



JOINT EFFORT TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

A Spotlight On Our Work In 2019

Annual Report 2019



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Photo: Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi Visiting JESE stall at the World Food day Celebrations in Hoima District in 2019. Looking on the right are JESE Staff; Mr. Eria Byaruhanga & Kiiza Felix.

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Acronyms

CBMs	Community-Based Monitors
CFM	Collaborative Forest Management
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CRP	Cost Recovery Planning
FFBs	Farmer Field-Business Schools
FM	Frequency Modulation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
H&S	Hygiene Sanitation
ISSB	Interlocking Soil Stabilized Blocks
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JESE	Joint Efforts to Save the Environment
MAG	Men Action Group
MANRUIA	Matiri Natural Resource Users and Income Association
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDP	National Development Plan
NFA	National Forest Authority
NR	Natural Resources
NRDI	Natural Resource Defense Initiatives
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PAR	Participation Action Research
PHASE	Participatory Health and Sanitation Education
PHAST	Participatory Health and Sanitation Transformation
RA	Risk Assessment
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RMM	Role Model Men
RUMPS	Reusable Menstrual Hygiene Pads
SMC/PTA	School Management Committee/Parents Teacher Association
STRENGPO	Strengthening Resilience and Inclusive Governance
UBC	Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VHTs	Village Health Teams
VIP	Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WAI-SDG	Wash Alliance International-Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Y/VSLA	Youth Village Savings and Loans Association

About Us

JESE is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to reducing poverty among 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 socioeconomic improvement.

Values, Mission and Vision

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: *Environmental Integrity, Transparency, Gender Equity, Volunteerism and Teamwork, in all that we do.*

Our Mission

We facilitate innovative actions for sustainable water and natural resources management and improved livelihoods.

Our Vision

We envision a community where people and nature flourish.

Our Focus on SDGs

How does JESE situate her work in the global development agenda?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a defining element of our work, with focus on:

Our impact areas	
 1 NO POVERTY	1. Improved Incomes and Food security
 2 ZERO HUNGER	2. Improved natural resource management
 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	3. Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation and Hygiene
 13 CLIMATE ACTION	4. Community resilience and adaptation to climate change





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the JESE Board, I send you greetings. We have concluded another eventful year with lots of exciting results in the Agricultural, WASH and Natural Resource Management sectors.

The board has worked very closely with the management Team and has been very supportive to the secretariat to deliver on their mandate as was set out in the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan.

I thank the Team Leader and the entire Senior Management Team for maintaining a high level of excellence and for the commitment to serve vulnerable communities in Uganda.

Like I have done in the past years, I wish to thank our partners for supporting us to deliver on our institutional mandate and for being part of the protracted development endeavour to improve the livelihoods of communities in Africa.

I will not relent to remind us of the global climate challenge that we all ought to work towards managing by doing the right thing- taking some form of action including not carelessly littering plastic that ends in our beloved water streams such as Mpanga River. Let each one of us make an effort to plant a tree in our communities or where you leave.

For us at JESE, the inspiration to improve livelihoods and protect the environment, as ever, remains an urgent call and we shall continue to work in that direction. In the coming year, we will make these goals and others very clear in a new strategic plan for 2020-2024. We hope to consult some of you on this process and gather your thoughts and ideas on what should be included in this new strategic plan. We request you to kindly support this process when called upon.

I will finish by emphasising that women and youth, as was the case in 2019, will remain our going concern in the years to come. This is important because, without this category of people being targeted, development will remain very slow. For example, women interact with the environment each day. It is important to ensure that they become leaders in the effort for sustainable Natural Resources Management. As we have done this year, we shall continue mobilising them at the community and in groups such as VSLAs, YVSLAs, and FFBs structures and training them in business and leadership skills.

I wish you good reading.

Mrs Grace Waako Katuramu,
Chairperson Board, JESE



MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM LEADER

Once again, I welcome and invite you to take a moment and read about the progress that we made in 2019 towards improving the livelihoods, conserving and protecting the environmental resources in the communities that we serve. In 2019, activities were implemented in the following districts: Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda and Bunyangabu, Buliisa and Agago. Once more, we highlight accomplishments in tandem with our vision – **and goals set out in the 2014 – 2019 Strategic Plan**. With the support of our partners, we continued to deliver interventions across the goals of this strategy.

In 2019, we observed changes in the individual lives of people that we serve. Changes were recorded in school sanitation and positively impacted on girls' attendance in class and extra-curricular activities because of improved spaces for proper menstrual hygiene in primary schools in Bunyangabu and Agago districts. Agriculture-related activities helped the youth and women significantly improve their household incomes as well as improving climate resilience as a result of practicing agro-ecology approaches such as inter-cropping.

On the natural resources conservation front, we continued to implement interventions towards the management of water resources;

- Enhanced social marketing of the

WASH technologies including but not limited to eco-sans and water filters in schools;

- Mobilised communities in the Mpanga catchment to restore the degraded environment such as wetlands and river banks,
- Worked on environmental challenges posed by the influx of refugees in Kyaka, and there we facilitated the demarcation of 14km of Kakoni wetland which has been extremely degraded because of the refugee population.

This year, significant attention was also put on equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene both in communities and schools in the target areas. School health clubs mentioned in the body of this report are a representative manifest of this effort that enhances the school environment as a step towards enabling children to attain their full potential and supporting retention in school. In addition, gender was also at the centre of implementation. In particular, men were involved to play role modelling and formed action groups as vehicles to sensitise the rest of the community on: gender barriers, domestic violence and environmental protection.

We further raised the bar for the youth and women and contributed to the improvement of their individual lives including assets building. We mobilised over 2000 women and youths including refugees and trained them in financial management, saving and investment planning. These, in turn, saved over UGX 300M as capital for their microbusiness as well as assets acquisition. This is only representative of a lot more results that you shall find in the main body of this report.

I wish you nice reading and please do not hesitate to send us your feedback.

Patrick Baguma, Team Leader, JESE

Spotlight I: Economic Empowerment through Improving Agriculture Enterprise Development



JESE Staff demonstrating to farmers on how to apply fertiliser/Manure on their gardens in 2019.

The Uganda government emphasises the drive towards reducing poverty, accelerating economic development and attaining middle income status by 2040 (National Development Plan III). Among the target sectors to enhance growth is agriculture and harnessing Natural Resources Management. However, agriculture- and natural resource-dependent communities continue to face the daily struggles to earn an income and put adequate and nutrient-rich food on their table as a result of declining agriculture productivity, biodiversity and overall ecosystem health. This nature of things cuts across the board, nationally and to the area of the current JESE programme implementation. The above national intents tie in well with specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly on poverty reduction, zero hunger as well as good health and well-being.

In 2018, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) reported a 21.4% increase in poverty levels in 2016/2017 compared to 19.7% in the financial year 2012/13. This represents 8 million Ugandans who cannot afford 3 meals a day. Agriculture remains the mainstay and surest way to uplift the majority poor out of poverty and offer the youth

gainful and decent jobs and reduce the pressure on the already saturated market of white-collar jobs in the formal sector. However, there continue to be fluctuations in production of different items. For example, whereas there was a 2.2% increase in the number of cattle nationally in 2018, there was a decrease in the fisheries sector (UBOS, 2019).

The subsequent sections underscore the achievements of JESE to mitigate challenges in the agricultural sector.

Strengthening Farmer Organisations



In 2019, Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE) strengthened the capacity of 7,996 (55% females) family farmers in market-based production. Figure 1 below compares the capacity built in 2019 versus the numbers for the year 2018. These farmers were organised in 163 groups of which 127 were producer groups and 39 Marketing Associations and Cooperatives spread across 25 sub-counties in Kyegegwa, Kamwenge and Kyenjojo districts. The groups were trained and supported to undertake innovations to enhance resilience and productivity of their farmers through adoption of agro-ecology and Integrated Farm Planning. The groups were further trained and supported to strengthen their capacities in market-focused production systems in the context of agro-ecology.

