

LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION AND DIVERSIFICATION IN AMUDAT

1st Progress Report



A group of farmers receiving Local hives in Ngongosowon village



Summary sheet

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| PI: | UGD 1807 |
| Project title: | Livelihoods Promotion and diversification in Amudat |
| Overall objective: | Improving existing livelihood practices in Amudat, and diversification into new areas of economic activity |
| Project period: | 1 st January 2019 – 31 st December 2021 |
| Reporting period: | Jan-Dec 2019 |
| Date of report submission: | 29/02/2019 |
| Project budget: | EURO 475,818.05 |
| Implementing partner(s): <i>If applicable</i> | N/A |
| ZOA sectors: | Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) |
| Location: <i>If possible, please add GPS coordinates¹</i> | Amudat (Coordinates: 01°57'N 34°57'E) |
| Donor: | ZOA Business Ambassadors Uganda Florys |
| Contact details the Netherlands: <i>To be filled in by ZOA NL</i> | |

Korte samenvatting

Samen met de ZBA groep heeft Stichting Neerlandia Foundation een 3 jarig project gestart ter verbetering van het levensonderhoud van de meest arme gezinnen in de regio Amudat. (Uganda)

Het project omvat 2 projecten, Bijenteelt en Tuinbouw.

De doelstelling voor beide projecten is; verbeteren van productie en productiviteit en daarmee de financiële situatie in de gezinnen te verbeteren.

Er zijn door ZOA in 2019 verschillende groepen geselecteerd waarmee wordt gestart.

Doelstelling in dit project is totaal ca 1200 gezinnen te bereiken.

Gestart is met 8 groepen van elk 20 leden (gezinnen) voor de Bijenteelt en 9 groepen van elke ca.24 leden voor tuinbouw activiteiten.

De groepen ontvangen bijenkorven en gereedschap zoals beschermende kleding rokers etc. Voor de tuinbouw, zaaigoed, gereedschappen, pompinstallaties etc. Bovendien worden alle groepen actief ondersteund met kennis door medewerkers van ZOA.

De bijengroepen in dit nieuwe project hebben dit jaar nog weinig of geen honing uit hun korven geoogst. De oude groepen van het vorige project (eindigend op 1 dec.2018) werden echter ook ondersteund dit jaar (met technische kennis en follow up) en hebben dit jaar heel goed geoogst.

Hun oogst in 2018 bedroeg ca. 4146kg, in 2019 19083kg. De opbrengst nam dit jaar dus met bijna 500% toe.

Dit leert ons dat goede begeleiding en kennis overdracht van groot belang is.

Met betrekking tot de tuinbouwgroepen hebben zowel de nieuwe als bestaande groepen gewassen kunnen oogsten. Productie gegevens over de afgelopen 3 jaren tonen aan dat de productie van de groentegewassen aanzienlijk is toegenomen. De hoeveelheid akkerland is meer dan verdubbelt in 2018 en bijna verviervoudigd in 2019 in vergelijking met 2017.

Bovendien heeft bijna 50% van de groepen gemotoriseerde en/of solar waterpompen gekocht om nog meer land te kunnen beplanten. De pompen werden gefinancierd door de groep, wat een toename van de financiële capaciteit laat zien, welk aan het project wordt toegeschreven.

De 9 nieuwe Tuinbouw groepen hebben 13 acres og 0,08 acres per huishouden aangeplant. Zij zijn voorzien van een pedal waterpomp voor de watervoorziening in de droge periodes.

Zowel bijenteelt als de groente groepen verkopen hun producten op de lokale markten aan tussen personen.

Met slechts 8 gerapporteerde groepen verkochten de groepen uit 2018 dit verslagjaar 279% (117.216.000 UGX- € 29.304) meer dan met 14 groepen in 2018. Hieruit blijkt dat de toegang tot de markt voor deze huishoudens groeit. Bovendien heeft de stijging van de omzet een aanzienlijk effect op het inkomen van die huishoudens. **Per hoofd van de groep steeg het inkomen van gemiddeld van UGX 96.650 (€24,00) naar UGX 732.600.(€183,00)**

Mede door het beschikbaar stellen van de Tricycles in 2018 is de toegang naar de verschillende markten sterk verbeterd. Veel van de groepen transportereren hun producten naar andere plaatsen (weg van de boerderij poort) waardoor ze tegen hogere prijzen kunnen verkopen.

