



# Because People Deserve Prosperity: The Impact of HRNS in Uganda



With Uganda's rich fertile soils and high agricultural potential, it comes as no surprise that 70% of the population is engaged in the agricultural sector. Around 1.7 million smallholders grow coffee which emerges among the nation's main cash crops. However, rural smallholder families face an array of challenges that warrant the support of those of us dedicated to livelihood improvement and agricultural sustainability.

## **Challenges Faced by Smallholder Families in Uganda's Thriving Agricultural Sector**

Smallholder families have limited access to extension services, which deprives them of valuable knowledge regarding Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). Consequently, agricultural productivity is hindered, and crops are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change such as increased incidences of pests and diseases and substantial post-harvest losses.

Smallholders also lack access to markets due to their position in the value chain. Although farmer organizations provide services like bulk marketing and value addition, many of them are poorly governed with minimal women and youth representation. The next generation also struggles to have a voice due to limited land access and startup capital. Consequently, many young people migrate to urban areas where they usually end up in informal and often precarious employment situations.

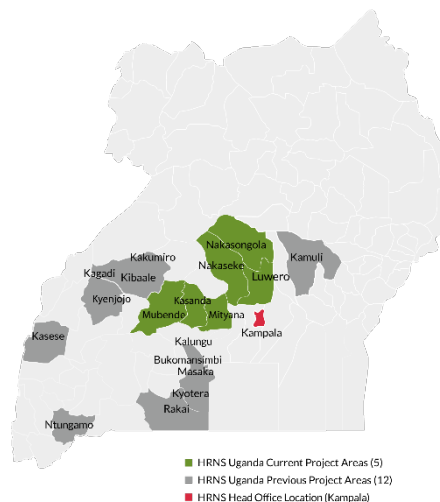
Furthermore, the structure of most families is patriarchal which can mean that women's involvement in household decisions, and budget planning is restricted. Additionally, imbalances in domestic and farm labor distribution make women less likely to access training and other opportunities due to their heavier workloads. This not only limits women's overall development but the development of their families and communities.



## Empowering Smallholder Families through Innovative Approaches

To address this situation, since 2005, [Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung \(HRNS\)](#) Uganda and its partners have worked across 18 districts, supporting over 80,500 smallholder families to shape their lives in an informed and self-determined way. Their approach combines the development of advanced agricultural practices, appropriate farm and household management strategies, adaptation to climate change, and member-oriented farmer organizations. Gender equality, intergenerational dialogue and skills development for young people are also vital in all HRNS activities.

### HRNS Uganda Current and Past Project Areas



## Contributing to the Ugandan Government's Development Strategy

HRNS Uganda is actively working to increase household income and improve the quality of life for smallholder farmers, in alignment with the Ugandan government's Third National Development Plan (NDP III). With a focus on sustainable farm management, HRNS provides training that goes beyond increasing productivity, aiming to enhance livelihoods. By promoting gender equality and joint planning and decision-making - especially regarding farming investments, smallholder families achieve greater progress.

Additionally, HRNS supports the establishment and development of cooperatives to improve the commercialization and value addition of agricultural products. This not only increases the competitiveness of smallholders' coffee but also provides access to essential services, finance, inputs, and markets through cooperatives. HRNS' emphasis on value addition aligns with one of the priorities of the NDP III, which focuses on improved commercialization of agricultural products and agro-processing.

In line with the NDP III's objective to address low gainful employment among youth, HRNS' training programs include strong business and financial literacy components. By equipping young individuals with entrepreneurial skills, HRNS promotes employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in the agricultural sector and the micro-business sector. This is particularly crucial in Uganda, where the challenge of low gainful employment is prevalent among the country's young population.

Moreover, HRNS directly supports the government's NDP III objective of enhancing the utilization of natural resources and promoting sustainable development in Uganda's agricultural sector. We contribute to this by providing training on climate-smart adaptation practices and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources among thousands of smallholder farming households. This ensures environmental sustainability and the sustainability of agricultural practices.

