



VEDCO ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns [VEDCO]

P.O.BOX 1244, Rubaga Division, Kampala.

Tel: + [256] 414 279 598, 772 510 439, 708 490 880

E-mail: vedcouganda@gmail.com. Website: www.vedcouganda.org

Facebook: Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns-VEDCO, Twitter: @VEDCO

Introduction

Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns [VEDCO] is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) formed in 1986, working with grass root communities in Uganda to improve their livelihoods. The organization was registered in 1992 as a Non-Government Organization (NGO) under the NGO status of 1989, with registration number as s. 5914/349, under the mandate of agricultural entrepreneurship development. It is also registered with the Ministry of agriculture, Animal industry and fishery, NGO board in the ministry of internal affairs as well as with the National NGO Forum. At the time of formation, having started as a self-help organization, VEDCO focused on responding to challenges of poverty, which was as a result of social and economic disruptions caused by the military conflicts of 1980-86 in the Luwero insurgency; by promoting food security, economic activity for increased income and strengthens grassroots organizations to advance the interests of the marginalized communities. Throughout VEDCO's eight strategic plans already implemented since 1988, it continues desiring to see an equitable and sustainable access to food security, wealth and improved livelihood, of vulnerable female and male, youths and children from different communities within a healthy environment.

Currently, VEDCO is in its 3rd year of implementing the 2020-2025 strategic plan where its focuses towards community transformation hinged on sustainable production, inclusive markets and finance as well as innovative systems leadership. This is being achieved through implementing various strategies & interventions as suggested to drive each of the strategic objectives in conformity to its Vision and mission, as guided by its core value & principles:

Vision:

“Improved quality of life of small and medium holder farmers”

Mission:

“Make agriculture and development practices work for small & medium holder farmers achieve food and nutrition security as well as competitiveness.”

Core values & principles:

Result oriented, Equal opportunity, Teamwork, Excellence, Transparency and accountability.

Strategic objectives-what we intend to achieve:

1. Food and Nutrition Security-Increased access to appropriate knowledge and technology relevant for sustainable food production and equitable utilization.
2. Inclusive Agricultural Trade and Farmer Institutional business Development-Inclusive market at local, national and regional levels where Farmers (especially women and youth) fully participate
3. Climate Change and Natural Resource Management-Sustainable natural resource use and management as well as Improved farmers' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change shocks.

4. Public Policy Engagement and Advocacy-Farmers' participation and engagement in policy processes that influence food and nutrition security and strengthen market competitiveness strengthened.
5. Humanitarian Response to Disaster Risks and Emergencies-Improved community Humanitarian response to human and natural disaster shocks
6. VEDCO Internal Institutional Development- Strengthen VEDCO's capacity to deliver effective, efficient and sustainable agricultural services is strengthened.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VEDCO continues to uphold her strategic mandate of Improved quality of life of farmers, through operationalizing agriculture and development practices work for small & medium holder farmers, to achieve food and nutrition security. Since 2020, her effort to transform communities has been respective of the current strategic plan in which, she seeks to strengthen public policy research & advocacy, contribute to responses towards relief and recovery from disaster & emergence, promote inclusive support & approaches for food, nutrition & agricultural trade developments, while focusing on the climate & natural resources resilience. All of it being achieved under the progressively developing internal institutional frame works and several other external collaborators.

With support & collaborations from six [6] development partners including private & government, VEDCO has contributed to improving community livelihoods through various interventions, among which, included: developing, implementing, and validating innovative, scalable, and sustainable technologies aimed at supporting the nutrition performance & strengthening agro-biodiversity and food diversity of local food systems in Africa, in Kamuli: promoting Genetic advances and innovative seed systems for sweet potatoes, Kamuli, Buyende & Iganga: Improving linkage between production and market demands in the agriculture sector in Kamuli, Buyende, Busoga Sub region, as well as promoting Sustainable food security, improved livelihoods & resilient ecosystems among small holder farmers in the dry lands Pallisa, Ngora & Amuria, Teso sb region, eastern Uganda: Increasing food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhanced household incomes through support to diversified food production and commercial agriculture and improved household resilience, in the northern Uganda: and improving the economic empowerment of women & youth in the Host and Refugee communities, west Nile regions.

The interventions attracted a total outreach of 28,520 direct beneficiaries, 16,726 of which being Females, 10,994 Males and 13,123 were youths, and over 95.7% [27,320] farmers were supported directly as farmers, across the 20 operational areas. It is upon these individuals that VEDCO registered her achievements through: woodlots establishment, Micro businesses establishment & support, Establishment & strengthened VSLA methodology, student skills development for TVETs. Contributed to household income generation through cash for work activities & several Agri business enterprise modeling, targeting youth and women & strengthened community approaches towards GBV/PSEA advocacy. In addition, supported agroecological transformation in the farming communities through promotion of proven and tested AE practices, inputs and knowledge, provision of farm discounted incentives as technologies to create ease and

smarten subsistence & commercialized farming, as well as offering capacity building for market promotion and access to finance, through multi-stakeholders & actors' linkages with the beneficiary communities.

Such achievements have been hinged onto the effective exploitation of numbers of opportunities open to VEDCO including: Effective implementation structures, existing donors interested in funding transformative agriculture and livelihoods, continuing interest by government and development partners to invest in the agriculture & resilient ecosystems, supportive policies and programs targeting promotion of production, marketing and value addition, increasing interests to fund youth and women empowerment interventions, consistent efforts to provide funding for humanitarian responses and emergencies, by both government and other development partners.

However, it was still evident that our implementation throughout the 2022 has suffered progressive dwindling in the size of funds receive from donors but also in the real opportunities to lobby for funds due to Stiff competition for the same funds from other similar and quite often larger international institutions, delayed fund release by donors & lead partners which disrupted planned implementation as could be indicated in the various project schedules, inadequate budget allocation for some thematic areas (programs) such as climate adaptation, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation, staff turnover often creating transitional deficiencies & dis-structures that retards smooth continuity., among others.

OUTREACH, PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT ON THE STRATEGIES & INTERVENTION DURING THE YEAR

OUTREACH FOR 2022

During the year 2022, VEDCO engaged 28,520 direct beneficiaries, [F16,726, M 10,994] & 13,123 youths in 20 districts, from the eastern, northern, central and west Nile regions. This outreach was attained through six [6] different projects, in response to the institutional strategic mandates. Over 95.7% [27,320] small holder farmers were directly supported for food, nutrition and agricultural trade & business development from the farming communities & 4% [1,200] for empowerment under the refugee program. These have been reached community based structures comprising of 40 Community based trainers [CBTs], 48 Agro ecological champions and 498 community livelihood champions[CLCs].