UPDATE

During the first year (2019) of project implementation, rainfall was generally good and evenly distributed, leading to improved crop (both cereal & vegetables) and livestock production. Coupled with low temperature, good rainfall received in most of the project areas increased the availability of pasture and water for livestock, bringing the level of migration in search of water and pasture to its lowest level in several years which again curbed inter communal conflict over water and pasture. Similar positive effects were also reported on the apiary sector by the high rainfall. Fodder and water availability for bees were significantly high compared to previous years that boosted the rate of hive colonization and lowered absconding of bees from hives. However, there were also reports of some negative effect due to high rainfall in the area, including heavy runoff washed away bridges and roads, resulting in poor road networks that limited project mobility and supply of products, both input and outputs. This again led in the rise of prices of basic goods and services. Outside rainfall, traditional fund-raising events (known as “muchango”), over the last quarter of the year, reduced attendance in the groups and participation during group activities.

2 PROJECT RESULTS

2.1 OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The overall objective of the project is to enhance and diversify the livelihoods opportunities of poor rural households which will help them spread risk and increase their resilience to shocks. ZOA conducted a baseline survey, between 16th and 24th July 2019, to measure progress towards this objective. The finding in the baseline survey will be compared against the end line survey to measure changes brought by the project which will be reported in the final report.

The base line used different indicators and they are all given and defined in the following table:

Table 1: Baseline Results

| Indicator | Indicator definition |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Cash spending of households | This is a proxy indicator to income. A two weeks recall period was used and beneficiaries are asked the money spent on basic services and necessities. These include food, non-food basic necessities, transport, health care, school fees, High the spending indicates better income. The base. |
| Household Probability Index (PPI) | The PPI measures poverty using a set of 10 country specific questions about a household's characteristics and asset ownership. It calculates the likelihood that the household is living below the poverty line. The maximum score is 100 and the higher the score the lower is the probability a households is living below the poverty line |
| Food Consumption Score (FCS) | Food consumption score is a score calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days before the survey. The score serves as proxy indicator of food security. A score above 35 are acceptable |
| Tropical Livestock Unit | It measures different livestock in to one unit using different conversion factors for different animals ² . This helps comparison between different herds |

² Cattle in Herd=0.70 TLU, Cow =1.00 TLU, Sheep =0. 10 TLU, Goat =0.08 TLU, Donkey=0.50 TLU, Camel=1.25 TLU

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| | possible. Households needs to have above 19.8TLU to be above the poverty line. |
| Income perception | This a subjective measure of income status (proxy measures of subjective poverty). It measures how respondent regarded themselves in terms of their income status (poverty status) |

In addition, the project has also two outcomes to achieve the objective: (1) Improve production and productivity (2) Improve access of poor households to sustainable market. These are discussed below>

3.1.1 Outcome 1: production and productivity

This project is expected to improve productivity and production of both apiary, horticulture and IGA groups.

Apiary groups: The apiary groups in the new project have not yet harvested honey from their hives. However, the old groups which were formed in the previous project (ended in December 1) were also supported in this year (technical support & follow up) and continued harvesting honey in this year as well. Table 2 provides comparative data for the old groups for 2018 and 2019. The table reveals the performance of the groups shows a significant improvement in 2019 compared to 2018. The table unveils that hive ownership (# of honey per person) increased by 108% and honey yield rose by 164% for local hives and 679% for KTB hives in 2019 compared to 2018. Rate of colonization of hives also rose from 59% in 2018 to 74% in 2019 for local hives and 43% to 66% for KTB hives.

Table 2 Comparative production data (2018 & 2019) for old beneficiaries

| | 2019 ³ | 2018 | % change |
|---|-------------------|------|----------|
| Number of groups | 8 | 14 | |
| Number of members | 160 | 280 | |
| Total honey production (in KGs) - local | 18029 | 3866 | |
| Total honey production (in Kgs) – KTB | 1054 | 280 | |
| Total wax production (in Kgs) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| # of local hives | 2543 | 1786 | |
| # of KTB hives | 151 | 480 | |
| # of local hives colonized | 1871 | 1061 | |
| # of KTB hives colonized | 100 | 207 | |
| <i>Local Hive Productivity - (average honey yield per local hives colonized)</i> | 9.64 | 3.64 | 164% |
| <i>KTB hive productivity - (average honey yield per local hives)</i> | 10.54 | 1.35 | 679% |
| <i>Hives per person</i> | 17 | 8 | 108% |
| <i>Rate of colonization - local hives</i> | 74% | 59% | 24% |
| <i>Rate of colonization - KTB hives</i> | 66% | 43% | 54% |
| <i>Average Wax yield per 10 kilograms honey produced</i> | N/A | N/A | N/A |

³ The data is collected for 8 of the 14 groups. The data for the remaining will be collected and reported in the future.