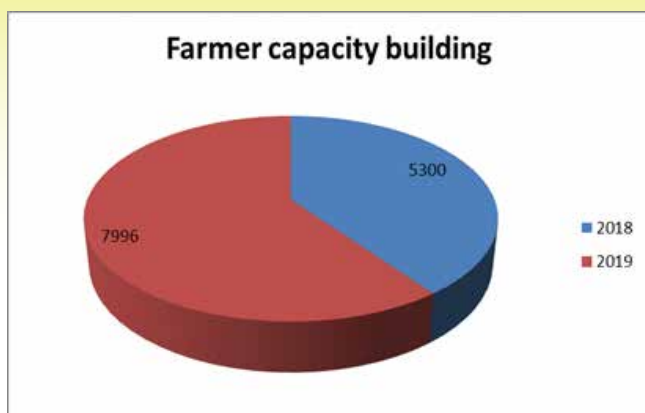


Figure 1: Number of farmers whose capacity was built in 2019 vs 2018

JESE further facilitated the 163 producer groups to access local and upscale markets that offer better prices and terms of engagement for their produce. The farmer groups were trained in collective marketing initiatives, market trends analysis and decision making, improved post-harvest handling and quality management as well as produce storage. The facilitation also aimed at linking the farmer groups to upscale markets (buyers, processors and exporters) and market information service providers in a bid to enhance their capacities to market their produce and take a strong position to negotiate for better prices and other terms of engagement.

Farmers were also facilitated to engage in pre-sell value addition activities especially cleaning, sorting, grading and appropriate packaging of the produce. Such engagements have improved the quality of the produce and empowered the farmers to take charge of their production and marketing systems. These farmer empowerment initiatives are in line with JESE's strategic plan aimed at increasing household incomes is a fundamental aspect for enhancing household asset base and prosperity. They also resonate with the SDG 1 aiming to raise people out of poverty as well as the Uganda National Development Plan 2015/16 – 2019/20, seeking to increase household incomes.

End of year household and group assessments conducted in December 2019 indicated that on average, households earned 5,342,641 shillings from the 2 crop growing seasons. When compared

with the baseline of 2,314,498 for 2018, there was a significant increment in incomes due to stable rains, high yields especially for coffee and maize and quite stable prices for maize and beans.

The Youth earning from involvement in agriculture In resonance with the objectives of the National Development Plan, particularly on enabling gainful employment. In 2019, JESE worked closely with more than 1,000 Youths (55% female) organised in groups at the level of production, value addition and marketing. These were trained in sustainable agriculture production, post-harvest handling, value addition and other off-farm activities in terms of green entrepreneurship opportunities such as transportation, value addition, brokerage, petty trading, bio-briquettes, eco-stove making, and business planning and investment.

Working with the youth requires a lot of concentration and flexibility in the approach given that the youth are dynamic and interested in quick gains. Owing to this, JESE in 2017 made a strategic choice to work with only organised youths and not as individuals. Our assessment over the years has indicated that this strategy is working and has gainfully engaged them and has improved their level of income and autonomy.

By the end of 2019, there was a recorded improvement in their gross

UGX 2,650,474 more income for the youth engaged agriculture in 2019
55% female youth beneficiaries

income, for the youths participating in coffee, beans and maize value chains. Their individual gross annual was 6,200,000 UGX in 2019 compared to UGX 3,549,526 that was earned in 2018. This actually means that the youth were starting to enjoy economic benefits due to continued mentoring and support in identifying and taking advantage of opportunities along the key value chains of focus. It's also an indication that if youth are well guided, mentored and facilitated, agriculture can be a key source of income, employment and sustainable livelihood growth for the youth.

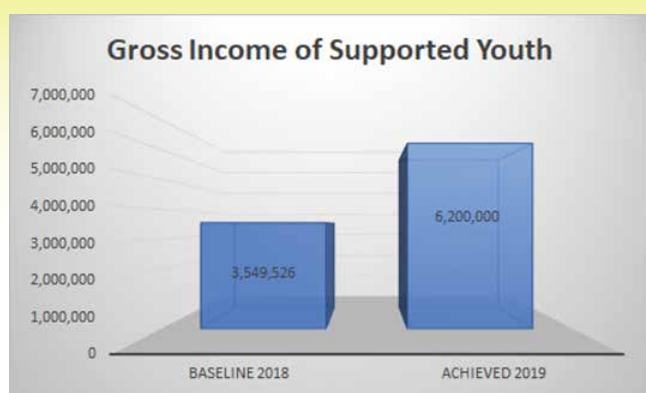


Figure 2: Supported youth income

JESE remains committed to engaging the youth in gainful employment activities, including increasing their participation and investment in innovations for product value addition that will generate them more income in Maize, Beans and Coffee value chains.

Improving Farm Resilience-through the implementation of sustainable agro-ecology practices



Photo 1: Women in Butunduzi display products from Green Entrepreneurship - looking on the right is Hon. Aston Kajara, and Hon. Spelanza Muhenda

Despite agriculture contributing about 25% of Uganda's Gross Domestic Product, whereby smallholder farmers contribute about 80% of agricultural output, the sector remains sluggish. In 2019, JESE continued to support farmers to increase their farm resilience and productivity. JESE has adopted agro-ecology as its main approach to improve farm resilience and productivity and Integrated Farm Planning as a strategy to operationalise agro-ecology at the level of the

farms. In this reporting period, 7,996 farmers were trained on agro-ecology and integrated farm planning. These also took part in exchange learning visits to areas where they could learn, reflect and get inspired to undertake agro-ecology practices on their individual farms. The household assessments conducted in January 2019 indicated that the average farm resilience score of the target farmers had increased among all the target farmers in terms of production volumes, sales, resilience score, average external linkages and application of good agronomic and post-harvest handling practices as shown in the table below. This meant that the activities of JESE had had a positive impact on family farmers who were now adapting to ecologically sustainable methods of farming and their farms were becoming more resilient and productive.

Indicators of Resilience and productivity of family farms in target areas of Kamwenge and Kyenjojo	Baseline value 2017	Realized end of 2017	Realized end of 2018	Target end 2019	Realized end of 2019
a. Production volume of selected value chains					
Coffee (kg dry)	216	389	214	400	557
Maize (kg)	1,332	1,622	1,454	1,700	1,696
Beans (kg)	256	164	197	332	261
Total kg	1,101	1,726	1,501	1,856	1,930
b. Sales of selected value chains (UGX per year, all crops together)	1,902,232	3,047,259	2,314,498	3,047,259	5,342,641
c. Average Farm resilience score in the selected value chains (out of 400)	159	223	233	240	253
d. Average External Linkage and Learning score (out of 100)	47	45	55	58	66
e. Average application rate Good Agriculture and Post-Harvest practices (%)	43%	49%	53%	60%	62%

Table 1: Farm resilience as Adopted from Sustainable Family Farming Development Program at JESE

In the assessment, more farmers were found practicing mixed cropping on their farms. They were practicing crop rotation and had diversified cultivation practices that improve land quality. Some had planted nitrogen fixing crops and trees as well as using natural fertilisers to improve crop nutrition and plant health. However, low integration of perennial crops and limited diversified soil feeding technologies remained a challenge. These achievements and efforts have a direct positive impact of contributing towards SDGs 13 and 15 on combating adverse effects of climate change; and helping to protect the environment, respectively. Supporting towards SDG 2 on attaining zero hunger is equally targeted as more elaborately shown in the achievements on food security.

Improving Household Food and Nutrition Security

As noted above, in 2019, JESE supported 7,996 households

7996 Households supported
96% Households growing fruit trees and vegetables for their families
80% Households are food secure
9% increment in Food Security in 2019

in Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo and Kamwenge districts. The support included, among others, the implementation of food security and nutritional plans aimed at increasing food production, food management, and intake and storage practices. The support facilitated the establishment of 45 vegetable nurseries of cabbages, egg plants, green pepper and carrots. The vegetables were adopted into the beneficiaries’ Kitchen Gardens. This was in addition to the technical guidance on the establishment and management of vegetable nurseries, kitchen gardens, nutritional food practices, food preparation practices, feeding of infants and breastfeeding mothers.