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY:

This aims at Increased access to appropriate knowledge and technology relevant for sustainable food production and equitable utilization.

The backbone of every stable economy is often associated with sufficient level of availability, diversity, accessibility and utilization of food in a more secure and nutritious state. VEDCO under the food and nutrition strategic objective, seeks to increase production and productivity of small/medium holder farmers, high enough to sustain their food, nutrition and income needs, as the most significant livelihood indicators among the women, youth and children. Among the agricultural dependent communities. This has been achieved through a number of diverse interventions being implemented respectively:

This implementation strategy focuses at supporting farmers to increase crop and livestock production, diversification and utilization, for improved household food and nutrition security as well as incomes. With support from McKnight foundation through FRN project, VEDCO and partners participated in monitoring of system change as a baseline activity to inform for the necessary agroecological interventions and transformations, reflected in the cropping system [seed, soil & pest management systems], Livestock system, Agroforestry system and Economical/Financial and social aspects, with in the project host communities of the dry land of Teso, in Eastern Uganda. The study targeted the districts of Ngora, Amuria, Pallisa and a total of 1300 direct beneficiaries, 48 Agroecological champions, input & market dealers, local leaders among other stakeholders, were reached out for their observation, experience and perceptions on the various existing systems of importance, changing patterns, drivers as well as their envisioned agroecological strategies. We found out that majority of the farmers use the informal seed system especially for finger millet and sorghum; characterized with poor quality seed often less resistant to pests, diseases and drought, and low yielding; limited access to improved seed, highly priced quality seed among others; soil exhaustion due to land fragmentation, increased erosion, overcultivation among other; limited diversity of crops with consistently deteriorating yield, limited food reservoirs among others; reduced number of livestock per household & their products, inability to engage in communal

grazing due to reduce land size as a result of population pressure as well the competing land uses; and on Agroforestry, a lot deforestation has occurred, with still low tree planting .

Through Food LAND project with support from European commission, VEDCO in partnership with Makerere University undertook a baseline study on “improving household resilience among the small holder farmers through Agroecological transformation. This was focused on: identifying AE practices being practices such as: Manure application, intercropping, Mulching and Agroforestry; extent of use, reasons for use and non-use, proposed inputs to increase use and AE practical contribution to production [volumes], of the various indigenous food class, including Carbohydrates, vegetables, Pulses & oilseeds , and fruits, among others crops, in the area, consideration of the Main use, storage period, seasons [planting and harvesting] and production constraints at play. The study was conducted in 3 sub counties that is to say: Butansi, Namasagali and Kamuli southern division, Kamuli District, Busoga sub region, in which 100 informants with over 70 % females, were engaged for feedback.

VEDCO through her staff and commercial seed producers (CSPs) participated in four [4] farmer field days organized in Kamuli and Buyende districts. These attracted all community farmers producing, consuming and marketing of sweet potato products (seed, roots and other value-added products). The events aimed at demonstrating good agronomic practices (GAP) for sweet potatoes, importance of planting quality sweet potato vines, approaches to maximize revenue for sweet potato vines and roots, while using a variety of visibility, and market promotion materials & activities; possible sweet potato value-added products such as flour, cakes and juice, as well as establishing the local market preferred varieties. For purposes of effective dissemination information & cross learning, the event attracted an inclusive community participation, with majority being women, youth and children as well as men, all commercial seed producers under the challenge fund project, a diversity of local technical and leadership officers from the district, sub counties, parishes and village level and implementing agencies.

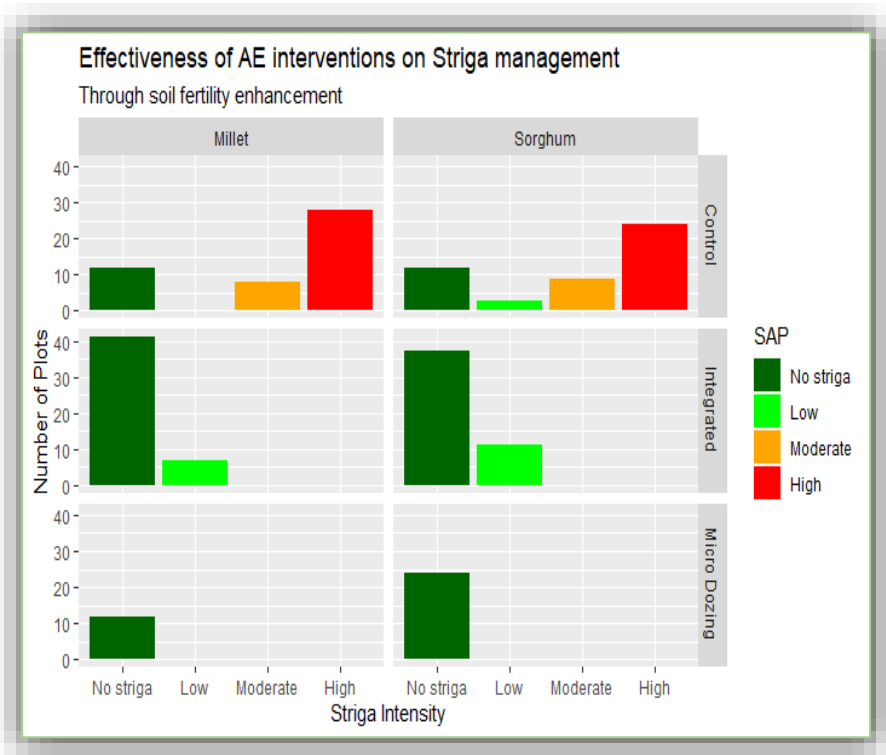
Promoting production and productivity in agriculture to day calls for an integrated approach. Many of the farm activities are being conducted on the same soils by the same farmers and quite often using the same approaches. VEDCO recognises the need to support these activities directly or indirectly through providing capacity enhancement trainings to farmers, with the capacity to address effective soil health, pest & diseases control, crop and environmental management among others. 20 agronomical farmers trainings, were conducted among the Food Hub members of Nakaseke & Kamuli focusing mainly on the key project crop enterprises [tomatoes, beans, Orange fleshed Sweet potatoes, grain amaranth, fruits vegetable etc.]. This has resulted into: Improved quality / quantity on the key FH crop enterprises and enhanced prompt implementation and take off of other project interventions such as: innovation research process for the technologies to be adopted. A total of 1680 farmers attended (623 male & 1057 female) and theses were supported with various GAPs including: line planting and crop spacing to promote easy weeding, pests and disease management & improved yields; legume cereals intercrop to increase on the soil nitrogen content, and surface cover by legume crops, promote variety harvest for food and nutrition security; use of organic farm yard manure, often from the cheapest & locally available sources and where necessary use micro doses of synthetic fertilizer; seed selection; timely planting, and tree integration within the communities' cropping

systems using recommended multipurpose & nature friendly tree species, that viably address the farm needs, environmental, social and economic community desires. Several tree varieties such as teak tree, have been identified by environmental specialist. Trainings on recycling of farm residues for mulching, water harvesting using ditches for dry season farming have been offered to farmers, with the major aim of improving on the farmer's farm practices as well as sustainability of agricultural activities.

