

New Eden

Christian Foundation

KASESE,
UGANDA



New Eden's mission is to improve livelihoods of communities through a strong Organization that empowers her affiliate groups to efficiently and effectively deliver services in the fields of environmental conservation, Agriculture, education, Micro-finance and other related services for gender responsive sustainable development.

History

New Eden Christian Foundation, with a membership of 1270 men and women, was initiated in 2001 by Rev. Canon Nason Baluku. It began as an advocacy program to mobilize community members to lobby for services form the local government in Rukoki. The community responded well to the idea of

unifying their voices to the government, and a needs assessment was conducted to determine which programs should take priority. Initially, funding came from the members, but IGA's have been added to improve sustainability.

New Eden looked at coming together as concerned men and

women as a solution to eradicate poverty through empowering the community with skills which can enable them to raise their daily income and contribute to the well-being of the environment. The Organization is longing for a New Eden realized in Kasese District and beyond.

FCDE will partner with New Eden to help build their capacity

2012

It is estimated that 60% of the members of New Eden are women, and a vast majority are adults. They are currently trying to involve more youth in the area, but they have not yet reached a large number of children. There are more community members interested in getting involved, but New Eden's capacity is not at the point where they can take on more clients.



Sustainable Agriculture

Understanding that 95% of the local population were involved in farming, New Eden conducts training in modern agricultural methods to improve yields. They also train community members to think about farming as a business to improve income, and not only as a means of subsistence. Additionally, they train the community to bulk their harvested crops together in order to get better market prices, and they have started small savings and credit programs to help farmers avoid the need to sell their crops at inappropriate times for quick income.

Environmental Conservation

In a highly deforested area, New Eden has planted trees on 80 hectares of land. They partner with other

organizations that have funding to plant trees(WWF), and those organizations buy mahogany, pine, and other seedlings from New Eden to be planted in the area. In this way New Eden is generating income, and working against deforestation. They encourage farmers they work with to plant trees on their land for environmental, and eventual income purposes.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS patients cannot work in the farming industry like other community members. Therefore, New Eden instituted a savings and loan program for them so they could access to credit in critical situations. The plan is to eventually work with the local government to establish a health clinic to work with HIV/AIDS, anti-natal care, and other medical issues that are currently not being addressed in the area.

New Eden Challenges

1. Impact

There are still a large number of farmers in the area that do not have access to the necessary inputs to improve their livelihood.

2. Demand

Currently, the high demand for seedlings is beyond the organizational capacity.

3. Customer Base

The WWF re-forestation program, the main customer for seeds, is running out.

4. Project Development

Some projects are still in their early phases, and need more planning and funding.

FCDE Support

FCDE will work with New Eden to help them find and employ an agronomist of a higher level to improve yields, to provide infrastructure and grant opportunities with which to develop their projects, and the full use of the FCDE resource center.