Figure 3 above shows the upward shift between 2017 and 2019 as shown in the table below

Indicators of Improved food management and nutritional practices at household level	Baseline value 2017	Realized end of 2017	Realized end of 2018	Target end 2019	Realized end of 2019	

a. % of households Food Secure and Mildly Food Insecure	35%	57%	71%	80%	80%	
b. % of households that have an appropriate food store	47%	77%	89%	95%	95%	
Vegetables Consumed from the kitchen garden						
Green leafy vegetables	Egg plants	Tomatoes	Onions	Cabbage	Herbs & Spices	Other
79%	76%	14%	5%	51%	18%	31%

Table 2: Household Nutrition levels

As indicated above, an annual household assessment conducted in January 2020 established that 80% of the targeted households were food secure registering a 9% increment when compared with achievement of 2018. The improvement in food security was attributed to continued good weather that led to food booms over the previous 4 seasons.

At the level of nutrition, as indicated in the table above, 96% of the households had integrated growing of fruit trees on their farms and all the households were growing and consuming vegetables and the majority had adopted Kitchen Gardening. Additionally, 95% of the sampled households had appropriate and functional food stores.

These gains at the level of food security are important because household prosperity is closely linked to its ability to access sufficient food and other nutritional requirements necessary to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Income enhancement through Village Savings and Loan Associations.

As a contribution to sustained economic growth and employment (SDG 8), JESE carried out actions that empowered women and the youth in these intervention areas.

In 2019, JESE continued to support Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) in Kyenjojo, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa. We provided training and mentoring support to 155 VSLAs in order to improve their saving schemes. By the close of this reporting period, these groups, including those in Kyaka II refugee settlement, had saved a total

of UGX 415,438,900 with the biggest individual group saving UGX 23,000,000. A total of UGX 365, 659,420 had been given out as loans to support members’ micro businesses and household development plans. However, savings for refugee communities remained very low because they lacked sufficient economic activities from which money could be generated. Figures 4 show this disparity between nationals and refugees in terms of their savings. Most important, though, is the fact that these savings were by majority women (70%) saving up to invest in their business plans and household assets. These savings were expected to boost their income status and reduce income poverty among women and youth.



Photo 2: Women saving scheme in Butunduzi meeting

VSLA LOAN PORTFOLIO 2019



Figure 4: Savings by Nationals Vs Refugees

Gender Equality Awareness among Men



“My name is Amutuhair Grace, 32 years. For the last 10 years I have been married, I had never sat down with my husband and our 12-year-old son to plan on how to use our 2-acre piece of land. My husband has been the sole decision maker on what to do on this land. I remember in 2017, I was given 50 Robusta coffee seedlings by NAADS/OWC, but my husband denied me the opportunity to plant them because he had his plan for the land.

In November 2019, Mr Byabagambi Christopher a Community-Based Trainer (CBT) from JESE during a Sensitisation meeting taught us on how to maximise output per unit area on small plots of land, through proper planning of the land and encouraged us to have household land use plans. We liked the idea very much and we invited Byabagambi to our home to support us to plan our land. I, my husband and our 3 children all participated. I am very glad to see my own desires of planting cash crops come true with my husband supporting.”

Ms. Amutuhair Grace.

In order to address gender gaps and inequalities (SDG 5), JESE embarked on involving men in the tasks hitherto labelled for the females. This had positive outcomes as reported in the following subsections.

1,080 Men participated in Gender equality awareness

JESE considers gender equality as a fundamental requirement for social justice and poverty reduction efforts. Experience in JESE’s work has demonstrated that achieving real and lasting progress towards gender equality requires proactive engagement of; men and boys alongside work with women and girls. Recognizing that men play an important role in ending gender-based violence (GBV) and promoting gender equality, JESE, with support from CARE Uganda, started a pilot initiative with the male engagement approach in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa districts.

This new strategy of working closely with male members of the community is set out to promote women empowerment and contribute to ending GBV. Engaging men and boys in a systematic empowerment process helps mobilise them to understand and support concepts of positive masculinity and gender equality. Overtime, JESE has been developing a clearer understanding of how to challenge social norms that perpetuate gender-based violence and hamper gender equality.



The case of Role Model Men (RMM) in demystifying the role of Men and Women in Society.

Photo: Men taking part in the Men –in-the Kitchen Campaign in Kyenjojo District. This campaign, is used to demystify some of the gender roles and encouraging men to support their wives with some of the household chores.

To further the aims of the aforementioned male engagement, JESE, in partnership with CARE Uganda, trained 54 Role Model Men (RMM) in gender roles in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa districts. All the 54 RMM 54 formed Men Action Groups (MAGs) composed of 1,080 members (Men). The Male Action Groups undertook Sensitisation and particularly delivered messages on gender barriers, violence prevention, environmental protection and barriers to good nutrition at household level.

Men-in-the-Kitchen Campaign



In addition to the implementation of the Role Model Men Concept, another concept, the Men-in-the-Kitchen Campaign was also implemented in the reporting period. This initiative under the She- Feeds programme at JESE seeks to promote gender equality and addresses violence against women and girls by increasing men's participation in domestic activities. The campaign combined dialogue and reflection on gender, nutrition, education, agro-processing and preparation of nutritious foods. In addition, the Men in the Kitchen campaign conducted educational outreach activities in public places and trading centres in the district of Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo. At all these events, Role Model Men took part in the cooking activities as well as serving food to participants at their activities. These activities triggered curiosity among the community members elevating the event into a community education on gender and nutrition. To keep the campaign engaging, community members initiated drama activities on gender and nutrition to entertain and educate the local population. In this reporting period, 1,600 men were mobilised and took part in these gender awareness activities in the districts of Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa. During JESE Monitoring activities, women reported behavioural change among the men who participated in these campaigns. They (men) were reported to have started supporting women (their wives) to ensure equal sharing of domestic chores.

Evidence Generation through Participatory Action Research (PAR) PAR Plots



As part of understanding the challenges for economic

Early PAR Results indicate that,
 - **LONGE 10H, 9H and Bazooka Maize and**
 - **NARO 1 and 2 and NABE 15 Bean Varieties might be favorable in Kabambiro**

empowerment through agriculture, JESE generates evidence through PAR; and in addition, acts on the findings from this process. In 2019, JESE promoted PAR processes among Mpanga Super Farmers in Kabambiro Sub-county, Kamwenge District. The adoption of PAR was based on the shortfalls of conventional/standard agricultural research which does not always address the real-world complexity of agriculture and livelihoods.

Smallholder farmers in the Rwenzori region, and Uganda as a whole, face high levels of environmental uncertainty, a rapidly changing context due to globalisation and market fluctuations. PAR is an alternative to a classical, reductionist model. It is an effort to improve the relevance of research for smallholder farmers given their diverse agro-ecological and socioeconomic conditions. The PAR process created a platform for the farmers, project team and other stakeholders such as Rwebitaba Zonal Agricultural Research Institute to act together and co-learn in order to alternatively address the complex challenges faced by smallholders.

The main focus of the PAR process in Kabambiro is to find solutions to 2 challenges:

- why beans wilt immediately after germination; and
- What varieties of maize are best suited for Kabambiro?

So far, about 520 trial and demonstration plots have been established for the purpose of this research. Documentation of data and information is ongoing with full participation of the farmer research teams. The process is being technically supported by Rwebitaba Zonal Agricultural Research Institute and their main role has been to support the research design and data collection. To date, the farmers have already identified bean varieties such as NARO Bean 1 and 2 and NABE 15 as suitable for the area. For maize, the farmers

are already excited about the performance of LONGE 10H, 9H and Bazooka. However, these are from the preliminary results and yet to be subjected to further tests before they are adopted. However, these seem like positive results in the right direction for the farmers.





Spotlight II: Natural Resource Management and Governance



"Since our association was formed, we have teamed up to protect the environment and we have been carrying out sensitisation meetings asking people to stop degrading the environment and we have also established a savings association where we also save money and led amongst members".

Janet Kabajulizi a resident of Matiri in Kihura Sub-county

Introduction

As mentioned in the foregoing section and the overall focus areas, JESE aims to impact natural resources management as well as resilience and adaptation of communities to effects of climate change – in tandem with SDGs 13 and 15 as well as the goals of the NDP such as combating the destruction of the forest cover from 4.9 million hectares in 2003 down to 3.6 million hectares in 2013 – and most probably less for the reporting period.