In a move to achieve secure food and nutrition communities, VEDCO has equipped her farmers with a diversity of farm quality inputs and technologies to boost both crop and livestock production. To improve access to improved and quality sorghum and millet seed, a total of 712 kg of assorted seed (366 kg of Millet and 346 kg of Sorghum), were procured and distributed to 45 farmer groups. Two grain & seed varieties; Naromil2, Seremil2 (For millet), Seso3, Narosorg2 (for sorghum), were distributed to 24 and 6 [grain & seed] farmer groups, with respect to farmers' preferred choices as well as 4 varieties: Naromil2, Seremil2, Naromil5 [for millet], Seso3, Narosorg2, Narosorg1 [for sorghum], were distributed to 15 farmer groups for on-farm experimentation. With the need to promote cereal-legume intercrop, 50 kg of legumes [cow peas and green gram] were supplied to 15 on-farm experimentation groups across Amuria, Ngora & Pallisa. The on-farm experimentation was an intervention designed to investigate the effectiveness of different approaches on reducing striga intensity & increasing the quantity and quality of yield through improving the soil health, having been tested and proven in the first phase of the project. The two approaches included: Integrated practices, this involved use of intercrop with legumes, Farm Yard Manure [FYM], Line planting, Multiple weeding [twice], thinning and use improved varieties; Micro-dozing, which involved use of Organic and Inorganic fertilizers in the same garden, [Use of inorganic fertilizers (NP)+ FYM], Line planting (sorghum-legume-Ratio of 2:1), thinning, Multiple weeding (twice) and use of improved sorghum and millet varieties, were compared against the farmers' practices [Control]. A research demo experimentation design was developed within the protocol to ensure a standardized implementation of these interventions across the different experimentation site

As a result of the interventions, the project compared the responsiveness by Millet & sorghum cereal crops, on soil enhancement practices/interventions, to striga management. And with a graphical presentation, the two-crop presented seemingly similar results of either no striga, low striga or “no and low striga” from both interventions, however, with no intervention, Millet gardens were reportedly more infested with high striga intensities as compared to sorghum gardens, though both crops still hosted high level of striga intensities

Farmers on the other hand, have been rating the different practices basing on their observed performance towards striga management. And according to their observation, integrated practices not only improve soil fertility but also required inputs/resources can be locally availed and easily applied, as compared to the Micro-dozing inputs.



In some cases, farmers believed that striga would mostly emerge between 4-6 weeks after planting, as compared to 2-3 weeks, though this was a selective observation made mostly by Farmers in Amuria district, an area often identified with relatively good soils.

Two commercial seed producers [CSPs] in Buyende, received foundation sweet potato vines for seed multiplication. Two varieties of vines were supplied including Tanzania and Naspot1 under clean varieties. The same intervention led to acquisition of 2 screen houses with which the vine multipliers are producing basic vines, required for multiplying Class1 and 2 seed classes for the market. A total of 19.25 acres of the vines have been established from which, 625 community farmers [M355, F271] have accessed vines as buyers from the 3 hubs of Buyende, Kamuli and Iganga districts.

On the other hand, 2 Food Hubs were established with a total of 467 members (M190 & F 277), majorly aiming at improving on the food system in the 2 districts, focusing mainly on Nutrition, food security, income & biodiversity. As a result, there was improved value chains for the key project crop enterprises and all the mapped-out actors are fully prepared for the validated / proved innovations to be adopted.

In many communities in Uganda, agriculture is considered a women and children affair and over the previous engagements, specifically in Teso sub region, row planting of Millet and sorghum crops as one of the best GAP practices promoted for better yields and striga weed management, was regarded extremely tedious. This called for further innovations to ease its application and smoothen its adoption. Innovations surrounding planting technologies were developed with, by and for the farmers. These included 6 Manual pulled drill rakes, 9 Manual pulled drill planters and 3 ox-drawn planters. These technologies have been reported relatively effective given the reduced time and energy required, although there are still improvements being piloted to automate seed planting.

None the less, the rate of post-harvest loss for farm produce at farm level due to poor handling practices, has been worryingly increasing one season after the other, mostly attributed to the inadequate knowledge, skills and post-harvest



Photo: Farmers testing the metallic durable drill rake for finger millet planting



Photo: Farmers adjusting seed delivery control bolt for effective planting of finger millet seeds

handling tools and technological incentives such as drying, storage, milling and others being accessible by farmers. Because VEDCO recognizes the need to improve quantity as well as quality of harvest with minimum wastage, several capacity enhancement trainings were conducted, aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills of farmers in reducing losses, improving quality and adding of value to on farm produce along the value chain, transforming 14,112 farmers, with 5,558 males and 8,463 females. Such trainings attracted participation from: farmers, Agroecological champions, local leaders, production and commercial officers, market agent among others. There has been increased adoption of use of tarpaulins borrowed from within the communities & smeared ground during drying as compared to the previous bare ground drying, use of hand and motorized shellers, use of silos for storage among others.



Resilient dry season farming, crop biodiversity under Gap

local food systems in Africa, while strengthening agrobiodiversity and food diversity as well as diversity of healthy diets”, has promoted health farming [organic farming-use of FYM, organic pesticide], crop diversity [carbohydrate: such as millet, cassava, maize, bananas & sweet potatoes, fruits-avocados, watermelon, passion, pawpaw, mangoes & oranges; vegetables-Amaranth, egg plants, pumpkins, spinach, Sukuma, garden eggs pulse oil seed-sim sim, ground nut, among others. But also encouraged and supported the production of animal products including Chicken, eggs, goats, pigs, milk.], and production & consumption of nutritious mixtures. The interventions covered over 168 farmers [F=119, M=49], in Kamuli food hub.

