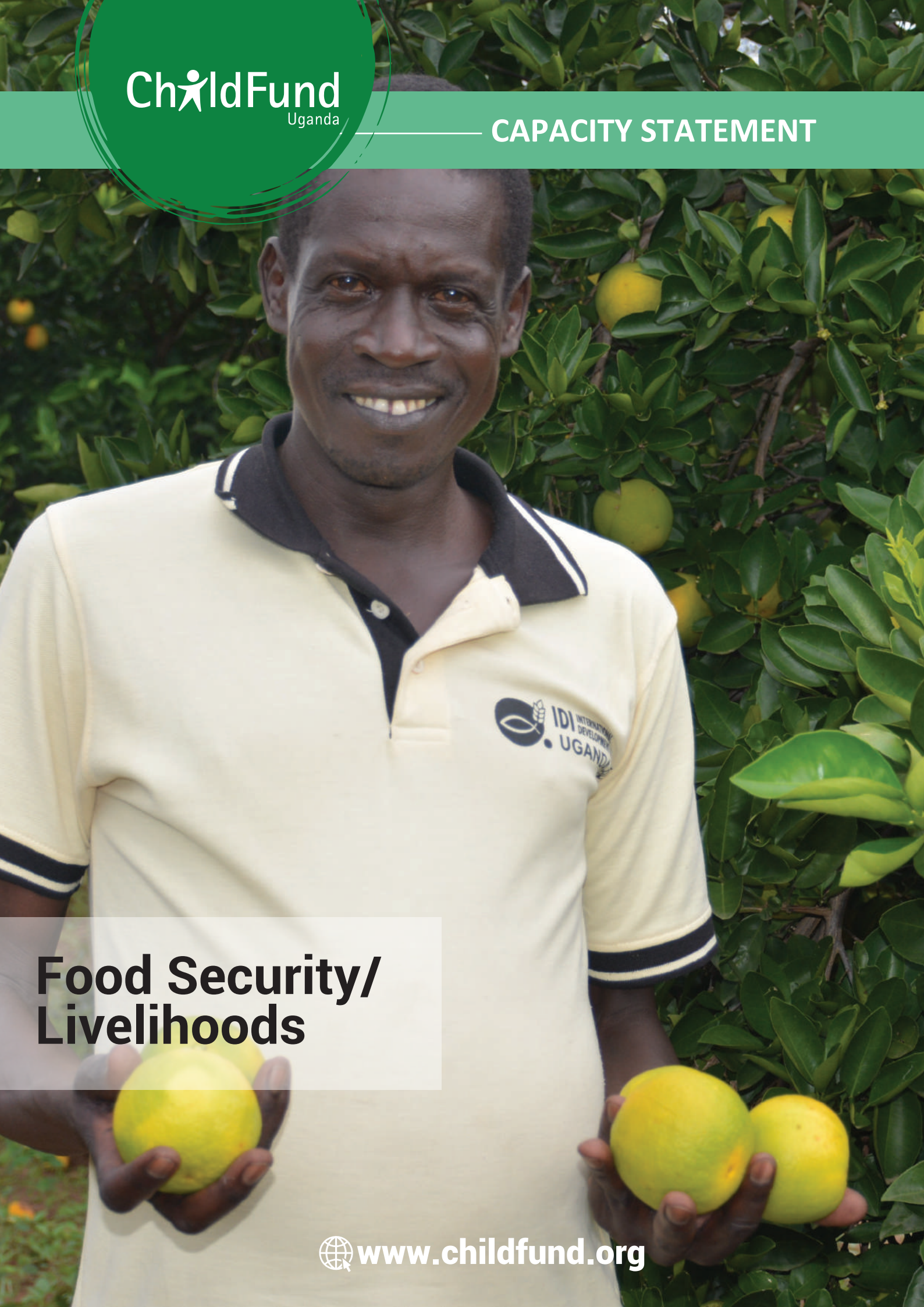
ChildFund Uganda

CAPACITY STATEMENT



Food Security/ Livelihoods

www.childfund.org

OVERVIEW:

ChildFund is an international non-governmental organization working in 24 countries throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas to help deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children and youth to improve their lives and become productive young adults who bring lasting and positive changes in their communities. Since 1938, ChildFund has worked for the well-being of children by improving child protection, promoting early childhood development, improving access to the quality of education, promoting the health and nutrition of mothers and children, and boosting livelihoods and civic engagement of young people. In the fiscal year ending June 2020, ChildFund reported more than US$202 million in global expenditure and currently reaches over 13.6 million children and family members throughout the world, managing a portfolio of 200+ local implementing partners and ensuring sustainability of efforts.