It is in this vein that the Natural Resource (NR) Department is currently implementing 3 projects. These include:

- Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), funded by Protos-Join for Water; Strengthening Resilience and Inclusive
- Governance, funded by CARE International in Uganda; and

- An agroforestry project, funded by Forest of the World.

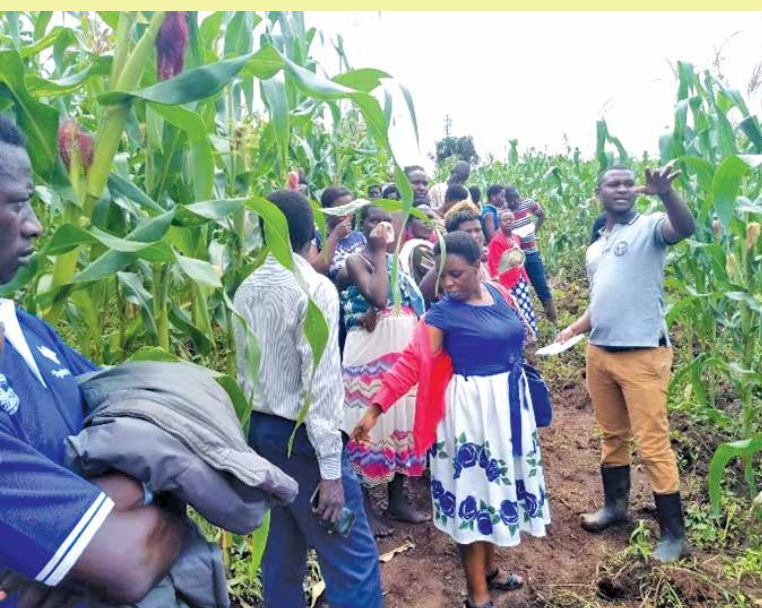
Here below we highlight some of the results that came through the implementation of these projects in 2019. Climate Change Adaptation – Smart Responses



"We have been able to fight against the depletion of Matiri Central Forest Reserve by engaging in activities that preserve the environment like using waste materials to make charcoal and planting indigenous trees".

Martha Kabazora resident of Matiri in Kihura Sub-county

In 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that, unless there is global action on climate change, there will be a continuous rise in temperatures of up 2 degrees centigrade in the next 25 years. To this end, global leaders led by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres at the UN assembly in September 2019 appealed for global action to combat climate change.



Members of the FFBs learning together about climate smart practices in Maize production.

In an effort to respond to climate change effects, JESE trained 12 Farmer Field-Business (FFB) schools in various Climate Smart Agriculture practices including kitchen gardens and basin farming in Kyegegwa and Kyaka II refugee settlements. Both Kitchen Garden and Basin Farming enable the farmer to produce with minimum resources such as land and water. In the context of climate smart, the aim here is to maximise production and productivity amidst minimum resources.

These practices benefited over 500 farmers in the Kyegegwa and Kyaka II Refugee settlement scheme.

Table 2: Responding to climate change

Activity	Location	Number of beneficiaries
Training in agriculture practices	Kyegegwa and Kyaka II	12 schools (3960 Pupils) and 500 farmers

Restoration of Degraded Natural Resources (Wetlands and Forests)



“We have benefited a lot from the central reserve by setting up beehives where we harvest honey which we sell and get money. Am encouraging all the people who are still engaged in the illegal charcoal burning to stop the act and join us to protect the trees”.

Mary Kobusinge a resident of Matiri in Kihura Sub-county

Recent studies conducted in Uganda indicate a growing trend in degradation of natural resources particularly Forests and Wetlands.

**Over 25,000 Tree seedlings planted in Kamwenge
6 Tree nursery beds with 150,000 seedling capacity established
14km of Kakoni wetland demarcated in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement**

Accordingly, the Ministry of Water and Environment estimates that the country has been losing on average 122,000 ha/year of forest every year from 1990-2015 with the greatest loss in the country estimated at 250,000 ha of forests per year between 2010 and 2015 (MWE 2016). Notably, Uganda’s forest cover reduced from 4.9 million hectares in 1990 to 1.8 million hectares in 2015 translating into a loss of 3.1 million hectares in 25 years (MWE, 2016).

Similarly, wetland cover declined from 13% to 8% in 2019. In both cases, the trends are worrying and demand quicker action by government and non-state actors like JESE.

In 2019, 6 tree nursery beds with a seedling capacity of 150,000 were established in Nyakeera, Mahyoro Sub-county and Nyakacwamba in Ntara Sub-county, Kitagwenda district. Of the 6 nurseries, 2 were agroforestry nurseries that were established with the funding support of Forests of the World in Matiri and Kigoyera in Kyenjojo District. The nurseries are the source for seedling supply for households in these villages bordering River Mpanga that is under threat from anthropogenic activities like cut and burn farming. This intervention was building on the over 20,000 seedlings that were distributed and planted in 2018 that had a 90% survival rate in 2019.

In Kyaka II, 25,000 seedlings of various tree species including, but not limited to; Grevelia, Meopsis/ Musizi were planted and 14 Square Kilometers of wetland was demarcated to prevent further wetland encroachment by refugees in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement – see Table 3. Prior to wetland demarcation, JESE together with the OPM and UNHCR, and Community -Based Monitors had participated in joint assessment of the degraded Kakoni Wetland and agreeing on the demarcation of the wetland as an action to deter any further encroachment.

This demarcation of the wetland was the first of its kind in Kyegegwa district and is expected to serve as an example for both government and non-state actors interested in wetland conservation. While the attention for wetland demarcation took place in the Refugee settlement because of the alarming rates of wetland degradation, similar actions will be expected in other wetlands like Kyerenga which is also severely degraded as a result of agricultural activities. The wetland demarcation activity in Kyaka II was the major highlight activity by OPM featuring on UBC TV for 1 week during the world refugee day in 2019.



Tree Seedlings planted in 2019

Table 3: Efforts to restore forests

Number of nurseries	Seedling capacity	Seedlings planted	Survival rate	Wetland area demarcated
6	120000	25000	90% of all seedlings planted.	14 km2-Kyaka II Refugees Settlement



Photo 5: One of the tree seedlings, Cordia Africana, planted at Nyakeera Landing Site from the tree nurseries that were established during this reporting period



Photo 6: JESE and FoW staff discussing with farmers on the implementation of agroforestry models in Mukonomura-Matiri elephant corridor

In Kyenjojo District, the department of Natural Resources at JESE provided capacity building sessions to Matiri Natural Resource Users and Income Association (MANRUIA) to improve the quality of their crafts. The association derives most of their materials for the weaving from Matiri Central Forest Reserve. It is anticipated that with more skills, the quality of their crafts will not only improve but also attract more market and increased incomes and thus reducing the pressure on forest trees that members depend on for timber and charcoal.



Photo 7: Some of the products made by MANRUIA after the training under the STRENGPO



Photo 8: JESE continued to support communities that were directly dependent on natural resources especially Matiri Natural Resource Users Association



Photo 9: The camp commandant and UNCHR officials take part in the monitoring and assessment of wetland encroachment in Kyaka II refugee settlement



Photo 10: Demarcation of the Wetland in Kakoni



Photo 11: Farmers of Matiri on demo-sites taking measurements guided by one of the agroforestry models

Participatory Natural Resource Mapping and Community Action Planning

JESE conducted a participatory community action planning process in 10 hotspots (areas seriously degraded) in Agago, Kitagwenda, Kamwenge and Buliisa Districts where communities adjacent to wetlands and critical water catchments (Mpanga and Upper Lake Albert) were sensitised on the importance of maintaining and restoring degraded areas. As a result, the community, with the help of the district Community and Natural Resources Department, developed plans for protection and restoration of degraded water catchments. Some of the identified initiatives included; woodlots establishment for every adjacent household, support alternative livelihood activities and boundary demarcation.



JESE Staff- facilitating a participatory mapping activity.

