



1993-2023

Annual Report 2022

"Maximising Growth and New Opportunities amidst New Global Challenges "



Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE)

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Acronyms

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
PAR	Participatory Action Research
NDP	National Development Plan
PMG	Producer Marketing Groups
DRDIP	Development Response to Displaced Impact Project
NACORI	National Coffee Research Institute.
FoW	Forests of the World
HH	House Hold
CDO	Community Development Officer
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation
ODF	Open Defecation Free
JEFACO	JESE Farmers' Cooperative
NYP	National Youth Policy
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
UVQF	Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework
CBA	Competency Based Assessment
IFP	Integrated Farm Planning
RMM	Role Model Men
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

About Us

JESE is a Non-Governmental Organisation dedicated to reducing poverty amongst agriculture and natural resources dependent communities through empowering smallholder farming communities to optimally engage in Sustainable Agriculture, Water and Sanitation and Integrated Natural Resources Management for socio-economic progress. Formed in 1993, JESE is celebrating 30 years of community development under the Theme: **“Transforming communities through; Conservation, WASH and Livelihood Improvement”**.

Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Values

Our Vision

We envision a community where people and nature flourish

Our Mission

We facilitate people Centred innovative actions that foster equity, sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood improvement.

Our Values

Natural resources are free gifts from nature but we need to guard them carefully and share them equitably. In doing so, JESE is committed to the values of: Service above self, Environmental Stewardship, Transparency, and Teamwork, Integrity, Neutrality and Gender Equity (SETTING). These values are a key component of the JESE Family culture.

Our Target

- Farming Households
- Communities Adjacent to Natural Resources
- Collaborative Forest Management Groups
- Farmer organisations
- Farmer Cooperatives

How we work

At JESE we work Through;

- **Partnerships** with; Government, other like-minded Organisations in the same sectors of work and Community organisations/structures.
- **Networking** with other organisations with the focus on development
- **Linkages** with the Private sector Actors
- **Knowledge Management**, Sharing and Learning.

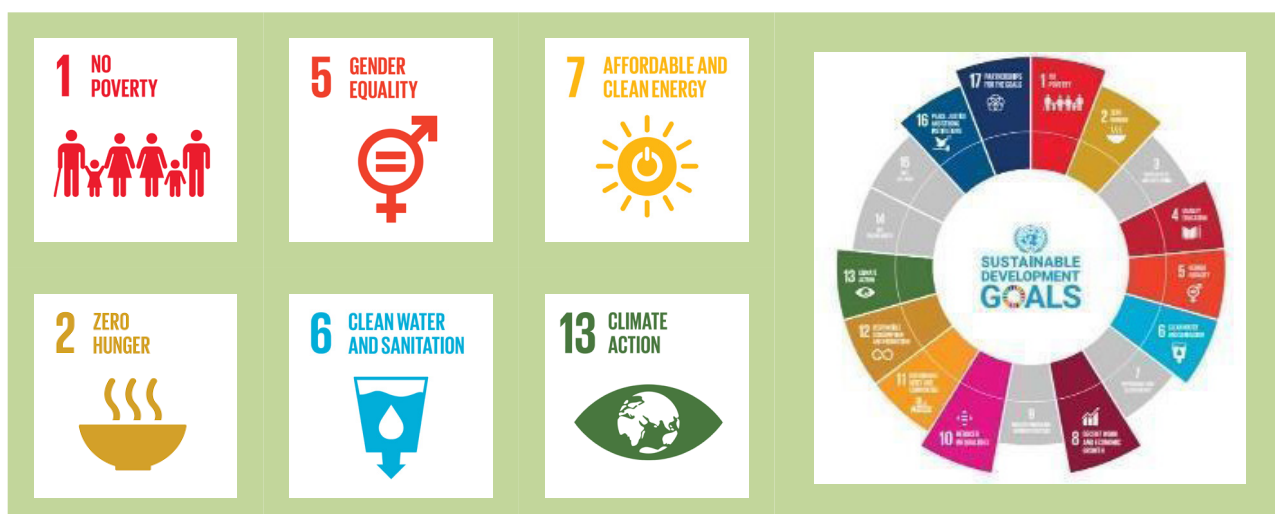
Our Approaches

JESE is currently implementing a 10 Year Programme guided by the following approaches;

- Agroecology
- Integrated Farm Planning
- Agroforestry
- Research and Innovation
- Partnership and Collaboration
- Advocacy and Policy Influencing
- Watershed management
- Agribusiness development
- Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Farmer Field Schools
- Rights based Approach

Our Contribution to SDGs and NDP III

As always, JESE's work in communities continued to contribute to the 2030 global development framework, the SDGs. In 2022, JESE's integrated focus contributed to the achievement of #1, #2, #5, #6, #7, #13 and #15. In 2021, SDG 8 on decent work and Economic Growth and 12 focusing on Responsible Consumption and Production were added on. The newly added SDGs to JESE focus are in line with the aspirations of the 2021-2026 strategic plan. The plan itself is designed and aligned with all the above SDGs.



Uganda Vision 2040

JESE's strategic programming, particularly so with the NEW JESE strategic plan are aligned to the country's strategic objectives of achieving:

- Universal access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Green and clean environment, conserving the flora and fauna, restoring and adding value to the ecosystems
- Restoration of degraded wetlands, hill tops, rangelands and other fragile ecosystems through the implementation of catchment –based systems, gazettement of vital wetlands for increased protection and use, and monitoring and inspecting restoration of ecosystems (wetlands, forests, catchments)
- Reforestation and afforestation on public land, promoting participation of the population in tree planting on both private and public lands
- Enhance food security and improved livelihoods for low-income groups
- Functional agriculture system to increase information access, knowledge and technologies to the farmers.

The 3rd National Development Plan

The 3rd National Development Plan ((2020/21 – 2024/25) was unveiled in July 2020 by the National Planning Authority, highlighting the key challenges that impede the county's development path. One key challenge that's central to JESE's mission is the *"Severe reduction in the forest cover, wetland degradation and encroachment leading to increased vulnerability of the country to climate change"*.

Therefore, JESE's program portfolio localises the NDP III focus within its mainstream programming to enhance productivity in the agricultural sector, sustainable exploitation of natural resources, stop, reduce and reverse environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change.

Local Government Development Plans

JESE's works to complement and address development priorities and delivery of services to the communities as enshrined in District Development plans at the local level.

Where we worked and what we worked on

In 2022, JESE implemented numerous projects and Programs in the following districts in Uganda; Agago, Buliisa, Kabarole, Kasese, Kyenjojo, Kagadi-Kibaale, Bunyangabu, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Kyegegwa and Isingiro.

Our program portfolio in 2022

The portfolio of projects/activities implemented included the following:

PROJECT	LOCATION	DEVELOPMENT PARTNER
Equitable Access to safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Bunyangabu, Agago, Buliisa, Kitagwenda and Kamwenge	SIMAVI
Engaging Farmers in the restoration of the Elephant Corridor	Elephant Corridor	Forests of the World
Gender Equity, women participation and nutrition	Kyegegwa, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge	CARE
Agriculture and market linkages for; Cocoa, Vanilla and Maize	Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, and Kamwenge.	Forests of the world, IDP, BD
Green Entrepreneurship	Elephant Corridor (Kyenjojo Area)	Forests of the World
Sustainable Family Farming Development II	(Kamwenge + Fort-Portal City)	Broderlyjkdelen
Protecting and Conserving Water and Forests Ecosystems in Mpanga and Semuliki Catchments- MYP5	Kamwenge, Kitagwenda + Ntoroko	Join for Water
Disaster Risk Reduction	Isingiro and Kyegegwa (Refugee Setting)	Oxfam
Development Response to Displaced Impact Project	Hoima, Kikuube, Kiryado, Kyegegwa and Isingiro Districts.	OPM



Photo: JESE Geographical areas of operation

Message from the Chairperson



Colleagues, friends, development partners and all the people we serve across this country, I bring you warm greetings from the JESE Board. The JESE board is very pleased with the progress that is being made by JESE led by its Executive head, Senior Management and staff at all levels.

At the start of 2021, JESE board approved a new strategic plan, quite an ambitious plan that indeed set a number of milestones in the different sectors of work. JESE is now in its 2nd year of implementing this plan. The board has observed a high sense of clarity in the organisation, as well as commitment from every member of staff to achieve the milestones of this strategic plan.

