ChildFund
Uganda



Women and Youth Economic Empowerment (WYEE)

Project Endline Evaluation Report

December 2023

AT A GLANCE

Purpose of the Assessment

- **Assess p**rogress towards realizing the intended project outcomes.
- To generate best practices from the implementation of the project's activities that will be useful for similar projects in the future.
- To develop specific recommendations for major stakeholder groups anchored on the conclusions to promote sustainability and long-term impact on the beneficiary communities.

Methodology and Protocol

- ✓ Evaluation by CO M&E units.
- ✓ 2 Research Assistants hired and trained to collect data.
- ✓ Data collected using digital tools designed in Kobo-collect installed on phones.
- ✓ 206 respondents sampled and interviewed proportionate to the number beneficiaries per category.

Key findings

- ✓ 20% of the respondents were HHH.
- ✓ 32.2% were single 49.8% are married, 9.5% had separated with their partners, 8.5% were widows.
- ✓ 97% of the respondents had established different IGAs with 90% engaged in animal/poultry rearing.
- ✓ Income among teen mothers changed from $18 to $590.
- ✓ Income among Youths changed from $42 to $376.
- ✓ Income among women changed from $50.5 to $387.4
- ✓ (79.6%) reported to have reached **481**(163M:318F) community members as secondary beneficiaries with different skills.

Challenges

There were some issues of domestic violences and attempts to misuse support by non-primary beneficiaries especially parents.

Key Recommendations

- Exploration of alternative evaluation and tracking/monitoring methods for Youths empowerment initiatives.
- Protection mechanisms needs to be integrated within such livelihood initiatives to manage cases of domestic violence.
- Organize peer exchange/learning visits for the youths to such successful role models in the community to encourage other youths.

BACKGROUND

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1.1Introduction.
ChildFund Uganda with partners (PfCW and LACCODEF) has been implementing a 15-months The Coca Cola Foundation (TCCF) funded project in the Teso and Lango Sub-regions respectively.
The project was designed to respond to the effects of high teenage pregnancy brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, low-income levels of women as well as unemployment among youth in Lango and Teso sub-regions.

1.2 Project Profile.

Title	Women and Youth Economic Empowerment (WYEE) Project
Geographical Target	Amuria, Katakwi, Serere and Dokolo Districts
Project Period	1st July 2022 to 30th Sept 23
Target Category	100 Teenage Mothers, 100 Youths, 240 Women aged 20-60 years
Goal	To improve the well-being of women and youth Through Sustainable livelihoods opportunities for wealth creation

1.3 Project Objectives.
Empowering 100 teenage mothers and youth to increase their annual income through vocational skills from $101 to $ 162 (60%).
Empowerment 100 youths through microenterprise development skills from $101 to $ 162 (60%).
Reaching out to a total of 240 women aged 20-60 years by supporting them increase their income from agribusiness skills from $101 to $152 (50%).

1.3.0 Purpose of the Assessment
The main purpose of the endline evaluation was to provide implementing organization (ChildFund Uganda), partners and the donor (TCCF) with detailed data on project outcomes that have taken place since the inception of the project.
The assessment specifically intended to establish:
Performance & Effectiveness: Assess the progress towards realizing the intended project outcomes.
Learning: To generate best practices from the implementation of the project's activities and the outcomes achieved that will be useful for similar projects in the future.
Sustainability: To develop specific recommendations for major stakeholder groups anchored on the conclusions to promote sustainability and long-term impact on the beneficiary communities.

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Preparatory phase
An Incpetion meeting with Partners was conducted online 3-days before field data collection to create a common understanding of the Terms of Reference and share roles and responsibilities. Among the key roles for the partners was community mobilization and recruitment of the Research Assistants.
Entry meeting was conducted at field level to plan for the execution of the assessment.

2.2 Data collection.

The M&E, KML Specialist worked with field-based partner staff to recruit and train 8 Research Assistants-RAs (2 per district) to collect data from project participants in each of the districts. Each RA was assigned a target of 6-7 respondents per day for a period of 4-days.
Data was be collected with an aid of a questionnaire developed using Digital App (Kobo-collect) for easy management. The questionnaire was later installed on mobile phones for each of the RAs.