Promotions of Energy saving Cook stoves



" These new stoves have been able to save on fuel wood used in cooking and I can also use the same pieces of wood to prepare different items at the same time. In addition, I now have extra time to do my other chores without worrying so much"

Margret Nankya- Nyakeera, Kitagwenda District

In advancement and contributing to SDG 9 on innovation and responsible consumption and Vision 2040 on promoting technologies, JESE in 2019 continued with the promotion of energy-saving technologies, particularly supporting households in Kamwenge to construct Lorena stoves. This undertaking is a move away from the traditional open air cooking that wastes away fuel wood and thus limiting the amount of fuel wood that is collected in the already degraded forests and wetlands.

During this reporting period, the JESE supported over 60 households in the Mpanga catchment- in Kamwenge and Kitagwenda district with energy saving stoves. This activity is was implemented in view of promoting mitigation against climatic Changes in the region. In so doing, communities adapt new technological innovations such as energy saving cook stoves as demonstrated below. During this activity, JESE contributed to resident skills by training local masons on how to construct the stoves so that they can continue offering the service in the community without JESE contributions.

“This new technology has improved my life. I train others in making energy saving cook stoves. When I make a stove, they pay me for the service I have rendered and the money is used to help my family”

Nicholas- JESE trained CBT in Nyakeera, Kitagwenda District.

Support to Households in Kitchen Gardening

Kitchen gardening is one of the most sought after smart farming practices in an effort to combat climate change challenges. JESE has over the years been supporting smallholder farmers to adapt this practice of farming using limited land size. In this reporting period, JESE continued to support and train households in Kamwenge, Kitagwenda, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa to adapt this method of farming.

In Nyakeera, Kabambiro and Nyakacwamba in Ntara-Kitagwenda District, in Kyaka II refugee settlement, and Kyenjojo Districts, over 140 households were trained in the establishment and management of Kitchen Gardens. These Kitchen gardens were meant to not only respond to climate change effects but also provide a regular supply of nutritious vegetables to refugees and mostly poor households. In the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement Scheme, 915 households adopted this rather amazing farming practice, out of which they got regular supply of vegetables for domestic consumption and for sale to supplement their incomes. As a result of this adoption, a vegetable market was also set up in Kakoni Zone in the settlement which is one of the operations sites for JESE interventions. This practice was also extended to the sub counties of; Kyarusenzi, Kihuura and Butunduzi in Kyenjojo District.

In Rugarama- Kabambiro, and Nyakacwamba-in Ntara, Kitchen Garden demonstrations targeted school children who were trained in vegetable production using eco-san manure. This was the first time that the eco-san manure was being applied on

the gardens and the results did show that actually the eco-san is beyond a sanitation tool but also source organic manure to the households. The decision to start the application of eco-san manure follows a scientific study facilitated by Protos-Join for water in 2019 which revealed that when the eco-san waste is left to decompose for a period of 8-12months, most of the dangerous pathogens like E Coli and is safe for use farms.



Photo 13: JESE staff showing women how to prepare a kitchen garden in Kyarusenzi



Photo 10: A demonstration site for climate smart agriculture (ridge growing of maize (FFBS) in Kyembogo Sub-county Kyenjojo supported by JESE

Fastening Natural Resources Governance

In the quest to implement SDG 15, where governance in the Natural Resources Sector, JESE focus in 2019 was on the formal and informal spaces established under the Ugandan laws- targeting the central, and lower Local Government structures as well as communities that have been organised to ensure that there is good management of Natural Resources in Uganda.

In Kyenjojo, JESE worked with Community Based Monitors (CBMs) who, by this reporting period, had generated 45 cases that were reported to local authorities, including the office of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC). The CBMs jointly conducted monitoring with the Inter-District Natural Resources Forum in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa and intervened in cases of wetland and forest degradation activities such as illegal logging, and charcoal burning in Matiri, Muhangi and Binunda Forest Reserves. As a result, the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament was petitioned by the Inter-District Forum on Natural Resources led by JESE over the rampant degradation.

At community level, MANRUIA, a resource user group in Kyenjojo, through Collaborative Forest Management (CFM), worked with local authorities such as the office of the RDC, NFA and the Local Government to get rid of illegal forest encroachers in Matiri Central Forest Reserve. In this reporting period, MANRUIA CFM and that of Kyegegwa with the technical support of JESE also lobbied and influenced a policy change by NFA, resulting into the establishment of monitoring and supervision offices within Matiri and Rwensambya Forest Reserves. This means that encroachers through Collaborative Forest Management with MANURIA and NFA will closely monitor the illegalities in these forest reserves.



Photo 15: September 2019 - Members of the Natural Resource Forum addressing leaders on matters of illegalities in forest and wetlands within the Muzizi River Range.





Spotlight III: Equitable Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

“Despite my old age and visual impairment, I feel honored and respected my society, I have become an example of good sanitation and hygiene and champion in my Village”

Paska Akongo

SDG 6 clearly highlights trends in access to water and the attendant specifics, namely sanitation and hygiene. Despite the progress made to date in the area of access to safe water, there still remains a significant gap to fill. Equally important is the adoption management measures of the available water sources to combat current scarcity that leads to climate change-related droughts.

During this reporting period, JESE aimed to improve accessibility to safe water and appropriate sanitation to 10,250 people and 2,500 pupils – across 3 primary schools and 32 villages. In 2019, we continued to promote affordable and environmental friendly technologies in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); including ecological sanitation, drainable Very Improved Pit (VIP) latrines, deep wells for communities and schools, rain water harvesting tanks for households and schools, promotion of water for production technologies as well as promoting business models in water and sanitation service provision.

Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water

In 2019, JESE continued to support universal access to safe drinking water as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). JESE supported 4 primary schools of Kiboota, Kaguma, Kabahango and Kiyombya in Kisomoro Sub-county, Bunyangabu District with 10 cubic metre rain water harvesting tanks in each school. This was done in close working relationship with the school

management authorities and Bunyangabu District local leaders who assisted to mobilise local material and financial contributions from communities around the schools. The construction of these tanks directly improved accessibility to safe drinking water to 2,780 pupils and 42 teachers.

To reduce pressure on school water sources by the community, JESE successfully mobilised communities around the beneficiary primary schools to renovate the broken down water sources. As a result, community members repaired 3 water sources in Kelezia Village (Kisomoro Sub-county) by use of funds they had contributed, thus increasing access to safe water to about 105 households.



Photo 16: A newly completed 10 cubic metre tank at Kabahango Primary School



Photo 13: A borehole in Kelezia Village

Promotion of Drinking Water Safety in Schools and Communities

JESE also worked to strengthen capacities of schools and targeted communities to ensure the safety of drinking water. The range of interventions included support for water safety planning, training in safe water chain management including treatment of water right from the water source to the point of consumption. Working with the Private Sector and area local leaders, JESE promoted household and institutional water treatment through promotion and marketing the use of ceramic water filters. A total of 14 water filters were supplied in 4 primary schools of kiboota, Kabahango, Kiyombya and Kaguma, this was followed by a public awareness and demonstration on the use of these filters. Additionally, during community open days/outreaches, school health club members promoted household level water treatment by demonstrating the use of ceramic water filters as well promoting other methods of water safety and treatment at household level, especially boiling and ensuring safe water chain management.

Accelerating Water Governance at the Grassroots level.

To enhance community-based management, JESE conducted refresher training for 8 water user committees in 3 villages of Klezia, Kabahango and Kiyombya. These committees were also trained in management and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of community water sources. They were also trained in VSLA (credit and savings scheme) as a mechanism for sustainability and supporting the Operation and Maintenance of these water sources – in addition to basic skills in WASH business models. JESE also facilitated the local leaders and WASH management structures to develop Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plans and initiate O&M funds for appropriate

management of water facilities. By this reporting period, 8 Water User Committees had embraced and started VSLA models within their respective user committees. In addition, JESE supported and strengthened the capacity of 3 water boards in Mahyoro, Nyabani and Kanaara in Kitagwenda district through renovation and furnishing of their offices, orientation training on their roles/functions, in addition the water boards were trained in information systems management and particularly on how to capture data and report about their activities.

Supporting Water for Production - Establishment of a Demo Drip Irrigation Facility at Nyakacwamba, Kitagwenda District

During this reporting period, a drip irrigation demonstration site was established at Nyankacwamba in Ntara Sub-county, Kitagwenda District. The irrigation demonstration located on 2 acres is expected to benefit over 24 households in the neighbourhood of Mpanga Falls. This facility is expected to tackle production challenges particularly during the dry seasons and in addition improve local community livelihood through vegetable production and reduce dependence on maize production which is increasingly responsible for depleting natural resources within the Mpanga River Catchment.



