



COSMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Finance Director George (far right,) Founder Executive Director Charles (2nd from right,) and program staff outside Cosma's main offices

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Introduction

Cosma's improves standards of living among rural households in Uganda through agricultural development, academic, and vocational education. This helps relieve the burden on households experiencing extreme low-income by creating food and economic security, providing valuable skills and capital to farmers, and scholarships to students

Program report summary

Cosma has achieved a great many things, but there is much more work to do. Cosma is in the process of developing a long-term growth strategy that will increase its ability to impact Ugandan communities.

In its 10+ years of operation, Cosma has become a very popular and widely regarded organization in the communities it serves, only exacerbating its demand and truly illustrating the extreme needs of its communities.

Read on to hear a bit of what Cosma has achieved and its plan for the future... All of which has been made possible only by your generosity.

Agricultural production

Part of Cosma's strategy is to eradicate poverty by providing high quality agriculture inputs and logistical support that allows rural farmers to access output markets. Cosma helps communities engage in commercial farming by equipping them with seeds, crop insurance, supplies, education and consulting. Two times every year, Cosma provides farmers with everything they need.



Above: Mr. Mulindwa displaying the effects of 2022's drought on his maize crop



Above: George and Charles inspecting maize farmers' post-harvest challenges

Season A of 2022:

- 200 kg of high quality maize seeds were given out to 30 farmers of different village cooperatives
- 2021's season B was so productive that Cosma developed a long backlog of cooperatives wishing to join its program. The output of Cosma supported harvests were greater than those they could not provide services to and this resulted in high demand for Cosma support.
- As 2022 progressed, Central Uganda faced forecasts of severe drought, forcing some cooperatives to choose other options. As predicted, the region suffered a long spell of drought. This combined with the fact that fewer cooperatives registered for services, agricultural outputs were less than forecasted. Read more here:
 - [Famine Early Warning System Network; September 2022, Uganda](#)
 - [Reuters; 200 drought related Ugandan deaths](#)

Season B 2022

- 325 kg of high quality maize seeds were given out to 34 farmers
- Over 30 acres of maize were planted with an expected harvest of about 30,000 kg.
- Rainfall during this season was much better than the previous season. We expect to receive good prices for this harvest.

Academic education

Another part of Cosma's overall strategy involves education, both academic and vocational. Education is the most important tool that Cosma provides, allowing youth access that they wouldn't have otherwise. Providing support to hardworking families experiencing extreme poverty allows them to focus on retaining earned income and reinvesting it into their means of production.



"Our great tragedy is that Today's Children suffer the consequences of Yesterday's Choice's."
(One child per family education: Help us on the second)

In 2022, Cosma has sponsored up to 12 students out of 36 of those who applied.

- By age and level:
 - University- 3 Students
 - Secondary- 2 students
 - Primary- 7 Primary
- During the COVID pandemic, Cosma experienced a large increase in applications and a reduced level of funding, creating an urgent need for the communities that Cosma serves:
 - Juliet and Nicolas need to pay their university tuition in February of 2023. That costs outstrips what they can currently afford, and part of Cosma's 2023 budget includes the \$2750 they need to graduate

Vocational workshop

Cosma invests in people, and the skills they need to earn a good wage that supports their families. To do so, Cosma runs a workshop that provides raw materials and training of youths and women to produce crafts for sale:



Shopping bags made by youth at Cosma workshop



Ms. Lilian at her home workshop, creating handmade sandals

Since the inception of its vocational training program, Cosma has trained 323 youth, and 30 of them have started their own successful enterprises. In 2022:

- 2 youths began producing shopping bags; over 80 pieces sold at price of 20,000 UGX each
- 16 youths began making homemade shoes; over 123 pairs were sold at 13,000 UGX each
- 6 women began basket production; 45 baskets were at sold at 15,000 UGX each

Micro-financing program

Cosma supports economic development by providing cooperative loans for communities experiencing extreme poverty. The cooperatives aggregate their members to receive low interest rates. This allows them to invest in small generating income businesses.



Financial literacy training for Cosma group



Founder Charles Nsambya facilitating a training visit at one of its participating village cooperatives

Cosma has a total of 26 participating village cooperatives, made up of mostly women, youth and smallholder farmers. These 26 participants comprise a total of about 1036 individuals. In 2022 8 cooperatives received capital loans:

- Gave 4 capital loans to cooperatives in Q1 of 2022
- Gave 4 more capital loans to 8 village cooperatives in Q3 of 2022.

Partnership engagement

One of the most powerful ways that Cosma can increase its impact on participating communities is through developing a range of partnerships and supporters.



George and Charles with the fundraising trainer from Issroff Foundation

Every year, Cosma seeks out partnerships; many of which provide workshops and agricultural program financing:

- Cosma attended a fundraising workshop delivered by The Issroff Foundation
- Began discussions with a local franchised coffee trader currently operating in Cosma's target region. Sucafina invests in agriculture development, supply chain solutions and overall inclusion of commercial coffee markets.
- Created a partnership with Wezesha Impact, an African diaspora led organization that will increase Cosma's ability to provide high-value vocational education in a cost effective manner.

Future Cosma actions

Administrative:

- During the COVID pandemic, Cosma began work with a consultant to overhaul its financial and fundraising strategy.
- In early 2023, Cosma will be testing these new functions, finding innovative ways to increase its productivity and provide increase support to its community:
 - Begin proposals for digitization of financial records and loan services
- The organization employs up to five full time staff and 3 part time staff and supports communications expenses for its participating cooperatives
 - In continuation of Cosma's professional development, as new procedures become standardized, staff will begin training in their use.
 - Part of its new fundraising and financial strategy provides consistent support for all of its staff, so that this hard and necessary work can continue.

Agriculture

- As recommended by its participating farmers, Cosma will provide products to improve yield per acre. Including:
 - A new seed variety that has proved higher yields than those previously offered
 - Various types of improved fertilizers
- Provide crop and agriculture supply insurance to assist farmers in environmentally and economically uncertain times.
- Continue trailing research and investment in coffee production improvements, including supply chain development partnerships

Vocational training

- Increase access to raw materials for the workshop, increasing production and revenue opportunities for trainees.
- Cosma will be researching new ways to inspire its participants to earn stable income
 - [Watchdog News, Uganda: Profitable Ugandan businesses with low capital requirements](#)
- Research supply chain solutions to achieve increased pricing for crafts produced.

Academic education

- Through processes designed by its board and consultant, Cosma will increase its fundraising efforts to meet a high demand from a large number of extremely vulnerable youth.
- Create partnerships to increase ability to provide school books and other high demand supplies

Acknowledgements

We wish to extend our great thanks to each and every individual, corporate body, nonprofit institution or otherwise, that has contributed to Cosma's programming goals.

A special thanks is due to the following people:

- The partners that have supported our professional development and education programs.
- Our amazing staff and participating farmers, who strive every day to improve their communities.
- The technical staff from our local government, providing us with the connections we need to facilitate our operations
- Our USA Board, led by Wanda Gass, Sean Minton and Keneth Kijiya .
- GlobalGiving, our USA fiscal sponsor. Especially those individual donors who reached us using their platform.
- Zanna Gilbert and Wanda Gass, our most loyal supporters and advisors.

Without each and everyone's input, contribution, and/ support, we would not have managed to accomplish what we did. May the Almighty God reward each of you.

Together for development,

Charles Nsambya, Founder and Executive Director