2.3 Sampling Techniques.
Lists of participants per category from different districts was used to draw a scientific sample of 206 randomly as indicated in the table below;

Sampling Table

Category	Dokolo	Serere	Katakwi	Amuria	Total
Teen Mothers	12	12	12	12	47
Youths	12	12	12	12	47
Women	28	28	28	28	112
Total	**52**	**52**	**52**	**52**	**206**

2.4 Data Analysis.
Data was downloaded, cleaned and majorly analysed using descriptive outputs in excel.

3.0 EVALUATION FINDINGS

3.1 Demographics

Household Head?	No	Yes	Married	Separated/Divorced	Single	Widow	Grand
Teen Mother	45	2	11	2	34		47
Youth	39	8	22	7	18		47
Women	80	32	62	16	16	18	112
Grand Total	**164**	**42**	**95**	**25**	**68**	**18**	**206**

From the table above, 20% of the respondents were household heads including teen mothers.
32.2% were single (72.3% among teen mothers), 49.8% are married, 9.5% had separated with their partners and 8.5% were widows. The big percent of single/separated/divorced teen mothers increases their vulnerability to look after children as well themselves thus the project interventions became more relevant towards addressing the vulnerabilities by enhancing their livelihoods.

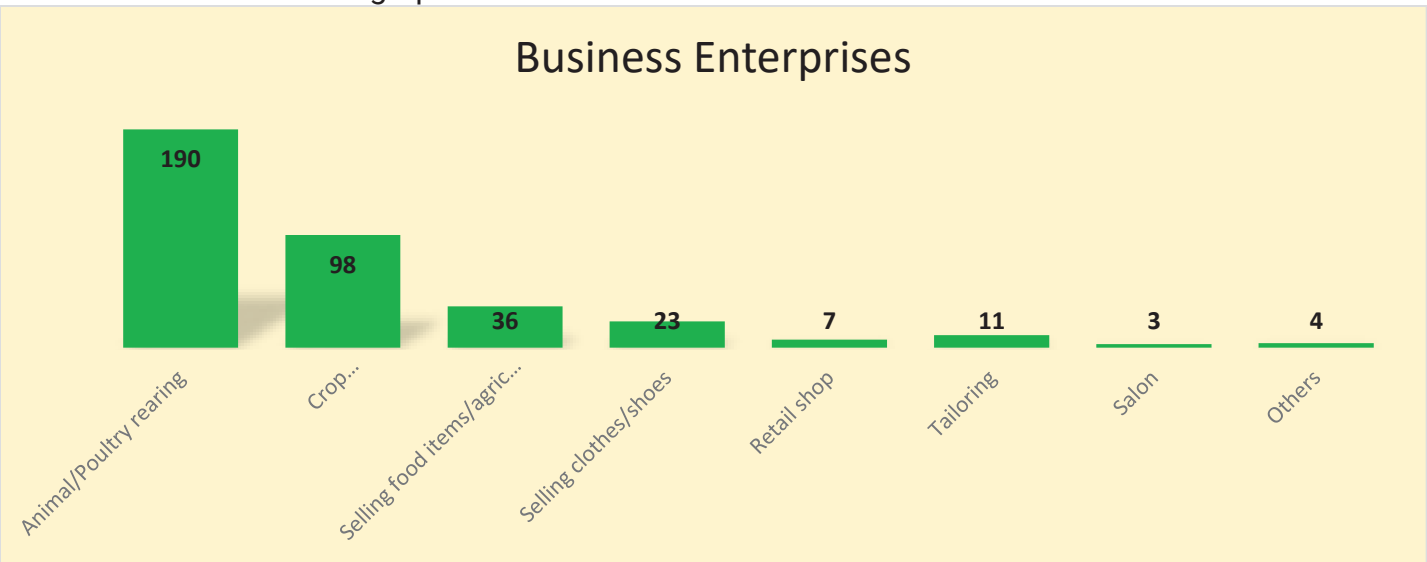
3.2 Project Effectiveness.
From the discussions below, the project realised the intended impact which is highly likely to be sustained given the mechanisms established.

3.2.1 Business Enterprises.
Prior to supporting the beneficiaries, they were taken through career guidance/enterprise selection and management and entrepreneurship skills among others.