Photo 18: Installation of the drip irrigation system at Nyakacwamba in Kitagwenda District

Promoting School Sanitation and Hygiene

JESE has continued to engage with her development partners, namely, Waterloo Foundation, Protos-Join for Water and Simavi to improve sanitation in primary schools. In this reporting period, JESE supported four primary schools of; Kaguma, Kabahango, Kiyombya and Kiboota – all in Kisomoro Sub-county, Bunyangabu District – with gender separated latrine blocks. A total of 8 latrine blocks (2 blocks in each school) were constructed. As a result, in Kabahango, the pupil stance ratio improved to 36:1 from 58:1 in 2018 for boys; and from 78:1 2018 to 38:1, for girls in 2018. In Kiyombya Primary School, the pupil stance ratio for girls improved from 71:1 in 2018 to 43:1 in 2019; and for boys from 82:1 in 2018 to 45:1 in 2019. At Kiboota Primary School, the pupil stance ratio for boys improved from 77:1 in 2018 to 40:1 in 2019; and for girls, from 78:1 in 2018 to 41:1 in 2019.

The construction of the sanitation facilities improved the health, privacy and dignity of 2,780 children in these schools. It is anticipated that these results will no doubt contribute to improved performance of girls in academic and co-curricular school activities. JESE also constructed 8 hand washing stations for each of the latrine blocks constructed to promote hand washing with soap after latrine use.



Photo 20: Pupils of Kiboota Primary School demonstrating hand washing with soap

Accelerating Latrine Coverage through CLTS Methodology and clustering of households

“At the beginning of 2019, Kokil village in Agago District was in a sorry state. Over 105 households of this village did have not any latrine and people were defecating in the open and there were incidences of diarrhoea and typhoid.

Today, after JESE intervention 49 households have constructed pit latrines and 33 other households have improved their sanitation standards to acceptable levels. In November 2019, Kokil village was declared open defecation free and the health situation of the village improved greatly.

These results have strongly been attributed to the WASH SDG program that empowered the community through the clustering approach to improve their hygiene and sanitation”

Paska Akongo, cluster head, Kokil West Village



Photo 19: JESE staff and Agago District water officials demonstrating hand washing with soap during Global Hand washing Day in Agago.



SDG 6 highlights worrying trends as of 2017 where only 60% of the population worldwide and 38% in the least developed countries – where Uganda falls – had access to hand washing with soap and water at home. This translates into 3 billion people without access worldwide.

In an effort to contribute to the alleviation of this global trend, JESE conducted Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) triggering sessions while incorporating other approaches such as PHASE, Participatory Health and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and exemplary leadership in 35 villages in Agago District and 8 villages in Bunyangabu District. Through the household clustering approach, households living in the same proximity with the same social economic status were clustered together and with the help of their cluster leaders, are currently monitoring and improving each other's sanitation standards.

As a result of these triggering sessions and clustering of villages into clusters, there was increased latrine coverage (both access for the first time and latrine improvement) in these villages. On average, latrine coverage in the triggered villages of Agago moved from 38% in 2018 to 63% in 2019. In Bunyangabu District, out of the triggered 8 villages, 3 villages of Kelezia, Kabahango and Kabunono obtained ODF certification by the district health department.

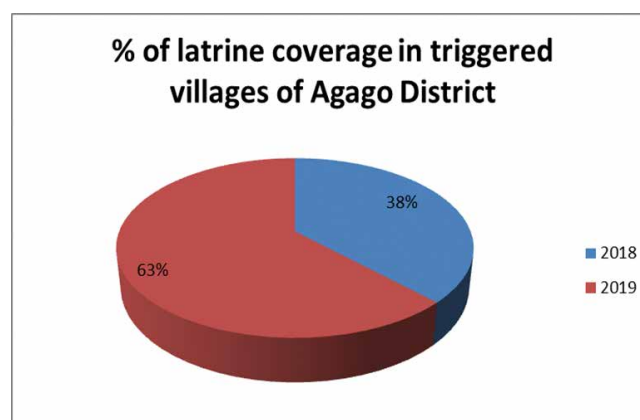


Figure 6: Representative latrine coverage in Agago District

Other basic hygiene behaviours such as hand washing with soap, safe drinking water, personal and environmental hygiene have been adopted.

The CLTs methodology encouraged joint community effort in up-scaling sanitation and hygiene promotion in triggered villages. The approach enhanced adequate knowledge, active community participation and ownership which are all key to sustaining good WASH behaviours.

In 2019, records from VHT coordinators and cluster heads, indicated significant increase in construction of new household latrines in both Agago and Bunyangabu districts. A total of 259 new latrines were constructed in the villages of Kisomoro, Bugogo, Kabunono, Lyamabwa, Busiita and Nsagasa – in Bunyangabu; while in Agago District, 155 new latrines were constructed as a result of awareness creation and CLTS triggering. Additionally, 155 households improved their latrine facilities to acceptable standards.

Improving Sanitation at Landing Sites in Kitagwenda

“Before building my Eco-san, I used to have an ordinary pit latrine which had logs placed over a pit and with walls made of reeds and mud” This kind of latrine never used to last beyond 6 months due to the high water table and unstable soils. In addition, construction materials are scarce and are often destroyed by termites. I was so fed up with spending money for hiring casual labourers to dig new pit latrines for my home every after six (6) months. Now I am sensitized that, pit latrines contaminate ground water which increase the spread of diseases. Ever since I acquired the knowledge on the Eco-san toilet, my sanitation situation has improved a lot. I am very grateful to JESE and Protos- Join for water for the introduction of eco-san technology in our area, I no longer have to face the dangers of using a latrine which can collapse any time.”

Mr. Ategeka Jackson, a proud owner of an eco-san said.

The Eco-san technology compared to pit latrines has proven ideal at landing sites, water logged areas, areas with rocky soil and with unstable soil profiles. On the one hand, eco-san toilets are a solution to the use of pit latrines. The later contaminate ground water aquifers. Reports from beneficiaries have revealed that, eco-san toilets have since improved domestic hygiene through the reduction of flies and foul smell.

During this reporting period, JESE continued to provide sanitation infrastructure in the districts of Kitagwenda and Kamwenge. Thirty Eco-sans in Nyakeera, Kabambiro and Nyakacwamba villages in Ntara Sub-county were constructed using Interlocking Stabilised Soil Blocks (ISSBs). These Eco-sans improved sanitation for over 180 household members.



Photo 21: One of the eco-san constructed using ISSBs made by the project in Nyakeera



Photo 22: Shade for fishing community at Nyakeera renovated by the project



Fast Tracking Sustainability of Sanitation infrastructure in Schools

*“The enrolment to the school has increased from **587** pupils before the project to **925** pupils in **2019**. We have also recorded improved mean score since the students are now able to concentrate more on education and worry less about water. Girls’ enrolment has increased from **423** at the beginning of the project to **519** as at December **2019**. This is attributed to good latrines, washrooms for girls and MHM trainings that has empowered our girls to manage the situation effectively and keep in school. We want to thank JESE and Simavi for their involvement in transforming Kiyombya Primary School to be a more conducive learning institution”.*

Mr. Clovis Katerega, head teacher, Kiyombya primary school

During this reporting period, JESE conducted Cost Recovery Planning (CRP) and Risk Assessment (RA) training sessions in 10 government-aided primary schools¹ in Agago District and 2 primary schools² in Bunyangabu District. CRP is a process where stakeholders take part in analysing the Operation and Maintenance costs of a WASH investment as well as potential incomes to meet those costs.

All the 12 primary schools that were supported in 2019 in Agago and Bunyangabu developed their CRP and RA plans highlighting several sources of revenue, including formation of savings and loans groups, establishment of school gardens for commercial agriculture, handcrafts and community fundraising drives. Similar intervention efforts were implemented in Bunyangabu District and the CRP has been integrated in the work plans of the District. By this reporting period, there were indications that the District of Bunyangabu intended to support WASH fundraising drives in the schools.

