

New Eden Christian Foundation



HISTORY

New Eden Christian Foundation with thirty (34) affiliate groups making a membership of 1270 men and women was initiated by Rev. Canon Nason Baluku in the year 2001. The Rev. Canon Nason Baluku having gained knowledge and skills about time management, participatory development methodologies, community mobilization and management, and evaluation of community sponsored projects during his training in community development at Daystar University in Nairobi - Kenya thought of using those skills to contribute to the development of Kasese as a District and Uganda as a Nation.

It began as an advocacy program to mobilize community members to lobby for services from 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.

It's headquarters' in Kihara Ward-Nyamwamba Division, Kasese District in Uganda, New Eden looked at coming together as concerned men and women as a solution to eradicate poverty through empowering the community with skills of which can enable them to raise their daily income and contribute to the well-being of the environment. The



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Organization is longing for a New Eden realized in Kasese District and beyond.

PROGRAMS

Sustainable Agriculture: Understanding that 95% of the local population were involved in farming, New Eden conducts trainings 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 famers avoid the need to sell their crops an inappropriate times for quick income.

CHALLENGES

They need to employ an agronomist of a higher level to continue improving yields.

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

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 famers they work with to plant trees on their land for environmental, and eventual income purposes.

They currently cannot meet the high demand for seedlings.

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

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.

This project is in the early phases, and needs much more planning and funding