The issue of nutrition among farming communities has always been a challenge, with high indication of limited crop diversity consequently breeding into consistent nutritional imbalances, malnourishment and general poor health. This has been observed to be more vivid among children below the age of five, although equally pronounced among pregnant and lactating mothers and women of reproductive age. VEDCO through its support for “ nutrition performance of



Photo: Eco-friendly vegetable farming

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FARMER INSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Under this objective, VEDCO seeks to achieve increased and competitive farmer participation in the market for improved household incomes. Increasing farmers' access to sustainable, profitable and structured input and output markets particularly those that benefit women and youth. This has been through a number of strategies.

Throughout the year 2022, a variety of business skilling & formation among youth and women has been strongly promoted through the various projects.

To contribute to the Uganda host and refugee community empowerment for youth and women, 25 micro business enterprises have been supported from formation, to business plan development, and to provision of grants. The nature of businesses largely depended on the group's preference, based on their available capacity [know how] and resource strength [land, stalls, market, etc.] to run and sustain it. Nine [9] micro business activities were identified by and promoted in Obongi district, organized from within the host and the refugee settlement areas, covering 817 [528 (64.6%) Female, 289 Male] individuals, of the 1200 target beneficiaries. These included dealers in General merchandize, crop farming, goat rearing, piggery farming, poultry keeping, Saloon, Fish farming, grinding mill and agricultural produce. However, goat rearing has been a dominant activity for many of the groups, attracting of over 34% of the business community member, as compared to 13.9% for general merchandise. This has been attributed to available grazing spaces in the areas, ready market for goats, reduced handling risk especially for less energetic women and children, and easy sharing of the Micro business gains by members. 77 business plans were funded.

Table 1: Promoting Micro-business development among the refugee settlers, Obongi district

BUSINESS GROUP	Female	Male	Total
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE	61	23	84
CROP FARMING	25	8	33
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	71	43	114
GOAT REARING	179	100	279
PIGGERY FARMING	46	15	61
POULTRY KEEPING	17	13	30
SALOON	14	19	33
GRINDING MILL BUSINESS	60	31	91
FISH FARMING	55	37	92
TOTAL	528	289	817

77 individual businesses in Retail Shop, Selling Food items, Hotel /Restaurant, selling food item, Animal Sales, Poultry, Sugar Sales, Piggery, Goat Rearing, chair hire, Small fish were supported. Twenty-five [25] group businesses in goat rearing, silver fish, second hand clothes, restaurant, chair hire among others, were also supported. The success of these businesses has been attributed to the

continuous skilling & follow up of the participants through various training such as financial literacy, group dynamics, entrepreneurship and business development, financial support in form of grants offered to each of the groups and through income to households generated from cash for work activities. A total of UGX 114,000,000 was disbursed to 25 groups, with 271 individuals 108 males and 163 females. A total of 189 were refugees with 68 males and 121 females, 82 host beneficiaries with 33 males and 49 females, as small grant to be used as capital to boost their micro-businesses enterprise productivity, to top up on the UGX 360,000,000 received by participants through payments for cash for work labor within the entire target population. 52 individual business plans were funded worth UGX 36,000,000, Out of these, 36 were refugees with 14 males and 22 females & 16 host beneficiaries with 6 males and 10 females. As a result, lives of many households have been improved due to improved livelihoods, significantly impacting of the level of purpose saving and lending activities.

In addition, 36 farmer groups contributing to Sustainable food security, improved livelihoods & resilient ecosystems among small holder farmers in the dry lands of eastern Uganda, were reached out to promote sustainable Agroecological business model for small grain holder farmers, using the agroecological farming interventions, test and proven in the first project phase. These were clustered as Grain, seed and biofertilizer [as in the photo] production farmer groups, supported with different relevant production and marketing skills and incentives through the PESA agro-business marketing model. The capacity of 6 seed farmer producer groups was built on production aspects of seed and market where, 171 farmers were trained (65 females; 106 males) and as a result established 16.2 acres of seed gardens. Twenty-four (24) farmer groups were identified to participate in the agroecological Grain production and



Photo: Making of Bokashi with training participants of Ngora and Amuria

marketing of sorghum and millet business of which 253 farmers (139 Female, 74 Male) and a total of 124.55 acres of millet and sorghum had been established by close of 2022. Bio-fertilizer production is one of the sustainable practices that the project is looking at when it comes to improving soil fertility management. It is also an avenue that is aimed at diversifying the income sources of the farmers. Six [6] farmer groups were selected and piloted bio-fertilizer production as a business. Capacity building through inclusive trainings was offered to 155 farmers, (95 Females, & 60 Males) in which various knowledge was shared. By the end of 2022, bio-fertilizer production had been progressively increasing among the participating farmers. A total of 15 kgs of IMO, 215 kgs of Bokashi, 360 liters of Jeramiah, and 10 liters of plant teas have been produced by various members of the bio-fertilizer producer groups ready for farm use and marketing.

VEDCO promoted agricultural trade in the two districts of Kamuli and Buyende by creating linkages between agricultural production and market demands among the Youths (15-24 years). A total of 13123 (F-7821, M- 5302) were reached out by the AWF Project. Three crop value chains were developed, these included the Green Chilli, Hot pepper and White Skinned Sweetpotatoes. VEDCO worked closely with the private sector to establish strong Horticulture value chains. Six [6] exporting companies were linked to the youth producers, these included KK Fresh Produce Exporters, Tropical Dynasty, Dubai Handlers, Anchor foods, Jonathan Exotic and Emmanuel Agro exporters. The exporters work with association leaders and Agents, the agents are paid UGX 100 per kilogram collected. This has created more employment among the youth and created reliable marketing channels for the produce. A total of 269,112kg of Green Chilli was marketed by the End of September 2022 bringing an income of UGX 40,366,800/= among the youth producers.

VEDCO mobilized a total of 448 Youth VSLAs in Kamuli, & Buyende districts with total membership of 13123 (F-7821, M-5302) saved Ugx.1,265,096,000/=, 7623 youth (F-4250-M-3373) took loans amounting to UGX 399,237,500/= The project established 10 Youth Higher level Associations responsible for production, collection, marketing and quality assurance to meet the market demands. VEDCO built the capacity of 170 (F-88, M-82) Youth leaders in Governance and business management skills, VSLA methodology and quality control (Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Point) at the higher association level, as a result the youth formed savings and investment at the sub county level where members bought shares and saved every week. The saving at the higher association level is for investment and is not shared at the end of the cycle like in the ordinary VSLAs. Each of the 10 higher level association developed a business and investment plan. Major enterprises in the Youth business plans include; Green Chilli, Poultry, Piggery and Arts and Crafts-making foot ware and other decorative art work. The type of data collected was cumulative and therefore to avoid double counting, only new members joining in 2022 were counted, therefore a total 1170 (F-612, M-558) were trained in VSLA methodology, Market Oriented Agronomy, Soil and water conservation, Post-Harvest Handling and Cost – Benefit analysis of the Chilli, Hot pepper and White Skinned Sweet potato business. Twenty-eight [28] (F-12, M-16) youth from Kamuli and Buyende who were linked to the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) have acquired DIT certificates in Export Oriented Agricultural production after training, they are therefore certified farmers to produce horticultural produce for the export market.