Horticulture groups: In relation to horticulture groups, both the new and old groups have harvested crops. Production data over the last 3 years shows that there was a significant rise in the production of vegetable crops by old groups. Taking acres planted as proxy indicator of production, the number of acres under vegetable production more than doubled in 2018 and nearly quadrupled by 2019 compared to year 2017. Moreover, close to 50% of groups acquired motorized pumps to plant bigger land. The pumps were financed by the group which shows a rise in the financial capacity of the groups which can be attributed to the project.

Table 3: Comparative production data (old horticulture groups)

| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|--|------|------|------|
| NUMBER OF GROUPS | 09 | 09 | 09 |
| NUMBER OF MEMBERS | 221 | 221 | 221 |
| ACRES PLANTED | 22 | 14 | 6 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING PEDAL PUMPS | 09 | 09 | 09 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING SOLAR PUMPS | 08 | 08 | 08 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING MOTORIZED PUMP (SELF-FINANCED) | 04 | 04 | 00 |

The new 8 groups also planted 13 acres or 0.08 acres per household. They have been provided with treadle (pedal) pumps to help them grow during the dry period.

Table 4 Production data new horticulture groups (acre planted as proxy indicator of production)

| | 2019 |
|--|------|
| NUMBER OF GROUPS | 8 |
| NUMBER OF MEMBERS | 160 |
| ACRES PLANTED | 13 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING PEDAL PUMPS | 8 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING SOLAR PUMPS | 0 |
| NUMBER OF GROUPS USING MOTORIZED PUMP (SELF-FINANCED) | 0 |
| ACRES PLANTED PER HHS (TO BE CALCULATED) | 0 |

3.1.2 Outcome 2- Improve access of poor households to sustainable market.

Both apiary and vegetable groups are selling their products in the local market to intermediaries. With only 8 groups reported, the old apiary group sold vegetables worth of 117,216,000 UGX in 2019 which is 279% higher than the sales in 2018 for all 14 groups, showing access to market by beneficiaries is growing over the last two years. Moreover, the rise in sales has a significant impact on household earning or income. The table below shows that per capita earning from vegetables rose from only UGX 96,650 to UGX 732600,629 per annum.

Table 5 Comparative sales data (annual) – apiary groups

| | 2019 | 2018 | % change |
|--|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Number of groups | 8 | 14 | |
| Number of members | 160 | 280 | |
| Total honey sold (in Kgs) | 14652 | 3866 | |
| Total wax production (in Kgs) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| # Total sales from honey in UGX | 117,216,000 | 27,062,000 | 333% |
| # Total sales from Wax in UGX | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Average Honey sales per household | 732,600 | 96,650 | 658% |
| Average Wax sales per household | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Although there are no comparative data for horticulture groups on sales or access to market. The 9 groups earned 15,759, 000 or 71,301,000 per household. The new 8 groups also conducted some sales – 1,328,000 UGX (160 households)

Table 6 Sales data in horticulture (old)

| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| NUMBER OF GROUPS | 09 | 09 | 09 |
| NUMBER OF MEMBERS | 221 | 221 | 221 |
| TOTAL SALES FROM HORTICULTURE | 15,759,000 | | |

ZOA also provided tricycles to improve access to market. Many of the groups have been transporting their produce to further places (away from farm gate) which makes them sale at higher prices.



Photo 1 & 2: Progressive farmer groups accessing markets with their produce using tricycles

2.2 OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES

The project started with inception workshop. It targeted the Amudat district local governments staff (both technical and political wing), opinion leaders, development partners and other stakeholders. During the project launch, key project information was shared with the stakeholders such as project goal/objectives, planned activities, project stakeholders and their roles, overall budget and work-plan and project donors. A total of 20 participants attended the inception workshop; these included 13 males and 07 females.

3.2.1 Support 280 new beneficiaries with apiary (beekeeping) as an IGA

Activity 1: selection of new beekeeping beneficiaries.

During the selection process, a two-level targeting approach was adopted i.e. geographical targeting and household targeting.

