

Uganda: «Salongo Pi Somo» Project

Improved quality of education for children in schools and better livelihood for poor families in Zombo district



Project location
[Zombo District](#), West Nile Region

Project duration
Phase I: 01.07.2012–30.06.2016
Phase II: 01.07.2016–31.12.2020

Project budget 2016–2020
CHF 1'045'000

Background

The project Salongo Pi Somo improves the quality of education for children and the livelihoods for poor families in the Zombo district in the northwest of Uganda. There is a very large number of socially and economically weak households due to Aids, other widespread diseases and decades of civil wars and conflicts.

Estimates show that 50% of the population in the West Nile region earns less than 1 dollar per day and thus lives below the poverty line. Although agriculture is the livelihood of the population in northern Uganda, with 85% living from subsistence farming, agricultural production and productivity is very low and therefore has a negative impact on food security. The literacy rate in the Zombo district amounts to 54% - the female literacy rate is with 29% significant lower.

Besides the high population growth, a decrease in export performance and high inflation as well as other factors, such as high consumption of alcohol and increase of sexual and physical violence bar the way to further economic progress. The project region was affected by civil war and the conflicts in the neighbouring countries, Congo and Sudan. The legacies of the war led to weak social networks, economic losses, infrastructure collapse, unstable governmental structures and poor basic services.

Goals

- Child friendly learning environment in 12 schools (2 pre-schools, 8 primary schools, 2 secondary schools)
- Improved teaching and learning process of pupils and teachers in 10 schools (8 primary schools, 2 secondary schools)
- Integrated early childhood development centres in 2 primary schools
- Informed pupils, caregivers and teachers on basic life skills, other health topics and gender based violence
- Enhanced capacity of OVC-caregivers for sustainable livelihood support to their household

Partner organisation

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

Vision: a stronger and poverty-free society.

Thematic Focus: Farming, primary and vocational education, community development, health.

www.ceford.org.ug

Beneficiaries

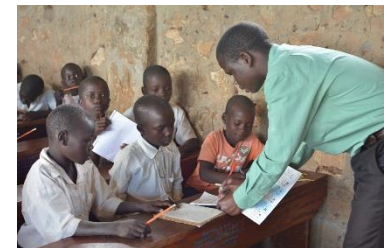
- 2 pre-primary schools, 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools
- 6'620 pupils, 30 teachers, 59 educators and 99 school management committee members
- 275 caregivers for income generating activities
- Approximately 30'000 people from the school catchment areas benefit indirectly



Newly introduced school lunch

Activities

- Construction of school infrastructure (2 pre-primary classroom blocks, 4 teacher houses, 4 libraries, 6 kitchen), provision of school and sport equipment, improved sanitation with installation of water tanks und construction of latrines, additional support for needy OVC children.
- In order to increase the retention and completion rate, the schools are involved in role model address and inspirational talks for pupils, are organizing career counselling sessions and are providing school lunch. Trainings for continuous professional development of teachers, provision of basic vocational skills training in higher primary and secondary schools to equip pupils with basic skills that help their families in earning a living. Trainings for school governance bodies on their roles and responsibilities.
- Mobilizing of communities and parents to participate in pre-school activities, awareness campaigns for parents regarding the value of education, appropriate care and education to young children (3-5 years), provision of breakfast.
- Schools and communities in the catchment area sensitized in «life skills», such as health topics and gender based violence, school communities offer HIV-tests and counselling, psychosocial support for pupils with a focus on girls.
- Establishment of caregiver groups to undertake income generating projects to improve income and livelihood, functional adult literacy courses for caregivers



In class at one of the primary schools



Introduction of sports activities at school

Results of previous activities (project phase 2012-2016)

- The pass rate for primary leaving examination reached 95%, which is far above the 50% pass rate at the beginning of the project. Improvement of the teaching and learning processes with different activities.
- Over 70% of the community members in the catchment areas were strongly involved in school activities and members of the school committee and the parents-teachers-association actively participated in school issues.
- Over 500 people from poor households were organized in 20 groups to start income generating projects. Almost CHF 5'000 were saved which are still circulating in the groups as small loans.

Sustainability

The OVC-caregivers/parents start together income generating activities with leadership structures and provided with management skills to ensure that the group activities continue after the project end. The acquired knowledge from the income generating projects together with the «life skills» training helps needy families to earn a living and improve their livelihood. The partner organization CEFORD strengthens the capacities of school management committees and parent teacher associations to be able to manage affairs in the school beyond the project period. CEFORD works in partnership with other stakeholders to provide important information for the beneficiaries. Other community members will replicate changes in practice and attitude of the children and households supported in the project.

CO-OPERAID is engaged in the international children's right to education in East Africa and South Asia. The association was founded in 1981, is politically and denominationally independent and ZEW0 certified since 1998.

Vision: Qualitative good education for children and youths as a basis for a self-determined and dignified life.

Thematic Focus: Basic education and vocation training with complementary elements such as fighting poverty, farming income projects, furthering girls, Aids prevention, health.

www.co-operaid.ch