The board is equally delighted to see the progress that has so far been made in the implementation and the results so far and we will continue to work and support management to achieve the set milestones particularly on the Gender aspects of the Programme.

Our invitation to the development partners is for them to appreciate and support us through a programme approach, that way we shall become more holistic and more focused in our implementation strategies. We thank Forests of the world, who have already made the decision to support us through a programme approach and we continue to encourage others to do so.

The challenges before us are broad, global and protracted in nature and therefore continue to require **Joint effort** in finding the solutions to resolve them. It's our humble invitation to you all that we continue to cooperate the way we have done in the past. This way we shall all contribute to the improvement in the quality of life of our communities.

This year's report has presented quite elaborately the reach and impact that has come through particularly on tree planting. JESE management as part of the commemoration of 30 years set a goal of planting 1M trees up to mid-2024. In this reporting period, ¼ of the goal has been reached. The 46% mark of Gender participation in the programme is also very exciting except there is more work to be done for the women to have more control over resources. I wish therefore to invite our partners and stakeholders in development to internalise this report and also advise JESE in the areas that it should continue to improve upon.

I wish you a nice reading.

Mrs Grace Waako Katuramu,
Chairperson Board, JESE

Message from the Executive Director



Friends, I welcome you again to another edition of the JESE annual Report. The theme of this year's report "**Maximising Growth and New Opportunities amidst New Global Challenges**" reflects the unique period in which we are in. I want to say that we are in touch with the reality of our times, and we have prepared our minds and strategies to confront these challenging times but also take advantage of the opportunities presented by the times.

Over the past one year, we witnessed yet more progress on the implementation of the 2021-2026 strategic plan. In this report, we present to you some of the results that have accrued. Overall, our programme impacted more than 50,000 people in the sectors of natural resources management, agriculture and livelihood improvement as well as Water Sanitation and Hygiene and most recently our work on youth Skilling in the Green sector is presenting very positive and exciting results.

We have observed an improvement in the quality of life due to more increased observance and taking care of the environment as well as improvement in hygiene practices at the household. The result of this was also observed in the improvement in family income, education outcomes and generally improvement in family wealth.

We welcome your comments and suggestions on our work, which you can send directly on our direct communication channels and social media platforms provided on the cover page of this report.

Nice reading to you all.

I thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Baguma'. The signature is stylized and written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick Baguma,

Executive Director, JESE



Achieved milestones

The sections below provide a detailed account for each and every milestone that was achieved in 2022. These have been presented and organised per sector and Jese Programme strategic Objectives.

Total Program reach	50,629 people
Estimated # of Households	9,707
Average Women participation in the programme	46%. Only 15% of the women are estimated to have achieved income control.
Total Estimated Farm Income generated in 2022	21,439,132,582
Estimated average Household income earned.	2,208,626

Sector	People/ Farmers	Gender considerations	HHs	Estimated Farm Income Generated	Trees planted	Hectares planted
Restoration and Ecosystems services management	4483 people	48% female participation	1,075	2,374,272,950	251,790	228.9
Agroforestry	890 farmers-	42% women participation	178	393,135,428		
Agroecology + Integrated Farm Planning	4931 Farmers-	63% Women participation	1,250	2,760,782,500		
Youth and urban Farming	30	23 female participation	30	66,258,780		
Direct Market Access	2587 farmers	Approximately 15% women took part in the sales of the farm produce.	517	570,930,000		
Ecopreneurship	175 people	55% women				
Energy interventions	7684 People	62% women beneficiaries	814			
Youth Skilling	481 Youth	39% female beneficiaries.				
Gender Equality Improvements	26745 people	59% male participation	5349			
Equitable access and use of safe water and Sanitation services	2623 people	59% women participation	524			

Natural Resources, Natural Resource Governance and Energy

Context: Environmental degradation in the form of wetland and forest encroachment in the region (Tooro/Rwenzori) still goes on unabated. This is so because there is a severe lack of enforcement of environmental laws. Farmers go on encroaching fragile ecosystems without reprimand. Globally, Climate change continues to take a toll on development activities in the form of change in weather patterns due to global warming effects accelerated by Co2 emissions. Local climates are changing- rainy and dry seasons have become longer and negatively impact livelihoods of communities that are inherently depended on natural assets. Natural resource governance is seen to be a solution to some of these challenges but it's yet to be fully appreciated and integrated in natural resources management and JESE is taking a step in its implementation.

The milestones achieved here under contributed to the JESE Strategic area on Natural Resources, governance and Energy. In this reporting period, there were 4 programmes running and each one of them contributing to the restoration of degraded areas, particularly targeting specific hotspots and micro catchments in Western and Northern Uganda. Overall, the milestone contributed to Sustainable development Goals; # 13 -Climate Action and # 15- Life on Land as well as Goal # 7- Affordable and Clean Energy, # 1- No Poverty, #8- Decent Work and Economic Growth.



Cut and burn activities and destruction of natural forests in the Mpanga River Landscape.

Supported the Restoration of degraded hotspots in; Isingiro, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, & Kitagwenda Districts.

In this reporting period, JESE with partners implemented multiple actions with the aim of counteracting the challenges highlighted above and several achievements were registered.

Reach/ Impact in Numbers

- 228.9 Hectares restored= (approximately 251,790 trees planted)
- 85,048 trees (including 8500 Cycads in Mpanga Gorge)/68.9 Ha planted in Mpanga Gorge- Kanara and Ntara in Kitagwenda District.
- 1200 people in Kitagwenda (40% females and 60% males and 50% youth). These people were drawn from 120 Households.
- 890 people/HH in Kyenjojo under FoW
- 2,393 people reached under DRDIP projects (1125 male 856 female and 412 youth) in the districts of; Kamwenge, Kyegegwa and Isingiro

What have we achieved?

A total of **228.9 Hectares** of what was once bear land in; Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Isingiro and Kitagwenda, were restored. These had been degraded because of the excess demand for fuel wood by refugees and local communities. They were restored with both indigenous and exotic species to meet both conservation and energy needs of refugee and Ugandan national communities. The survival rate for these trees was registered at 85%. As a result of enhanced understanding of the importance of trees, there is ever growing demand for seedlings by the communities to plant on their own in the sites in which the trees were planted.

In Kitagwenda, the Local government adopted restoration practices and implemented them in other conservation hotspots like (Rwambu, Nyakeera and Nyabani) in the district. This is helping spread the effort on conservation of ecosystems and ecosystem services. This is in addition to the eviction of encroachers from the wetland and buffer zones from some of the hotspots after our protracted engagement on buffer zone encroachment with the local government.

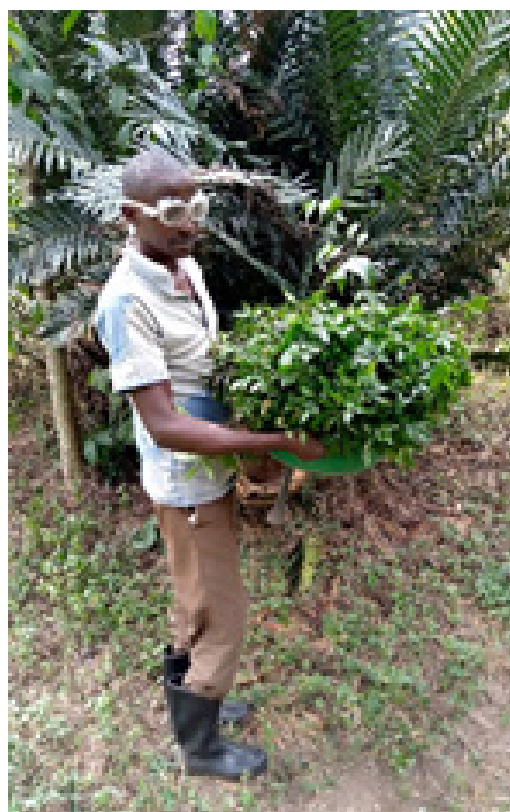
What we did

These trees were planted with the assistance of community members on farms and public land for slope stabilisation and soil erosion mitigation. The tree planting was also supported by regular (monthly) site inspections to monitor tree maintenance and growth. Through the field site visits farmers had the opportunity to give feedback, highlight problems and seek remedial advice from the JESE technical field staff. At the same time farmers were supported in the formation of committees to monitor the progress and lead committee members were invited to take part in the field monitoring.