Respondents were asked about the different practices they adopted from the training and reasons for adoption, below are some of the insights.
I learned during the training that most farmers incur losses during harvesting.

These good agricultural practices help to increase my production yields of my crops which helps me to fetch higher profits.
Early planting enables our crops to get enough water and also helps crops to benefit from the nitrogen flash which gives nutrients to plants hence better yields.
I learned that crop rotation helps to control crop pests and diseases.
Organic manure generation helps me to improve on soil fertility hence leading to higher crop returns.
I am using organic method because chemicals are not good in the body.
Planting draught resistant crops enable us to overcome the shock of climate change.
The best farming practices like using a fertilizer, earlier planting and manure use have greatly improved my yields.
The technique like post-harvest handling have helped me manage my harvest well which late enabled me to get higher returns.
The knowledge they impacted in me especially best farming practices like planting crops in raws helped me to get higher yields. I have gained much considerable skills in animal management where am able to take care of my goats well.
The practices yield great results to me for example, I am able to buy quality produce and even teach my neighbour good post-harvest techniques.
The practice like animal management helped me a lot because I am able to manage my goats without all the time paying a veterinarian.
Post harvest handling helps you to gain market for the products when they are well dried and store.
Good business language helps to attract customers into the business leading to more sales and high profits.
Planting trees around the home compound makes the environment conducive to stay in.
Knowing how to manage credits in business helps you to minimize losses that will arise from bad debtors.
Caring for the animals enables them to be healthy and when taken to the market it's more competitive.

The survey indicated that 97% of the respondents were engaged in different income generating activities as shown of the graph below.



The remaining 3% of the respondents were yet to establish their businesses given a number of limiting factors such as rent for operation space.

3.2.2 Nature of income flow.

Respondents earned income daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annually and annually depending on the nature of their businesses for instance daily income was common among those engaged in businesses such as food stalls and retail shop, weekly income was common among those selling clothes/shoes through weekly markets as indicated in the table below.

Tab-2: Nature of Income and corresponding amount earned (Ugx).

Nature of earning	Teen Aver (min-max)	Freq	Youth Aver (min-max)	Freq	Women Aver (min-max)	Freq
Daily	**17,533** (3000-50,000)	15	**7,500** (5,000-10,000)	5	**8,000**(4,000-10,000)	6
Weekly	**51,765** (5-200,000)	16	**33,636** (5,000-90,000)	11	**44,769** (5,000-150,000)	11
Monthly	**50,000**	1	**168,000** (30,000-600,000)	7	**71,667** (10,000-200,000)	15
Semi-annually	**405,000** (70-750,000)	6	**33,333** (50,000-800,000)	12	**375,104** (30,000-5,800,000)	48
Annually	**171,429** (50-500,000)	8	**350,000** (100,000-600,000)	9	**269,310** (50,000-1,000,000)	29
Total		46		45		109

3.2.3 Key Indicator Statistic (Effectiveness).

From the table below, the teens were earning more income compared to their youths and women counterparts which is partly attributed to the diversified nature of their businesses as opposed to the Women who are mostly engaging one enterprise which is commonly agriculture with crops that stay 4-6 months in the garden before harvesting and animal husbandry. Secondly, Teens gained skills from the institutions from where they trained, and they are able to handle multiple enterprises including those bringing income daily.

Tab-3: Results Framework.

Outcome	Indicator	Baseline Assessment Sept 22	Target	Endline Assessment Dec 2023	Change
Outcome-1: Increased annual income among 100 teenage mothers and youths through vocational skills from $101 to $ 162 (60% increase) after training.	60% Change in Income for the teenage mothers.	$18	$162	$580.0 Ugx 2,134,550[1].80	3122%
Outcome-2: Increased annual income among 100 youths through microenterprise development skills from $101 to $ 162 (60% increase) after training.	60% Change in Income for the youths	$42.2	$162	$376.0 Ugx 1,383,847.60	791%

[1] Exchange rate is $1= Ugx 3,680

Outcome-3: Increased annual income among 240 women of 20-60 through agribusiness skills from $101 to $ 152 (60% increase) after training.	50% Change in Income for the Women	$50.5	$152	$387.4 Ugx 1,425,502.0	667%

N.B: The project design considered increasing the annual incomes to $162 for Teens and Youths and $152 for the Women which wasn't realistic given that it can be expected the teens and youths are likely to have less employment opportunities compared to the old Women.

