



NDONGO UNITED HERBALIST ASSOCIATION

Located in Kasese, Uganda
Year Established: 2005



Mission

To have communities equipped with knowledge and skills for sustainability organic agriculture..

Vision

A community with improved health.

Ndongo United Herbalist Association's Challenges

Limited funding opportunities.
Limited skills in strategic development.
Overwhelming number of patients with limited finance to procure treatment and pay staff.

FCDE Support and Achievements

Ndongo United Herbalist Association has established a stable market for their herbs in Kasese district.

Farmers have accessed coffee seedlings, bananas and development of kitchen gardens.

Ndongo United Herbalist Association is a community-based Organization started by Thembo Boniface and other community members after realizing that people in the community were dying of diseases which can be treated by herbal medicines which are available in their localities which saves on the costs on health treatment. The Organization is also involved in tree planting and organic agricultural farming to save the environment for sustainable development. Its offices are located in Ndongo trading center, Nyakiyumbu Sub-county, Kasese District.

With funding from SATNET, the organization has been able to process herbal medicines, and support farmers in sustainable organic farming. Oxfam also supported the organization through the 'We can campaign' to address domestic violence issues in the community. Care International trained the 5 affiliate groups of Ndongo United Herbalists in the Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA) methodology. Work aid has also supported the organization with equipment for the vocational training program.

Programs

Herbal medicines: Under this program, the organization processes herbal medicines, and oil from the herbs they grow in the herbal gardens and get some herbal medicines from the wilderness. They sell the medicines and oil to people in the community and supply traders in Kasese and Kampala. This program has improved the health of the communities and is one of their major sources of income for the other programs they are implementing.

Environmental protection: Under this program, the organization grows nursery beds for coffee, acacia, eucalyptus and pine seedling which they offer to the communities at a subsidized cost to plant more trees to protect the environment. The sold seedlings also raise funds for the organization. This project has been supported by the sub county Local government and SATNET.

Sustainable Organic Agriculture: Under this program the organization supports households to improve livelihood through kitchen gardening to improve food security. Households have been supported to improve nutrition through the kitchen gardens where they grow vegetables. The households are also being supported to improve on food security through growing cassava and beans on a large scale. Through organic and improved systems of farming, soil protection has improved and the yields have increased at household level. This enables the households to save and engage in small business enterprise. This program is supported by SATNET which pays the community process facilitators who are responsible for training farmers and following them up in the community.

Domestic Violence: With the increasing rates of domestic violence cases in their community, the organization through the 'we can' campaign supported by OXFAM are sensitizing the communities in Nyakiyumbu, Munkunyu and Bwera sub counties on the effects of domestic violence. They have also given the community information on where to get support services in case domestic violence occurs.

Vocational training: Under this program, the organization offers training in tailoring, carpentry, computer, knitting and weaving to the school drop outs. The target under this program is the child mothers and youth who have dropped out of school. This program is supported by work aid which provides them with the tools/equipment to use in the training.

Saving and credit: Under this program, the organization works with 5 groups in 3 sub counties. The members save on a weekly basis and borrow money at a 10% interest rate. This has enabled the members to start small businesses also develop a saving culture. These groups were trained in the VSLA methodology by Care International.