VEDCO as well participated in improving farmers' access to agricultural financing through various approaches. These included formation & development of well-functioning Village Saving and Lending Associations [VSLAs] which create a sustainable local farmers' financial base, increased investment capital for increased production and market. A total of 24,863 farmers [M9823, F15040] were equipped with knowledge and skills in VSLA methodology and financial management. The trainings resulted into formation of 1068 VSLAs. The VSLAs were composed of 93% of youths, and 55.9% of which are female youths. By close of 2022, a total of UGX 70,685,100 had been saved and amount UGX37, 455,200 spent on borrowing , primarily by the group members to facilitate individual needs such as acquiring of agricultural inputs like Chili seeds, pesticides, packaging materials, hire land for crop farming, invest in livestock projects like piggery,

poultry, goat rearing and off farm small businesses such as general merchandize, agriculture produce, saloons among others.

A total of 593 VSLAs were transformed into producer groups, to increase access to several other production, market and financial incentives. Over 320 farmers (M175, F145) were linked to 5 viable agricultural financial institutions, including: Centenary Rural development bank and Finance Trust Bank in Kamuli district, Postbank and Ikweria SACCO in Dokolo and Lira districts), to enable them access financial services. The linkages enabled 178 youth [M7107F 71] open bank accounts with Finance trust and Centenary Rural development



Sekadikuwo YSLA during a savings meeting. Kitayunjwa sub county Kamuli district

bank in Kamuli district. This was an attempt that improved the payments process for youth farmers produce by the various market agents such as KK Fresh Foods Ltd, Anchor foods-Iganga, Johnson etc.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE3: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This objective seeks empower farmers and communities respond and cope with the realities of climate change and achieve resilient livelihoods. VEDCO Facilitated community members establish compost pits, manure bands, water and soil conservation structures (terraces, ponds, water retention reservoirs), to restore soil fertility and water retention.

The use of integrated practices (use of farm yard manure, cereal Legume intercrop) was among the agro-ecological practices used by farmers in Amuria, Pallisa & Ngora districts to improve on the soil fertility during the project intervention. The intervention believed in increasing water retention & soils conservation structures, through legume soil cover, improved soil structure using farm yard manure and other bio-fertilizer products and waste recycling into decomposed manure & mulches Two (2) farmers procured 2 irrigation kits to consistently produce large volumes of seeds (vines), which can sustainably meet customer needs throughout the years. Four [4] valley dams, 3 in Buyende (Bugaya sub-county) and 1 in Kamuli Namwendwa sub-county were maintained, as an intervention for conserving community natural water sources that support for constant water utilization for crop, livestock production and sustainable ecosystems, throughout the production cycles.

Deforestation and tree cutting have been reportedly increasing in many areas, often attributed to



Woodlot establishment of regenerative tik trees, Palorinya settlement, Obongi district

rapid growing population and population needs. This has consequently reduced the number, size and quality of natural vegetation with its resultant detriments on the eco life. On that note, VEDCO availed 25,000 tree seedlings of teak of 102.5 acres in both the refugee settlement and the host community of trees were established, of which 40 acres were planted in blocks and the 62.5 scattered with beneficiaries in their homes. These were distributed by the service provider and these improved on the tree cover within Palorinya refugee settlement and the host community areas.

Promoting the adoption of early maturing, drought and flood resistant crop varieties, has been one of the interventions to respond to the changing weather patterns the use of improved varieties was adopted by farmers. Various varieties [Tanzania, Narospot 1, Clean umbrella, Muwulu adduduma] for Sweet potatoes seed, [Naromil2, Seremil2 & Naromil5] for Millet varieties and [NaroSorg 1, NaroSorg2 & Seso3] for sorghum, have been promoted for adoption in the different farming communities. According farmers' observations, these varieties were found to be pests/ disease and drought tolerant and high yielding and resistant to pests' weeds [striga] compared to others, making them strongly suitable for addressing various common production challenges as well as food security for households.

Bio-fertilizer production is one of the sustainable practices that VEDCO has promoted through FRN project to improve soil fertility management. It is also an avenue that is aimed at diversifying the income sources of the farmers. Six [6] farmer groups in Amuria, Pallisa & Ngora piloted the production of bio-fertilizer as a business, and the capacity of 155 farmers (95 Females, & 60 Males) was built to share and transfer the knowledge. According the users feedback so far, Jeevamritha fertilizers have demonstrated a much higher effectiveness on most of the vegetables as recipient crops are observed to have deep green colored leaves, a common farmers' indicator for healthier plants, but also reportedly seen performing exceptionally well on external pest management. On the other hand, the application of Bocashi fertilizers on the sorghum fields in

particular, seems to create a good breeding and living environment that attracts various soil nutrient enhancement organisms. And although the mix use of both Bocashi and Jeevamritha has been cherished for its health and vigorous growth given to the sorghum crops, the IMO's & plant teas have been regarded extremely easy to use by many of the farmers. Despite the above customized user feedback, farmers, other users generally commend the effectiveness of all these innovations in addressing a diverse set of challenges right from soil health, pest and disease management as well as redressing their receding economic gains attained from farming.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

This objective seeks to continue developing the capacities of farmers to participate in policy advocacy and to engage duty bears on issues that affect them in production, access to food and its utilization as well as marketing.

VEDCO recognizes the role of Supporting farmer's access to information and knowledge on agricultural policy processes. This has been achieved through constructing community centers that are well equipped with literature materials & and establishment of food hubs as learning & development structures. One Food Hub has been established in Kamuli district and equipped with knowledge on basic recommended nutrition practices in the Busoga sub region. A number of reading materials on new Agronomic practices, Marketing, Post-Harvest Handling and on VSLA methodology, have been provided for reference to lead mothers, CBTs and other ToTs, to guide follow up training within groups.

Participatory training of change agents has been promoted. The Participatory Action Research model has been applied in identifying the actual causes of under performance in the agriculture for example poor soil management, increasing environment degradation, poor quality agricultural inputs among others. Agro-ecological intensification has been for instance identified as a key intervention for improving soil fertility and mitigating unfavorable weather conditions and this been seen transforming on farm health in many important aspects.