In 2020, JESE will continue to follow up on the progress in the implementation of the CRP plans.

Further, JESE formed and trained 14 school health clubs from 14 primary schools – 4³ primary schools from Bunyangabu District and 10 primary schools from Agago District under the Wash Alliance International (WAI-SDG) programme. A total of 8 sanitation teachers and 8 child health clubs were formed and trained in child friendly Hygiene and Sanitation promotion. JESE also continued to support young menstruating girls in the making and use of Reusable Menstrual Pads (RUMPS) to improve their hygiene. Four health clubs from 4 primary schools in Bunyangabu were trained in the making of RUMPS using locally available cloth materials.

To improve the management of sanitation and hygiene facilities, JESE trained and improved the competence levels of children, teachers, and members of the School Management Committees/ Parents Teachers associations (SMC/PTA) in school level hygiene and sanitation promotion as well as the Participatory Health and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) tools of faecal-oral route.



¹ Ajali Anyena, Kubwor, Patongo Akwee, Ngora, St.Charles Anywang, Lira Palwo, Obolokome, Toroma, Wol and Wang Lobo.

² Kabahango and Kiyombya.

³ Kiyombya, Kiboota, Kabahango and Kaguma.

⁴ Ajali, Wol, Kalongo, Patongo, Kokil, Kubwor, Ngora, Odokomit, Olupe and Toroma.

Invigorating WASH Advocacy

In 2019, JESE conducted 8 community dialogues on inclusive WASH services in Agago District. The dialogues were conducted using a community score card process in 8⁵ communities. Community members interfaced with their leaders/ service providers and rated their performance in the delivery of WASH services. Critical issues raised, including equity in service provision, social inclusive WASH designs, systems functionality, availability and costs of WASH services, among others, were noted as key areas of advocacy at district and national levels.

In addition, radio programmes and radio spot messages were run on the local FM station in Agago to promote desirable health and sanitation practices and standards. JESE also used the talk shows and spot messages as platforms to advocate increased investment in WASH service provision and follow-up on community actions. In 2020, JESE commits to continue working on these issues with other WAI members and ensure they are addressed.



Photo 23: Team leader, Albert water management zone participating in one of the radio talk shows

⁵ Lira Palwo, Lira Kato, Kalongo TC, Patongo TC, Omot S/C, Arum S/C, Kotomol S/C and Paimol

Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender

Women and the youth are at the centre of our work. The majority of beneficiaries belong to women and youth groups and community organisations. For example, in VSLAs, CFMs and CBMs, 70% and 30% members are women and/or youth respectively. Further, for instance, out of the 2303 members in VSLAs, 730 are youths and 1169 are women – see Figure 7. In this reporting period, 604 women and youth have directly benefited from learning and sharing of agronomic practices that are climate change friendly through FFBs of maize and beans demonstration sites in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa districts.

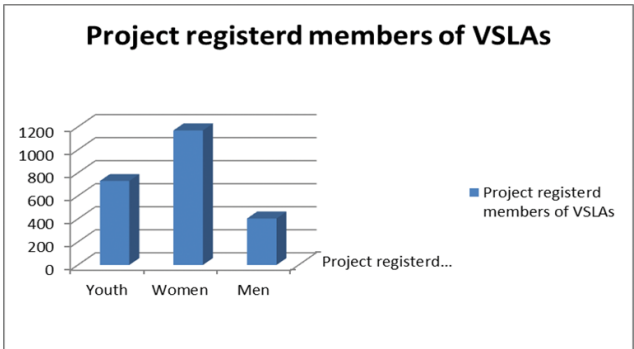


Figure 7: Gender participation in VSLAs

Youth - Youth employability through green jobs and Green skills development

- 32 youth trained in solar installation and repairs,
- 116 youth trained as tour guides/operators,
- 29 youth trained in Vegetable growing
- 76 youth trained in Juice processing,
- 25 youth trained in mobile phone repairs
- 30 youths gained skills in beekeeping and processing

Uganda has the second youngest population in the world with a median age of around 16 years, yet many of this young population remains unemployed. The ILO in 2019 estimated Youth unemployment rates in Uganda at 2.7%. It's from this background that JESE, in partnership with Welthunger Hilfe in 2019 embarked on a long journey of establishing the Green Colleges

Initiative, to increase the employability of the youth by tapping into opportunities in the green economy. The initiative is targeting to reach to over 1500 youths over a 3 year period, and is interesting the youth in; solar installation and repairs, Phone repairs, tourism, and agriculture. This initiative, largely seeks to reduce carbon emissions through the capture of young people into cleaner production jobs, processes and activities- whence accelerating their employability and improving their income levels.

In 2019, the Green Colleges Initiative (GCI) at JESE targeted reaching 750 youth in Kabarole district in the sub counties of Karangura, Kicwamba, Kasenda, Karambi, East Division, West Division and South Division. JESE conducted awareness creation on green trades and green ecology, business idea generation, career guidance and mentoring. Overall, 315 (54 females and 46% males) youth received technical and life skills training in 6 green trades of solar installation and repairs, Tour guiding and travel, Vegetable growing, Juice processing, Mobile phone repairs and Beekeeping and honey processing.



Youth training in phone repairs at divine empowerment development skills (DEDS)



Youth training in phone repairs at divine empowerment development skills (DEDS) Youth trainees undergoing a technical training in solar installation at Universal institute of research (IRU)



Bee keeping and processing trainees at Bunyangabu Bee Keepers Association



Tour guides in a skills training session at Kihingami training institute

Environmental Friendly Technologies

There is continuous promotion of environmental friendly technologies in WASH; including ecological sanitation, latrines, community and school wells, rain water harvesting for households and schools, water for production technologies and business models in the same sector.

Households have been sensitised on energy saving stoves. As aforementioned, JESE has contributed to skill beneficiaries by way of training masons on how to construct energy saving stoves so that they can continue offering the service in the community without JESE contributions, thus making the endeavour sustainable. The stoves have resulted in saving on fuel wood used in the cooking; and women save time to attend to other activities including attending social events.

Adaptation of Interlocking Soil Stabilised Bricks (ISSBs)-technology

JESE has promoted the use and production of over 15,000 ISSBs. This reduces the strain on the use of other materials such as cement and firewood. These ISSBs produced were used in the construction of over 30 eco-sans in Kitagwenda District that consumed over 21,000 bricks. The use of these bricks did not involve the use of fuel wood - which is normally the case with the use of regular bricks. This project is, therefore, contributing to restoration of forests and degraded areas.

Institutional Capacity-Building and Partnerships

In this reporting period, a number of institutional capacity-building partnership milestones were achieved.

Protos-Join for water facilitated the training of JESE staff in participatory resource mapping. This built the capacity of staff, and later applied it to the field.

JESE continued to work with other partners, including government and the private sector. For example in 2019, JESE entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the

Buliisa District local government to implement development programmes in the district, including Integrated Water Resources Management.



IWRM Project Launch in Buliisa District.

JESE worked with local government authorities, government agencies such as NFA and CBMs and this enabled tackle wetland and forest degradation activities, among others, illegal logging and charcoal burning – leading to petitioning Parliament of Uganda.

Lessons Learnt

- There are so many issues emerging out of the interventions, and some are advocacy in nature - including rampant illegalities in forests and wetlands but were not planned for. They indicate the natural demand for more fundraising efforts by JESE. Otherwise, as it is now, the available financial envelope can only deliver only milestones that were agreed upon with a particular donor. On the one hand, such a need calls for flexibility on the part of the donors in order to address the emerging issues but yet linked to existing programmes.
- Household planning involving men and women plus our new approach of RMM has greatly enhanced collective ownership and adaptation of household-level livelihood interventions; facilitated joint planning; and largely prevented conflicts and domestic violence.