To achieve the above restoration results, JESE continued with stakeholder involvement, analysis and further mapping to identify the actual impact groups in restoration/tree planting. This was also followed with continued Sensitisation on the importance of the restoration and tree planting and therefore achieving stakeholder understanding and buy-in into the restoration activities. This resulted in land allocation for tree planting from individuals and institutions. Proper matching of the sites, tree species and stakeholders needs was also done and aligned to stakeholder and community interests. In order to spread the restoration impact, seedlings were also distributed to communities adjacent to woodlot sites for tree planting on their individual plots using an agroforestry approach.



Mr Bacha & Kwatirayo Stanley community members of Kanaara collecting wildings from the forest to restock the nursery.



Kiiza Sirasi, the Ntaara tree nursery caretaker with a bunch of wildings collected from the forest ready to restock the nursery.

JESE under the DRDIP program mobilised sub-project beneficiaries through labour intensive public works approaches to undertake procurement of seedlings and undertake tree planting. Approaches like woodlot establishment and agro forestry integrated with apiaries were encouraged. JESE developed woodlot and apiary management plans, guiding manuals and as well as trained local lead artisans as a way of building resident skills within the beneficiaries in woodlot maintenance. For enhanced cohesion within the sub projects JESE encouraged voluntary savings for loans and enhanced incomes of the members in the future as well created linkages of the sub projects.



A seedling planted in the landscape

For the purpose of promoting sustainability, nutrition and improving incomes, JESE integrated the growing of legumes, vegetables and apiary establishment into tree planting. In addition, JESE supported the establishment of woodlot management and protection committees equipped with knowledge and skills in woodlot management as well as tools and protection gears.

Where did we fail?

- The sites earmarked for restoration are highly degraded and highly infested with termites, a threat to planted seedlings and thus increased cost of management and maintenance through planting and controlling of the termites. Until now, JESE is researching an Organic remedy to termites that are a serious threat in the restoration activities. A permanent solution has not been found yet.
- We are yet to fully succeed in working on the mindset of majority farmers to appreciate environmental conservation efforts such as tree planting. In Mpanga gorge for example, some farmers decided to burn some trees in some of the planted sites leading to losses in terms of investment towards tree planting and therefore frustrating Development partner efforts. These incidents are both deliberate and accidental. The latter is because communities still practice slash and burn and are responsible for so much damage on ecosystems and associated ecosystem services.

Improved Market Access for Vanilla and Coffee Farmers in the Elephant Corridor Landscape

Context: Vanilla, also known as the Green Gold, is relatively a new crop in the Elephant corridor, introduced about 5 years ago. For the most part, vanilla used to be produced in Bundibugyo and Mukono districts of Uganda and farmers here made **“a killing”** most especially when Madagascar was not in production. Although production in Madagascar presents price fluctuations, there is a new trend and liking at the international market for the Ugandan Vanilla Quality. Ugandan vanilla is loved for its sweet and chocolaty qualities and therefore attracting a special international market preference.

Reach/ Impact in Numbers

- 97 farmers (47 Males, 23 Females and 27 Youth) accessed the vanilla market.
- 870 Kgs of Vanilla sold
- Over 50% increase in vanilla production compared to 2022 sales.
- 10 tons of Coffee sold by farmers (450) adjacent to Itwara Forest Reserve in Kyenjojo District.

What have we achieved?

Strategic market linkages supported farmers to access a market of 870 kgs fresh vanilla beans within the landscape. 374 kgs of these were sold under the premium pricing of Social vanilla of 25% bonus. This also enhanced smallholder agroforestry farmers' incomes with a total of 39,150,000UGX. Further ten tons of Robusta coffee were also bulked and sold under the collective bulking and marketing with KIFECA Co-op generating over 40 million Ugandan Shillings.



What did we do?

In 2019, with the support of Forests of the World, JESE made the Vanilla crop part of the agroforestry models for restoration of the fast degrading elephant corridor. Today, 980 farmers in the elephant corridor have been supported to establish agroforestry systems as an approach to protect the central forest reserves of Itwara, Muhangi and Matiri. These farmers have since realised alternative income other than directly being dependent on the natural forests for income.



JESE also continues to organise agroforestry farmer households into two strong farmer cooperatives for safe sustainable production, quality control, aggregation of agroforestry based products for collective marketing. Further Agroforestry based value chain Market system development through strategic market linkages were enhanced, production and supplier contract signed and product successfully supplied.

Where did we fail?

JESE is yet to address the inherent governance challenges that continue to bedevil the natural resource governance structures in the Elephant Corridor- so that they could function very effectively. Partly this is responsible for limiting results that could be achieved at a wider community level. The genesis of the governance challenges is mostly personal and political interests within groups that are staking long to be resolve.

Accelerated Agroforestry extension to farmers in the Elephant Corridor

Context: World over, agroforestry is an evolving topic. It has been around for many years yet it is yet to be well adopted among communities and farmers. If it happens on the Ugandan farms, it's often by default and rarely organised to give tangible results on the farm. Generally, agroforestry is a system of farming that is able to bridge the gap that exists between agriculture and forestry by building integrated systems to improve both environmental and socio-economic outcomes. The challenge though is with the inadequate extension services to enable adoption. Notably, Agricultural development in Uganda has suffered from lack of consistency in policies on agricultural extension until the late 1990s (Nahdy, 2004). JESE continues to provide agroforestry extension support to agroforestry farmers in the Elephant corridor landscape, and below we present highlights of achievements in 2022.

Impact/ Reach in Numbers

- 890 farmers (508 Males/ 382 female/109 Youth) received extension service on agroforestry.

What have we achieved?

Enhanced community based trainers skills in adult learning and communication, basic agroforestry systems and their management, post-harvest handling and quality control

What did we do?

To support this initiative JESE in partnership with Forests of the World, facilitated the adoption of sustainable community Based Extension service provision through enhancing skills of farmer institution based individuals (Community Based Trainers) in agroforestry systems management, Vanilla pollination, and post-harvest handling for cocoa, Vanilla, Coffee. These skills were being routinely extended to 890 agroforestry farmers.

JESE adopted the approach of community based extension service provision to farmers for large scale adoption. With support from Community based trainers, agroforestry adopting farmers were frequently supported with information for sustainable agroforestry management systems including soil and water conservation technologies and mulching, application of bio rations to control pests and diseases, post-harvest handling and soil fertility improvement. The extension is being offered based on the demand from the farmers and also research based recommendations with Support from NaCORI.



Where did we fail?

Adopting a systematic and Concentrated targeting of agroforestry farmers: Due to the geographical (Forested area) setting and the impact of Large Tea plantations that forced and Isolated farmers, JESE continues to struggle with the natural conditioning of farmers to marginal and peripheral locations resulting in the scatter of farmers over an expansive Geographical landscape. This makes it incredibly difficult to access the farmers and effectively provide extension services. Yet, what is desirable is a village focused model of implementation, where a particular village is holistically engaged in interventions without leaving anyone behind.

Supported Nature Based Ecopreneurship in the Elephant Corridor

Context: Despite the existence of forestry related policies such as the Uganda forestry policy and National Environment Management policy designed to protect and preserve forest ecosystems, there still exists rampant deforestation in Uganda today. However, promoting sustainable economic activities that reduce the pressure off the forests are yet to be fully developed. The need to develop business skills and entrepreneurship in the green sector is extremely necessary to reduce deforestation activities. Therefore JESE in partnership with FoW focused on stimulating rural communities in resilience through a nature based model on green job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship that restores the ecosystems.

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 175 Ecopreneurship- benefiting 95 women and 80 youth.
- 0-UGX 27,930,000 Gross income generated.

What have we achieved?

JESE in 2022 supported 5 enterprise groups located in Kyenjojo District to develop business plans, as one way of setting clear goals and guidelines to manage their eco businesses. These businesses include; Rwenyunyuzi organic soap makers, Rwibaale Tulibamwe apiary group, Kawaruju craft shoes makers, Kyakaitamba Twetungule youth group and Rwibaale Tukwatanise craft shoe makers. These plans have been completed and are being utilised by the enterprise groups. These groups have evolved product brands, namely; Organic

soap, honey, propolis, wine, organic jelly etc. Through value addition, these eco enterprises are creating new products through innovations that today are available on the local market. The Ecopreneurship have also been skilled in product development to meet the market demand.