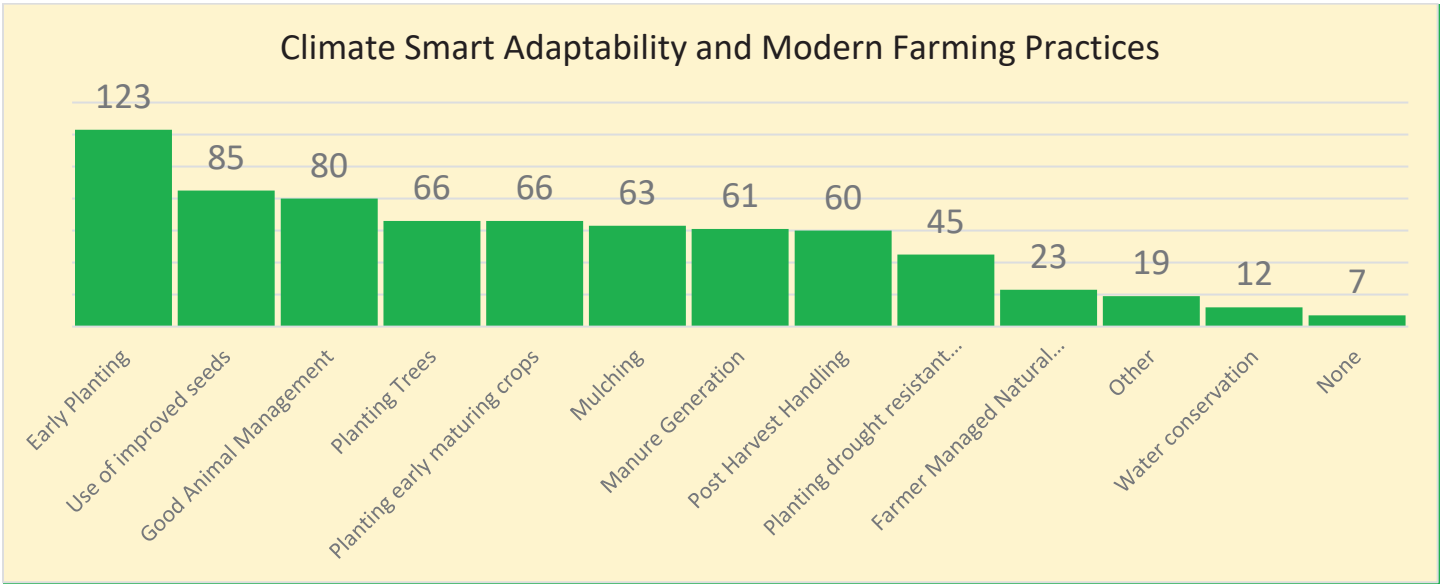
3.2.4 Future Plans among respondents.

Respondents were asked about their future plans and below are some of the insights.

Increasing the number of cows so to be able to buy land and good building food and education to the children.
To grow up my business to become a wholesaler in my trading center.
To reinvest the groundnuts I got this year to open at least 2 acres next year. I also plan to expand my sheep and goat project.
From the sheep and the goats, I got from the project, I intend to transform them to cattle when they multiply such that I will buy a plot of land to establish my business of selling produce.
To expand on the groundnuts farm next year such that I get money to buy some family assets and capital to enlarge on my workshop.
To expand my farming from one acre to 3 acres by next year.
I want to multiple my goats to cows which later will improve my nutrition at home because I will be able to feed my children with the milk.
When I sell, my sheep I am intending to buy a cow that will give me milk as a product.
I want to produce on a large scale and build a permanent house.
Planning to save money and buy oxen and ox plough to produce in large scale.
I'm planning to enlarge my business enterprises and employ other people, I'm also planning to build a permanent house for the family.
To expand my bakery business to be to supply institutions.
I want to plant trees and do horticulture in a large scale.

3.2.5 Climate Smart Agriculture adaptability among respondents.

Respondents that were engaged in on-farm businesses adapted different climate smart agriculture practices as indicated on the graph below.