Geographical targeting: In geographical targeting, the objective was to select villages and parishes for the project. A total of 8 villages were selected for the project. The villages included Ngongosowon, Lopedot, Kosike, Nakipom, Tingas, Cheptuis, Pamba, and Abongai. The selection criteria used included: proximity to old groups, places suitable for beekeeping (forage availability, water for the bees), no other bee related interventions in the area and proximity to either Kenyan or Ugandan market.

Household targeting: Once villages are identified, ZOA selected households. In each village, community meetings were conducted to inform the community about the project including leveling their expectation (not to expect handout) which was followed by introducing criteria for selection and enrolment of beneficiaries who met the criteria. The selection of the households was conducted by a targeting committee which involves ZOA staff and local leadership. The criteria to select households was developed and agreed during the project launch both by local leaders and ZOA staff. Criteria for selection included: should be the resident of the selected village, willing to contribute a matching contribution for the hives, one person per household, should be willing to save and work as a group, he/she should be a beekeeper or willing to learn beekeeping, should not have benefited from either ZOA or either development partners or government program of similar project nature. In total, 168 beekeepers were selected - 115 males (68%) and 53 females (32%). The proportion of men is higher because apiary is traditionally considered men's major work.

Activity 2: training of new beekeepers on apiary siting and management.

Eight groups with a total of 168 beekeepers were trained on siting and basic apiary management. This was conducted together with district entomologist and it took 1 day to train each group. Training focused mainly on selecting of sites for Apiary/Beehives which is a very important determinant of the success of apiculture or beekeeping. The beneficiaries were trained on factors that need to be considered to select site and the negative effect of poor siting on honey production. During the training, besides the technical aspects, women were encouraged to embrace the beekeeping activities since it's a very profitable venture and less labor intensive.



Photo 3 shows new beekeepers during training on siting and apiary management in Cheptuis and Ngongosowon respectively.

Activity 3: provision of beehives, tools to new beekeeping groups.

Once training was given to the new group, the next step was to provide groups with hives and other basic inputs. Based from previous lessons learned, ZOA adopted a two phased provision of input. In the first phase, beneficiaries are provided with local hives which are simple to work with, cheaper and known to the beneficiaries. After the first harvest, groups or members who are successful in management of the apiary transitions to improved hives and provided with KTB hives. In this year, ZOA procured and distributed 320 local palm beehives⁴⁵ to 8 beekeeping groups. Households should make or buy one hive as a contribution before they receive the hives from ZOA, which is believed to increased sense of ownership and enhance sustainability of the project. Of the total 168 people in the groups, 160 met the condition for contribution and received the hives. The remaining 8 members did not receive the log hives because they could not meet the requirement of putting one local hive as a match but will be considered in the next cycle of procurement if they meet the criteria. Though the hives are set in a central site for each group, each member have their own hives and expected to manage their hives within the set rules of the groups. In 2020, successful households in apiary management and production will be selected (based on defined criteria for graduation) and provided with KTB hives. In addition, each group shall receive honey harvesting tools such as hive tools, smokers, bee brushes, gumboots and hand gloves. These hive kits will be owned by the group and placed under the care of the treasurer of the groups. A member who wants to use the tools on his/her individual hives need loan and signs for it and after using takes it back to the central place.



Photo 4: shows beekeepers receiving their Local beehives

Activity 4: training of selected old beekeeping groups and new beekeeping groups on VSLA methodology and approaches.

One of the strategies to increase the groups access to finance is to encourage the groups form Saving Groups (SGs). ZOA trained all the old & new apiary groups in VSLA methodologies. A TOT approach was used to train the groups. First, a master trainer trained one leader from the saving groups who again went back trained people in his/her respective groups. A total of seven old beekeeping groups and eight new beekeeping groups were trained on village saving and loan methodology and approaches. The groups were provided with saving kits and they are currently saving and taking loans.

3.2.2. Output 2: Support targeted beneficiaries with horticulture (vegetable growing) as an IGA.

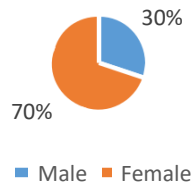
⁴ Data was collected for only 9 of the 14 gruopus

⁵ Local palm hives are hives from a mature palm tree where the inner part of the palm is carefully extracted in order to make a hollow section. The hollow section is then cleaned to host bees. Both open ends of the hollow palm are closed with either iron sheet or wood with one end having holes for the entry and exit of the honey bees. It is about 9 feet long and 30 -40 cm wide. This type of hive very durable and can last for over 10 yrs.