What did we do?

With support from partners, JESE mobilised 7 enterprise groups of both women and youth with the ability and willingness to establish eco-enterprises. Enterprise groups were trained in areas of their interest, including; beekeeping, mushroom growing, craft shoe making and organic soap making, among others.

Business skills development and knowledge acquisition were further enhanced through exposure visits conducted, with Ecopreneurship in the Apiary, organic soap makers, crafts, shoemakers and mushroom growers, to enrich branding and marketing. Ecopreneurship opened up stalls to showcase and sell products at Y factor farmers market in Fort- Portal and other local markets within the landscape

Certainly, enterprise groups in Apiary, soap making, crafts, shoemaking and mushroom growing acquired knowledge on market demand driven by eco-products and are able to sell these on the local markets.

The Enterprise groups were further supported in value addition, which has seen the development of products including; the making of propolis, candles, Craft shoes, organic soap, and wax extraction. Other skills acquired were; nursery bed establishment, mushroom growing and winemaking.

As a sustainability strategy, all supported group enterprises were attached to business angels for further business development, mentoring and market linkages.



Where we failed

Providing adequate start-up capital that would enable the eco-enterprises to expand and Grow their businesses: Our work with the eco-enterprises is in their early stages of development and yet the groups are also growing. Our concentration so far is in providing the software needs and not the hardware needs of the enterprises. The latter need is becoming eminent as the enterprises become more grounded and start to present products on the market. Many of the groups are still limited in production and require capital to create and produce more products for the market.

Enhanced access to Wood energy saving Stoves- to training institution and households

Context: Uganda's energy sector faces acute energy challenges including regular power outages, higher tariffs and a significant part of the rural areas are yet to be connected on the national grid. The price for gas is equally high and not affordable for the majority of Ugandans. This is responsible for the high levels of energy poverty across Uganda which constrains socio-economic development and presents environmental and climate risks. For example, 88% of the rural households in Uganda depend on biomass for their energy needs.

In the past 2 years, JESE in partnership with Oxfam Uganda has been implementing energy solutions that aim at reducing this energy poverty in the rural areas and particularly so in the refugee settlements of Nakivale and Kyaka II.

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 2800 learners and patients (Male - 1,268 and Female-1,532)
- 4884 people (Female - 3240 & Male- 1644).
- 814 HH energy saving cook stoves(335 Kyegegwa and 475 Isingiro) constructed
- 7 institutional (Schools and Health centres) energy saving cook stoves constructed in both Kyegegwa - Kayak II and Isingiro - Nakivale Refugee settlement.

What we achieved

Reduced cost on energy and risks of GBV, conflicts among the refugees and the host community. In addition to reduction of fuel wood usage, the energy conservation stoves are user friendly, emit less smoke in the kitchen, thus reducing indoor pollution

What did we do?

JESE in consultations with key stakeholders i.e. the environment and energy sector working groups at settlement level, district Educational Health and natural resources department, in the identification of the institutions with severe energy needs. Institutions provided already existing spaces where the stoves were constructed and commitment from institution management/administration to offer maintenance and repair of the stoves when they get damaged.

JESE trained four groups (3 in Isingiro and 1 in Kyegegwa) with a total of 82 individuals (54 females and 28 males) in the community with knowledge and skills on how to make the household level energy cook stoves construction who are facilitated with minimal incentives to harness marketing through



sensitisation about the importance of energy conservation stoves, and construction support under a cost sharing arrangement between project and host household in form of materials, to harnesses ownership of the stoves thus effective utilisation and maintenance.

Where did we fail?

JESE has not be able to intensively The energy challenge. The energy challenge is huge and requires that there are adequate financial, technological and human resources. The vision is to widely spread the skill and knowledge and knowledge at individual household level, so that the Ugandan citizen and Non-Ugandans alike take actions on their own. This is rather difficult to achieve among refugee communities whose mindset is purely dependent on aid and tend to see no other solution apart from being provided for. Efforts for mindset change are often interrupted by the new arrivals who are mostly vulnerable and their situation demanding that handouts are provided to them.

Life skills, Vocational Training and Employability

The milestones achieved under this topic thought to contribute to the JESE Strategic area focusing on; **Life skills, Vocational Training and Employability and equally to, contribute to Sustainable Development Goals, namely; : #8 Decent Work and Economic Growth as well as Goal # 4 Quality Education.** JESE with support from partners (FoW, WHH & WWF) have continued to equip youth with skills and knowledge needed to gain resilience amidst uncertainties and challenges and most importantly orient the youth to the needs of the local labour market thus improving household incomes.

With funding support from partners, the department of skill development focused on enhancing economic opportunities for young women and men to earn an income and accumulate economic assets through the attained skills.

Acceleration of Vocational and Green Trades training



Context: The successes were enabled by the government of Uganda policies that stress provision of quality education and the National Youth Policy (NYP). These have been the spring board and a vehicle for accelerating vocational Skilling at JESE while achieving the goals under the National skilling strategy and those of the JESE strategic plan (2021/26) and particularly strategic objective **# 5** that seeks to Empower Out-of-School Boys and Girls to Acquire Basic Life, Vocational and Green Skills and Equitably Increase their Employ-ability for Improved Well-Being. A number of development partners have been brought on board to support these Youth skills training ventures, namely; *Nyabyeya Forestry college and the Directorate of Industrial training and Green colleges that have emerged in the region.*

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 184 graduates (97 males, 87 Females) and in conventional (Brown trades) vocational skills ; namely, carpentry, welding and motor vehicle mechanics.
- 217 (58 Males, 86 Females, 73 Youth) in Green skills namely; nursery bed establishment, Vanilla Pollination, craft making and organic soap making.

What did we achieve?

A total of 440 youth of these 237 females and 203 males acquired practical employable skills, life skills and business skills to help them improve their livelihood. In the same vein a total 217 (58 Males, 86 Females, 73 Youth graduated in Green skills, one (1) green skills curriculum developed and translated into E-Learning for wider learning and adoption by TVET colleges. At least 138 of the graduates have been absorbed in the labor market. Most of the graduates have been retained as employees in the workshops where they trained, and this helps them earn an income, others have migrated to the capital, Kampala where they sought employment and exposure. Some, at least 40% of the 138 youth have established for themselves small businesses from which they earn a living. 25 VSLA groups by the trainees were supported to register at the sub county and district levels and are now operating legally. UGX 48,736,000 savings and loans from 25 VSLA groups were shared by the members during the year. Supported 122 (80 males, 40 Females) graduates with tools for business

What did we do?

Technical training- the youth underwent hands-on training for a period of 8 months. In this period, 2 months is a grace period for learners to practice specific modules better. Learners were constantly monitored and received guidance from JESE staff and technical trainers. Learners also underwent training in Life skills and entrepreneurship skills (business) to ground learners in the practical realities and adopt discipline codes for the community and doing business. A Nature-based model of green jobs creation was also employed to deliver green skills training at landscape level to generate businesses, income and decent jobs and replicated in rural communities in the elephant corridor.

Skilled youth were assessed by DIT of the Ministry of Education and Sports for Workers PAS, and Nyabyeya Forestry College to ascertain their level of competence in their respective trades. JESE supported graduates with tools for business and a total of 378 received tool kits and equipment including 69; sawing machines for tailors, solar tool boxes and ladders to solar technicians, bicycles to vegetable farmers and juice dispensers.

Where did we fail?

JESE was not in position to offer economic relief to young entrepreneurs Post Covid-19.

Due to the economic downturn associated with the post Covid-19 Pandemic, Saving for the young entrepreneurs was challenging and JESE was not able to offer relief/subsidy support to stabilise the economic disparities. In future a revolving Fund scheme will be pursued to address such challenges that prohibit take off of invaluable initiatives that seek to spur Economic Growth and at the same time protect our beloved natural resources. Another area where we failed was to offer business counselling. This is a new area, and the business counsellors are very few and costly.

Accreditation of 6 green colleges by Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT)

Context: The Training provider/assessment centres presenting candidates for registration must be accredited by the Directorate of Industrial Training of the MoES. The accreditation of an educational institution by the DIT is a seal of quality that certifies a certain standard for the institution and therefore makes an important contribution to the sustainable existence of the colleges and their training programmes. Essentially, DIT conducts assessment and recognition of the technical competence of the centres in conducting Competency Based Assessment (CBA) as well as compliance to a quality Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) management system.

