



COMMUNITY HOLISTIC
INTERGRATED LIVELIHOOD
AND DEVELOPMENT



WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT


CHILD firmly believes that empowering women to be the key change agents is an essential element to achieving the end of poverty and hunger. Wherever we work, our programs aim to support women and build their capacity.

Studies show that whenever women are supported and empowered, all of society benefits. Their families are healthier, more children go to school, agricultural productivity improves and incomes increase, in short, and communities become more resilient.

The women economic empowerment and sustainable livelihood program advocates for economic justice for women and develops women's capacity and potential to participate in business and entrepreneurship and favorably compete in the economic market.



 P.O. Box 15107 Kampala Uganda

 Tel: 0393 208924

 info@child.org.ug

 www.child.org.ug



Women's active participation and inclusion in resource allocation and exploitation promotes their economic independence and improves their status in the society.

CHILD uses a rights-based approach to ensure women achieve economic justice and equal equitable access to factors of production like land, markets, inputs and information. Under this program, CHILD works with women who engage in agriculture and artisans who undertake crafts making to promote agribusiness, value chain production and access to markets.

CHILD'S WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT WORK



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

The overall goal of our economic empowerment programs is to help communities move beyond traditional subsistence farming practices and toward an entrepreneurial, business-minded approach to farming and related small businesses. People in Northern Uganda have assets

They have rich land. They have time. And they benefit greatly from resources that help them to use these assets more wisely, to move themselves away from the poverty of subsistence farming.



The primary ways we bring economic empowerment to the communities we serve are solidarity village saving groups, providing microloans (through climaxx microfinance), and encouraging the practice of integrated agriculture.

We start and facilitate solidarity saving groups in villages. These are groups of local farmers who get together on a weekly basis to learn farming and agribusiness principles, discuss their current farming efforts, and hold each other accountable to continuous improvement.

A key part of each solidarity saving group is a demonstration farming plot – an area of an acre or less, where multiple crops are planted and multiple kinds of animals kept. This provides a laboratory for farmers to learn, as well as a place for others in-

surrounding communities to come and learn as well.

The primary focus of solidarity saving groups is on the production of field crops – corn, soybeans and peanuts. We help farmers select strong varieties to grow, train them on the benefits of row-cropping vs. traditional “scatter cropping”, introduce proper fertilization and chemical control of pests, and lay out proper timing for weeding and harvest. We help farmers understand the effort that will be involved with growing 1 or more acres of a crop, vs. simply growing a subsistence crop, so they have an understanding from early on that they’ll need to work hard. The result of this training and coaching is that farmers not only become business people over time; they also get particularly high yield on the crops they plant, resulting in greater profit.



Solidarity saving groups encourage farmers to save regularly. When they receive money from the sale of their crops, they hopefully save a portion of it, to be used for purchase of the next season’s seeds, tuition for their children’s educations, or other unexpected-

needs. Almost all of the farmers learn to save; the average amount of savings is \$100 per farmer per year.

While this does not sound like much, the important thing at this time is that they are learning the concept of saving.

Farmers are encouraged to become entrepreneurial, viewing their farming efforts as a business, and not just as a subsistence activity. For example, we encourage them to store some of the corn or soybeans they produce for a time, so they can sell it later for a higher price when supply is low. In partnership with Climaxx Microfinance, we provide a storage granary and services. Careful records are kept so each farmer knows how much he has in the granary at any given time. In the future, the granary hopes to offer grinding and bagging services.



We also encourage and provide resources for the raising of animals as agribusiness enterprises. pigs, chickens and goats. For example, CHILD maintains -

a piggery just south of Gulu. The piglets produced are used in demonstration plots, and also “loaned” to farmers who have demonstrated a commitment to wise animal husbandry by building an acceptable pigpen. The payback is that farmers must return a piglet from their first litter back to the CHILD piggery.

Additionally, we train people on how to raise chickens in a more controlled environment than the traditional “let them run around the compound” method. Proper chicken coops are built in many Villages we operate, with demonstration flocks fed with proper foods to maximize egg production.

There are 15 solidarity saving groups currently, with ten more planned for 2021. Each has 20-50 members.

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE

Integrated agriculture is a holistic agricultural system that utilizes both animal husbandry and growing of crops in a tightly-related manner to maximize the benefit to the farmer. It aims to utilize output of crops to feed animals, and to use animal byproducts as fertilizers for crops. Here is a small sample of the integrations that our solidarity saving groups and demonstration gardens train farmers on: Pigs, chickens and goats can be raised. Corn, soybeans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, grasses, pumpkins and vegetables are grown.



This more sophisticated farming system provides far more healthy food and income to a family than the older cultural methods of farming.