Activity 1: selection and training of new horticulture groups.

Like the selection of apiary groups, the selection of new horticulture groups was done in two phases. In the first phase, ZOA and the local leadership selected the parishes and villages. A total of 8 villages were selected that are close to water bodies, land available for future expansion and close to the old group for clustering purpose (collective marketing). This was followed by village meeting to select beneficiary households/groups to introduce beneficiaries to the project, levelling their expectation and explain the criteria to participate in the project. The selection of households was made by targeting committees using the following criteria: willingness to save regularly, must be engaged or willing to engage in agricultural activities, willingness to contribute and to work and learn as a group. In total, 8 groups or 160 target beneficiaries were selected. In the apiary sub component, more women were selected than men,

Figure 1: Proportion of New Horticulture beneficiaries by Gender



All the eight formed groups were trained on nursery bed establishment and management which is the cornerstone for every horticulture grower. These trainings were conducted at group level and 130 (34 males and 96 females) of the 160 members of the group attended the meeting. In addition, 2 internal learning visits were conducted by project field staff targeting the new groups. Thirty members (15 males and 15 females) of the new groups were selected and taken to learn from old progressive horticulture groups. This literally is an extension method of technology transfer which is most effective since they can learn by seeing and listening to testimonies from other farmers.



Photo 5 & 6: shows new horticulture groups establishing nursery beds during training on nursery bed establishment and management.

Activity 2: Provision of basic tools and irrigation equipment to new beneficiaries.

The 8 new horticultural groups were supported with Agro-inputs to help them establish vegetable gardens. To support irrigation, the groups received treadle pumps (1 per group). Other inputs provided to each group included vegetable seeds, planting ropes, Pangas (slashers), rakes, knapsack sprayers and watering cans. This is a one off support and the groups are expected to buy their own seeds from the sale of the vegetables in subsequent production seasons. The groups that will progress well with the treadle pump will be supported with solar pump on a cost sharing basis of 30% of the total cost. Similarly, groups will be provided with tricycles on cost shar basis.



Fig 7&8: shows farmers receiving seeds, treadle pump sets and other agricultural inputs

Activity 3: Provision of loans/ revolving fund to (selected) existing groups members and repayment.

The old 23 groups (9 horticulture and 14 beekeeping) will be targeted for this program. The project has allocated 34 million UGX to improve access by members of the groups to loan which is used to boost investment in production and agro-processing of apiary and vegetable products. ZOA has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microfinance Support Centre (MSC) to administer the revolving fund on behalf of the ZOA. The MSC, which is a Government of Uganda (GOU) Micro Credit Programmes under the Rural Financial Services Strategy, will receive the fund to provide loan to group members and collect repayment. At the end of the project, MSC will transfer the fund to ZOA which will be used to cover project operation costs.

Activity 4: Training of old and new horticulture groups in VSLA methodology

A total of 15 horticulture groups (8 new and 7 old) were trained in VSLA methodology. A TOT approach was used to train the groups. In the first phase of training, one person was selected from each group who again goes back and train their respective group members.

3.2.3. Output 3: Promotion of agro-enterprises through training and institutional strengthening

This output has not been implemented since we first have to form all the groups. It's to be conducted in the second year of the project when all the groups have been formed.

3.2.4. Output 4: Support diversification through a start-up support

Activity 1: Selection of beneficiaries for IGA support

This activity aims at helping beneficiaries engage in business or IGAs of their choice outside apiary and vegetables. A total of 205 beneficiaries have been selected to benefit from IGAs. Criteria for selection included: (1) households not engaged in horticulture and apiary, (2) households with experience in small enterprise (running an enterprise already), (3) should be willing to attend business skill training (4) should not hold a position in the community (LC1), (5) must be willing to save as a group on a regular basis, (6) must not have any criminal record in the community, (7) women and child headed households with business mindset were eligible, (8) one must be of sound mind and (9) should be 18-50 years of age. Of the total beneficiaries, women comprise the biggest proportion (81%) and men (19%).

Activity 2: training on VSLA methodologies and approaches.

A total 3 ZOA staff and 10 selected IGA beneficiaries, were trained on village saving and loan methodology and approaches. The training was centralized in Amudat town council conducted by an external trainer. ZOA then procured and distributed 37 VSLA kits to the trained groups to support the savings.