- Working in the refugee context calls for a lot of emergency planning and alertness. Given the frequent arrivals of new refugees, they must be oriented on the conservation culture and on conservation laws and policies of Uganda. This actually means that it cannot be part time work but requires regular presence of project staff and activities.
- Adaptation and resilience practices to climate change are more sustained when there is social and economic security in the area. This is the case for the refugees and the host communities.
- Making strategic partnerships and alliances with other partners for the case of the refugee context greatly enhanced project coordination and resources mobilisation for JESE restoration activities in Kyaka II Refugee settlement. These strategic partnerships were with UNHCR, and OPM
- The integration of different stakeholders (opinion leaders, WASH/sanitation committees, local government technical staff and elected leaders) are useful in project implementation and strategic in drawing up sustainable actions.
- Cross fertilisation/synergy building among project staff harnesses the skills and abilities in the implementation of project activities.
- Combining IWRM and WASH technologies is key to realising project impact at the household level across the intervention area. For sanitation demand creation, CLTs alone cannot lead to total sanitation. There is a need to integrate other approaches such as sanitation marketing, enforcement, household clustering, and use of opinion/religious leaders and pressure groups, as it is very common in Northern Uganda and to encourage others to change. Although the sequence of methods may not be important, starting with a transect walk often works well. Constant and sustained follow-up sessions are important to encourage people to establish appropriate sanitation standards.

Key Challenges

- Development versus humanitarian nexus
 - This comes with emergency response and planning which sometimes disrupts implementation of scheduled activities for other areas that are not part of the settlement. Often, there are new refugees arriving, implying that the sensitisation on the environment is continuous and yet resources don't allow.
- Climate change effects negatively impacted on activity and project implementation. For example, prolonged droughts and intermittent rains in the first season of 2019 delayed the implementation of Kitchen Gardening and tree planting activities.
- Continued encroachment on natural resources and threats from illegalities in the Central Forest Reserves in Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa remain a serious challenge. This is posing a risk to members of CFM groups, some of whom have previously been hurt by those involved in the illegal activities.
- There is a need for strengthening models such as VSLA and cost recovery as an avenue to raise funds for O&M of WASH installations. There is limited involvement of the local government in monitoring and follow-up of implemented activities and established facilities and structures.
- There is a low adoption rate of appropriate Hygiene and Sanitation practices among the beneficiary households. In Agago District, in particular, floods keep washing away latrines that the project has facilitated to establish. The adoption of appropriate sanitation technologies such as eco-san, flush toilets, etc. is very low because of poor local economies in the areas of operation (Kamwenge, Buliisa, Kitagwenda, Kabarole, Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo). In 2020, JESE shall

continue to engage with relevant district authorities and Private sector stakeholders to increasingly get involved in rebuilding the local economies and in the long run hope for adoption of Intervention such as eco-sans and supporting the Operation and Maintenance of WASH infrastructure.



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Mr. Mubiru Vincent
General Secretary

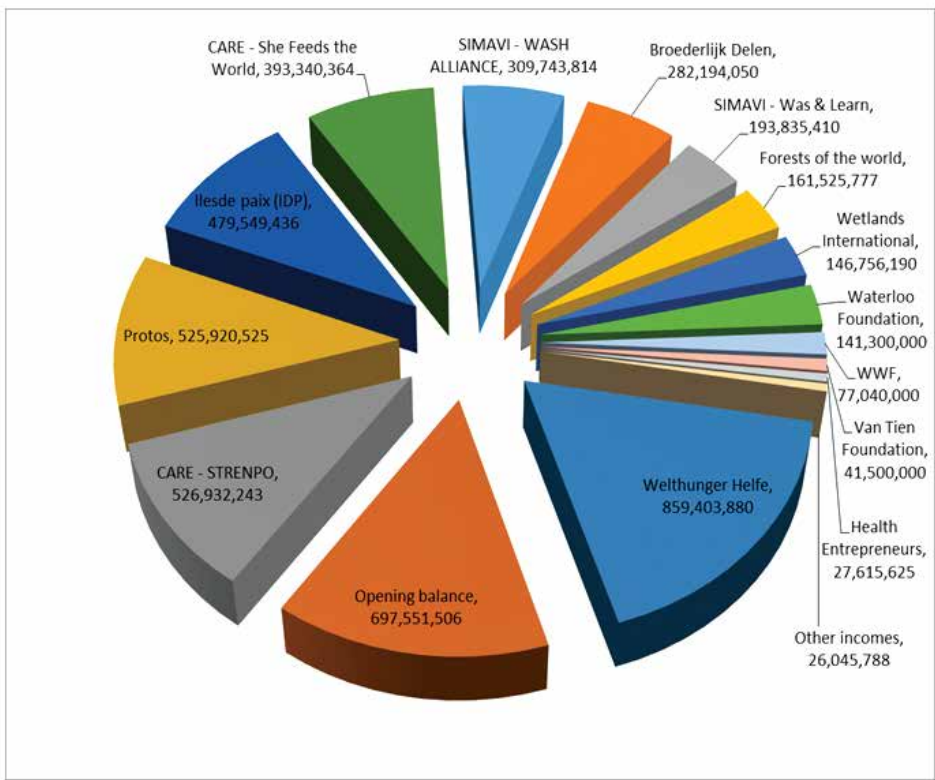


Ms. Bajenja Ellen
Vice Chairperson

FINANCES

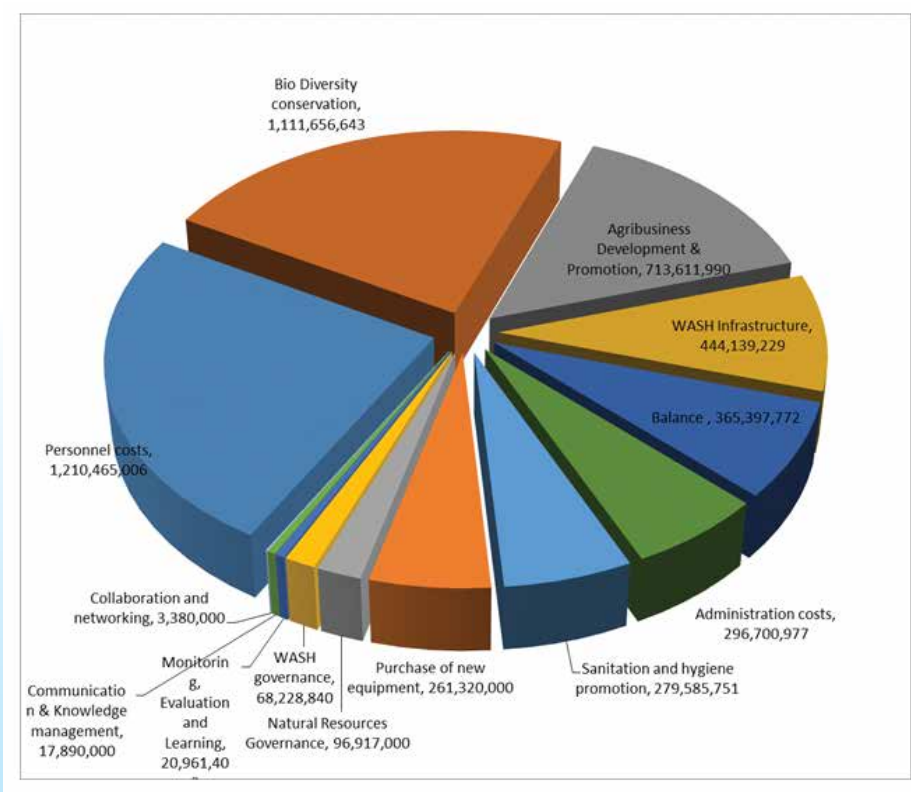
In the financial year 2019, JESE maintained partnership with her strategic development partners who supported her programs. These among others included; Protos-Join for Water, CARE-International in Uganda, Iles De Paix (IDP), Welthunger Hilfe, SIMAVI, Wetlands International, Broederlijk Delen, Waterloo Foundation, Forests of the World & WWF.

Income in 2019



Expenditure in 2019

Below, is a graphical highlight of our 2019 Expenditure;



APPRECIATION

JESE wishes to thank all our partners who financially enabled us to implement our programs interventions in 2019. We are grateful for the good working relations with the Local Governments of; Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Buliisa, Agago, 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 2019.



www.simavi.org



<https://www.welthungerhilfe.org>



www.care-international.org



<https://www.forestsoftheworld.org/>



<http://www.waterloofoundation.org.uk/>



www.broederlijkdelen.be



www.worldwildlife.org



www.protos.be



<https://www.wetlands.org>



www.iledepaix.org

Notes!

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