Globally, ChildFund's Nutrition Portfolio focuses on a. **Supporting nutrition assessment, counselling and support:** Growth monitoring including screening for, diagnosing, and supporting the management of malnutrition; b. **Promoting exclusive breastfeeding**: for the first six months of life; and c. **Promoting complementary feeding:** Educating caregivers on introducing solid foods, dietary diversity, and minimum meal frequency. In addition, ChildFund has successfully implemented several high-impact humanitarian projects, including the **BHA Global Inter-agency Security Forum (USA),** which strengthened humanitarian security risk management with a $1.57 million phase from 2020 to 2023 and an upcoming $6.7 million phase through 2026. In Mexico, the **Protected Passage project** provided health, MHPSS, and protection services to vulnerable asylum-seekers and migrants, while the **Safe Refugee initiative** ensured gender-inclusive services. Similarly, **New Roots in Ecuador** focused on equitable access to services for underserved communities, with a total budget of $5.75 million. Additionally**, ChildFund partnered with UNICEF and BHA to support maternal and child health services in Central America, continuing until December 2024.**

In Uganda, ChildFund recognizes that access to sustainable livelihoods and economic self-reliance is an important factor in enhancing the protection and well-being of children and their families. During Round 9 of the survey conducted in August 2022, food insecurity measured by moderate and severe food insecurity indexes were at spiking levels of 48% and 11%, respectively (World bank 2022). Food, nutrition and economic insecurity are a driving factor for risky behavior, such as early sex debut among young girls, commercial sex among women and other forms of exploitation-all in exchange for food or cash, as witnessed at the peak of COVID-19 outbreak. Aware that food and nutrition security is directly linked to financial resources, ChildFund deploys innovative approaches that build food resilience among households and strengthens community capacities to address the global pillars of ***Availability, Access, Utilization and Stability***.

Consequently, we have developed sustainable solutions to improve livelihoods and food security, leveraging our deep-rooted community engagement to increase crop production by yield per acre. We bring extensive technical experience accumulated over 20 years of applying **Farmer Field School and Graduation Models** in the implementation of Food Security and Nutritional programs to ensure an increase in the number of households that can afford at least 3 meals a day, engage in economic activities to diversify their income and protect food reserves against sale for cash Our established partnerships with key stakeholders such as **National Agricultural Advisory Services** (NAADs), Agricultural Training Institutes, District Local Governments, and Universities- further ensure we can contribute effectively to quality project management. ChildFund is an active participant in **Uganda's Livelihoods Technical Working Group**, ensuring alignment with national priorities and collaboration across sectors.





Partnerships and Localization: Through decades of field implementation around the world, ChildFund has tested and perfected approaches, methods and tools to apply **USAID's "localization" strategy.** Annually, ChildFund sub-grants over US$50 million to approximately 145 grassroots organizations in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas with capacity building of their technical, managerial, financial and network/collaboration skills.

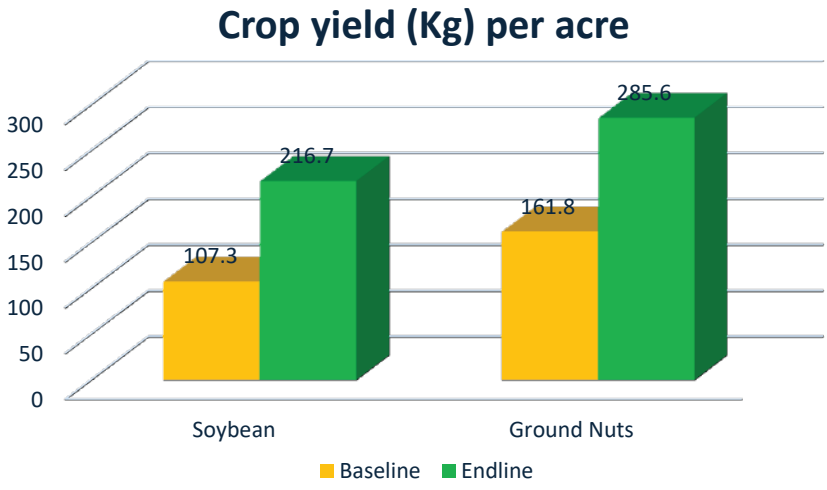
Local partners know their local contexts, needs, challenges, and priorities, which is why ChildFund in Uganda prioritizes locally led approaches across its programming, with local partners receiving direct budgets and leading over 80% of ChildFund programming in Uganda. Over the past two decades in Uganda, ChildFund has empowered 9 local partners that have evolved into independent "Non-Governmental Organizations, in East, North, Central, Mid-West regions. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are a promising option in closing the gap of global food production. As such, ChildFund works towards combining its strength with that of government, private sector and grass-root organizations to significantly address food and nutrition security among supported communities. Working through local partners ensures that program planning is bottom-up, thus enhancing community ownership and sustainability of the interventions.