Several life skills trainings for youth and vulnerable community members have been conducted These has been through among others, Technical and vocational education trainings [TVETs], in which 140 youth have been supported for training and with start-up kits in the move to promote youth economic empowerment. In the west Nile region, Palorinya settlement, Skills such as Plumbing, tailoring, Carpentry and Joinery, Hairdressing, Curtain Making, Tailoring, welding, sunflower packaging, Tie and Die, Bakery, catering animal rearing, Plumbing, electrical installation, shoe making were acquired. In the Eastern region, farmers have been trained and equipped with skills of value addition on different enterprises like green chili, millet, sorghum and sweet potatoes with an aim of improving and increasing on the incomes and reducing the post-harvest losses, bio-fertilizer production, among others

To strengthen the awareness creation on various life changing aspects, 100 spot messages, press briefings, awareness campaigns and community sensitization meetings on relevant agricultural policies, trade and livelihood were conducted. A total of 27 radio talk shows were conducted based

on different themes for example: integration of the gender and Agriculture in fighting GBV, Impact of COVID on Agri-Business and marketing, Value Addition a solution to Post Harvest Losses, Sweet potato Seed as a business for Improved Productivity, all aimed at improving the agriculture profitability and productivity, gender inclusion and participation etc, among households. One (1) TV show was broadcasted on smart TV on value addition of the orange sweet potatoes and silage making in 2022. The nutrition and agriculture extension policies were key during the radio talk show since they harmonize the nutrition and extension in the communities.

VEDCO Facilitated farmer participation at Kamuli Food Fete, Busoga Nutrition Show, women in Agriculture Trade Show, *Jua Kali* exhibition, the Jinja National agricultural show who exhibited different technologies, different crop varieties and advocated for inclusion of other crops into the Parish Development Model, especially sweet potatoes and Green Chili. 50 farmers were facilitated during the shows. Their participation greatly improved on the organizations visibility in the agricultural sector, attracted viable collaboration with both government and other private stakeholders as well as contributing towards fighting food & nutritional insecurity in the country.



VEDCO staff demonstrating the knowledge and products of value addition on fresh sweet potatoes, during the annual agricultural show, Jinja.

In order to empower farmers to influence policy process and cause the desired change for sustainable development, vibrant farmer-based structures to influence agriculture related policy processes and programs have been built. A total of 145 farmer groups have been trained in advocacy to influence budgeting and budget tracking, food rights, land rights and property rights. Such trainings have been enabled communities to participate in various ways of lobbying and influence decision making at both sub county and district level in process of budgeting, especially in the agriculture

and production departments. Advocacy champions, scouts and monitoring groups. Seventy eight [78] group champions have been empowered to steer life changing movements but also demonstrate potential innovations as model participants within their respective groups. In addition, several platforms/ meetings for farmers with other decision makers have been organized, for different value chain actors to discuss critical issues affecting agriculture and livelihoods, among other things. This has been done in a joint monitoring visit to analyze actual constraints affecting the farmers in the production process at the different selected value chains for given interventions, such as poor soil management, increasing environment degradation, poor quality agricultural inputs among others on the Foodland and a working Future projects

Two (2) stakeholder engagement meetings were organized at the district and VEDCO Office. 130 participants from different Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Government officials, private sector and media participated, with an objective of being accountable to everyone and strategize on better approaches to stream line the agricultural sector through better funding, extension service delivery and accountability, from both government and other development partners.

There has been subscription and participation in key strategic network. This has been through the Development Aid, a network supporting the institutional fundraising arm with latest and viable calls for proposals, fitful with in the VEDCOs thematic areas.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO DISASTER RISKS AND EMERGENCIES

This strategy is deigned to position VEDCO in readiness situation to respond to an influx of refugees and asylum seekers thronging Uganda in big numbers, in addition to an ever-increasing incidence of natural disasters such as landslides, drought and floods among others.

For many years now, Uganda has been hosting a diversity of refugees as seen coming from Southern Sudan, Rwanda, DRC, among other countries. According the 2022 *Uganda comprehensive Refugee report* by UNHCR, Uganda remains the highest refugees host in the whole of Africa, hosting over 1,495,688 refugees, Female [772,965], Male [722,723], with the largest inflow coming from southern Sudan [854,268], DRC [479,364] & Somalia: [61,563] and have been distributed among twelve [12] districts. Adjumani hosts the highest number of refugees, totaling to 208,191, of which over 86% are women and children and only 3% are elderly. Other districts hosting refugees are Madi Okollo & Terego, Yumbe Isingiro etc. The districts have been commonly victims of war, natural calamities such as floods, drought, which force a large number of men, women and children into extreme vulnerability, with absolute absence of basic needs of human life such as shelter, food, medical attention, and schools for learning, thus search for relief settlements. This influx has attracted various local, national, and international players such as CSOs, NGOs, government agencies and partners to collectively respond to a pool of humanitarian needs of the population both with in the settlements and in the host communities.

In the bid to contribute to humanitarian response to disaster risks and emergencies strategic mandate, VEDCO has been supported by Korea International Cooperation Agency [KOICA], though

the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] to join efforts with Save the Children as implementing partners, in driving the economic community empowerment campaign of youth and women. This has been through the “Uganda host and refugee community empowerment project”, for refugee settlers and host communities in Lamwo, Adjuman and Obongi districts. Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project is one of the UNDP’s key projects contributing to the Humanitarian Development Peace (HDP) Nexus. The project is implemented as part of the current UNDP Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy which is based on the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHOPE) Framework and aligned to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This aims for Socio- economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improved as well as Enhanced capacities for mainstreaming gender equity/GBV prevention among key sub-national government agencies, communities, livelihood actors, and private sector.

VEDCO reached out to total of 1,200 beneficiaries [F760, M440], being selected from both the settlement and host communities, to directly benefit from the various project interventions with in the Palorinya settlement, Obongi district. 70% of the 1200 [840(F550, M290)] were selected from the refugee community of Basecamp [Ibakwe, Umijo & Iboa] and Zone.1, and 30% [360 (F216, M144)] were from the host communities of Itula, Ewafa and Aliba.

Several interventions were therefore fronted as mainstreams for attaining the project objectives, and these included recruiting of 1,200 participants to take active part in cash for work activities, which majorly involved establishment of woodlot, road opening [new] & maintenance [existing] and tree planting. A total of 45 Km of road open & reopening, rehabilitation and maintenance [15Km for the host, 30Km for the settlement, accounting for 12 community access roads, 102 acres of woodlots were established while contributing to household income amounting to UGX 360,000,000 being disbursed participants through cash for work activities, as in Table3 below.

