



Uganda's Agricultural Sector: Strength in Potential, Room for Collaboration



With its rich, fertile soils and strong agricultural heritage, Uganda is home to a thriving farming population—around 70% of Ugandans are engaged in agriculture. Among them, an estimated 1.7 million smallholders grow coffee, making it one of the country's most important cash crops and a key source of income for rural communities.

Despite their critical role in food systems and value chains, smallholder families often face barriers that can limit their productivity and resilience. These include restricted access to extension services that could enhance their knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), as well as the growing impacts of climate change—ranging from erratic weather patterns to increased pests, diseases, and post-harvest losses.

Market access also remains a challenge. While many farmer organizations aim to provide services such as bulk marketing and value addition, some face governance gaps and struggle with inclusive representation—particularly for women and youth. Younger farmers, in particular, often face land and capital constraints that can limit their engagement in agriculture, contributing to rural-to-urban migration in search of alternative livelihoods, which are not always stable or safe.

In many communities, women play a central role in both farming and household well-being, yet face structural barriers that limit their full participation in decision-making and training opportunities. Heavy domestic workloads, unequal labor division, and limited say in budgeting decisions can restrict their access to resources and opportunities. These challenges are not just gender issues—they directly affect household resilience and broader community development.

Addressing these barriers requires collaboration that respects and builds on the knowledge, leadership, and aspirations of smallholder farmers. Supporting locally led solutions, fostering inclusive governance, and expanding access to services can unlock the potential already present in Uganda's farming communities.

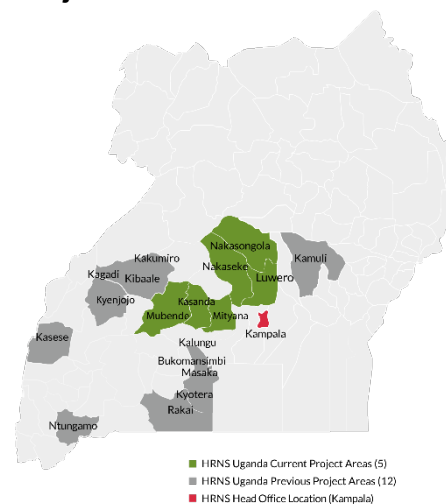


Partnering with Smallholder Families to Strengthen Livelihoods and Resilience

Since 2005, Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) Uganda, in collaboration with local partners and farming communities, has supported more than 80,500 smallholder families across 18 districts in advancing their own development goals. Guided by a commitment to long-term partnership and locally led change, HRNS works alongside families to enhance agricultural practices, strengthen household and farm management, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Central to this approach is the belief that empowered communities are best positioned to drive sustainable progress. HRNS facilitates access to knowledge, tools, and inclusive structures—such as member-centered farmer organizations—that help families make informed, self-determined decisions. Gender equality, intergenerational dialogue, and youth skill-building are integrated throughout all activities, recognizing the vital role that inclusive participation plays in building strong, future-ready farming communities.

HRNS Uganda Current and Past Project Areas



Aligning with Uganda's National Development Priorities

HRNS Uganda works in close partnership with smallholder farming communities to increase household incomes and improve quality of life, in alignment with Uganda's Third National Development Plan (NDP III). Recognizing farmers as experts in their own livelihoods, HRNS provides training in sustainable farm management that prioritizes not only productivity but also the holistic well-being of families.

By promoting gender equality and fostering joint planning and decision-making—especially around farming investments—HRNS supports smallholder families in making informed choices that drive their own progress and strengthen their dignity.

HRNS also collaborates with communities to establish and develop cooperatives, enabling farmers to collectively enhance commercialization and add value to their agricultural products. These cooperatives increase access to essential services, finance, inputs, and markets, helping smallholders build sustainable and competitive businesses, particularly in coffee production. This approach aligns with NDP III's priorities on commercialization and agro-processing led by community initiative.

