

## Coffee Building Futures

UGA-JEN-CBF-P01



Mbale, Uganda



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$81,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

SEPT 20

SEPT 21



### Overview

In 2016-17 Entrust supported the establishment of a coffee cooperative amongst the very poor and remote villages of Mt Elgon, in eastern Uganda. Building on the success of four seasons of coffee planting, production and export, we have helped our partners expand their infrastructure and further grow their capacity. Our partners continue to pay top-up bonuses during the “hungry season” which has led to incredible community support for the project. Despite COVID-19 lockdowns, the project is going from strength to strength. It is empowering farmers to move from a hand-out model to an empowerment frame of mind. Growth of like-minded global customers is also fuelling optimism.

### Objectives

### Impact



**Beneficiaries of coffee farming**

Direct beneficiaries: 1,560 farmers (fair prices and bonuses for ‘hungry season’, off-season agricultural training); 145 seasonal workers (fair employment); 25 skilled workers (building, plumbing, etc.) Indirect beneficiaries: 13,000+ family members!



**Greenhouse construction**

The new greenhouse construction was a huge success, providing ample space for drying and leading to improvements in quality. Construction has begun on a greenhouse at another site, bringing further positive impacts.



**Transport upgrades**

The purchase of two motorbikes was highly beneficial to the field team as farm visits require access to remote mountain terrain in all seasons. A third motorcycle was bought for another site and a new pick-up truck is planned.



**Training in coffee farming & processing**

Three team members from the coffee lab were sent for training at a Specialty Coffee Association accredited facility in Nairobi. Two training sessions (each two-day courses) in good general agricultural practices were run for farmers.



### Life change

- Farmers gained new skills and a strong support network
- A good yield and fair price improved the financial situation of farmers, allowing them to buy more food during the “hungry season”
- Income means children were sent to school, living conditions improved and money to access to health care is enabling healthier families
- The local community are learning it is possible to operate business in a fair and transparent manner and still be profitable





## Sipiria's Story

Sipiria is one of our partner's original farmers in Sipi Falls. His family have been growing coffee for more than 70 years, and he has some of the best-maintained coffee on Mt Elgon. Sipiria was keen to sell some of his land and despite receiving several offers he held his land until our partners could find the funds. He wanted the land to benefit his whole community. This has allowed our partners to put a permanent footing in the area. In a win-win, the "partnership" has resulted in improved prices, bonuses and inputs from coffee which means Sipiria's children have received university education and are starting their own businesses.



**Finalists of the Sipi Falls football tournament, a successful community initiative between our partners and the coffee-farming communities!**

## Ronald - A Passionate Leader

Ronald, who is the site manager of the Muyanda station, has been a vital part of the project from the outset. He leads with such dedication, humility and an eagerness to develop his team, always keen to identify potential leaders and allow them to shine. Several of his team are now key leaders in other sites across Mt Elgon. This year it was a delight to have the opportunity to send Ronald for a week of first-class processing training, including accommodation (a rare and exciting experience!), in Kapchorwa. He is now rapidly putting his training, which was led by an international team, into practice managing our partner's largest single site - such an important hub for our farmers and community.

