

External Vision:

An equitable society of empowered and enlightened people taking responsibility for creating growth and opportunity in their own lives in an economically dynamic and environmentally sustainable manner.



KRC UGANDA

DECEMBER 2023

EMPOWERING PEOPLE FOR PROSPERITY

“The turning point came when Ms. Alice from KRC-Uganda visited our village. After registering us, youth champions were called for training, emphasizing value addition and marketing”

EDITORIAL

As we bid farewell to 2023, we are filled with gratitude for the remarkable journey of growth and resilience we've experienced in our areas of operation particularly- Kyegegwa District. This year has been one of transformation, both for individuals and communities as a whole. Personally, I've learned the power of perseverance, through one gentleman's transition from a teacher to a successful beekeeper. Our beekeeping initiative has not only provided a sustainable income but has also empowered our communities and made a positive impact on the local economy.

Additionally, our involvement in developing the Kyegegwa District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) has been rewarding.

Editor:

Caroline Namara Bwana

Documentation Associate

(KRC-Uganda)

We've strengthened its functionality, ensuring nutrition remains a priority in our planning. We're committed to building on these achievements and are grateful for our partners' support. Together, we will continue our journey towards excellence, shaping a brighter future for Kyegegwa District and other districts that we work with.

We're also thrilled to share the inspiring story of Scovia, whose transformation through the Young Africa Works program showcases the program's impact. Her journey from a housewife to a successful entrepreneur reflects the program's transformative power.

As we celebrate these successes, let's carry the lessons learned into the new year, knowing that together, we can create a more prosperous and equitable society for all.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

RISING FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO A THRIVING BEEKEEPER

By Alice Kabajogya
Project Assistant
KRC-Uganda



Old packaging by the group before training by KRC-Uganda

Upon completing my final exams, I fell ill unexpectedly. Despite the initial support from friends, some, including my closest companions, lost hope in my recovery and took possession of my belongings, anticipating the worst. Unable to afford medical treatment in Kampala, I was eventually taken to my home village.

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The illness was attributed to spiritual causes, and the ordeal persisted for six months. Eventually, I was healed, and a church member intervened on my behalf, securing a job for me in a nearby school.

Starting my career as a teacher in 2015, I encountered the challenge of not possessing suitable clothing for the role. Despite earning a meagre monthly salary of 100,000 Ugandan Shillings, I had no choice but to accept the position. Through hard work and dedication, I garnered recognition from a sister school, which not only offered me a job but also tripled my salary. I diligently served there for three years until the school encountered financial hardships, leading to optional salary payments. Upon requesting my rightful pay, I was promptly replaced.

Taking the matter to the labour office, I eventually received my dues in instalments. Three months later, another school offered me a job, albeit far from my home village. The director appreciated my work and appointed me as the deputy head teacher. However, salary payments were irregular, with the director justifying the delay by emphasizing that we should prioritize service due to our position in the system. The year 2020 brought the unexpected challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing the immediate closure of the school. Financially strained and with no means of transportation for teachers, I returned home with nothing. Exploring various income-generating opportunities, I learned about beekeeping from a resident who made local hives. Starting a group and focusing on apiary, we registered and had our first successful harvest in 2021.



Local beehives that the group owns for their Apiary project

The turning point came when Ms. Alice from KRC-Uganda visited our village. After registering us, youth champions were called for training, emphasizing value addition and marketing. Our production capacity improved, and we began making beehives for sale, harvesting, processing, and packaging honey in a more efficient manner. Even the district showed interest in supporting our activities.



The new and modern packaging that the group adopted after the training from the KRC-Uganda Staff.

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Some of the Beehives sold by the group to earn extra income

Currently, we sell beehives for 20,000 Ugandan Shillings each and honey in various sizes ranging from 2,000 to 400,000 Ugandan Shillings. In just two years, I have transitioned from being a teacher to becoming a successful beekeeper. I have acquired a motorcycle, land, a laptop, a printer, and expanded my network. KRC-Uganda challenged us to earn at least 3.5 million shillings annually, a goal that I believe I am achieving. I am no longer a job seeker; my journey has been from grass to grace.