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 06 Green colleges in the region were accredited and certified as training and assessment centres by the Directorate of Industrial Training of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES).
- 18 training providers engaged by JESE are accredited to offer technical skills training under the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework (UVQF).

What we achieved?

JESE under the Green Colleges project supported training institutions to obtain accreditation from the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) and subsequently obtain a certificate of registration. In this reporting period, 7 Training Institutions (6 in Kabarole and 1 in Kasese) were accredited and certified. These institutions included; CECO-Uganda, Buuka foods, AFFREYEA, Greeco organic farm, Tooro gallery, and Mobb Initiative for Community Development in Kasese.

What we did?

JESE GCI team with guidance from the Regional WHH Manager facilitated the preparations and the verification exercise leading to registration and certification of the training centres. JESE conducted ToT for the training instructors, did Internal audits of the institutions, documentations of training processes and assembling training resources / infrastructure.

Where we failed?

Holistically providing capacity development for the emerging training institutions. Some of the training institutions lacked documentation which made the assessment challenging, including raising the costs for verification and certification.

Food Systems, Food security, incomes and Gender,

It is urged that Uganda's Food systems are complex. They involve many actors and stakeholders, many of whom have an influence on how the system is able to work and meet the needs of people in the system. These needs in the system include; nutrition, incomes and how it meets the well-being of women, youth and children. What is told below is a story of how JESE in 2022 continued to interact with the food systems and the milestones that accrued.

Supported the improvement in Gender Equality aspects, namely; social relations at households, joint planning, decision making, and resource use efficiency.

Context: The government of Uganda has promulgated a policy on women empowerment and affirmative action and there are various efforts by government and non-state actors to address gender equality gaps. Vices such as GBV influenced by social and cultural values that undermine women and children are still very common in locations of our work. Such negative cultural values are a hindrance to attainment of the desired change. Well aware that gender equality gaps are globally a challenge, JESE work in this regard seeks to contribute to SDG- #5- Gender Equality.

Reach in Numbers

- **16,341** women with messages on gender and social inclusion, women entrepreneurship and women leadership under the women in leadership approach.
- **10,404** men under the Men Engage Approach – role model men (RMM).



What have we achieved?

Improved gender and social relations within family farming households. The trained women leaders, Role Model Men and MAGs have helped transform perceptions on; gender-based violence, men's roles, and joint decision-making.

As a result of this, we realised an increase in the percentage of households reporting joint planning and decision making from 60% to 74%. Supported households reported improved gender relations and reduced levels of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in all its forms i.e Physical, emotional and economic. Farmers reported improved access to household resources and agricultural production by 12% from 69% to 81%. We realised increased ownership of household and production resources by women and youth.



What we did?

JESE trained and supported women leaders and Role Model Men (RMM) to create awareness and amplify messages on gender and social inclusion, women entrepreneurship, women leadership and availed psycho social support services through the RMM and women leaders. Conducted Media engagement to sensitise communities on gender based violence, gender equity and social inclusion. Also, engaged duty bearers including offices of the gender focal persons at district level and Sub County community development officers in the operation areas. JESE also did community gender dialogues and men in the kitchen campaigns to challenge negative cultural norms and beliefs.



Where we failed?

Positively Changing social and cultural norms of communities. We realise this is a gradual process and requires continuous and concerted effort. JESE is therefore prepared for the long haul and prepared to keep going while working on the mindset change of communities that we support.

Supported the improvement in the reduction of post-harvest losses and production of high quality produce

Context: Uganda's food systems are complex and suffer many bottlenecks and Poor Post Harvest Handling is a common occurrence among rural farmers in Uganda. Most often, farmers are not aware of the losses they make but also the negative food safety impact created as a result of poor post-harvest Handling. Recently, maize produced in Uganda was rejected by the Kenyan Government, stating that it was not safe for human consumption because of aflatoxins that are associated with poor PHH methods. Most recent media reports (Daily Monitor of February 19, 2023) in Uganda indicate that Ugandan maize poses a cancer risk.

Impact\reach in Numbers

- **79** marketing associations (MAs) in Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa and Kamwenge in agribusiness development and Good PHH Practices.
- **79** Households Supported in Good PHH Practices
- **83%** (66 MAs) of the marketing associations bulked and collectively marketed
- **162** metric tons of beans and maize sold went through Good PHH Practices
- **509 UGX** millions earned based on Good PHH Practices

What we achieved?

JESE observed improved PHH and quality management among the supported households. Majority of the target households have reduced post-harvest losses, producing quality products and the private sector actors have attested to this.



What we did?

JESE built capacities of PMG members in Post-Harvest handling and management. JESE continued to support Kabambiro Marketing Association and JEFACO to undertake value addition for maize and coffee respectively. Also, JESE supported selected



households with improved post-harvest handling materials including SILOS and tarpaulins for improved quality and Post-Harvest Handling. Private sector engagement was also key focus intervention where several farmer-buyer meetings were facilitated. JESE also initiated the multi-stakeholder innovative platform for maize in Kyegegwa District to address maize value chain challenges and drive forward the implementation of the district maize ordinance.

Where we failed?

Mitigating Male dominance and control over agricultural produce incomes;

While women take part in the production activities on the farm, the men continue to present the produce for sale and control of incomes accrued. It is still challenging to measure how much the women take charge in the planning of family incomes earned from the agricultural produce sales for which they are the majority labourers.



Supported the improvement of Production food and nutrition security, incomes and Markets Linkages

Context: The Ripple effects of climatic change continue to cause havoc on farming communities in Africa. In most cases the negative impact is overwhelming. The El Nino rains in 2022 were both responsible for more production but also negatively impacted Post-Harvest Handling and incomes. Meanwhile the mixed Policy approach by the Government of Uganda on organic Vs Inorganic production presented extension challenges. In most cases, the government is caught between a hard place and a rock. The government policy for the promotion of synthetic fertilisers on the farm is mostly driven by the commercialisation interest. This contradicts the agroecology organic strategy that has been embraced by the African Union. These and other challenges severely impact local food systems in ways that could have long term negative repercussions.

Besides the policy challenges, the increase in production was greatly impacted by the price fluctuations imposed by the slow growing economy as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic aftershocks and the war in Ukraine that increased the cost of fuels.

Nutritional health is also still a major challenge in Uganda and more so is of great concern in Western Uganda. A region also referred to as the food basket of East Africa, suffers one of the highest statistics in terms of malnutrition due to lack of sufficient consumption of micronutrients. Therefore, the occurrence of hidden hunger is very common among children below the age of 5 (approximately 42%).

Reach in Numbers

- **1,250 Households** were facilitated to develop/review integrated farm plans and reached with extension services.
- **4931 farmers** (3,118 women and 1,813 men) in 79 producer and marketing groups (PMGs)
- **509 UGX Millions in incomes**- associated with improved ecosystems.

What we achieved?

There has been **increased adoption** of **agroecology** and **Integrated Farm Planning principles** with 74% adoption rate of the recommended/trained practices at farm level. This also meant increased sustainable production and diversity on farms. The end of year assessment indicated that there are increments in yield and productivity per unit acreage. The farmers are engaged in the production of maize, beans, cassava, banana, rice, groundnuts, millet, soybeans, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes. This kind of mixture of crops is increasingly building farm resilience, food security, income diversification and better nutrition.

There was also noted **improved household farm resilience** as evidenced by increased performance of agroecological farm health at 54% against the baseline of 40%. We noticed improving agroforestry practices, soil cover practices, proper crop management and use of organic concoctions. However, there still remains a lot to be addressed especially on soil cover, proper crop rotations, management of livestock and investment in appropriate Post-Harvest handling technologies.

Improved household food security and nutrition: The JESE end of year assessment noted the percentage of households reporting that they are Food Secure or Mildly Food Insecure was at 93% and the percentage of households consuming 4 to 5 food groups within a week was at 99%. This is good for that target households and we will work on ensuring that the households integrate in more vegetables, fruits and small livestock to further enhance their nutrition diversity.