## Empowering over 50,000 Rural Youth in Mityana and Kasanda

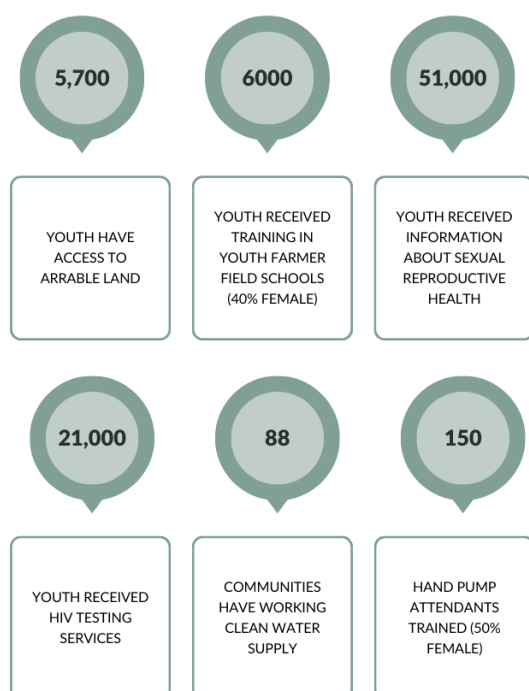
In Mityana and Kasanda districts, HRNS Uganda in partnership with Action 4 Health Uganda (A4HU) and Whave Solutions are currently engaging over 50,000 rural youth (aged 15 to 30 years) through a project called "[TeamUp Uganda](#)". TeamUp Uganda is an innovative approach to development cooperation to reach better, more sustainable results for more people. Together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), HRNS as well as two other German foundations Deutsche Stiftung



Weltbevölkerung (DSW) and Siemens Stiftung are collectively aiming at improving the prospects of youth in rural areas of East Africa.

This initiative focuses on three key areas agriculture, water, and health. HRNS Uganda has reached over 6,000 youth with education on innovative and climate-smart farming practices for coffee and seasonal food crops. In addition to agronomic skills, HRNS Uganda focuses on business and entrepreneurial skills development while promoting gender equality and the benefits of joint household planning and decision-making for young couples. A4HU and Whave Solutions provide young people with opportunities to acquire knowledge and resources in areas such as sexual reproductive health and rights, family planning, HIV/AIDS, as well as access to clean water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene. So far, TeamUp Uganda has achieved positive results demonstrated in the below infographic (results since April 2021.)

### TeamUp Uganda's Results



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*"I no longer see farming as a punishment but as an opportunity."*

JANE LUGIGANA (21), TEAMUP UGANDA PROJECT PARTICIPANT

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### Impacting over 5,000 Smallholder Families in Luwero, Nakasongola and Nakaseke

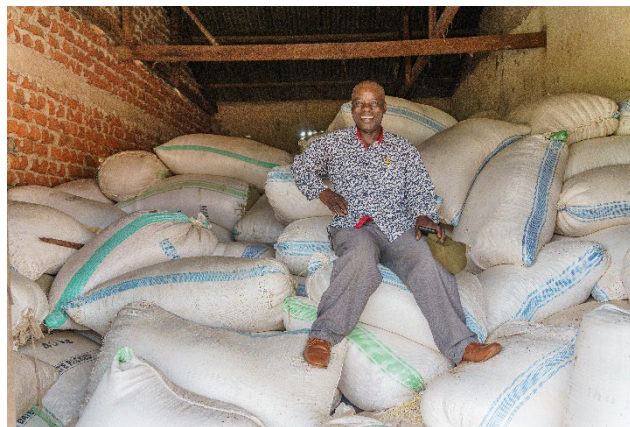
Across Luwero, Nakasongola, and Nakaseke districts, HRNS Uganda is reaching over 5,000 smallholder families and 12 cooperatives representing 218 producer organizations through a climate change-focused project. The project is funded by International Coffee Partners (ICP), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), and the initiative for coffee&climate and is complemented by another project (Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Project) which is funded by the European Union and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

The project's objective is to improve the livelihoods, gender responsiveness, and climate resilience of coffee-dependent households and youth. HRNS collaborates with local stakeholders to develop and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, including training on climate-smart practices, agrochemical safety, financial literacy, and record keeping. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and demonstration plots are established for learning purposes. We also provide gender sensitization training to cooperatives, leaders, extensionists, and youth couples hosting demonstration plots. This equips them with the skills to incorporate gender-responsive approaches in their roles.





The twelve cooperatives are also supported to develop and implement Cooperative Improvement Plans (CIAPs) to address identified gaps. So far, membership in the cooperatives has increased from 2,940 in 2020 to 4,052 in 2022. Women participation in the cooperatives has also increased by 32% from 2020 to 2022 (983 to 1,305).



Other positive results include the increased adoption of at least 50% Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) from 1% in 2021 to 30% in 2022. Additionally, 62% of the FFS that were set up established Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and 79 sampled VSLAs accumulated an average saving of about 57,201,600 UGX (14,300 Euro).

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*"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*

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## **Partner with HRNS Uganda to Make Rural Prosperity a Reality**

Through HRNS Uganda's projects, the organization takes a comprehensive approach to improving the livelihoods of smallholder families. HRNS focuses on key areas such as youth empowerment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, family business support, organizational development, and gender equality. With a presence in eight countries worldwide, including Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Indonesia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Germany, the foundation is committed to creating a meaningful impact on a global scale.

HRNS Uganda is dedicated to collaborating 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 create sustainable landscapes. To achieve lasting change, HRNS recognizes the need for a holistic approach that addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by rural communities. You are invited to join HRNS in their efforts to make rural prosperity a reality.

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