ASSESSING PROGRESS:

THE FUNCTIONALITY OF KYEGEGWA DISTRICT NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES COMMITTEE (DNCC)



Kyegegwa DNCC at the district headquarters after the meeting

By Oteba Eric,
Nutrition Officer,
TSFP/MCHN WFP funded project
Kyaka II Refugee Settlement,
Kyegegwa district.

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In September 2020, Uganda approved the second Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP II) (2020/21 – 2024/25) as the country’s strategic framework for scaling up nutrition during that period. The UNAP II mandates the Ministry of Local Government to strengthen the enabling environment for scaling up nutrition-specific and sensitive actions at the local governments in Uganda. These actions are better facilitated when there is a fully functional District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC).

The Maturity Model Approach (MMA) uses five levels - Level 1 (Nascent), Level 2 (Emerging), Level 3 (Established), Level 4 (Institutionalized), and Level 5 (Optimized) to assess the functionality of Nutrition Coordination Committees (NCC).

With funding from CARE International, Kyegegwa DNCC underwent an assessment by the Ministry of Local Government (MLG) in April 2023 and was found to be at the “Nascent” stage, where several indicators were falling below the threshold. Before the assessment, the district did not have a clear nutrition coordination structure. The MLG swiftly tasked the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to convene a meeting with the Heads of Departments and representatives of development partners (with KRC-Uganda fully represented), who would later comprise a District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC). The DNCC is composed of heads of departments (Health, Education, Water & Environment, Works & Transport, Agriculture, Gender & Social Development, Trade & Industry, and Administration), and implementing partners in Health & Nutrition (KRC-Uganda, Medical Teams, Save the Children, and CARE International) as Ex-members. The CAO appointed the District Planner, Mr. Denis Busobozi, as the Coordinator of the committee. He identified gaps that needed to be addressed, such as incomplete membership in

the NCCs at both district and sub-county levels, and partial integration of nutrition into the planning framework of the district.

During the Budget conference held in October this year, this was one of the key priorities; the District Planner directed the committee to submit interventions that can be included in the district budget. KRC-Uganda, as the lead nutrition partner in the district, was very keen to actively participate in the Budget Conference and have its planned activities incorporated into the district plan. Additionally, 2% (amounting to 4.5 million Uganda shillings) from the Discretionary Development Equalization Grant (DDEG) is allocated for Nutrition in the district. This amount is considered insufficient compared to the needs, as it is mainly used for convening DNCC meetings and monitoring exercises (provision of meals and transport refund to participating members).

To further strengthen the functionality of the NCCs, UNICEF facilitated a 5-day training for the Kyegegwa DNCC in Hoima district. The training aimed to equip the committee with knowledge on their roles and the documentation of the progress of activities conducted by the NCC. The DNCC has met once in its fullness, and more orientation on the roles of each member has been done, focusing on planning, implementing, and monitoring district multi-sectoral nutrition activities. The Sub-County Nutrition Coordination Committees (SNCCs) have been formed in the 19 sub-counties and 06 town councils of the district. - showed interest in supporting our activities.



Kyegegwa district officials drafting their Workplan

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With the progress made so far, the DNCC's functionality has moved from Nascent level in early 2023 to Established stage (Level three) by December 2023. Kyegegwa district still needs more technical and financial support to ensure it reaches the Optimized stage (the highest level). This can be achieved with adequate funding for nutrition program activities, sufficient technical capacity/human resources to oversee nutrition program activities, full integration of nutrition capacity development and interventions into the annual work plan budgets, robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks for nutrition outputs, outcomes, and impact, and increased research capacity to generate data and knowledge.

FROM A STAY-HOME MOTHER TO AN ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT YOUTH CHAMPION

Businge Scovia is one of our Cohort 2 youth champions who was enrolled and taken through a 5-day in-house residential training session as a trainee/Trainer of Trainers (TOT), and later received refresher training, in addition to constant mentorship and coaching by KRC field staff. Scovia is married and a mother of two children. She completed S.4 but never had the chance to continue her education.

With the arrival of KRC-Uganda and GOAL Uganda's Young Africa Works program, funded by the MasterCard Foundation, Scovia became more interested. She, along with her group, joined the project and has since taken bold steps in agriculture to earn a living. Most importantly, she has diversified from being solely a housewife to starting small income-generating activities in the agriculture value chain for employment.