TECHNICAL STRATEGY

ChildFund contributes to SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and the wellbeing of families with children and youth aged 0-24 years by ensuring an increase in number households that are: **a)** able to afford at least 3 meals a day, **b)** engaged in economic activities to diversify their income and protect food reserves against sale for cash and **c)** able to increase crop production by yield per acre.
Livestock and poultry farming are integrated to enhance nutrition and proceeds from crop production. Climate change adaptation and mitigation are mainstreamed in all programs as a sustainability strategy.

DIRECT FOOD PRODUCTION: ChildFund Uganda's approach to direct food production is through the ***Farmer Field School (FFS) Model,*** *which* is a hands-on approach, which involves practical training of farmers at a communal farm site, using the FFS guide. Farmers attend 2-3 weeks sessions in groups, led by a trained model farmer. Each farmer replicates the practice at household level, with support from assigned government extension workers. Farmers are trained in postharvest handling, value addition and marketing to access markets for direct sales rather than pass through middlemen. Livestock farming is integrated, and farmers receive initial input through their farmer groups, which they revolve by passing over the first female offspring to their counterparts as laid down in their livestock dispersal agreement, spear-headed by the Livelihood Dispersal Committee. It is a self-sustaining model, which does not require further investment after the initial seed capital. A veterinary extension worker is attached to farmers for technical support. Each beneficiary contributes a fee on receipt of the offspring and the fee is pooled to sustain extension work.

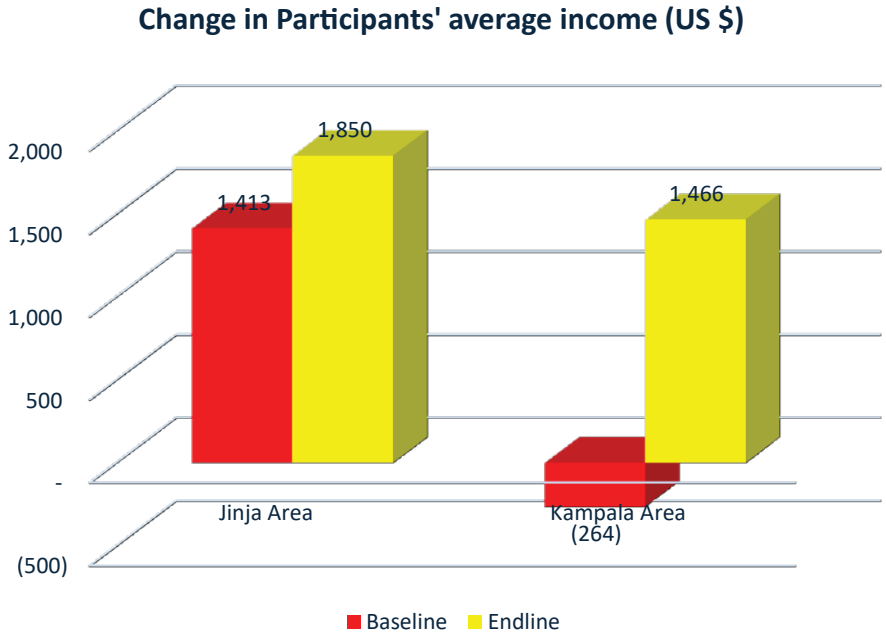
Graph 1: *Average crop yield per acre per enterprise in Teso and Lango program areas.*



CASH TRANSFERS: This is a 2-way intervention ***i), Conditional cash transfer*** is geared towards specific investment by **moderately low income"** category to generate income. ***ii) Unconditional cash transfer*** is for households in **severely low income"** category, to recover from shocks of hunger and other immediate basic needs.

MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT: As part of the promotion of entrepreneurship, ChildFund supports households as individuals or groups to start income generating projects and business incubation. Market-oriented enterprises are linked to the private sector for further support and where necessary supported with micro-grants to access equipment. Farming ventures are promoted for entrepreneurship and encourage SMART farming practices as part of Climate Change Action for sustainable livelihoods.
A recent innovation is supporting business development and sustainability through the **Street Business School (SBS) coaching model.** This model does not require cash infusion to participants to startup and manage businesses but rather mentor them to use available resources as their startup and business coaches support them along the journey to success. This has so far been piloted among local partners in central Uganda and the results are positive. There is quick positive return on investment among participants, with those in Kampala rejuvenating from losses to profits within six months after graduation. 84% of the participants had started at least one business three months after coaching. The groups were female dominated, because they are more responsive to development ideas, since they cushion most of the economic burdens for their families. The graph below shows change in income among participants groups in Kiboga, Jinja and Kampala between December 2023 and February 2024.

***Graph 2:** Change in participants' average monthly income in Jinja and Kampala Area in 6 months of intervention.*



Other approaches include:

Inclusion, Diversity Equity and Accessibility (IDEA):

ChildFund recognizes the intrinsic worth of every individual. Efforts are made to promote **equity** and **equality** in **participation** and access to food and nutrition both in quantity and quality, to ensure that all supported individuals live dignified lives free of discrimination. Women, children, persons with disability, elderly and other marginalized groups of persons are given at-most priority due to their vulnerability in accessing equitable food and nutrition services. In addition to the rights-based approach, ChildFund enhances community resilience by using approaches that build on their own skills and strengths, reinforce supportive and protective relationships, and challenge social and legal norms that work to their disadvantage. **Financial Inclusion** plays a key role in supporting household economic stability and food security. Most families do not have access to the financial resources that they need because of supply and demand barriers exerted by formal financial institutions, particularly in rural areas. To increase financial access, ChildFund supports households with a range of non-financial services like financial literacy training, facilitates access to finance through activities such as inclusive savings and loans Associations (VSLA), and has begun to develop partnerships with formal financial institutions to address the credit needs of supported households.

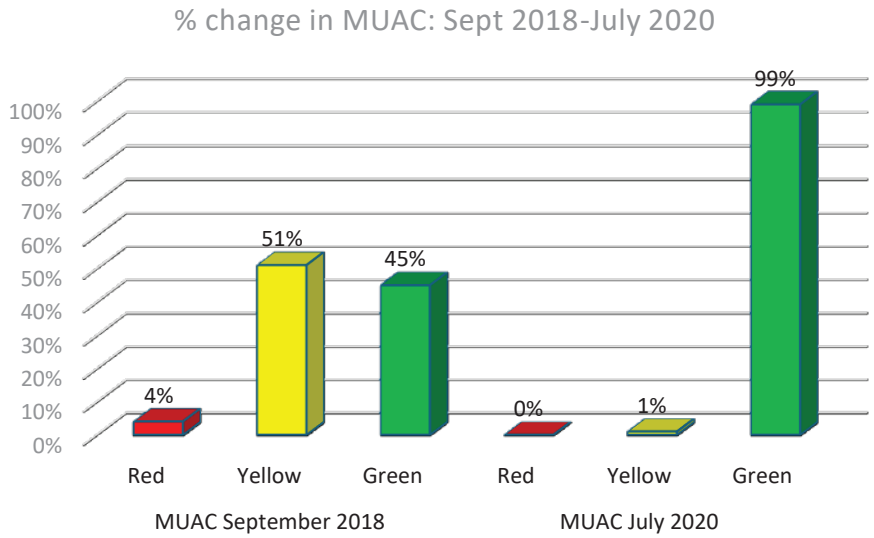
Capacity to identify and implement interventions that improve household food and nutrition security

Over the years in Uganda, ChildFund has implemented food security/livelihoods resilience programs which include:

Household Resilient -HHR Project (2018-2020): The US $ 374,400 project was implemented in Kitgum district. It was largely aimed at improving access to high impact nutrition, healthcare information and services to households with infants and young children and improving food security among households of care givers of children 0-5 in Kitgum district. Using the farmer field school and Business entrepreneurship models, 41 Community Health Volunteers were trained, mentored, and equipped with relevant skills and information to support households and initiate referrals to health centers for nutrition support. They also monitored the progress of children enrolled on the special nutrition program using growth cards to assess their status. As a result, 398 malnourished children were enrolled on the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) at the two facilities during the project cycle and supported to regain their full health. 544 caregivers were trained in farming as a business for sustained income for household nutrition and health, post-harvest management and given start-up farm inputs through cash transfers. The caregivers were supported by government extension workers. 75% of the households among the groups that planted the seeds earlier in the season doubled their crop harvests, while the other 25% had limited returns due to outbreak of drought. Kitgum Matidi and Akuna Laber Health Centers were supported with nutrition supplies (e.g millet flour, powdered milk, Sugar and cooking oil).

