

SNOW RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SRCDO) ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Vision

Empowering the local communities to promote health, literacy, sustainable agriculture, peace awareness and conflict resolution and environmental conservation.

Mission

To merge efforts aiming at increasing education access at all levels, poverty alleviation, sustainable agricultural practices, prevention of violence and conserving the nature around the community.



HISTORY

Snow Rural Community Development is a Community Based Organization that was started by Bwamwithaghe Moses in 2006 after realizing that Kasese communities have remained poor due to poor health, illiteracy, environmental degradation, poor agricultural practices and political conflicts. Bwamwithaghe with other community members started the organization with a vision of empowering the local communities to promote health, education, environmental conservation, practicing sustainable agriculture and peace building. The organization is currently operating in 3 Sub-counties of Kyondo, Kisinga and Kyarumba in Kasese district. Its offices are located in Kagando Parish, Kisinga Sub-county, Kasese District.

With funding from the Us Embassy in Uganda, the organization supplied 120 mature goats to People living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children. The organization raise funds for implementing its programs internally through membership subscriptions, sale of coffee, cocoa and assorted and grafted trees seedlings. The organization is also involved in maize growing on a large scale which they sell and raise funds to support program implementation.

PROGRAMS

HIV/AIDS – the organization is involved in awareness and prevention activities in the local community. It conducts counseling for people living with HIV/AIDS and links them to health facilities for treatment and other support services.



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Education – The organization provides scholastic materials to orphans and children with special needs. It also supports out of school females youth with training in making hand crafts for sale.

Health under this program the organization implements activities under reproductive health, water and sanitation and Malaria prevention.

Small business development under this program the organization is implementing 3 projects:

Bee keeping - The organization has established 69 bee hives producing honey for medicine of people living with HIV/AIDS and the surplus is sold to the rest of the community members for income generation.

Nursery bed - seedlings for coffee, grafted mangoes, oranges, cocoa, acacia, and greveria are raised and sold to the community at subsidized prices. Communities are planting the seedlings to conserve the environment.

Village savings and credit Associations (VSLAs) – The organizations members are involved in savings and revolving fund among themselves. The savings are borrowed as loans and are used to establish small businesses to eradicate poverty.

CHALLENGES

Low man power. There is high demand for the services offered by the organization in the community. The organization is sometimes not able to respond to the demand due to low numbers in staff to implement the day to day activities.

Limited funding sources. This affects the implementation of some activities as planned. The organization need to be supported to research and access information about potential donors.

Limited skill in planning and implementation The organization staff and volunteers lack skills in planning and implementation of projects.

Limited skills in resource mobilization. The Board and staff lack adequate skills in resource mobilization, fundraising techniques and grant writing. If acquired, the organization can be in position to acquire more external funding and be able to implement activities effectively.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Different trainings were carried out to the target group as a strategy to empower them with relevant knowledge in the respective fields of health, agriculture, nature conservation, economic empowerment among others.

The organization mobilized the youth in the sub counties of Kyondo and Kyarumba to form 4 groups with a membership of 50 youth each. The youth groups were supported with balls to engage them in sports after school to protect them from engaging in drug abuse and other negative peer pressures. The sports bring the youth together and create a platform for them to be involved in development initiatives.

69 bee hives were supplied to the farmers among who were the youth to create a sustainable income to the community and the organization as well .These apiaries acts as model places and are also used for learning purposes. These model farmers only bring a commission to the organization after sale of the honey each season for project sustainability support.

The organization supplied maize seeds and fertilizers to 42 farmers after being trained in agro and post-harvest handling practices of maize. The farms of the 42 farmers were used as demonstrations of good agro and post-harvest handling practices which other farmers learnt from. The yields were good and the 42 farmers paid a commission of the sales to the organization for the project sustainability. The farmers have continued to apply the good practices of



maize planting and harvesting.

The organization established three nursery beds in which it raises grafted mangoes, oranges, coffee seedlings, cocoa and acacia .These have high demand in the community and are availed to them at subsidized prices. The income from the nursery beds has helped the organization to manage some of its expenses such as payment of staff salaries, transport, purchase of stationary, payment of office rent and facilitating extension services on a local basis among others.

11 orphans were supported with scholastic materials.

50 people living with HIV/AIDS and 70 orphans and vulnerable each received a mature goat through a grant from the American Embassy in Uganda. Some goats multiplied and the kids were passed on to other organization members.

The organization has so far linked 50 people living with HIV/AIDS to the neighboring health facilities to get medical support. The 50 people are now accessing ARV treatment.

The organization has strengthened its corporation with other local development partners like Kasese District Development Network, Alpha Women Empowerment Initiative and Kasese District community Development office.

This local linkage helps in experience and information sharing which eventually leads to efficient implementation and thus causing development to the community.