Scovia attending to her Piggery project



Scovia's Poultry project for local chicken

Before 2022, Scovia was only a housewife, with her primary role being to manage the household, while it was primarily the man's role to provide for the family. In 2022, Scovia joined the Young Africa Works program, and her group nominated her as a Youth Champion. She underwent a series of trainings on mindset change, dynamics, business planning, entrepreneurship, and VSLA methodology. With frequent coaching and mentorship from KRC, Scovia was inspired to improve her piggery project and set up other small businesses.

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Initially, before the project, she had only two pigs with no proper piggery house. After the mindset change trainings and inspiration from other youth brought together by Young Africa Works during TOT trainings, Scovia bought four more pigs in 2022, two of which have already produced 16 piglets each, sold at 70,000 each, totalling 800,000. She used this income to start a small shop in her village, bringing services closer to the people and creating an alternative source of income. She has also started a poultry project for local chickens to support her businesses. Currently, she has also started a mobile money and groundnut planting business as additional sources of income. Scovia's life has changed significantly compared to previous years. She says that in 2021, she used to earn an average of 100,000 per month, but today she earns 300,000 per month, which is calculated as her net saving in the VSLAs per month.



Scovia inspecting her one acre garden project of Gnuts and maize.

Scovia dreams of expanding her poultry and piggery projects to a larger scale to take advantage of current market opportunities in Hoima and nearby areas. She also dreams of providing better education for her children than the schools she attended.

"I thank KRC-Uganda for giving us mindset change, entrepreneurship, and business planning trainings, which greatly inspired me. In the past, I was just a housewife sitting at home without any source of income.

My husband and I used to rely solely on two pigs, fearing that they might be stolen or get sick and we would lose them.

Young Africa Works program brought different young people who have shared experiences on how youth can maximize production on small pieces of land.

This knowledge has transformed my life and my family," exclaimed Scovia.

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The Knowledge Corner

HANDLING NUTRITIOUS FOOD COMMODITIES: EXPERIENCE SHARED FROM KRC-UGANDA: BUJUBULI HCIV, KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

By Anguyo Amos - Stores Assistant
KRC-Uganda - Kyaka II refugee settlement

In today's fast-paced business world, excess inventory can be a major obstacle to growth and profitability. Whether it's unsold products taking up valuable storage space or excess and obsolete items tying up capital, having too much inventory can lead to increased costs and decreased cash flow.

There are various causes of excess inventory that businesses should be mindful of. Forecasting errors, such as inaccurate predictions of product demand, can result in over-ordering or under-ordering, leading to surplus stock. Poor inventory management practices, like inadequate tracking systems or communication gaps between departments, can also contribute to excess inventory. Supplier issues, changes in demand, product life cycle mismanagement, quality problems, lack of communication, and bulk ordering are other factors that can lead to excess inventory.

Bujubuli store with Minimum inventory.



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The consequences of excess inventory can be significant. Storing excess inventory requires warehouse space, leading to increased operational expenses. Money tied up in excess inventory, along with insurance and taxes, can impact profitability. Excess inventory may consist of products that become obsolete or outdated, leading to potential losses. Managing excess inventory can divert resources from other areas of the business, impacting overall efficiency.

To prevent excess inventory, businesses can implement proactive strategies. Accurately predicting customer demand using data analytics tools can help prevent overstocking. Adopting a Just-in-Time (JIT) inventory management approach can help businesses order goods precisely when needed, reducing excess stock. Implementing regular audits and real-time monitoring can help maintain optimal stock levels and identify issues promptly.

By effectively managing inventory and addressing the root causes of excess, businesses can streamline operations and improve their bottom line.

OUR DEAR *Subscribers,*

As we wrap up this year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for being part of our community. Your support and engagement have made our journey together truly special.

Thank you for your trust and for allowing us to share stories of resilience and empowerment from our communities. We are excited about the future and look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a joyous new year ahead!

Contact us:

KRC Uganda

Plot 28 Mugurusi Road, Fort-Portal City

P. O. Box 782, Fort Portal City-Uganda

Tel: +256 0393 274 438/+256 772 911693

 krcuganda@krcug.org

 www.krcuganda.org

 [@krcuganda](https://twitter.com/krcuganda)

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