



Sustainable, Accountable, Empowering
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QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT



Cosma Sustainable Rural Development (CSR D) is a registered Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO). The organization is run by young Ugandan leaders, with assistance and advising from international partners, and serves a population of vulnerable children and families residing in Uganda.

CSRD envisions a future in which Ugandan communities are empowered, self-reliant, and thriving. To achieve this future, we work to raise the standard of living among underprivileged individuals through a variety of development programs. Our current priority areas for intervention are access to education, sustainable agriculture and income generation and entrepreneurship.

Between January and April 2019, CSRD continued to focus on its three major intervention areas to improve the livelihoods of our constituents.

- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security;
- Education and Sponsorship;
- Youth Entrepreneurship; and
- Professional development.

1. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

This project is a value chain intervention aimed at enabling farmers in Sembabule and neighboring districts to obtain higher incomes from their cereal crop produce through improved efficiency of crop production, access to storage, and access to agro-processing.

The overall objective is to enable 80% of the farmers in Sembabule and other neighboring Districts to have the capacity to produce, properly store, and process their harvested cereal crops.



The specific objectives are to:


- Provide farmers with improved seeds through a revolving seed scheme that will allow them to improve their crop yield;
- Organize community-level trainings in sustainable agriculture techniques and strategies to increase yield; and
- Set up a communal storage facility with mini silo units for farmers to store their crops to avoid pests and afro-toxins.

The project will be completed in three stages:

- Increase crop production
- Provide maize storage
- Facilitate maize processing

Agriculture Program Updates

Value chain stages	Activities	Progress	Comments
Stage 1	<p>Revolving Seed Project: Provide improved seeds to farmers and conduct trainings to prepare farmers for the project and address logistical issues (insurance agreements, etc).</p> <p>In last season we were able to access seeds from the government agriculture program up to 100 farmers received seeds</p>	<p>Provided drought insurance for 30 farmers; Provided a total of 500 kg of improved maize seeds to 80 farmers</p> <p>Over 80 farmers successfully planted their seeds however due to drought, there was drop in expected yield per kilo of seed planted from 20;1 to 10.:1</p> <p>However in general all the farmers under this program harvest totaled up to 1028 kgs.</p>	
Stage 2	Provide services for cleaning and storage of maize crops and related products.	Trained 15 youths in identifying business opportunities in agricultural value chain	 <p style="color: blue; font-size: small;">Training of youth village agents by ZAABTA</p>

			 <p>The type of communal silo required for grain storage</p>
Stage 3	Facilitate transportation, processing, marketing and selling of maize and related products.	No progress yet. Partners required at this stage.	 <p>Local maize shelling compromising quality</p>

1 a. Revolving Seed Project

CSRD provided farmers with improved seeds to increase crop yields. Recipients return 10% of each harvest from the improved seeds to CSRD, thereby allowing the organization to buy a new batch of seeds for the next season.

1 b. Drought Index Insurance

Recent years have brought an unstable climate to Uganda, causing farm yields to suffer due to excessive drought and rainfall. CSRD, together with M-Omulimisa, is running a campaign developed by the Ministry of Finance of Uganda to compensate farmers for losses due to **drought** and **excessive rainfall**.

1 c. Village Savings and Loans Associations

CSRD organizes farmers into Village Savings and Loans Associations, a model popularly known as VSLA. VSLA is the mechanism for delivery of services and collecting farmer's payback for those services. Each farmer that receives CSRD services must be registered with a VSLA. This provides a framework through which CSRD may deliver services and programs, from distributing improved seeds to disseminating knowledge regarding sustainable agricultural practice. To date we have 10 registered VSLA co-operatives with a membership of over 400 farmers.

