

The Hunger Project-Uganda

Executive Summary

This reporting period was filled with activities. It started on a very high note with The Hunger Project-Uganda (THP-Uganda) hosting the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellence Yoweri K Museveni at Mpigi Epicenter. The function brought together epicenter leaders from across all epicenters who exhibited a variety of products ranging from nutrition, food stuffs, agricultural outputs, handicrafts, and water sanitation and environment information. In addition to the formal proceedings, the President visited three animator projects: a bakery, a family with integrated projects (poultry, animal husbandry and crops) as a well as a group ginger garden.



In his address to the mammoth gathering at the epicenter (over 5,000 people), the President commended THP for its great effort towards transforming rural communities using its Epicenter Strategy. The President reiterated his government's willingness to commit \$200,000 to THP-Uganda in addition to \$10 million towards the implementation of the Epicenter Strategy in Uganda. He also pledged to extend electricity to the epicenter to assist in food processing, in addition to a truck for the Epicenter Committee to transport food.

In addition, the Epicenter Strategy was formally integrated into the National Development Plan (NDP) and has now been formally approved by the cabinet. Not only does this present a very positive picture of the confidence, trust and mutual partnership with government, but it promises financial sustainability for THP-Uganda's work in Uganda. We are now working on the details of the agreement.

Photo: President Yoweri K Museveni addressing THP partners and other community members at Mpigi Epicenter on January 23, 2010.

Details on Progress

Achievement	Measurement
Increased influence and advocacy initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened our existing partnerships with Ugandan government through formalization and approval by the cabinet of the integration of the Epicenter Strategy into the NDP; • Successfully hosted H.E the President of Uganda at Mpigi Epicenter; and • Participated in the Uganda Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Roundtable and Compact signing.

<p>Improved food security</p>	<p>Over 120,000 kilos (120 tons) of grain were supplied for bulk marketing to the World Food Programme (WFP) from the food banks. It is expected to provide approximately 84,000,000 Ug Sh (US\$40,482) for our rural partners.</p> <p>Five agribusiness partner associations were created by the farmers for bulk marketing to increase accessibility to farming inputs and more effective management of the food production and food security program. These groups will be working in conjunction with the already established THP committees in their respective areas. They were fully registered to supply grain to the World food Programme, along with the government-recognized warehouse.</p> <p>20 farmer groups and 200 individuals received 350 bags of cassava varieties and 2,961 cassava cuttings for a multiplication project, and a demonstration garden of high yielding, weather-resistant yams was established.</p> <p>Construction of Mbale Epicenter food bank was completed and construction of the L-shaped epicenter building and staff quarters commenced. We hope construction will be completed in the second quarter.</p>
<p>HIV/AIDS awareness increased</p>	<p>A total of 2,993 partners participated in HIV/AIDS workshops, and voluntary counseling and testing activities were undertaken in the epicenters.</p>
<p>Improved access to health services</p>	<p>Over 235,000 village partners accessed health services in epicenter clinics and close to 15, 000 children were immunized against killer diseases. 520 expectant mothers attended antenatal classes and received family planning services.</p>
<p>Increased awareness of the importance of sanitation, hygiene and environmental sustainability</p>	<p>A total of 19 sensitization workshops in sanitation and hygiene were conducted to partners, during which the “Safe Drinking Water Campaign” was launched in all the epicenter communities.</p> <p>In Mbale Epicenter, Farm Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Project (FEFCO) operates in Busoba Sub-county and our partners received and planted 1,012 seedlings of assorted tree species during the first quarter.</p>
<p>Women’s empowerment achieved</p>	<p>In Mbale Epicenter, another 8 of the 27 formed and registered microfinance groups received credit worth 16,125,000 Ug Sh (US\$7,771). This brings the total number of groups that have received credit to 16 and the total amount disbursed thus far is 31,195,000 Ug Sh (US\$15,034).</p>

	In Mbarara Epicenter, bank members have increased to 330 and have so far mobilized 6,655,000 Ug Sh (US\$3,207) for membership and shares to the Rural Bank, whose process of registration is in high gear. Next quarter, we hope to achieve the sixth Rural Bank in Uganda to be formally recognized by the government.
Changed mindsets, increased literacy and improved access to early childhood education	Across all epicenters, a total of 985 partners attended Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs) and close to 400 children attended nursery schools at epicenters. During the VCAWs, 154 animators were selected.

Objective/Challenge	Reasons/Lessons Learned
Inadequate food storage in epicenter food banks	The unpredictable weather patterns continue to be a big challenge, but the increased involvement of extension workers has helped to keep the partners/farmers buoyant.

Partnerships

Building new partnerships with local governments and other development partners is still a top priority in our program work. In Iganga Epicenter, a new partnership with World Food Programme was finalized during the first quarter. In Mbarara Epicenter, a partnership with MBADIFA (Mbarara District Farmers Association) is being explored to identify markets for agricultural products in Southern Sudan.

