and [choose an action](#) as we fight climate change and make the world a better place.

We are thrilled to announce that the [National Forestry Authority](#) of Uganda joined our cause and continues to support us with the supply of assorted indigenous tree seedlings at no cost.

As our operations go national, our focus is to restore heavily degraded communities in Uganda in collaboration with community members and leaders for sustainability and instilling a sense of ownership.



5. The Switch to Clean Energy program.

Officially launched in 2017, the program continues to support off-grid rural communities with access to affordable renewable energy solutions. The program is currently funded by [ENVenture](#), a [New Energy Nexus Uganda](#) program. They have since supported us with technical support and resources needed for our program to run successfully. The project has supported over **4,800** households since 2017.



Beneficiaries:

A majority of our beneficiaries were women and youth because we believe and know that “to empower a community, you have to empower women and youth” as they perform almost 85% of the household duties in our community. However, we also support men by engaging them as a household when running our projects. About 85% of our beneficiaries are women, youth and people with disabilities.

Outcomes:

1. **60** vibrant farmer groups using developed and functional business plans to conduct farm business.
2. **4** farmer groups able to use knowledge and skills acquired to multiply indigenous seed and establish traditional seedbanks with a reported 20% improvement on access to quality seed in the community.
3. **1,500** smallholder farmers able to use knowledge and skills gained to increase production and productivity. **1,500** farmers able to use and adopt technologies demonstrated on the learning platform with a **42%** improvement in productivity. **1,500** farmers report reduction in post-harvest losses.
4. Community members able to access affordable renewable energy solutions for lighting and cooking.
5. **60** Collective marketing committees have an increased knowledge on local business and vibrant business community with ability to address issues affecting their business environment and influence policy.
6. Community members able to access tree seedlings for restoring their eco-system.
7. **1,500** farmers report increase in market opportunities and able to sell through established bulking centers with better prices.
8. **60** VSLAs saving regularly with results showing the recommended practices followed.
9. Reported increased internal savings of the **60** VSLAs.
10. Graduated VSLAs able to access agricultural financing for commercial farming from financial institutions and have group savings bank account.

11. Improved access to mental health services with over 300 students reporting improved mental health.
12. Over 50,000 trees planted to mitigate the effect of climate change through collaboration and community engagement.
13. Reduced number of school dropouts and teenage pregnancy in the community thanks to the reproductive health initiatives.

Lessons learned:

- The indigenous seed program is promising but there's a challenge in infrastructure to keep the harvested seed in good condition until the next season. Post-harvest pests and moulds tend to cause losses especially in leaking storage facilities.
- Some of the VSLAs find it challenging to keep their records with a serious concern on privacy and security.
- Gender-based violence was still high in some households which was associated with poverty, forced and early marriages and un-planned pregnancies in the community.
- Women appreciated the use of improved cook stoves saying, they are healthy (no smoke), saves time and use little charcoal compared to the traditional three stone arrangements.
- There was a need to form and register more farmer groups and cooperatives to scale up the farming as a business program especially with government striking a private-public partnership deal for commercial large scale farming starting next year with private companies.
- There is a need to continue training smallholder farmers on making of organic pesticides and fertilizers using the locally available resources to reduce the cost of production and promote sustainable/climate-smart agriculture.
- There is a call to empower more women and youth with hands on skills for self-reliance. This is aimed at unlocking reliable income streams to improve livelihood.
- There was a problem with reliable funding from donors to implement projects in rural communities.

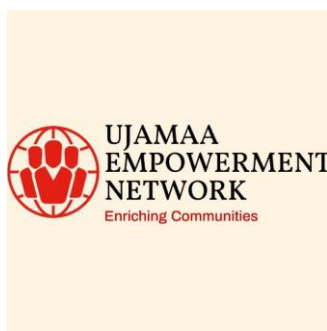
Recommendations:

- Approaches should be designed to lobby for funding to invest in post-harvest storage facilities for community seed banks.
- A digital tool should be designed/adopted to enhance VSLA fund management and security.
- Comprehensive poverty alleviation approaches should be enforced.

- There is a need to implement a stand-alone project on reproductive health in schools.
- Projects focusing on vocational skills training should be uplifted.
- More farmer groups and cooperatives should be established to benefit from the government aided large scale commercial farming project.
- Capacity building for the new farmer groups and cooperatives is required.
- Engaging in consortiums and developing a comprehensive funding strategy is required.

Acknowledgements of sponsors and supporters:

We would like to appreciate all our partners for the financial and technical support provided in the course of the year. Without your support, we wouldn't have reached this milestone.



Annex1. Pictorials:

Recording... You are viewing Esha Venkat-NEST4US's screen View Options View



3.

30 SECONDS IS ALL IT TAKES TO BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY

Helping even just **ONE** person= impact!



Kindness= a **lifestyle**





THINK ABOUT THIS....

Imagine if **all 8 billion** of us on planet Earth did **ONE** kind act **every day**?



[@joinnest](#)
[f NEST4US](#)
[@joinnest4](#)
[NEST4US](#)
[www.nest4us.org](#)
[NEST4US](#)
[info@nest4us.org](#)
[linktr.ee/nest4us](#)

Mute Stop Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Summary AI Companion Pause/Stop Recording Reactions Apps Whiteboards Notes More End






Utsav Zaiwu Y. Duiann (he/him) Ignatius Okoro Bill Romak

Type here to search 27°C 5:04 PM 10/28/2024



