



WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

Transformation begins when communities recognize the strengths already within them.

Guided by the mandate of Share An Opportunity Uganda to serve and support vulnerable children and their communities through Christian-based care and community development interventions, we continue to work alongside children, youth, and families across different districts of Uganda. Through our programmes, we strive to promote child rights and protection, improve household livelihoods and economic resilience, enhance youth employability and participation in development, strengthen the health and well-being of children and families, build community resilience to disasters and shocks, and strengthen institutional capacity for sustainable development.

Over the past six months, we have witnessed parents stepping forward to sustain school feeding, churches mobilizing households for economic empowerment, and children gaining confidence as active participants in shaping their future.

From school gardens in Kaberamaido to church-led household transformation initiatives in Hoima, one truth stands clear: sustainable change happens when communities take ownership.

This edition shares powerful stories of how children, caregivers, churches, and local leaders are working together to build flourishing communities.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.





From Hunger to Hope: How Community Ownership is Transforming a School in Kaberamaido

At 13 years old, Irene is already a leader.

As a member of the Young Farmers Club at Kamuk Parents Primary School in Kaberamaido District, she has gained practical agricultural skills that are transforming both her school and her home.

Before the introduction of school gardening and structured feeding, many pupils studied on empty stomachs. Afternoon lessons were difficult. Attendance fluctuated. Hunger quietly affected performance and confidence.

Today, the school cultivates three acres of gardens, producing maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, beans, tomatoes, and eggplants. Last season alone, the school harvested 780 kilogrammes of maize, with

vegetables sold to the community to support school needs.

Now, learners receive meals at school – and the difference is visible. “I am happy to be a child partner and proud that our club members work together in the garden until we harvest our crops for food,” Irene shares.

Beyond school, Irene applies her knowledge at home, growing vegetables that improve her family’s nutrition and income.

What began as a feeding solution has become a learning platform, a leadership space, and a bridge between school and household resilience.

Impact at a Glance

Education & Child Wellbeing – 2025 Highlights

- 🏠 **1,435** learners enrolled at Kamuk Parents Primary School (705 boys | 730 girls)
- 🌱 **3 acres** of school gardens established
- 🌽 **780 kg** of maize harvested
- 📅 **4 active** school clubs promoting child participation
- 🍲 **3** consecutive years of sustained school feeding
- 📖 **13** local primary schools supported in rural sub-counties

Church & Community Transformation (CCT)

The Church & Community Transformation (CCT) journey continues – now in new communities.

After years of impact in Masaka, the CCT approach transitioned last year to Hoima and Kikuube districts, where churches are now walking alongside communities to strengthen households and restore dignity. Through facilitated Bible reflections and community dialogues, churches are mobilizing families to:

- Improve household income through sustainable agriculture
- Strengthen savings and self-help groups
- Promote responsible parenting and child protection
- Encourage collective problem-solving within villages

Rather than depending on external aid, communities are rediscovering their own resources, skills, and potential.

In Hoima and Kikuube, early signs of change are already visible:

- Households are improving farming practices.
- Families are organizing into savings groups.
- Churches are becoming active spaces for community dialogue and accountability.

The CCT approach empowers communities to move from dependency to ownership – from waiting for solutions to creating them. Transformation is no longer something delivered from outside. It is growing from within.



● Environmental Sustainability

Agriculture is not only feeding children; it is preparing them for the future. With support from agricultural extension workers, learners and parents have received training in:

- **Nursery bed preparation**
- **Climate-smart farming practices**
- **Weeding and thinning**
- **Safe spraying methods**
- **Post-harvest handling**

School gardens now serve as:

1. Nutrition hubs
2. Learning laboratories
3. Income-generating platforms

Children are developing practical skills that extend beyond the classroom.



● Community Voice

“All pupils should be provided with school meals to prevent ulcers and headaches. The school should also purchase more hoes so every club member can participate fully.”

– **Irene, Young Farmers Club Leader**

“The project empowers us to solve our own challenges rather than waiting for handouts.”

– **School Leadership**

“When churches guide families to reflect and act together, real transformation begins.”

– **Community Member, CCT Program**

● Empowering Women Through Self-Help Groups in Sironko

In the rural communities of Sironko District, the Self-Help Group Approach is helping women take control of their economic futures and build stronger families.

Over the past quarter, 25 new Self-Help Groups were formed in Bugusege, Bunazami, and Bugidiya parishes of Busamaga Sub-county. These groups brought together 240 women from vulnerable households who now meet weekly to save, share experiences, and support one another in developing small businesses.

Through regular training sessions, members have gained skills in:

- ***Savings and financial management***
- ***Record keeping and group leadership***
- ***Developing group rules and accountability systems***
- ***Setting personal and group development goals***

Community Facilitators trained by Share An Opportunity Uganda are now supporting the groups through mentorship, home visits, and regular community meetings.

The results are already visible: women are starting businesses, strengthening household incomes, and improving the wellbeing of their children.



● Community Voice – SHGA Success Story

From Small Savings to Big Transformation

For Mrs. Nabude Beatrice, joining a Self-Help Group became the turning point in her life.

The 57-year-old mother from Bukawumba Village joined Yedanah Self-Help Group in 2023. At the time, her family struggled to meet basic needs, and tensions at home were common because of financial difficulties.

After participating in SHG training on savings and small business management, Beatrice took her first loan of UGX 20,000 from the group and started selling sweet bananas.

Through determination and disciplined saving, her small business gradually expanded. Today, she operates with a capital of UGX 200,000, buying bananas from local farmers and selling them in bulk at Maga Market in Buteza Town Council.