690 caregivers were trained in Infants and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) practices. The caregivers were able to formulate therapeutic food using local options of sim-sim and peanuts. The graph below summarizes the results.

Graph 3: Trends in child nutrition status from project inception (2018) to project end (2020)



3,567 children under the age of one year received vaccines such as (DPT1, DPT3, Measles and Vitamin A.

Women and Youth Economic Empowerment Project (WYEP) 2022-2023: With funding from The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF), ChildFund invested $165,177 to address teenage pregnancy, youth unemployment and low-income levels especially among the rural women and girls worsened by COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. The project was implemented in Teso and Lango sub-regions in Northern and Eastern Uganda. It placed particular emphasis on supporting 440 teenage mothers, youths and women improve their livelihoods through non-conventional skills such as crafts-making, apiary, horticulture, weaving, and textile, among others. The goal was to improve the wellbeing of teenage mothers, youths and women through sustainable livelihoods opportunities for wealth creation. The project target was to increase annual income by 60% among youth and teenage mothers, and by 50% among women. By the end of the project, annual income had improved among the different categories-; from $18 to $580 among teenage mothers aged 13-19 and youths, $42 to $376 among youths aged 20-24 and $51 to $387 among Women aged 25-60 years. By the end of the project, the primary participants had cascaded the various skills to 481(163M:318F) community members. Through imparting mindset change among targeted communities, youths appreciated and picked interest in agriculture.

Building economic resilience for farmers and young people in northeastern Uganda (Dec 2020 – Nov 2023): This project is funded by BMZ worth EUR $ 666,000 and targeted 800 vulnerable farming households and 400 vulnerable unskilled youths in Teso and Lango sub-regions. A total of 840 farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture (CSA), increasing the proper adoption of

CSA practices from 2% to 61%, their crop yield increasing between 21% (soyabeans) and 32% (ground nuts) and 400 youth were trained in vocational skills and of whom, 260 (65%) became gainfully employed by the end of the project.

Current food and nutrition interventions

ChildFund Uganda uses the strategies of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA), Micro enterprise development and Village Saving and Loans association (VSLA) to drive the food and nutrition intervention. Over 2,000 farmers have been supported to practice CRA and other environmental conservation such as making energy saving stoves, afforestation and non-wood fuel energy options. 13,354 micro enterprises (11,847 of which are for women) have been supported. Earnings from these initiatives protect harvests from unplanned sale for cash. ChildFund also trained and mentored 661 VSLA groups, with 17,621 (4756M:12,865F) members to save money for nutrition and income security. From their combined Action audit, they had up to UGX 2,162,063,500 in savings and UGX 1,144,000,074 in loans.

Lessons learned from interventions

Successful food and nutrition security interventions should be backed up by business entrepreneurship to protect the food reserves from being sold for cash.

Caregivers' sessions together with the integrated community outreaches strengthens the referral of malnourished children to the health facilities.

From the lessons above, ChildFund Uganda is better positioned to replicate best practices and improve programming in the next planning cycles.

Coordination and Collaboration

ChildFund has developed and nurtured strategic partnerships to achieve set targets and leverage resources to contribute to Dignity and wellbeing of children, youth and their family members. Partners include **Grain Pulse ltd,** for technical support in climate Smart farming, **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development** for policy related technical support, **Lower local governments** who play a coordination and joint monitoring role, **BVET accredited Skills Training Institutions** for training youths in various skills, **Local artisans** to offer hands-on mentorship to the assigned youths, **Directorate of Industrial training (DIT)** to regulate assessment of youth trainees and accredit the awards.

ChildFund has teamed up with entities that sustain youth apprentices with software skills to enable them to successfully deliver their business plans. These include **Work for Life** and **SAWA world** and has recently engaged **Street Business School (SBS)** for a tailored non-capital-intensive entrepreneurships solutions.

ChildFund is deep rooted, with robust implementation structures that include adults and young people up to community levels. These community structures have ensured sustainability of ChildFund interventions, because their actions directly contribute to the achievement of ChildFund nationally and globally.





ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

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