Photo 8 & 9: on the extreme left IGA beneficiaries conducting VSLA session and on the right farmers receiving VSLA kits

3.2.5. Output 5: Non-formal skills training at a vocational training institute of 50 people.

Advert was run by ZOA calling for application for vocational training in various trades. The advert was put in 4 sub counties in Amudat district and 182 applications were received (59 females and 123 females). The delay of this was to be able to incorporate the donor suggestions on areas of focus during youth skilling training. During the donor visit to the project last year, it was agreed that 5 youth previously training in mechanics receive additional training in the maintenance of treadle pumps, tri-cycles and solar pumps while 45 youths be support supported to undertake the vocational training of their interest but marketable within the region and beyond. The applicants are yet to go through vetting process before the final list of 45 participants is selected.

3.2.6. Output 6: Provision of scholarships for 5 motivated student to go for teacher training college.

ZOA was able to get only two youth applicants who qualified for admission for Teacher training from the advert put up in the first year of the project. Most applicants didn't meet the minimum requirement needed by Government to join a teaching profession and so two students 1 male and 1 female were supported in Moroto Core Primary Teacher's College. ZOA provided them with all the necessary scholastic materials and payment of their tuition. The balance of the teachers to be selected in the second year of the project after the release of 2019 O' Level results by Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB).

2.3 BENEFICIARIES

The project continues to offer varying customized support to beneficiaries for current and previous livelihood projects. The project supported a total of 49 groups or 1036 direct beneficiaries. Of the total groups, 23 are old groups which were established in the previous project. The groups composed of 14 bee keeping groups (280 beneficiaries) and 9 horticulture groups (221 beneficiaries). These groups were provided with technical and extension support by field staff. In addition, the project targeted 8 new bee keeping groups (168 beneficiaries) and 8 new horticulture groups (160) and 10 IGA groups (205 beneficiaries). The project also provided 2 youths with scholarship in teachers training center.

Table 8: Beneficiaries by different categories

| Category of beneficiaries | # of groups | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| New apiary | 8 | 115 | 53 | 168 |
| New horticulture | 8 | 48 | 112 | 160 |
| IGA | 10 | 39 | 166 | 205 |
| Old apiary | 14 | 169 | 111 | 280 |
| Old horticulture | 9 | 66 | 155 | 221 |
| Scholarship | No groups | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 49 | 438 | 598 | 1036 |

The project beneficiary are Pokot semi-nomadic people that depend on rearing animals for nutrition, meeting household needs and cultural survival. They possess small gardens where they cultivate crops, mainly maize and sorghum. The beneficiaries participated in different stage of the project phases. At design stage, project beneficiaries were consulted on emerging needs, constrains/challenges of previous projects and lessons to be learned for upcoming projects. During the inception of the meeting, project beneficiaries through their leadership gave feed back on the project and defined their roles in project implementation. Members of the beneficiaries were also part of the targeting committee which was responsible for selecting beneficiaries. A number of group members were also used TOTs (Training of Trainers) – they were trained by master trainers and they went back and trained their members.

Table 9: Planned

| Gender | Age 0-4 | Age 5-17 | Age 18-64 | Age 65+ | Total |
|--------------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Male | | | 808 | 0 | 808 |
| Female | | | 674 | 13 | 687 |
| Total | | | 1482 | 13 | 1495 |

Table 10: Reached

| Gender | Age 0-4 | Age 5-17 | Age 18-64 | Age 65+⁶ | Total |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Male | | | 438 | | 438 |
| Female | | | 598 | | 598 |
| Total | | | 1,036 | | 1,036 |

2.4 PROJECT PARTNERS

ZOA works in close cooperation with the district local government (DLG) line department especially the production sector and education department, civil society organizations (CBO's), the private sector (Clara inclusive), local leaders in the communities, beneficiaries and with religious leaders from all denominations at different levels. Within this project, ZOA works with several DLG departments (e.g. agricultural production office, environment office, district etymologist and the extension workers at sub-county level). We will continue to work with green and white enterprises, Nakasongola apiculture Centre, National Training Institute, Moroto Teacher Training College, agricultural research institutes, vocational skills training institutions and other stake holders in development for successful implementation of project activities.

3 SUSTAINABILITY

This will be reported in the final report. However, the project is taking two approaches to sustainability. The first is self - sustaining approach. This involves structures or assets (saving groups, IGAs, apiary and vegetable enterprises) are able to use their own resources and skills to continue even after the project. All groups are adopting the VSLA and own saving will continue even after the project to sustain the groups. Moreover, IGAs and enterprises will make profits which is again ploughed back in to existing IGAs or new IGAs. The second is linkage – groups will be linked to MSC for loan that fuels expansion and diversification of IGAs.

