



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

A Message from SAO Uganda

At Share An Opportunity Uganda, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.

Over the past quarter, we have witnessed encouraging progress in Napak District, where communities are taking active steps to improve the wellbeing of their children and families. Through the Child-Centred Community Development (CCCD) Programme, households are coming together to save, plan, learn, and build stronger support systems for children. Alongside these efforts, our revolving fund interventions under the Abim Child Centred Community Development Project, together with our targeted child development programs at CYCC Kaberamaido, continue to demonstrate how holistic financial, educational, and emotional support can strengthen household and individual resilience. As we continue this journey, we remain committed to empowering communities to identify their own solutions and drive sustainable change from within.

Impact at a Glance

Napak CCCD & Regional Programme

Programme Snapshot

NAPAK CCCD — REACH

Households targeted

1,200

Napak programme

Children & youth targeted

2,009

Napak programme

Savings & lending beneficiaries

~1,200

Participating in activities

Self-Help Groups formed

60 SHGs

Across 20 villages in Napak

Community initiatives

Active

Livelihoods + parenting groups

SAO REGIONAL SHG NETWORK

Total functioning SHGs

150

120 Bunyafa · 30 Busamaga

Active SHG members

2,980

Children in SHG households

7,568

Financial flows across the SHG network

Total savings

UGX 404,080,150

Cumulative loans

UGX 807,611,950

ABIM DISTRICT SACCO — REVOLVING FUND

Seed capital disbursed

UGX 80,000,000

4 local SACCOs · UGX 20M each

Total amount loaned out

UGX 95,524,600

Reflecting strong credit demand

6-month loan cycle recovery rate

21.93%

UGX 20,947,100 recovered of UGX 95,524,600 loaned · current 6-month cycle

CYCC KABERAMAIDO

Supporter-beneficiary letter correspondence programme

Active implementation to boost child literacy, spelling, reading, and psychosocial wellbeing.

Literacy

Spelling

Reading

Psychosocial wellbeing

Communities Taking the Lead in Napak



In the heart of Karamoja, communities in Lorengchora Sub-county are laying the foundation for long-term transformation through the Child-Centred Community Development (CCCD) Programme.

Although still in its early stages, the programme has already generated remarkable community enthusiasm and participation. Families, local leaders, Community Facilitators, and volunteers are working together to create an environment where children can thrive.

The programme targets more than 2,000 children and youth and works directly with 1,200 households to strengthen family wellbeing, community participation, and household resilience.

A major focus during the first quarter has been establishing community structures that will serve as vehicles for long-term change. Through extensive mobilization and training, communities are developing the skills and confidence needed to identify challenges and implement solutions that improve children's lives.

The positive response from community members demonstrates a growing commitment to ensuring that children have access to protection, care, education, and opportunities for a brighter future.

Families & Community Wellbeing

Strong families are the foundation of child wellbeing.

To strengthen family support systems, the programme has established Parenting Groups that provide caregivers with practical knowledge and skills to nurture, protect, and support their children.

Through group discussions and community dialogue sessions, parents are learning about positive parenting practices, child protection, and the importance of creating safe and supportive home environments.

Community Facilitators and local leaders continue to play a key role in guiding these conversations and encouraging households to work together in addressing issues that affect children.

By strengthening families, the programme is helping to create communities where children feel valued, protected, and supported to reach their full potential.



Transforming Homes: A Success Story from Lokeru Village, Napak



Simon Lokamali and Betty Kulume, residents of Lokeru Village in Lolet Parish, Lorengchora Sub County, are living proof of how targeted community-based interventions can rewrite a family's trajectory. Parents to three young children enrolled at Lokododi Primary School, the couple previously believed that parenting began and ended with providing for basic material needs. Simon also struggled with alcohol use, which fueled domestic conflict, hindered childcare involvement, and strained relationships.

Everything changed after they joined a series of structured training sessions delivered through the Positive Parenting Programme—reaching 120 village participants across a 5-day training in November 2025 and a 2-day refresher session in March 2026. The participatory modules covered child protection, positive discipline, communication, and child development stages.