The producer and marketing groups (PMGs) (90%) that were supported reported having collectively bulked and marketed their produce in the most recent harvest season. Through their marketing committees and farmer – buyer linkages, **the PMGs initiated business relationships** with reputable buyers, enabling farmers to get fairer prices than in the open market. A total of 82.866 metric tons of beans were bulked and sold, earning the 45 PMG members Ug 265 million; 161.514 metric tons of maize were bulked and sold, earning the PMGs Ug 209 million; and 298 bags of potatoes were sold, earning the PMGs Ug 35.76 million. These statistics represent the 1st and 2nd bulking season.

What we did?

In addition to facilitating the adoption of agroecology and Integrated Farm Planning, JESE also facilitated different linkages between farmer groups with financial institutions. There are still challenges, agribusiness is slow due to high interest rates on credit and limited farmer friendly terms and conditions. The extension under the local government is mainly promoting conventional ways of addressing



farming challenges and thus slow adoption of some of the promoted approaches of agroecology and integrated farm plan. However, the Government is starting to appreciate and embrace JESE approaches which will influence future designs of their extension models and strategy.

Where we failed:

Due to competing interests and contradicting policies of the government, it's been difficult for JESE to extensively spread the message of agroecology across farming communities in a more intense approach.

Case Story of Lillian: Inspired by IFP

Akampungira Lillian aged 28 years, is a resident of Miyora I village, Kiyagara Parish, Kahunge Sub-County in Kamwenge District. She is married and has one child. Lillian is a Farmer Innovator in her village and JESE found her when she had just settled in the village. "Before we came to Miyora, we lived in Kitumba, Fort Portal City where I had a small drug shop and my husband was a casual labourer on construction sites. Things started getting difficult as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and we decided to leave the town and come back to the village. We were lucky that as we were settling in the village, JESE came in with its program of training farmers on sustainable family farming. I was lucky to be selected as a Farmer Innovator. We were invited for training on Integrated Farm Planning. After the training, I came back home and discussed it with my husband. He listened to me, liked the idea of planning and pledged to support me. We developed our first IFP which we agreed upon and started to implement during the first season of 2022. Our main aspiration in the plan is to build our own house and shift from the rental. We started implementation of the plan by preparing two acres of land and hired two more where we planted maize. We harvested 2000 kilograms and 250 kilograms of beans that we had intercropped. We sold the products and got 3,000,000 Uganda shillings. We used the money to buy half an acre of land and 2 bulls for fattening. We have also made 1,600 bricks for the start. So far, we appreciate JESE for coming into our community and for teaching us how to plan as a family and this has opened our eyes and got us focused on a common vision which is good for our future. We pledge to continue to work together as a family and we are convinced that we will accomplish our dream within 5 years. We have also agreed to continue with the drug shop as our off farm activity".

Story of EZEKIEL: Renewed Hope

Sayuni Ezekiel aged 62 years old, is a resident of Kakindo 1 village, Kiyagara Parish, Kahunge Sub-County in Kamwenge District. He is married and lives with two of his children, who are both girls. He narrated that "When JESE came to our village in February 2022, I joined the program and the community members selected me to be among the Farmer Innovators. As Farmer Innovators, we were trained on the Integrated Farm Planning approach. After the training we were supported to develop our individual household IFPs and encouraged to start implementing them. the approach of careful planning has changed our perception about farming and we are more convinced that we can make farming a sustainable job. We now plan and work as a family and not as individuals. We have learnt new practices and technologies on farming through training, extension and exchange learning visits. When JESE came, my banana and coffee plantations were not well managed and I lacked ideas on how to improve them but are now looking much better and producing better yields. Through the training we have learned how to use resources on the farm such as cow dung to improve productivity of the gardens. Last season, we applied manure in maize, beans and banana plantations. For instance, my maize yield has improved from 800 to 10,000 kilograms while beans have increased from 230 kilograms per season to 370 kilograms on the same acreage I used to cultivate. Also, our banana and coffee plantations look healthier and better managed. We also learned that our animals needed to be managed and we have constructed a shelter for goats. According to our farm plan, we shall use the income from this season to buy two more goats and pay school fees for the children. Our plan is for 5 years and we hope by the end, our household will have greatly improved in terms of income and our way of life. We thank JESE for coming to our village and supporting us".

About the IFP Approach

Integrated Farm Planning is a powerful approach that facilitates family farming households to contextualise their farming environment, identify their opportunities and challenges and be able to envision a better future. The focus is laid on facilitating the household to design and implement a careful farm plan through designing a set of actions and processes that are relevant to achieve the desired vision in a sustainable and equitable manner at the level of the household. In general, Integrated Farm Planning encourages farmers to develop an action plan, to act on it, review it and update their goals in relation to land and Farm to encourage ongoing improvements.



To date, The IFP approach at JESE has yielded tangible results in terms of improved skills in sustainable land use planning and management, enabling the target households to jointly plan and visualise their households by looking at the current and future development of their farms and finally enabled households to encompass aspects of farm diversification, soil and water conservation, integrated soil fertility management and integrated pest management.

Youth and Urban farming

Urban poverty, unemployment and urban food systems are intertwined. Many of the urban residents face food insecurity and nutritional challenges that can be addressed through innovative urban food systems and practices.

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 30 youth (23 are male Youth and 07 female) and 5 primary schools reached with pilot intervention on urban farming in Fort Portal City.



What we achieved?

As a pilot, in 2022 JESE started working with youth within Fort Portal City to strengthen sustainable food systems through the promotion of urban farming. JESE piloted this with 45 urban youth through adoption of agroecology principles and integrated farm planning in urban farming.



The youth have developed their integrated farm plans which improved mindset change among the youth by visioning on the best and healthy ways to engage in urban food production. Through awareness creation on urban farming, we realised that the targeted youth have improved their livelihoods by engaging them in urban farming.



What we did?

Aware of the dynamics associated with the youth, the numbers of the Youth mobilised to participate in the urban Farming activities was kept small for pilot purposes.

Where we failed!

Not able to meet the high expectations of the Youth: JESE realised that working with youth is dynamic and requires strategies that keep the youth focused since they need quick gains out of their interventions. Some youth had higher expectations, some of which were beyond what could be provided to them. This resulted in dropping off by some youth especially at inception level.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Equitable access & use of safe water, sanitation and hygiene services

Under this milestone, JESE seeks to contribute to SDG # 6- Water and Sanitation as well as JESE strategic Objective #3 that seeks to Promote Equitable Access and Use of Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Communities and Institutions.

Context: Uganda continues to face teething challenges in the Water and Sanitation sector. This is particularly so when the population of Uganda is growing by the day. Out of the 45 Million Ugandans, 83% still lack access to a reliable, safely managed sources of water, and 7 million people (17%) lack access to improved sanitation solutions. In a 2018 survey by JESE in Bunyangabu and Agago, Households were faced with a very low sanitation level that stood at 38%. This sanitation challenge was also compounded by climatic changes- most especially flooding that often destroyed sanitation infrastructures particularly in Agago District.



Newly constructed flood control trench in Kamonojwii, Agago District.

Impact/Reach in Numbers

- 114 people (49 Males and 65 Females) /47 households Kamonojwii village Agago District- trained on soil and water conservation measures(trenches)

What we achieved?

Improved household sanitation through continued engagement with communities on awareness creation, following up and monitoring of progress especially through household clusters which has eased lower level monitoring of sanitary situation, and increased sanitation count at a sustainable level while catering for the socially excluded persons in the communities. Empowering local leaders and continuous engagement in dialogues have strengthened their ability to know WASH rights and chose to invest in it.

There has been reduction in flooding in Kamonojwii village where trenches were dug up to 3.5 km with retention points and ponds. This came with eventual benefits to the agricultural sector such as availability of water for animals and watering of vegetable gardens. Latrines can now be constructed in the area since there is little or no floods being experienced. Crop cultivation has geared up with good yields arising from gardens having retention points.

What we did?

JESE continued to collaborate with AMREF in a bid to alter the latter's plight with engagement of the local leadership. Using demand driven approaches, the communities realised the need to invest in improved WASH services and were linked with WASH service providers and government WASH structures to demand for improved WASH services.

In Kamonojwii village, Agogo district, Flood control measures were put in place with eventual benefits to the agricultural sector. In addition, there was training of the community in soil and water conservation measures and they came up with simple doable actions, such as the construction of more trenches. With more interventions and involvement of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Agogo district local government and local council leaders ensured proper construction of the 3.5km trenches.