To address the critical challenge of low gainful employment among youth, HRNS co-designs training programs with young people that build business and financial literacy. By equipping youth with entrepreneurial skills, HRNS fosters locally rooted employment and enterprise opportunities in both agriculture and micro-business sectors.

Furthermore, HRNS supports the government's goals of sustainable natural resource use by empowering thousands of smallholder households with climate-smart adaptation practices. This community-driven approach ensures the environmental sustainability of agricultural livelihoods while respecting the knowledge and stewardship of local farmers.

Empowering over 50,000 Rural Youth in Mityana and Kasanda

In Mityana and Kasanda districts, HRNS Uganda, in partnership with Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) and Whave Solutions, is supporting over 50,000 rural youth (aged 15 to 30 years) through the "TeamUp Uganda" project. This initiative is grounded in the belief that youth are active agents of change in their communities. TeamUp Uganda fosters collaboration and innovation to amplify the voices, skills, and leadership of young people, enabling them to drive sustainable development in their own local contexts.

Backed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by HRNS alongside two German foundations, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) and Siemens Stiftung,

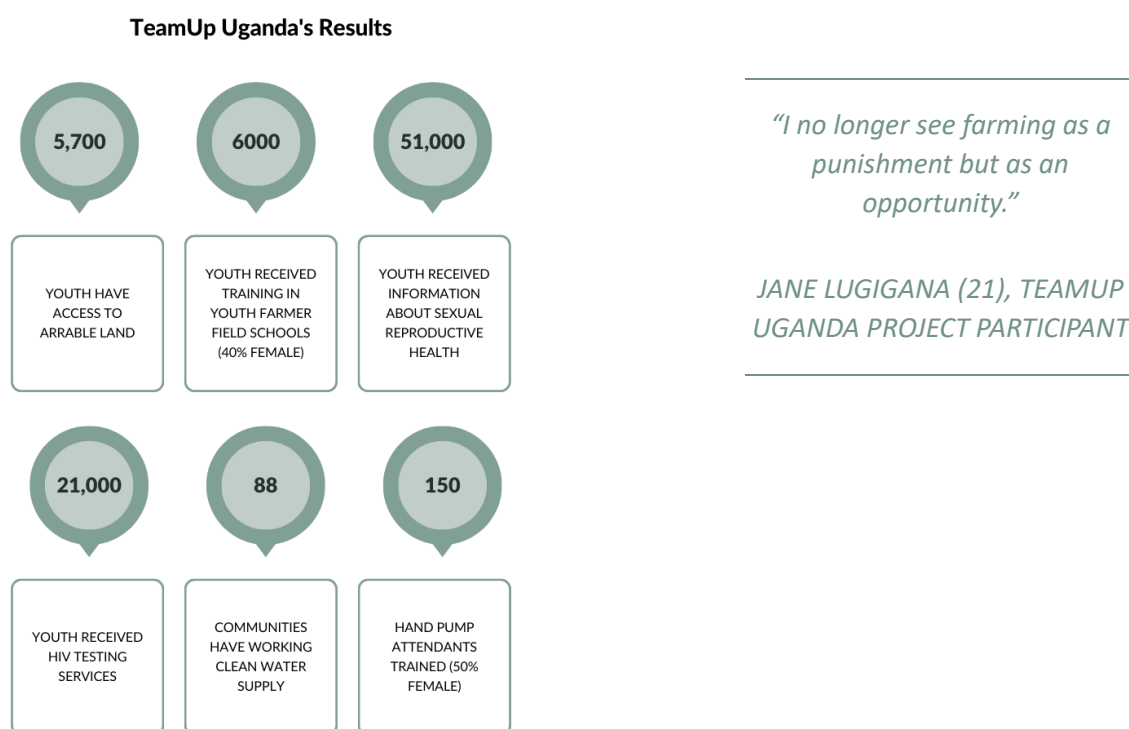


this partnership respects and uplifts the aspirations of youth, working hand-in-hand to co-create solutions that respond to their real needs and potential.

