



Completion Report

UGA-BCH-KSL-P01 Bufombo, Uganda
Reporting Period: January – December 2019

Kick-Start Loans!

Budget: \$34,800 – fully funded

The Project:

This project created a revolving loan scheme in the village of Bufombo in eastern Uganda. Groups of 30 women (and a few men) were given business training and small loans to improve or build their businesses. They were mentored and encouraged through group meetings and by our partners who held regular meetings with loan participants. The project targeted the poorest in the community, so they could gain self-worth and live dignified lives and break free from poverty. The focus was on becoming self-sufficient allowing families to pay school fees, improve health through better nutrition, access to medicines and household necessities. To make the project sustainable, loans were to be repaid with a small amount of interest for ongoing training in business improvement and marketing, customer service, keeping accounts, and some administration. As loans were repaid, they became available for others to borrow.



Update and Impact:

- All loans and training to 150 people (125 women and 25 men) took place from September 2017 – March 2018. Our partners extended the timeframe for paying back of loans from 12 months to 24 months to allow recipients time to establish their businesses and to provide the ongoing training and support needed.
- The collection of loans proved to be more difficult than anticipated. A tough and unrelenting time with droughts, floods, a locust plague and some staffing issues resulted in a slightly lower return rate than usual.
- The majority of loans were successfully recovered but the project incurred some unexpected costs in order to ensure the loans were repaid.
- 65% of loans originally distributed, were collected and reinvested into another community group called Mooni. Our partners have had greater success in this area and are currently running a loans scheme around the region.
- Our partners were disappointed with the lower-than-expected repayment as their previous project was significantly higher. This proved to be a far more difficult group to work with and, combined with the challenges of drought, floods and locusts, the impact of the project still had a significant outcome for the community.

Our partners told us, *“When the beneficiaries generate enough income, it benefits the entire household in terms of food security, children’s school fees, medication and household necessities. Low interest rates mean they can run their businesses. We are pleased that some families were able to turn their lives around, but it was difficult for many due to the weather conditions and some staff issues. We are learning all the time how to work and support these communities. It is hard for so many of them.”* Community development is never easy, great partners are essential.

We thank you for your support of “Kick-Start Loans”. Small loans together with good training and follow-up allow communities to pull themselves out of poverty.”