4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 M&E

The monitoring frame work in the proposal is being followed though not adequately due to shortage in project staffing. However, the project baseline was conducted. In the coming years, regular and quality data collection for all activities and timely update of the database will be improved with the recruitment of 7 Community Based Trainers (CBTs). Inadequate finances allocated to M&E in this project forced us to scale back on some of the monitoring and evaluation activities we were supposed to carry out. Initially they were no funds allocated for M&E and so ZOA had to relocate funds from other budget lines for this purpose. The major reviews during this period of project implementation were; recruitment of more staffs to strengthen monitoring and recruitment of community based trainers which is ongoing. This will fully strengthen the data collection from the groups since there will be closer contact of staff and the beneficiaries.

⁶ These categories can be adjusted according to context/project intervention/donor guidelines in case of co-funding

4.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Some of the lessons learned

- 1) In addition to providing access to finance, integration of VSLA approaches in all project promotes cohesion amongst the group members and the cash saving is a binding factor of the groups which ensured the continuity of the groups in the future. ZOA will consider mainstreaming VSLA across all project in Uganda to ensure social cohesions and financial safety nets of groups.
- 2) The saving groups have also notable effects on the women and their households. Most women use the loans for starting a small business, like a food shops, small retail shop, clothing shops and other petty trades. The VSLA is contributing to emergence of micro entrepreneurs in the area and ZOA will support this process through provision of training in selection and planning of enterprises, financial literacy and other business skills. Saving Groups will also be used as pathway to linking farmers to formal financial institutions that provides bigger capital for investment.
- 3) Training of motivated beekeepers to take lead in helping other beekeepers, this approach leads to sustainable development resting firmly on the principles of respect for traditional knowledge from the existing farmers.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

Total expenditures for 2019 amounts up to euro 110,354.95, this out of total 3-year budget of euro 475,818.05. Percentage of spending after 1 year, comparing to 3-year budget, is thus at $110,354.95/475,818.05 = 23\%$.

6 LIFE STORIES

Life story of Chemusungun Linah of Seretion business group in Loroo subcounty

Her name is Chemusungun Linah and she is 32 years old. She is the secretary of Seretion business group in Loroo trading centre, Loroo subcounty. Linah is a single mother with 4 children.

Linah said “I used to think my future was no more when my husband, the father to my children left me for another woman”.

He left her to look after children alone. For Linah and the family, life was really difficult. Sometimes they slept hungry. She had no other options but to think of option of bringing food to the table for her children.

“So I started doing casual work in the centre and saving part of my money where I had dug down for fear of thieves.” Linah reminded.

She then started petrol retail business. When she started the business of selling petrol, she managed to raise money for one jerrican at seventy thousand shillings (70,000). She buys one jerrican and sells it and she again buys another jerry can. She continued with the same capital and could not expand her business due to lack of capital.

ZOA then called for training for village savings where she happened to represent her group as a secretary. This was an eye opener for Linah. The training strengthen our group and they started saving. The saving Linah with more capital to expand her business.

“I now borrow money from our VSLA where I was able to take a loan of one million (1,000,000) which I used for boosting my petrol business”.

With the loan, she buys 15 jerry cans of 20 litters each. This gives her a net profit of 10,000 per jerrican or 150,000 from all the 15 jerry cans. In good week, Linah sells all the Jerrycans in a week while it may take 2 weeks if business is slow giving her a gross profit 300,000 to 600,000 profit per month. At the end of the month, she pays the loan back with monthly interest of 10% (100,000), giving her a net profit ranging from 200,000 to 500,000.

“My family life has really changed” Lina reported.

Her children now eats 3 meals a day and she pay school fees for her children with ease and meet their medical bills.

“My success and hard work also earned me respect among the community” Linah concluded.



Photo 10&11 above shows Linah selling her petrol in Loro Trading centre

7.2 ANNEX 2: PHOTOS

Please send all pictures (of high quality!) included in this report as separate files to the report (e.g. through ZIP file), with a description of the picture in the title



. Participants sharing their savings goals and plans to demonstrate capacity to support group members



Group leaders simulating on the VSLA operating principles (best practices) to sharpen their facilitation skill