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach was also key driver for household sanitation improvement where 57 villages were triggered and clustered in groups 5-10 households with each village having a cluster head (chairperson) whose role is to supervise the sanitation of the households they lead and give feedback to VHTs who then report to sub county extension staff and parish peer supervisors.

Follow-up sessions were conducted for 46 villages, mainly done to ensure that households are on track and should regularly update the district sanitation database. Conducted inter village learning caravans in 6 villages, the purpose is to achieve peer to peer learning from villages in a similar setting that has managed to achieve ODF status.

However, there were challenges related to high community demands for hardware support along with handouts in terms of hard cash. The low commitment from some extension staff which slowed down accomplishment of some initially planned interventions. Along with this, replication of the latter measure to the neighbouring villages has been decelerated.

Where we failed!

- Unfortunately, JESE could not meet all the expectations on hardware interventions from local leaders and community members

Supported WASH gender and social inclusion in Bunyangabu District

Context: The WASH and learn baseline survey done in 2019 by JESE supported by SIMAVI captured many responses that revealed the unequal power relations and inequalities between men against their female counterparts. The baseline survey also revealed a high number of Cases of Gender based violence Orchestrated by both men and women. Due to superiority complexes, and the desire to protect their egos, the couples had regular fights and the children went through an equal share of violence. Being defenseless and less advantaged in terms of fighting for their rights and freedoms, children had become even more vulnerable. This revelation triggered a reaction for training that would solve the then existing challenge in a manner that is tolerant, peaceful and mindful of the needs and feelings of each member of the family.

Impact in Numbers

- 92 Households
- 556 persons including 208 Males, 270 females and 78 Youths

What have we achieved?

Through the gender, equity and social inclusion training, there is a significant **reduction in cases of GBV** amongst the community members in the villages of Kinyampanika 2, Bukara B, Kateebwa 1 and Kyarwamba in Kateebwa and Bukara Sub Counties. Due to the changed conduct of men towards women brought about by the engagements through GESI training and regular follow ups, **women and girls are now able to have a substantial share of the proceeds from agriculture** such as; Irish potatoes, cowpeas and onions. Further to this, it is evidenced that **more girls have been as well sent to school** like their male counterparts as this had been a detrimental issue in the past. The GESI change agents went deeper into the villages to sensitise parents about the girls' education which resulted in more girls joining school in 2022.

"Many children and women now manage their own funds from the sale of agricultural produce since the spread of the GESI gospel in the village. Gender based violence has also dropped gradually because we held a meeting with only men in the village. The men's meeting was internationally held because they are the ones who are most violent at home." Mr. Mutsinduki Burton ,LC1 Chairperson Kateebwa village, Bungangabu District.

What did we do?

We built on the GESI approach and training of GESI agents in 2022 by strengthening the cluster heads, local council leaders and women leaders to handle matters related to simple violence, unequal distribution and access to family resources as well as violence towards children. The GESI agents and JESE worked closely with the families that needed counselling support by linking them to the district and sub county probation officers to deal with the child and women related conflicts that could not be resolved at household level. Our key role was to mediate and create necessary linkages. The processes excluded enforcement mechanisms since that would create more challenges and promote more negotiations, meaningful domestic income sharing and advocating for young people to have financial independence from their parents.

Another key target was for us to persuade women and girls in school to take key leadership positions as far as WASH governance is concerned. It is well known that women are the most WASH facility leaders hence interact most with water resources, sanitary facilities through care for children, and therefore needed to engage more in governance for proper decision making. Without women in key leadership positions, it would have been very hard for the WASH & learn program to achieve successes thereby emphasising GESI training and strict follow up for implementation of decisions.

A series of training and stakeholders meetings were conducted after realising that families had conflicts resulting from social inequality. Women and children were mistreated by men for both social and economic benefits. The various trainings included mostly local council leaders, women leaders and cluster leaders and District officials (probation officers). For cascading purposes, cluster leaders and local council one leaders identified families that had gaps in gender inclusion matters and they held meetings at cluster level for the benefit of such families and their neighbourhood.

We majorly focused on actions to address the unequal power relations and inequalities, reduce disparities and ensure equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities, and respect for all individuals. The major target group were the local leaders, local women group leaders and school authorities. 66 key participants were targeted in the training and each village made a promotional plan to reach all corners of the village with the message of equity, inclusion and equitable household economic and social resources sharing.

The challenge though is, the confidence of some women was still low and were yet to freely express themselves in public meetings, leaving out pertinent developmental issues in the planning processes.

Where we failed!

Quickly influencing Social and cultural factors which at times curtailed women participation most especially those who are less educated

The GESI Approach

A GESI approach is one approach that considers unequal power relations and inequalities experienced by individuals as a result of their social identities, including gender, location, disability, wealth, education, age, caste/ethnicity and race. While presented separately, gender equality and social inclusion are interrelated. Cultural accounts of gender inequality generally claim that individuals are herded into different or unequally valued roles because of constructed social norms. Attempts to address gender inequality have focused primarily on equal-treatment policy approaches. Objectives of the GESI approach improve awareness on gender equality and social inclusion and enhance capacity of persons to effectively implement and monitor gender equality and social inclusion in projects. Gender equality makes development stronger and more sustainable. It is not only a pressing moral and social issue but also a critical economic challenge where men and women as well as children ought to share how to hold resources.

Supported the improvement of household sanitation up to 85% in Bunyangabu District

Context: During the baseline survey conducted by JESE with funding from SIMAVI our partners in 2020, it was found out from Kisomoro Health Centre III and Kateebwa Health Centre II that 67% of the reported disease burden from Kateebwa Sub county were associated with poor Sanitation and hygiene amongst households and institutions. The Bunyangabu District Health Sector Report also indicated that Kateebwa Sub County suffered mostly Diarrhea, Typhoid, worms and Bilharzia which are sanitation related diseases. This situation was also responsible for high rates of school absenteeism by learners. Prior to the survey, 367 pupils had been absent from school because of sanitation related diseases. JESE/SMAVI goal has been to achieve ODF free communities in 12 villages by 2023.

Impact/ reach in Numbers

- 1953 (911 males and 1042) females People reached through household WASH sanitation.

What we achieved

Sanitation and hygiene in Kateebwa Sub county, Bunyangabu district has gradually improved following the vigorous interventions under the WASH & Learn program from 34% in 2020 to 85% in 2022.

What we did?

JESE Under the WASH and learn program provided a holistic package of WASH to 4 communities selected from Kateebwa and Bukara sub counties by working closely with the local community structures at both village and sub county level. The CDOs, Health Assistants, village local council one chairpersons, cluster leaders and key opinion leaders eased implementation. This required allies, movers and shakers of processes and constant follow up with the grass root communities.

Numerous approaches and household improvement campaigns using CLTS, and PHAST were deployed to support the constant coaching and mentoring processes. Household sanitation in the targeted communities of Kinyampanika 2 village, Bukata B village, Kyarwamba and Kateebwa 1 village shot

upwards from 23% at baseline survey to 85.8% by December 2022. The cluster leaders reported 147 new latrine facilities, 211 new drying racks, 91 hand washing stations and 78 new garbage management sites.

02 water springs that had been lying broken down for over 10 years were rehabilitated to improve easy access and safety of water. Water safety planning agenda was conducted at each water point so as to protect the water from external forces of damage and destruction. The water user committees were revived for better water governance and ensure sustainable functionality of the water points along with collection of mandatory water user fees for future use in case of any breakdown from the water point.

JESE also supported and formed household clusters of at least 20 households from each village making it at least 6 clusters of peers village for simplified management and team work whereby household heads worked together to establish WASH facilities for every household and also supported the vulnerable and less privileged. The local leaders put in much effort in following up and coaching, the stubborn households were handled through the bi-laws enacted by the sub county local government council through enforcement. Coaching and mentoring was another methodology that was employed to establish good quality, reliable and acceptable facilities that meet up to at least 80% of the qualities of a good facility. The communities also willingly made a 10% contribution towards water resources rehabilitation.

Where we failed

There were hardships in achieving 100% ODF. Only 85.7% was achieved due to landslides that caused the collapse of some latrines coupled with failure of some vulnerable persons to construct pit latrines such as the elderly.

