



International Cooperating
Ministries



CHANGING LIVES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Building a great future for ordinary communities faced with impossibilities



Before

After

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



Transformed Hearts Transform Nations



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Favour of God

Bringing Healing and Hope



LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

LAGUDE VILLAGE, OMORO DISTRICT

The Women Empowerment project has reached Lagude Village where 50 women are recipients. They had formerly been relying on very meager crop production as a means of survival. We started with teaching and training a group of 50 women, to empower them on how to overcome poverty through grass roots efforts and to be made aware of the dangers of other means of 'livelihood', such as prostitution and sex trafficking, which have also led to high rates of abortion and infanticide. With the women learning to dream again, and see the possibility of being empowered, we laid a strong foundation of training and mentoring in trauma counseling, budget skills, cooperatively working together, work ethics, building strong families, and more, which are all compiled in a Women Empowerment Training Manual. Then we activated the project of their choice, piggery, with 100 piglets coming to their village. Each women, also engaging their older children in the project, received 2 piglets, a baby male and female. Through the multiplication of the litters of piglets, and the sale of the babies, the women are now able to provide for the basic needs of their families throughout the year.





STORY OF JOYCE AWACA

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

Joyce is a member of the group who managed and grew the piggery project given to her and then saved enough money to start a small scale retail outlet that is now serving her whole village. She testified she is now able to pay for her brothers and sisters to go school and at the same time continue managing her piggery project and her shop. Joyce is shown here, before the sale of her piglets and then after selling them, standing in the shop she has just opened.





STORY OF NIGHTY ADONG

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

Nighty is another member of Lubanga Omina Women Farmers group who was empowered with two piglets in addition to the teaching and training skills in the Manual, as mentioned earlier. She always faced food shortage, for herself and her family during the months of dry season. She took hold of the knowledge and training imparted to her, and in multiplying her piggery production and sales, was able to buy one hector of land and begin growing cassava.

Now she will also be selling cassava in the market to help offset the income needs of her family. She was able to pay the school fees for three children, and had such great joy in being able to educate them. She has been thrilled for this empowerment project and has pleaded for it to extend to every part of Northern Uganda.





STORY OF AYET AGNESS

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

Among the 50 women who were empowered with the teaching, training, and the start up of the piggery project in this same village, Agnes was also able to multiply her piglets and use the income to acquire three goats and two highbred hens. In addition to this, she was able to pay the school fees for her children.

She testified that she would not have been able to do this without the women empowerment project that gave her the boost she needed to begin activating success in her own life.

She also narrated how much her life has changed with the blessing and satisfaction of these achievements, compared to how she had been just surviving before.





STORY OF AMINO JOSEPHINE

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

An objective of the empowerment projects is to improve equal access to quality education and services for both boys and girls, and men and women, alike. Josephine was one such mother who was struggling with the guilt of seeing her two daughters sitting at home and unable to study, due to her inability to pay their school fees.

Through the Women Empowerment project, Josephine received two piglets that she effectively managed. She was able to sell enough baby piglets from their litter, to pay the school fees of her two daughters. She even earned and saved enough to open another small scale business in addition to her piggery project that she is also managing. She and her family have greatly profited from a stable means of income now and they look forward to their children being able to finish school successfully.





STORY OF AJOK HELLEN

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

From pottery to piggery projects, Hellen, who is a disable woman, worked hard to improve her quality of life. She used to support her family with pottery work which barely earned them enough to survive on. She was also responsible for raising her orphaned grand children whose parents were killed in an accident.

Through our rural empowerment program, Hellen was trained and supported with the piggery project that helped her to create a clear climb out of the clutches of poverty.

She now has a steady income, and is able to not just 'survive', but 'live'. Her grandchildren are in school, and Hellen has a new purpose in life.





STORY OF AGENO GRACE RWOT

OF LUBANGA OMINA WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

Many women have achieved their goals, and are continuing to go even farther. Grace is one of the women active in the empowerment project. She had a meager unsteady and uncertain income from vegetable farming, which was rigorous work daily during raining season, and produce production was always at the mercy of the weather..

After attending the women's group teaching and training, her thinking began to change. Hope entered her heart, and courage to be able to do something even better than she had, and faith to have the ability to make a difference in the way she was living.

Transformation begins in the mind and heart, and that transition started in her as she began to learn things like family goal setting, financial planning, saving and investment, and helping others. She developed a business mindset that inspired her to manage her piggery project effectively. She was able to sell her piglets and start commercial vegetable farming. She has now grown 2 acres of tomatoes that she started and managed with the income saved from the piggery project.





