

Aradu Pi Fur II" project in Uganda

Agricultural Education and Market Opportunity Building for Poverty Reduction, Zombo District, Uganda



Project location:
Uganda, West Nile Region,
Zombo District

Project phase:
July 2023 - June 2026

Total budget:
CHF 810,428

Background

Diseases such as AIDS, the long-standing civil war and repeated waves of refugees from neighbouring countries have left a clear mark on the Zombo district in northwestern Uganda. The Covid 19 pandemic has further increased the economic hardship of the impoverished communities. Zombo's poverty index is far above the national average. Many children grow up in very poor conditions as orphans, or are raised by only one parent, relatives or older siblings. Boys have few opportunities in Zombo: they lack skills and educational opportunities. Youth unemployment (15-24 years) is even estimated at 83 % nationwide.

Zombo is agricultural and is part of the national "food basket", which is actually a very fertile area. Over 91 % of the population in northern Uganda are farmers and live from subsistence agriculture. Their productivity is low due to a lack of machinery and knowledge. This results in little surplus for sale. Not even their own food security is permanently secured.

Goals

The project aims to enable 1,300 needy young people and their families in the remote Zombo district to become self-sufficient and earn a good income by acquiring modern agricultural skills. Their lives have been characterised by poverty and food insecurity. At the district level, a cooperative and an agricultural network are being established and strengthened. These are intended to improve market access for the participants.

The aim of the project is to increase farming methods and entrepreneurial skills. This, and collective organisation, improves income for disadvantaged youth and their families.

The project will be implemented within three years (July 2023 - June 2026) in the following sub-districts of Zombo: Athuma, Atyak, Kango, Alangi and Zombo Town Council. As a

Partner organisation

CEFORD (Community Empowerment for Rural Development) was founded in 2000 as a nationally registered NGO and is active in the West Nile region.

Vision: A strengthened society free from poverty.

Thematic focus: agriculture, education, community development, health.

www.cefrod.org.ug

project outcome, it is expected that at least two-thirds of the beneficiary youths will be able to meet their basic needs through self-employment and their income will increase by at least 30%. The cooperative is to be managed professionally and responsibly.

Beneficiary

- 1,300 young people at risk
- 50 local Teachers
- 42 new local youth farmer groups
- 4 new farmers' associations at sub-district level
- 1 Cooperative at district level
- 1 Agriculture network

Project activities

- 50 local professionals offer market-oriented courses for 1,300 young people in poultry and pig farming, beekeeping and horticulture.
- The young people are organised into 42 farmer groups where they learn business and life skills, save and support each other.
- Interested farmer groups form four farmer associations for joint production, storage and marketing.
- These groups will become part of the new district-wide cooperative and thus be further developed and strengthened.
- An agricultural network linking farmers with suppliers is being extended to other sub-districts.

Sustainability

- Based on clear selection criteria, young people with high potential are chosen for the project, who then act as role models.
- Diversified agriculture, insurance and joint production and saving minimise the risk of loss.
- The local master teachers are already successful farmers who live in the communities. They are easy to reach and are there to support the young people even after the project is over.
- The cooperative, the marketing associations and the young farmers' groups are structures that serve mutual support, knowledge exchange, access to new technologies and joint business.
- The farmers' network strengthens farmers in the district. Coordination with the private sector and government agencies continues to support the young beneficiaries.

Effect to date

The project "Aradu Pi Fur II" is based on the experiences of the first phase. This was also realised in cooperation with the partner CEFORD and implemented from July 2018 to June 2022.

73 % of the total of 600 trained young people earned an annual income of about CHF 140 through their farming self-employment at the end of the project. At the beginning of the project, it was less than 1 %. This can now be used to finance things that go beyond nutrition, such as schooling for the children.

Through integrated farming, the young people have successfully diversified their farms, combining at least two of the following: Poultry, pig farming, beekeeping and horticulture.



Agricultural training



Agriculture Network



Erick, 21, pig herder and project beneficiary

CO:OPERAI is committed to the international right of children to education in East Africa and Southeast Asia. The association was founded in 1981, is politically and denominational independent and ZEWO certified since 1998.

Vision: Quality education for children and young people as the basis for a self-determined and dignified life.

Thematic focus: primary education and vocational training with complementary elements such as poverty reduction, agricultural income projects, promotion of girls, AIDS prevention, health.

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