VSLA Name	Total Members	Female Members	Male Members
LUMA A	34	19	15
LUMA B	34	20	14
NAKASENYI	70	48	22
LUMA C	32	18	14
KAFUMU TWEKEMBE	56	35	21
KABASANDA	28	15	13
NABIYAJI	59	48	11
LWENKAKALA	72	43	29

1 d. Youth Village Agent Program

The Youth Village Agents are a group of nominated youths who have experience in agriculture and have proven themselves to be responsible in documenting and reporting the needs of farmers in their communities. Each Youth Village Agent represents a group of 50 to 200 farmers. The agent handles reporting of farmer needs/requests and dissemination of information/training in agricultural techniques. The specific areas they cover include:

- Agronomic information.
- Spraying services.
- Ploughing.
- Planting and transplanting.
- Weeding using herbicides.
- Water management.
- Mobile irrigation services.
- Fertilizer application.
- Threshing/shelling.
- Market support services.
- Digital profiling.
- Insurance linkages.

2. Education Sponsorship

The goal of this project is to provide education sponsorship to vulnerable children in Uganda.

The specific objectives of this program are to:

- Enable students to access school fees;
- Increase students' access to scholastic materials;
- Increase students' access to reading materials; and
- Enable students to eat lunch at school.

To date we sponsor 22 students:

	Girls	Boys	Total
Secondary	4	5	9
Primary	6	4	10
University	1	2	2

We held a parents meeting to discuss the plans of sharing responsibilities for Children who are in Sponsorship program. We are able to provide school fees for primary, secondary, and university students, and the family provide the remaining requirements like scholastic materials. One of the students at university is fully sponsored for by CSRD donor while the others are still lacking consistent sponsorship.




After parents meeting.

3. Youth Entrepreneurship

The overall objective of this project is to equip 200 youths in Sembabule District with vocational skills that will afford them access to a wider variety of employment opportunities.

The specific objectives are to:

- To form youth entrepreneurship groups;
- To impart vocational skills to youths; and
- To enable youth groups to finance their ventures.

Project Stage	Activities	Result	Comments
Stage 1: Fashion and design	Train interested youths in the art of craft-making sandals, hand bags, beads	Thirty participants (10 males, 20 females) were selected in Mitete Parish Mateete Sub county to begin training in the production of sandals, handbags, and beaded crafts and jewelry.	
Stage 2: Education materials	Provide participants with reusable pads, chalk, and notebooks that they may use for school.	We have contacted the Rotary Club of Kampala to access these resources, and expect to provide these tools in May.	
Stage 3: Back yard gardening	Train youths in cost-benefit analysis of crop production so they may	We are in touch with horticultural specialists who will conduct the training and	

	<p>understand how to make financially responsible agricultural investments.</p>	<p>identify the most valuable produce to bring to market. Five crops will be selected for the cost-benefit analysis, and all participants will have access to the findings.</p>	
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4. Professional Development

Mr. George Mugenyi, our Director of Programs, was nominated to attend the International Agro Pastoral Summit in Yaoundé Cameroon. He was nominated by FAO in Uganda and trip was sponsored by IFAD.



Field activities in photos



Practical demonstration of garden spraying using automated sprayer



Luuma VSLA training



Demonstration garden preparations

Upcoming Activities

1. Water:

With support from the Ministry of Agriculture, we are planning to construct a valley dam to harvest rainwater for agricultural irrigation. We hope to begin this project in June.

2. Microfinance Support Centre(MSC):

We are planning to train at least five established VSLAs in enterprise management to help them benefit from agribusiness loan schemes from MSC.

Special thanks are due to our national partners, who have been so generous in helping us achieve our project objectives:

- Microfinance Support Centre
- M-Omulimisa
- Uganda Prisons Seed Multiplication Program
- Kilimo Trust

Special thank are due to our international donors and advisors:

- USA Board led by our International Director Ms Jensen Reckhow
- Individuals Donors.
- Mrs. Wanda Gass, Adviser to the Board
- Ms.Zanna Gilbert
- Ms. Charlotte Newell
- Mr. Thomas Thorpes
- Mr. Pek Shibao
- Ms. Judith Miller,
- Other well wishers.

WITH THANKS,

Nsambya Charles - Executive Director

Mugenyi George - Head of Programs

Jensen Reckhow - International Director