Table2: Total participant reached out and incomes disbursed during cash for work activities

COMMUNITY	GENDER SEGREGATION	QUANTITY	FREQ	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL AMOUNT
HOST COMMUNITY	Female	216	30	10,000	64,800,000
	Male	144	30	10,000	43,200,000
REFUGEE SETTLEMENT	Female	550	30	10,000	165,000,000
	Male	290	30	10,000	87,000,000
TOTAL		1200			360,000,000

25,000 seedlings of Teak tree were distributed by VEDCO across the host and refugee areas, to support the tree planting intervention under woodlot establishments. Forty acres of land were volunteered by landlords from the host community, having participated and earned from CFW and now cognizant of its possible outcomes, whereas others tree seedlings that remained were given and planted by individuals establishing over 102 acres of woodlots being established.

Twenty-four [24] VSLA groups with 720 [F 504, M216] were also trained on VSLA methodology. Aspects such as group formation, group dynamics, records keeping, saving and investment skills were covered. As a result, the VSLAs attracted the emergence of new micro business enterprises, Increase in incomes through investment multiplier, increased access to basic needs of life due, as well as Improved standards of living.

To contribute to the collective efforts to reduce gender-based violence [GBV] & prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse [PSEA] in the refugee and host communities, VEDCO reached out to 658 Females, 378 Males and a total of 1,036 beneficiaries. These were trained through 56 group lead persons during the various group meetings and trainings. Community dialogue meeting as well as 16 days of activism were conducted as dissemination platforms of awareness information against GBV. Through skill of youth and women, VEDCO supported 140 youth to acquire technical and vocation trainings, aimed at creating their sustainable living. These were enrolled for various courses including Carpentry and Joinery, Hairdressing, Curtain Making, Tailoring, welding, sunflower packaging, Tie and Die, Bakery, catering animal rearing, Plumbing, electrical installation, shoe making and Building among others. A total of 73 Female and 67 male youths were trained, certified at St Comboni Institute, Obongi district. These were awarded certificates in recognition of their course completion and given start up kits to each one of them with respect to the skills need, for self-employment. We continue to follow up on supported micro businesses with entrepreneurship skills development, GBV awareness and prevention, Technical support, coaching & mentorship to business groups, and over 3780 beneficiaries will be targeted for 2023 during the second phase.



Receiving of start-up kits by TVET students at graduation, St Comboni

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE6: VEDCO INTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

VEDCO believes in efficient, effective and sustainable creation of impacts in the delivery of her programs.

Through developing and strengthening institutional policies and systems, procedural recruitment of staff was embraced. Six [6] staff [1 F, 5 M] have been brought on board to give direct technical support to the programs department. These have been attached to A working future project, operating in Kamuli districts and four [4], in the west Nile region under the UNDP-Uganda host and refugee community empowerment project, Obongi district. As policy and system's necessity, the entrants whom of which had been volunteers and CBTs, were further oriented on the specific expectations on their roles. This ensured sufficient individual preparation, capacity enhancement, increased labor force and conformity of staff to institutional systems and policies. Two staff meetings were held in Eastern region, at institution's regional offices, focusing on improving institutional image in the face of the community and other stake holders. These attracted existing staff, CBTs and former community resource persons [CRPs] form all operational areas in the region, as well Civil society organizations.

In addition, there was a re-constitution of the internal management team, following the derived move to restructure and re-empower the institutional offices. Four [4] staff in lead roles at their respective regions and programs [1 F, 3M], were assigned to take vacant roles on the management committee and contribute to internal policy and other decisions. Two of these were selected from the eastern region where they serve as regional manager and Advocacy and communications officer, one from the northern region, serving as the program's director and the other from the head office, where he plays the role of monitoring and evaluation of field programs. This has consciously strengthened the planning and oversight works of the institution as well as giving equal representation of staff, at all levels.

To ensure continuous adherence to policies and systems and quality of service delivery by all institutional staff across the various regions, several monitoring visits by management have been conducted. Two [2] quarterly visits to the eastern [Busoga sub-region], 1 quarterly visit to the Teso and West Nile regions and 2 follow-up visits were made to the northern region. These have supported harmonization of existing leadership gaps, created space for identification of existing opportunities and acted as avenues for sharing of technical capacity with staff, for better service delivery

To ensure that the Board of Directors continue providing the oversight and leadership role in the institution, VEDCO organized two meetings with Board of Directors in May and October 2022. These were attended by seven [7] members [2 F, 5 M]. The meetings were aimed at: Sharing of the institutional progress with members of the board, selection of the committees and committee leaders. Two committees i.e. the programs and Finance, Human resources and Administration were formed with respective leadership, out of the initial three committees; And "review & amendment of articles and memorandum of association, election of the board leadership, among others.

The success of VEDCO's programs has been partly dependent on vibrant Monitoring & Evaluation systems. Inclusive Participation of line staff in the process and execution of monitoring and evaluation interventions continued to be wanting in the 2021, with indications of inadequate tools and instruments, limited compliance to policy, data quality needs. As a result, participatory monitoring of project activities has been emphasized. Project staff at all levels have been empowered to take up well defined primary roles that contribute to their increased participation, for an efficient and effective program delivery in systematic monitoring. Monitoring tools and instruments for both institutional and project-based tracking, have been collectively and consistently development and or reviewed by the entire teams, to progressively suit the prevailing needs.

Protocols for research projects have been duly designed & reviewed from time to time, to inform for the entire implementation processes. In addition, Monitoring and Evaluation plans for each project have been put in place, with customized indicators, outputs and outcomes for each project periods. These have been complimented by data management plans [DMPs], in which specific measurement variables, tools, periods & processes among other things, are highlighted. As well, to progressively resolve un precedented data quality concerns, the system has provided projects with the Data Quality Improvement plan [DQIP], to not only act as a counteracting response but also provide a more self-sustaining approach towards ensuring quality data.

In order to effectively track adherence to institutional and project policies and conformity to implementation standards, a sufficient number of quarterly monitoring visits have been accorded to the various regions by management. Other several monitoring &, often determined by projects' needs have been conducted on all running projects, to ensure on-track implementation. This has also supported documentation of stories of change for representative impact assessment of our various interventions.

One of the stories of change documented from the annual interventions, eastern region.