Lessons

- Diversification of value added products offers an opportunity to Ecopreneurship to strengthen local markets and international markets and will go a long way in the evolution of more eco-products in the elephant corridor.
- Despite the many years and effort put into sensitising communities on Gender equity, progression towards actual control of resources is taking even longer to achieve. What we find is that women's control of resources including incomes is easier for those who have actual power and ownership over productive assets such as land. Where the man is the owner of land, control of income by the women is very difficult to achieve. The situation improves when families are helped through IFP to reflect and envision the future they want. In the end, we appreciate planning and its ability to optimise resources at the household and business levels.

Financial Summary

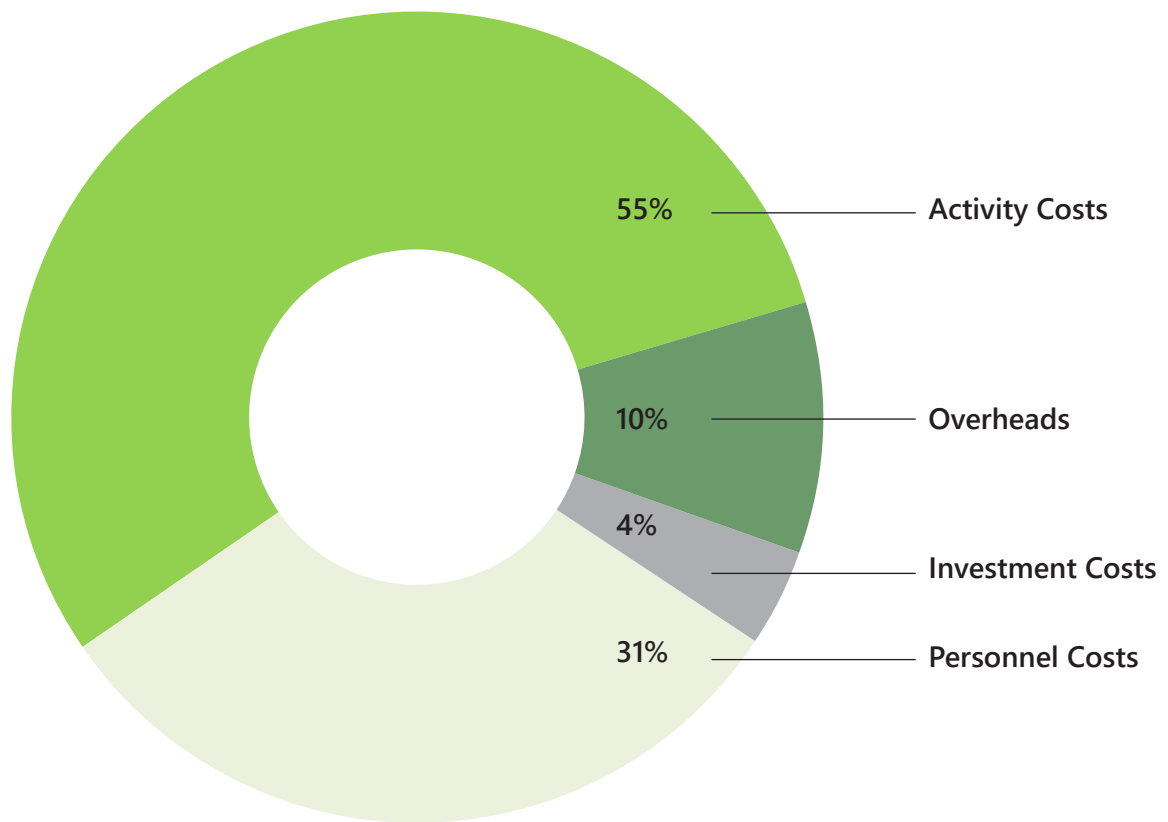
In the financial year 2022, we realised a decline in the total operational budget from **UGX 7,989,405,085** in 2021 to **UGX 6,087,971,317**. A total of **UGX 5,087,178,436** was mobilised from our partners/funders and **UGX 969,754,913** was balance carried forward from 2021 and **UGX 31,037,968** in other Funds. The reasons for the decline in income is that there were no new funding commitments for the proposals for **2022**.

The table below presents a breakdown of the incomes and expenditures for the period.

Funds Received 2022	
Funders	Amount (UGX)
Join Water	466,563,360
Responseability	144,000,000
Broederlijk Dellen (BD)	243,818,717
IDP	585,790,880
Forests of the World - Green Entrepreneurship	510,487,025.80
Forests of the World - SPA	363,746,002.19
Welthunger helfe - Skill up	696,442,250
Welthunger helfe - Green Colleges Initiatives	486,563,260
SIMAVI - Wash Alliance	227,405,023
SIMAVI - Innovation Fund	80,805,013
SIMAVI - Wash and Learn	105,405,121
Oxfam	488,623,910
WWF	260,007,854
CARE - She Feeds	83,081,492
CARE - FFBS	136,492,737
DRDIP	82,375,672
Claim your space	31,031,738
EPR	19,050,000
Social Vanilla	75,488,381
Total funds received	5,087,178,436
Opening balances	969,754,913
Other funds	31,037,968
Total funds available	6,087,971,317

Expenditure in 2022

Below, is a graphical highlight of our expenditure in 2022



JESE TEAM



Jese Staff

BAGUMA Patrick - Executive Director

RUGUMAYO Godfrey - Deputy ED/Head of Department, Water and Sanitation

BYARUHANGA Christopher- Left

AKIDI Shalom

ANGUMYE Rebecca

OKULU Haron

TWESIGE Jude

ALITUHA Richard

BYARUHANGA Eriah - Head of Department, Agriculture and Enterprise Development

KUGONZA Fred

MURUNGI Samuel

MWANGUHYA Sam

KWESIGA James

KIIZA Felix

AGABA Geoffrey

NUWAGABA Rogers

MWEBEMBEZI Alex

TWINOMUGISHA Lucky

AMANYA William

KAIHURA George- Head of the New Skilling Department.

KAGABA Julius

NYESIGAMUKAMA Alex

TUSIIME Kate

NSEMERE Sheila

LAMTO Pascal

SIIMA Salome-Head of Department, Finance and Administration

KIRUNGI Agnes

KATURAMU Sandra

KIMARA Betty

KIIZA Stuart

**BUSIINGE Christopher - Head of Department-
Natural Resource-Energy/KMC**

SAGULA Festo-MEAL- Officer

ALITUHA Emmanuel- Content Creator

TUSIIME Christopher- Communications, Advocacy +
Partnerships- New

ISINGOMA Edward- Information Systems Manager

NAKOOJO Sam- Projects Coordinator- Forest/Oxfam

MUHIMBO Edward- Programme Officer

TUSIIME Lawrence- Programme Manager- MYP5

KWEZI Richard- WASH Engineer

MUTEGEKI Cyprian- Programme Officer

TUSUBIRA Faith- Programme Officer

MUGISA Gabriel - Programme Officer

Board Members



**Mrs. KATURAMU
WAAKO Grace**
Chairperson



Ms. BAJENJA K. Ellen
Vice Chairperson



Ms. KABAKAMA Jane
Treasurer



**Mr. MUGUME Sam
Koojo (Phd)**
Member



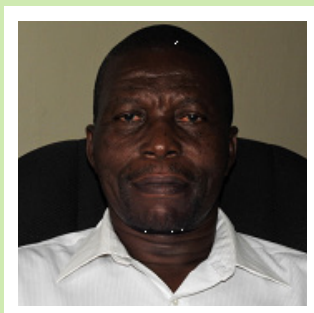
**Ms. TUHAIRWE
Gertrude**
Member



**Mr. KATURAMU Albert
NYAKAHUMA**
Member



Mr. MAGEZI Charles
Member



Mr. MUBIRU Vincent
Member

Appreciation

JESE wishes to thank all the development partners who financially enabled us to implement our programs interventions in 2022.

We are grateful for the good working relations with the Local Governments of; Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Buliisa, Agago, Buliisa, Kamwenge, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa and the involvement of the Local Government technical staff in the planning, implementation and ensuring that there is quality assurance of the interventions throughout 2022.

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Cover Photo credit:

AMANYA William & TUSIIME Lawrence, NYAKOOJO Sam and KAIHURA George



For a world without hunger