This initiative focuses on three interconnected areas: agriculture, water, and health. HRNS Uganda has engaged over 6,000 youth, providing education on innovative and climate-smart farming practices for coffee and seasonal food crops. Recognizing young people as key drivers of sustainable agriculture, HRNS supports not only their agronomic skills but also their business and entrepreneurial capacities, while promoting gender equality and the importance of joint household planning and decision-making among young couples.

Partner organizations Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) and Whave Solutions work alongside youth to enhance access to knowledge and resources related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and the provision of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Together, these efforts reflect a holistic, youth-led approach to development, respecting the dignity and agency of young people as they create positive change in their communities. The progress and impact of TeamUp Uganda since April 2021 are highlighted in the infographic below.



Impacting Over 5,000 Smallholder Families in Luwero, Nakasongola, and Nakaseke

Across Luwero, Nakasongola, and Nakaseke districts, HRNS Uganda partners with more than 5,000 smallholder families and 12 cooperatives representing 218 producer organizations in a climate change-focused project. Supported by International Coffee Partners (ICP), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), and the initiative for coffee&climate—and complemented by the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Project funded by the European Union and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)—this collaborative effort respects and amplifies local knowledge and leadership.

The project aims to strengthen the livelihoods, gender responsiveness, and climate resilience of coffee-dependent households and youth. HRNS works closely with community stakeholders to co-design and implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, including training on climate-smart agricultural practices, agrochemical safety, financial literacy, and record-keeping.

Through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and demonstration plots, communities actively engage in hands-on learning and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing. Gender sensitization training is provided to cooperatives, leaders, extension workers, and youth couples managing demonstration plots, empowering them to integrate gender-responsive approaches in their decision-making and leadership roles—fostering inclusive and resilient agricultural communities.



The twelve cooperatives are actively supported to develop and implement Cooperative Improvement Plans (CIAPs), enabling them to identify and address their own growth opportunities and challenges. As a result of these locally driven efforts, cooperative membership has grown from 2,940 in 2020 to 4,052 in 2022. Women's participation has also significantly increased by 32%, rising from 983 members in 2020 to 1,305 in 2022—reflecting the cooperatives' commitment to inclusive and equitable community leadership.



Other positive outcomes include a substantial increase in the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), with at least 50% of these practices being embraced by farmers rising from just 1% in 2021 to 30% in 2022. Additionally, 62% of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), empowering members to collectively save and invest. Among 79 sampled VSLAs, members accumulated an average savings of approximately 57,201,600 UGX (around 14,300 Euros), demonstrating strong community-driven financial resilience.

"We've improved our coffee quantity & quality. Before we used to bulk 5 tons per season but now, we go to 25 tons. We are adding value and taking coffee to new markets!"

MOHAMED SSEKIMPI, KIREMA COOPERATIVE CHAIRMAN

Partner with HRNS Uganda to Empower Rural Communities and Build Lasting Prosperity

Through its projects, HRNS Uganda takes a holistic and collaborative approach to enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder families. Focusing on youth empowerment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, family business support, organizational development, and gender equality, HRNS works hand-in-hand with communities to nurture their strengths and aspirations.

With a presence in eight countries—including Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Indonesia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Germany—the foundation is committed to driving meaningful, sustainable impact on a global scale.

In Uganda, HRNS partners closely with government ministries, local district governments, NGOs, CSOs, and other stakeholders to foster prosperous smallholder families, empower future generations, promote employment and employability, build thriving rural communities, and cultivate sustainable landscapes. Recognizing the complex challenges rural communities face, HRNS embraces a comprehensive approach that respects local knowledge and leadership.

You are warmly invited to join HRNS in this shared mission to make rural prosperity a lasting reality.

Website: <https://www.hrnstiftung.org>

Phone: +256 414 342 955

Email: uganda@hrnstiftung.org

Address: Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung Africa (HRNS)

Plot 2997, Dr. Basangwa Lane (Off Bukasa Road), Muyenga, Kampala, Uganda