Her progress has transformed her household:

- ***She now owns a cow that is expecting a calf.***
- ***Her husband has joined her in tomato farming.***
- ***Most importantly, all four of her children are now studying in better schools in Mbale City.***

Her story reflects the power of collective savings, skills training, and community support in helping families break the cycle of poverty.

“Joining the Self-Help Group opened a new chapter in my life. I never imagined I would be able to grow a business and support my children’s education this way,” **Beatrice says.**



● Impact

Strengthening Livelihoods through Self-Help Groups – Sironko District
Through the Self-Help Group Approach (SHGA) implemented in partnership with community structures in Sironko District, households are building financial resilience and supporting the wellbeing of their children.

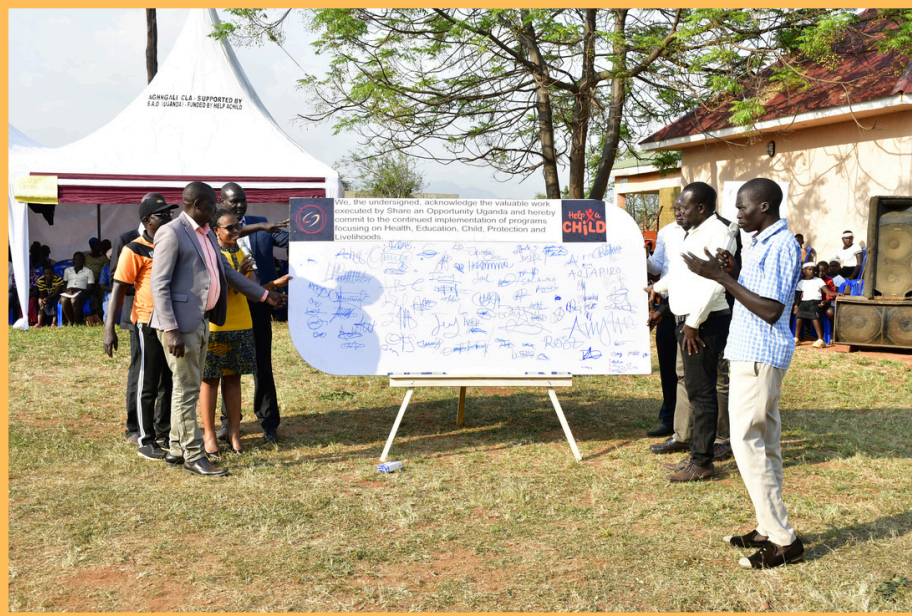
By December 2025, the program had reached:

- 👥 **147** functioning Self-Help Groups (up from 120 in the previous quarter)
- 👤 **2,872 SHG members**, the majority being women from vulnerable households
- 😊 **7,331 children** living in SHG member households
- 🏠 **UGX 371 million** saved collectively by SHG members
- 💰 **UGX 761 million** in cumulative loans accessed by members to grow small businesses
- 🤝 **10 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs)** strengthening community coordination

These groups provide a safe space where members save money, access small loans, learn financial management, and support one another in improving household livelihoods.



Celebrating a Legacy: Successful Program Conclusion in Abim District



After nearly a decade of partnership, our Child-Centered Community Development (CCCD) program in Abim District, Uganda, has come to a successful close. 2025 was a year of celebration, transition, and powerful proof that communities, when empowered, can lead their own development.

From Dependency to Ownership

The heart of our final year was ensuring that the progress made would outlast the project. We moved from direct implementation to a supportive role, strengthening the community structures that are now the true owners of this work. In a formal handover ceremony, all program responsibilities and assets were transferred to the district government and local groups, marking their readiness to carry the torch forward.

Stories of Progress, Led by the Community

The impact of this community-led approach is clear:

- **Parents as Partners in Education:** Parents are now fully invested in their children's learning. At the eight Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres, enrollment grew to **1,178 children**, fueled by parental contributions of food, school materials, and even bricks for classroom improvements at centres like Aojapiro.
- **A Network of Support for the Most Vulnerable:** A dedicated disability service centre is now providing critical care, having supported **265** children with disabilities. This is complemented by a community network where Village Health Teams and local associations actively monitor child health, leading to fewer cases of preventable illnesses.

- **Economic Independence Takes Root:** Local farmers are now major players. The Abim West and Awach farmer cooperatives are supplying maize and beans to the World Food Programme, a landmark achievement. This economic strength is echoed at the village level, where four SACCOs (Aojapiro, Barotuke, Acarawang, and Achangali) provided **198** loans to help families start businesses, pay school fees, and invest in their farms.

A Legacy of Resilience

The CCCD program has phased out, but its spirit lives on in the capable hands of the people of Awach and Lotuke Sub Counties. The farmer cooperatives, the village savings groups, the child protection committees—these are now permanent fixtures of a resilient community. As we bid farewell to Abim, we do so with immense pride and carry the lessons learned to our new beginning in Napak District, inspired by the unwavering spirit of the communities we were privileged to serve.



What's Next?

Looking ahead, SAO Uganda aims to:

- Expand school feeding sustainability initiatives
- Strengthen coffee production and household income support
- Deepen youth participation in community planning
- Scale Church & Community Transformation to more congregations
- Strengthen environmental and climate-resilient practices

We remain committed to seeing confident children and youth actively participating in flourishing communities.

Be Part of the Change

Transformation is possible when communities are empowered.

You can:

- ✓ Partner with us
- ✓ Support child-friendly schools
- ✓ Promote sustainable livelihoods
- ✓ Share our stories

Together, we can build a Uganda where every child grows in dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Share An Opportunity Uganda

Email: info@saouganda.org

Website: saouganda.org

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