“Before the training, I thought parenting was just about providing for children. Now I help my children with homework, spend more time with my family, and support my wife in daily activities. Our relationship has improved, and there is more peace at home.”

— Simon Lokamali, selected as a community model parent

“We now work together as a family. Simon supports me with household chores like fetching water, helping the children with homework, and assisting in my retail business. The children are happier, more open, and more confident in talking about school.”

— **Betty Kulume**, Amaler SHG leader and model couple representative

Since adopting these positive parenting methodologies, the household has seen reduced conflict, stronger cooperation, and enhanced educational involvement, resulting in vastly improved school attendance for their children. Beyond their own home, Simon and Betty are actively creating a ripple effect, sharing these core values with approximately 120 people during local gatherings and Self-Help Group sessions to inspire neighboring families to follow suit.

Bridges of Hope: A Child Development Success Story from CYCC Kaberamaido

Holistic development doesn't just stop at parental guidance; it is unlocked when a child's world expands. At CYCC Kaberamaido, our supporter-beneficiary letter correspondence program is unlocking incredible milestones for local children. Take the inspiring journey of Fiona (UAP03023). Through regular dialogue with her supporter based in Australia, Fiona has gained a vast perspective of life beyond her borders.

Fiona expresses that receiving these letters fills her with an immense sense of love and validation. The letters have served as educational tools, letting her learn firsthand about Australia's climate conditions and foreign wildlife like kangaroos. Simultaneously, the process of writing letters back has supercharged her primary academic skills. Fiona notes that her reading fluency, spelling accuracy, and overall handwriting neatness have dramatically accelerated. Furthermore, her creative talents have blossomed through drawing and shading pictures enclosed in her letters, giving her a proud opportunity to share information about Uganda with the wider world.



Youth & Household Livelihoods

Economic resilience is essential for improving the wellbeing of children and families.

During the quarter, communities exceeded programme targets by establishing 60 Self-Help Groups across 20 villages. These groups provide opportunities for members to save regularly, access small loans, and support one another in pursuing income-generating activities.

Several groups have already begun implementing collective livelihood initiatives.

Amaler Self-Help Group has launched a cereal bulking enterprise and hired two acres of land for maize production under leadership like Betty Kulume. Meanwhile, Lobok Powerful Self-Help Group has organized members to cultivate sunflower as a group business venture.

National SHG Financial Strength & Success Story



Our broader, cross-regional partnership with Kindernotilfe has reached incredible heights this quarter. Across 10 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs), our cumulative loan disbursements reached UGX 807,611,950, backed by an impressive loan-to-saving ratio of 1:2.2. Capacity building remains a core focus, with 10 SHG book writers from newly formed groups—including Yidubasa, Yedana, Kakwiyede, Wewuka, and Sisimuka—recently trained in credit management and record-keeping to maintain up-to-date documentation across all passbooks.

This methodology is changing lives directly, as highlighted by the story of Nandudu Robin (48) from Bukiiti “A” Village, a dedicated member of the Yinyuka Hasi SHG since 2019. Through the group’s financial literacy training, Nandudu initially launched a fruit and vegetable stall. Motivated by personal goal-setting sessions, she decided to branch into livestock. Using business profits, she raised and sold six healthy turkeys for UGX 70,000 each. Compounding those earnings with a UGX 300,000 loan from her SHG, she purchased a calf valued at UGX 700,000. Today, the cow has matured, giving birth and allowing Nandudu to sell milk daily. This dual success has boosted household income, improved family nutrition, and successfully funded the education of her three youngest children.