“I am **Isabirye Safan**, one of the commercial seed producers. I am aged 35years and a resident of Bukose village, Butaswa parish Bugaya sub-county in Buyende. I have been able to conduct various community trainings to share knowledge on planting, harvesting, post-harvesting handling. Due to the various trainings in Buyende district, I was privileged to be vetted as the chairperson of the Parish model in Bugaya sub-county- Buyende district and sweet potato is among the crops that were targeted to curb food security in the district. From the funds received through the challenge fund project “ I acquired 2-Oxen and an ox-plough to plough and cultivate the land and this has made it easy for me to save on labor but also earn money from hiring them out to plough for other farmers in the community.” I was able to rapidly multiply 2acres of vines in Kagulu and Kitukiro, rehabilitated and maintained two (2) water ponds, this has enabled me to consistently produce large volumes of seeds to meet my customer needs throughout the year. “Many Households in Bugaya- Buyende will at least be able to afford two meals a day for the new varieties that are tolerant to the harsh climatic conditions ”



An ox-plough acquired by the commercial seed producer from the challenge fund grant



challenge fund to support dry seasonal farming

APPENDIX

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2022 BY VEDCO

NO	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT GOAL	PARTNER	PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION	LOCATION TARGET SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS
1	Promoting farmer-based research for improved productivity of cereals-legume crop system [FRN]	Sustainable food security, improved livelihoods & resilient ecosystems among small holder farmers in the dry lands of eastern Uganda	McKnight Foundation	2022-2024 Phase two	Amuria, Ngora & Pallisa 650 Households. Strengthened capability of 1364 farmers in agroecological farming, promoted 6 seed, 24 grain & bio fertilizer production, Utilization & marketing producer groups. 18 farm labor saving technologies distributed
2	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda – [DINU]	Increased food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhanced household incomes through support to diversified food production and commercial agriculture and improved household resilience	EU/IITA/ GOU	2020-2023	Kwania, Apac, Amolatar, Kapelebyong Amuria, Dokolo, Otuke 51,250 Households 200 farmers trained in good agronomic practices, 21 seed demos established & 498 CLGs trained in Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology
3	Food and Local Agricultural and Nutrition Diversity (Food Land)	To develop, implement, and validate innovative, scalable, and sustainable technologies aimed at supporting the nutrition performance of local food systems in Africa, while strengthening agro-biodiversity and food diversity as well as diversity of healthy diets	Makerere/ EC	2021-2023	Kamuli, Nakaseke, Wakiso 800 Households. Intensified Agroecological farming for 100 selected farmers in Kamuli food hub. Mainstreamed smart irrigation and Fertigation innovation for Nakaseke food hub. Strengthened crop bio diversity for nutrition & economically of 401 farming households
4	Uganda Host & Refugee Community Empowerment project (UHRCEP)	To improve the economic empowerment of women & youth in the Host and Refugee communities.	UNDP/ KOICA	2022-2023	Obongi 3,870 Households. Established 102 acres of woodlots, supported 25 Micro businesses with startup grant, strengthened 1,840 beneficiaries in VSLA methodology. Ccontributed 114 million

					household income generation through cash for work activities to 1200. Supported 140 student for TVETs placements & startup kits. Strengthened community approaches towards GBV/PSEA advocacy.
5	Sweet Gains Challenge	Genetic advances and innovative seed systems for sweet potatoes	International Potato Center (CIP)	JAN-DEC,2022	Kamuli, Buyende, Iganga 2000 Households. Built the technical and technological capacity of commercials seed producers, to produce & promoted of Multi value chain commercial production of sweet potato seed and roots. Increased production of indigenous foods, for food & nutrition.
6	A working Future project (AWFP)	To Improve linkage between production and market demands in the agriculture sector in eastern Uganda.	Plan International/ Norad	2019-2022	Kamuli, Buyende 12000 Youths Local Capital accumulation of over 70m, with investment borrowing of over 37m. over 320 youth farmers linked to Agricultural financial institutions-banks & saccoes, 28 youth linked to DIT, for export oriented agricultural production, 593 VSLA groups transformed into producer groups, among others



Page 22

EPA & ASSOCIATES

Certified Public Accountants

Plot 47 Kampala Road, Mabirizi P. O. Box 29998 Kampala

Tel: 0772415285, 0772407558, 0702407558, 0704004260 email: epaassociates2006@yahoo.com

Our Ref: EPA/AF0067/VEDCO/03/22

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS (VEDCO) - UGANDA

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO) - Uganda set out on pages 26-65, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2022, Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure, Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity and Consolidated Statement of Cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Volunteer Efforts For Development Concerns (VEDCO) as of 31st December, 2022 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and VEDCO's accounting policies set out on pages 29-32.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (IASs) and the Guidelines issued by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibility in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independent Auditors Report for VEDCO Uganda for the year ended 31st December 2022

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING SHARE CAPITAL)
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note/ Schedule	Restricted Funds Ushs	General Fund Ushs	Actual 2022 Ushs	Budget 2022 Ushs	Actual 2021 Ushs
INCOME						
Grants	11	2,102,346,262	-	2,102,346,262	2,190,050,433	2,274,897,310
Other Income	Schedule 14	2,231,617	730,319,363	732,550,980	740,689,450	535,579,031
Total Income		2,104,577,879	730,319,363	2,834,897,242	2,930,739,883	2,810,476,341
Differed Income	12	-	-	-	-	(238,900,955)
Expenditure to capital Account		-	(3,700,000)	(3,700,000)	-	(1,150,000)
Income available for recurrent expenditure		2,104,577,879	726,619,363	2,831,197,242	2,930,739,883	2,570,425,386
Expenditure						
Administration, organization devpt and governance	Schedule 1	235,180,066	332,136,705	567,316,771	561,111,159	788,278,136
Food and Nutrition Security		241,563,390	295,239,263	536,802,653	487,615,345	367,832,970
Agricultural trade Development		425,129,177	98,413,088	523,542,265	490,500,500	373,247,981
Policy Research and Advocacy		66,399,731	-	66,399,731	30,534,289	101,375,750
Climatic change & Natural Resource Management		24,826,000	-	24,826,000	35,600,550	1,050,000
Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness		745,237,326	-	745,237,326	700,200,000	107,246,600
Programme monitoring and Evaluation		233,096,629	-	233,096,629	256,790,200	293,566,160
Programme Personnel costs		332,335,778	-	332,335,778	368,387,840	645,254,089
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		2,303,768,097	725,789,056	3,029,557,153	2,930,739,883	2,677,851,686
		(199,190,218)	830,307	(198,359,911)	-	(107,426,300)
Balance as at 1st January 2022		372,434,087	800,578	373,234,665	-	480,660,965
Net surplus /Deficit for the year		173,243,869	1,630,885	174,874,754	-	373,234,665