

Empowering Refugees through Enterprise Development in Uganda

Agriculture Market Support (AMS): A key program designed to enhance market access and improve agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers, from both refugees (40%) and host communities (60%).



Building inclusive markets for refugees and host communities

Agriculture And Market Support (Funded by World Food programme)

A sustainable increase in food, nutrition, and income security for smallholder farmers especially women and youth

- Improve PHM, food safety and quality among women and youth smallholders, MSEs and Aggregators
- Increase pro-smallholder marketing among smallholders, especially women and youth
- Strengthen national and sub-national institutions for pro-smallholder policies and programs

2017 – 2023 Uganda



The Strategy

- Interventions that increase agricultural productivity, production, and marketable volumes to achieve food security, reduce poverty, and promote economic growth in rural areas.
- Combination of proven and innovative approaches and working models for impact, scaleup interventions that have high potential and are proven to promote job creation, employment opportunity and increase incomes.
- Strengthen engagement/partnerships with the private and public sectors based on economically viable business models as well as optimise the utilisation of existing demand and supply aggregation systems and agro-processing capacities

The Model

- **Holistic approach**
- **Market driven: facilitate solutions that particularly align** the interests of private sector and SHF.
- **Farmer Organization focused** : Refugees – Host community – women – youth
- **Youth driven** : Job creation / employment and income opportunities



Main Impact Achievements (1)

1 Improved Agricultural Productivity

Training and capacity building : extensive training to farmers on modern farming techniques, pest management, and soil health, resulting in significant yield increases.

2 Enhanced access to Market and inputs

Market Linkages: Establishment of strong linkages between farmers and markets, including local, national, and international buyers.

3 Financial and digital Inclusion

Linkages to financial services : AMS has facilitated access to microfinance and credit for smallholder farmers, enabling them to invest in better inputs and technology.

4 Diversification and Value Addition

Diversification: to reduce risk and improve food security.
Value Addition: Training and support for value addition processes such as processing, packaging, and branding.

Main Impact Achievements (2)

5 Improved FOs services

Due to enhanced FOs leadership and management capacities, governance policies , members access more and better services : extension, financial services, marketing (bulking...), access to inputs, equipment, tractors, ...



Breakdown of crops bulked and marketed

S/N	Crop type	Baseline	2022/2023 Phase	Change
1	Beans	607	4,276	704%
2	Cassava	297	19,295	6497%
3	Maize	347	392,953	113243%
4	Sesame	170	3,680	216%
5	Soyabean	591	169,964	28759%
6	Sunflower	571	4,648	814%
	Total Kg sold	2,583	594,816	23028%



Success Stories: Refugee-Owned Businesses in Uganda

Case 1

Juan Nancy, a female youth refugee from South Sudan living in Kiryandongo settlement was equipped with technical skills on making pallets (PHM equipment) and was able to secure funds to start an agro-produce business and farming of rice on 15 acres. She acquired productive assets such as a motorbike to facilitate transport for her produce.



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Case 2

Raymond Ecimu a male youth refugee from South Sudan was trained on Farming as a Business and linked to financial services. He was able to acquire a loan and started a poultry business. Recently Raymond sold 150 one months old birds at 10,000 each and obtained 1.5 million which he has used to expand his business and purchase an ox plough and oxen which he is using to offer services to SHFs land at 50k per acre . This has transformed his life as a youth refugee.



Lessons learned

1

Lessons on the quality of BDS design and delivery

Instead of directly providing the necessary training to refugees and host communities, the project collaborates with private partners (such as off-takers and inputs suppliers), who have the capacity and incentives to deliver the services in a more financially sustainable way. This enabled the use of cash transfers to support market development, activate markets, and positively impact sustainability.

The village agent model proved highly effective in achieving the last mile objective of enhancing access to inputs as well as acquiring basic agronomic knowledge

2

Lessons on Inclusion

To promote gender inclusivity, SHA ensured that gender mainstreaming was prioritised in every activity, including trainings and engagements with FOs and enterprises using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), SHA's Family Life Model, and the Adopting a Gender Lens in Business approach. This contributed to increased number of women in leadership at group level what led to increased access to services at group level by women both refugees and host communities

3

Advocacy and Policy Reform

Working with local government entities and stakeholders to address legal and regulatory barriers is very important in creating a more enabling environment for refugee entrepreneurs.