In Abim District, the revolving fund model has similarly expanded access to small business capital among vulnerable households, empowering women-led enterprises and youth groups to grow small businesses. The localized fund utilization showcases strong initial momentum across supported community SACCOs:

- Achangali SACCO (Orwamuge T/C Sub County): Leads recovery performance at 33.85%, having loaned out UGX 22,373,000 and recovered UGX 7,573,000. Members run individual income-generating activities (IGAs), accumulating UGX 6,385,000 in total savings and UGX 4,400,000 across 440 shares.
- Aojapiro SACCO (Lotukei Sub County): Achieved a 21.39% recovery rate, loaning out UGX 28,621,600 with UGX 6,121,100 recovered. The SACCO has diversified into institutional IGAs, purchasing plastic chairs and planting 5 acres of maize. Members hold UGX 2,156,000 in savings.
- Barotuke SACCO (Awach Sub County): Holds a 17.87% recovery rate, loaning out UGX 25,530,000 with UGX 4,563,000 recovered. Members focus on farming and general merchandise, building UGX 3,530,800 in savings.
- Acarawang SACCO (Awach Sub County): Has loaned out UGX 19,000,000 with UGX 2,690,000 recovered (14.16% recovery rate). Its members maintain UGX 740,000 in savings.

Understanding Livelihood Challenges & Recovery Dynamics in Abim

While the Abim capital deployment has been highly effective, short-term recoveries reflect specific localized economic factors:

While the Abim capital deployment has been highly effective, short-term recoveries reflect specific localized economic factors:

- **Agricultural Seasonality:** A large share of credit was invested directly in farming. Because borrowers are awaiting harvests before generating surplus sales, repayments are naturally tied to harvest cycles, resulting in temporary delays.
- **Institutional Payment Delays:** Many members across Acarawang and other SACCOs are part of the Abim West Farmers Cooperative. They utilized loans for grain bulking to supply a contract with the World Food Programme (WFP). Although the grain was successfully delivered, delayed payments from the WFP temporarily constrained borrowers' liquidity. Proactive recovery measures have been instituted by the SACCO committees, including monthly recovery meetings and SMS repayment reminders.

Community Voice

“The programme has brought people together to discuss the future of their children and find solutions as a community.”

“Through the groups, families are learning how to save, plan, and support one another to improve their lives.”

“Sustainable transformation happens when communities are empowered to identify their own solutions and take ownership of the change process.”

These reflections demonstrate the growing sense of ownership, collective responsibility, and shared spirit emerging within participating communities.

Special Feature

Learning Beyond Borders: Lessons from Bomet, Kenya



In May 2026, a team from Share An Opportunity Uganda participated in a learning exchange visit to the Child-Centred Community Development Programme in Bomet County, Kenya.

The visit provided an opportunity to learn from communities that have successfully implemented community-led development approaches over several years.

Participants explored a range of successful initiatives, including:

- Strong Self-Help Groups and Cluster Level Associations
- Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP)
- Community-managed revolving funds
- Positive parenting and father engagement models
- Child protection and accountability mechanisms
- Disability inclusion practices

The visit reinforced the importance of community ownership, strong local leadership, and integrated approaches to child wellbeing. These lessons will help strengthen programme implementation across SAO Uganda's project areas as we continue supporting children, families, and communities.

Moments from the Field



What's Next?

In the coming months, the programme will focus on:

- Strengthening Self-Help Group functionality and sustainability across all 150 groups
- Expanding parenting education initiatives and ripple-effect mentoring by model parents
- Supporting livelihood, financial literacy, and income-generating activities
- Strengthening child protection mechanisms
- Enhancing community participation and leadership
- Child literacy, creative communication, and interactive supporter-beneficiary tracking at CYCC Kaberamaido
- Working with Community Based Training (CBT) committees to guide and place 50 more vulnerable youths into professional vocational training streams
- Building sustainable community structures, digitized loan tracking systems, and enhanced loan appraisal structures that support child wellbeing



SHARE AN OPPORTUNITY
UGANDA

Be Part of the Change

Creating flourishing communities requires collective action.

You can help by:

Partnering with us

Sharing our stories

Supporting community-led development

Advocating for children's wellbeing

Together, we can create lasting opportunities for children,
youth, and families.

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