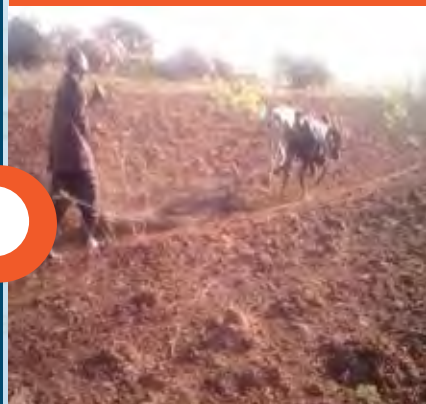
LUBANGA TWERO WOMEN FARMERS GROUP

ACET SHIELD OF FAITH ACET ORATIDO / ODEK CENTER, OMORO DISTRICT

This village was the home village of the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) rebel leader, Joseph Kony, and was greatly affected by human trafficking and all kinds of inhuman acts like domestic violence, sex trafficking, robbery, human sacrifices, and occult practices, among others. After the war the village residents were living on subsistence manual agriculture farming as a means of survival.

This trend began to change as teaching and training were given to the 66 women who gathered together for the empowerment project.

After the basic training on trauma counseling, working cooperatively, work ethics, family values, and others, they chose the project of oxen and plows to better improve their farming capacities. The group was given 6 ox ploughs and 12 oxen and helped to train them for effective plowing. This changed the livelihood from barely surviving with hoes and machete farming, to commercialized agriculture on a whole other scale.





STORY OF AYOO FLORENCE AND HER HUSBAND

ACET SHIELD OF FAITH ACET ORATIDO / ODEK CENTER, OMORO DISTRICT

The women empowerment project has played an important role in settling family violence and restoring the love of God in households through the teaching on family unity and the dangers of domestic violence. One family after another has proved this. Against cultural tradition, the husbands of the women in the project have fully joined hands with their wives and are taking responsibility together to train their children and take care of the animals entrusted to the family.

Oringa who is the husband of Florence stated that he is so grateful for the teaching and training being given. He testified that this whole vision has changed their family, and brought healing in their marriage, as well as trust, hard work, and unity. He added that the positive impact in his own home has made him eager to join his wife in the income generating activity.

Oringa is seen standing next to one of the sets of the oxen he is training for the women's group for the plowing project. He said the teaching on family love and the negative effects of domestic violence have changed their family more than anything else.





KIDILIM WOMEN EMPOWERMENT GOAT REARING PROJECT

MINISTRY OF UGANDA CHUCHES - OMEL KIDILIM OMEL KIDILIM VILLAGE, GULU DISTRICT

The Women Empowerment project is one project that reaches the vulnerable people living in the most rural areas. Omel Kidilim is one of the villages whose people suffered severely from the effects of the LRA war that ravaged Northern Uganda for over 20 years. They also suffered a great loss in their agriculture income as 'animal pest' hit their area. They were one of the highest Districts in the region affected by the cattle wandering from the cattle keeping tribes in Western and Central Uganda (the Balalo). As most farmers were struggling to just make a living for their families, wandering herds of cattle came through their fields, eating and destroying their crops. With the intervention of the Women Empowerment Project in this village, people were



encouraged and equipped with applicable teaching and training, such as cooperative team work, family budgeting, village emergency planning, the destructiveness of domestic violence versus the power of family love, decreasing abortion and teenage pregnancies, and more. They were also trained in goat rearing skills and animal care, and 100 goats were brought to the village. A baby male



and female goat was provided to 50 women, who had formed the women's group, and who would continue cooperative team work and learning together

as the village women's program blossomed. Today, the goats are growing and will reproduce in numbers throughout the year, giving the women an ongoing income in the sale of them. The majority of these women

have joined a village savings group that is helping them to accomplish their long and short term goals. Due to the publicity of the Women Empowerment project in this area, the voice of the people in the community on the problem of crop destruction by wandering cattle, was presented to the government officials through the radio. After receiving the information during a teaching on planning and budgeting, Favor FM radio station picked up their story and aired it. The local government leaders heard about the loss, and are committed to seeing that the wandering 'cattle pests' will not destroy farmers crops again.



Being a village on the border between the Acholi speaking tribe and the Lango speaking tribe, the Women Empowerment Project has created an avenue of unity between these two tribes. The women in this area, had for long struggled to become financially free but the existence of tribal differences and little support from their husbands crippled their success. When Favour came in with the program, however, the women readily mobilized a meeting to initiate an empowerment team and choose a project they could work on together, throughout their village. They called themselves the Dii Cwinyi Women Empowerment Group and eagerly soaked up the teachings on group dynamics, family goal setting, team work, financial planning, creation and how to fight against abortion, ways to decrease teen pregnancies, putting an end to human and sex trafficking, and then training on the animal rearing project. As the women met weekly with our empowerment leaders' training teams, their husbands started coming to the meetings as well, eager to learn. This had never happened in a village before, to see the husbands' openness to not only learn with their wives, but also help them implement the project.

These women chose piggery as their project, and were given 50 piglets to begin with. They will start with breeding their females as they mature, with the few male pigs amongst the 50, and will pay back a 'breeding fee' from their first litter to the women who own the male pigs. Teamwork is promoted at every opportunity. The women also learn to help others start the same project, as they were helped, by donating two piglets, a male and female, from their first litter to another women's group start up.





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