3.2.6 Stories of changes

Initially as a widow I had a lot of challenges at my family, but now I am also able to buy some food for my family, that's why am so happy for the project.
Am very grateful for the project because it has given me knowledge in different craft works, which helps me to improve my family living standards.
The skills that they gave me mostly and the regular supervision and continuous guidance that the supervision team always give me.
The project supported me with goats and seeds which has empowered me as a woman, I have hope in life.
The project has changed my life because by next year I will be able to get milk on a daily basis when my cow gives birth.
The project has improved my knowledge on farming and animal rearing, planning for the future and preparing for shocks that occurs in life.
It has improved my knowledge on farming and climate smart agriculture.
It has improved my knowledge on business and increased household income.
The knowledge they imparted to me oh how to make fertilizer, farm management techniques and goats and ground nuts have greatly contribute to my family growth.

3.2.7 Knowledge Replication.

The project was designed in such a way that each beneficiary is supposed to replicate skills gained from the project interventions to at least two other people in the community. Majority of respondents (79.6%) reported to have reached **481**(163M:318F) community members as secondary beneficiaries with different skills.

3.3 Relevancy and Coherence.

The project tackled the livelihood concerns of the target category given their vulnerabilities. The project designed target to address national challenges of teenage pregnancy and youth unemployment through empowering Girls and Women with relevant skills to enable them sustainably to engage in economic activities to improve their livelihoods. Participants were engaged in career guidance sessions for them to make meaningful decisions that best fit their challenges at individual, household and community level which made them make informed choices prior to the support. This promoted

high level of participation, accountability and ownership of the project interventions, thus making the participant attach a significant value to its relevancy towards addressing their challenges.

Secondly, the project interventions were **coherent** National Development Agendas (NDP-III, PDM, EMYOGA etc), SGDs (1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 &17) as well as ChildFund core outcome and development milestone "Skilled and Involved Youth" for life stage-3 (15-24 years).

3.4 Project Sustainability.

The project design anchored on the existing structures established by ChildFund and Partners at both institutional and community level which made transition smooth as the project was phasing out. The mechanisms such as integration of project activities with other programs implemented by ChildFund and partners makes it possible for continuous support to the project beneficiaries. From 3.7 above, knowledge and practices are expected to continue diffusing to other community members through multiplier effect.

CONCLUSIONS, CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

The project achieved the results at both output and outcome levels given the indicate changes and the diffusion of knowledge is expected to continue looking at the multiplier effect as per the evaluation findings. The project's sustainability is more inclined to the existing structures established by ChildFund and partners.

4.2 The Challenge faced by respondents.

- Youths' mobility made it challenging to trace some of the sampled youths as they were unavailable in their expected communities. Others had moved out of the communities searching for employment.
- There were some issues of domestic violences and attempts to misuse support by non-primary beneficiaries especially parents. A case of separation between the supported youths with the husband in Katakwi who went back to her parents in Lira leaving the support back under poor management. In such a situation, if there no mechanisms to ensure that the support isn't lost, the intervention's objective remain unachieved.

4.3 Lessons Learned

- Integrating **protection** aspects in such livelihood initiatives especially for the youths and women is key to address issues of child protection and gender-based violence that may arise in relation to the support provided at household level given the observations during the assessment where some parents had tempted to misuse the support given to their children (youths/teen mothers).
- The participants of the WYEE project demonstrated a significant level of commitment which is attributed to the clear selection criterion and emphasizing the role of participants in the project which has made them attach significant value to the support received including extending it to

other community members. It's always uncommon to have youths/teens interested in on-farm economic activities. Same approach could be adopted for other livelihood initiatives.

- Synergies established between the WYEE project and partner programs plus BMZ-funded livelihood project was a credit towards the successful implementation of the WYEE project. The mentorship/trainings extended by the role-model youths earlier trained by BMZ grant greatly encouraged the WYEE project participants to embrace the support.

4.4 Recommendation:

- Exploration of alternative evaluation and tracking/monitoring methods for Youth empowerment initiatives in the future given the mobility of the youths. They could simply be monitored virtually.
- Protection mechanisms needs to be integrated within such livelihood initiatives to manage cases of domestic violence that may arise including sensitizing parents or other household members.
- Organize peer exchange/learning visits for the youths to such successful role models in the community to encourage other youths.

ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

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