We continued liaising with Population Services International, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) engaged in the sensitization and marketing of health products. Two of our HIV/AIDS and Gender Inequality trainers of trainers (TOTs) have been actively involved in working with the Infectious Diseases Institute in identifying discordant couples and in sensitization on the dangers of contracting the disease.

Maria Consolata Projects, which provides partners with chickens for improved nutrition and income generation, is also one other partnership that was enhanced.

Our partnership with BEAD for Life, an NGO engaged in training partners in making and exporting local crafts and gift bags, has enabled 15 tailors to receive 5,655,000 Ug Sh (US\$2,725) from the sales of their gift bags, which is boosting our partners' incomes.

In Mbale Epicenter, Farm Enhancement and Forestry Conservation Project (FEFCO) operates in Busoba Sub-county and our partners there received and planted 1,012 seedlings of assorted tree species during the first quarter.

Broader Awareness and Advocacy

THP-Uganda was one of the few civil society organizations that participated in the Uganda Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Roundtable and Compact signing. The Executive Director of the National NGO Forum, Mr. Richard Ssewanyana, signed on behalf of civil society. Other participants included: the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; African Development Bank group; African Union Commission; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); and other bilateral and multilateral partner agencies. The CAADP is an effort by African governments under the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative to accelerate growth and eliminate poverty and hunger among African countries.

Our work also continued to get broader awareness in print media and government, especially with the landmark success of the government's adoption of THP methodology for rural transformation and national development.

Profile of a Leader in the Community

Provia Tumusiime is 32 years old, married with four children. She joined THP in 2004, when the first Vision, Commitment and Action Workshops (VCAWs) were conducted in Kashare. She loved the methodology and was elected to represent her cell to the parish committee. She says she never misses a training because THP has changed her life.

Before the trainings started, Provia saw herself as another married village woman, who would work in her gardens, look after her children and grow old. THP helped her to look at herself as a leader who can serve and contribute to the development of her village.

When the Microfinance Program started, Provia says her husband did not trust her ability to handle money, so he only allowed her to receive a loan of 100,000 Ug Sh (US\$48). With it, she repaired her chicken house and improved her commitment to the business. She paid it back fully and on time. Provia's husband liked her commitment, so for the second cycle, he allowed her to double that amount. With the 200,000 Ug Sh (US\$96) that she borrowed from the THP Microfinance Program, Provia bought three goats and started grazing them with her husband. At the third cycle, she had displayed the ability to manage her home and loans well so her husband allowed her to borrow 500,000 Ug Sh (US\$241). With this, they improved their banana plantation by buying mulch and constructing bunds. This she also paid back fully and on time.

But Provia says her greatest achievement so far has been being elected to the epicenter bank board as secretary – a development she says was a result of her having built trust, worked hard



and being committed to the end of hunger. Every opportunity to train with THP is a growth opportunity for her. When she went to the national celebrations of International Women's Day held in Bushenyi, Provia called her group members and told them to work hard so they can also get opportunities to move beyond their villages, and adopt the skills needed to improve their lives!

*Top photo: Members of the Rural Bank put trust in Provia's ability to mobilize them (first on left, standing).
Bottom photo: Members send Provia to the Board to represent them (seated, second from left), and she took up the responsibility, next to the interim chairperson of the board.*

Impact Assessment

The Monitoring and Evaluation Teams, who were trained in conducting social surveys, conducted a mapping exercise in addition to the routine monitoring of the program activities in the communities, in order to ascertain progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Future Plans

We hope to continue working closely with the government, especially the Office of the President and the relevant ministries, to ensure that all the presidential pledges are realized in the shortest time possible.

In addition, energies are still committed towards Mbale Epicenter construction to ensure that all epicenter components are complete by the end of the second quarter. We hope to inaugurate the epicenter building thereafter.



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Uganda Country Profile

Population (total)	30.7 million
Percent of population in rural areas	87.0%
GDP per capita	\$1,059
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	76
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births	550
Life expectancy	50 years
Percent population undernourished	15%
HIV/AIDS – number of adults living with HIV	940,000
HIV/AIDS – deaths per year	77,000
HIV/AIDS – percent people aged 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS	5.4%
Literacy rate of people aged >15 (male, female)	Male: 82%; Female: 65%
Gross primary school enrollment (male, female)	Male: 116; Female: 117
Population earning less than \$1.25/day	51.5%

Notes

Statistics for Population, percentage of population living in rural areas, infant mortality rate, life expectancy and HIV adult prevalence from *2009 World Population Data Sheet*, Population Reference Bureau.

Statics for GDP per capita, population living on less than \$1.25/day from *2009 Human Development Report*, United Nations Development Programme.

Statistics for maternal mortality rate, gross primary school enrollment and literacy rates from the *State of the World Population 2009*, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Statistics for number of people living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS deaths from *2008 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, UNAIDS.

Statistics for percentage of population who is undernourished from *2009 State of Food Insecurity in the World*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).