



# UGANDA

— Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition —





## Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition (RWANU)

The five-year Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition (RWANU) project, implemented by ACDI/VOCA, focuses on reducing food insecurity and malnutrition among the vulnerable populations in southern Karamoja, Uganda. RWANU means “future” in NgaKarimojong.

The project, funded by USAID’s Office of Food for Peace, improves access to food for women and men through climate-smart agriculture. Women’s empowerment interventions also reduce malnutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five. An overall market systems approach ensures that services and benefits are locally driven and sustained beyond the life of the project.

16 SUB-COUNTIES IN  
4 DISTRICTS  
AMUDAT, MOROTO,  
NAPAK, AND NAKAPIRIPIT



70,000

hectares of land under improved farming practices



52,000

vulnerable households more resilient



7,700

pregnant and lactating women received health services



100,000

children under two received critical care

**“I’m grateful for the RWANU program. Before, I didn’t know about health and what causes malnutrition. Now, I see the changes—the children are growing, and I’m very happy about that.”**

—Santina A., 32-year-old mother of five, RWANU participant



# Climate Smart Agriculture

To prevent malnutrition and water-related conflict caused by unreliable rains and long dry seasons, the RWANU project works with local partners to roll out and implement climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies, including correct spacing, intercropping, and drip irrigation. Farmers trained in these practices report higher yields and fewer seeds required, as well as easier weeding, harvesting, and pest management.

## Scaling Up Effective, Low-Cost Agricultural Technologies

When a high-end drip irrigation system developed by the project proved less than cost effective, RWANU implemented a simple treadle pump and impact sprinkler system in its place. This low-cost, scalable system resulted in annual returns of 164 percent and a 74 percent reduction in investment.

## Improved Technology and Practices Impact Productivity

More than 11,000 farmers learn improved technology and farm management through RWANU. They receive hardier seeds and increase their crop productivity, fostering resilience through not only greater food security, but also increased incomes and access to more nutritious foods.



11,000

farmers learn climate-smart practices



## Restored Forest Proves Resilience of Paulina's Community

A few years ago, the Lokacikit Forest of northeastern Uganda did not exist; most of its trees had been used in construction or for firewood or charcoal. Paulina remembered a time when her mother would use roots from the forest to relieve her upset stomach. RWANU selected Paulina's community and nine others to engage in natural regeneration activities and reduce the impact of indiscriminate tree cutting and bush burning. RWANU trained 325 women and men, including Paulina, and introduced environmentally-friendly practices, such as regrowing tree stumps and constructing fuel-efficient stoves. Now, the forest has fodder for sheep and goats, and communities have begun environmentally-friendly business activities, like beekeeping.

**"I am very happy with RWANU. They taught us how to bring back our forest, and now other plants are also growing. I can come here and get medicine for people and also for animals. I have also put some beehives in the forest, and I make money when I sell the honey."**



# Strong Market Systems

To boost resilience in southern Karamoja, RWANU employs a market-based, facilitative approach to strengthening local economies. By linking private-sector partners, such as seed and fertilizer companies, to community agrodealers, RWANU broadens access to critical inputs for smallholder farmers, while incentivizing private-sector investment in the region. As a result, farmers experience greater crop productivity and increased incomes.



— KIZITO

AGRODEALER, GRANT AWARD RECIPIENT



# 76 TONS

of improved seed sold  
by agrodealers

# 680

Honey producers  
supplying to  
Golden Bees



## Income Diversification for Increased Resilience

To help smallholder farmers diversify their incomes, RWANU supported honey as a low-risk, high-return commodity. The project has linked 678 honey producers with Kampala-based Golden Bees, one of the largest honey buyers in Uganda, which provides embedded services and pays a premium. RWANU has also trained local artisans to build and service beehives, reducing costs and increasing access for households. By using a project-supported irrigation system, farmers now also grow horticultural crops during the dry season, which boosts their incomes and further secures their access to food year-round.

## Grants to Empower Youth and Women Groups

The project awards grants through the Youth Livelihood Innovation Awards to help youth and women's groups connect to financial services and engage in enterprising businesses, such as motorcycle repair shops and bakeries, as well as livestock trading and pork production.

## Agrodealers Key to Better Input Access

RWANU has developed a network of eight agrodealers and three agrovets to provide agricultural inputs to farmers. By founding the 20-member Karamoja Agribusiness Association, farmers no longer need to travel long distances or rely on donor programs to access seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs.

## Facilitating Output Market Access Through Bulking Centers

RWANU provides farmers with technical support in post-harvest handling techniques, such as using improved grain silos and solar driers. The project has established nine private sector-operated, grain bulking centers. These centers engage the private sector in business-oriented, market-based operations.



## Grant Brings New Opportunities to Jeremiah's Youth Group

Jeremiah, a 27-year-old rice farmer, opened a tire mending shop with other rice farmers to supplement their incomes during off seasons. Through RWANU's Youth Livelihood Innovation Awards, they used grant funds to plant and maintain four acres of rice. Thanks to trainings provided through the grant, the Ugandan government accepted the group's business proposal and awarded them UGX 8,000,000, which they used to buy equipment. After some time, the group successfully harvested 6,500 kilograms of unshelled rice.

**"I am very happy for RWANU because they organized us and even helped us to register at the sub-county. If we had not registered, we would not have gotten this money from [the] government."**



# Women's Empowerment

For inclusive growth in southern Karamoja, RWANU applies a multifaceted approach to economic empowerment and capacity building among women. By providing technical assistance and messages through a variety of activities, 180,000 women are better positioned to take part in income-generating activities and enjoy the benefits of their work.



RACHEL AKOL

LOKIBEYIA LIVESTOCK GROUP CHAIRWOMAN



### Savings Groups Provide Opportunity for Growth

RWANU's introduction of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups provides farmers with access to credit, proving most valuable to those living near urban centers where they can use the savings for trading. The 279 groups have accumulated UGX 155,000,000 in savings, of which UGX 97,000,000 has returned to members as loans.



1,300

village savings group members

### Women's Livestock Groups Raise Confidence and Support Better Nutrition

RWANU has organized livestock groups for 2,000 women to care for goats, despite men traditionally owning livestock in their communities. By caring for and managing the goats, women gain more control over their household incomes, earn respect as leaders, and create lasting shifts in gender roles.



19%

reduction in underweight children under five



### Training Helps Christopher and Jane Build Family Home

For years, Christopher, his wife, Jane, and their five children lived on a homestead with extended family. Despite a lack of space, they never considered moving. Then RWANU offered trainings to farmers, including the Sapon Farmers Training Group, of which Jane was a member. The trainings covered best agronomic practices to improve crop yields and highlighted the need for women and men to work together for the benefit of the home. Using techniques RWANU provided, the couple planted a maize farm on two and a half acres of land. With sales from the 1,000 kilograms of maize they harvested, they constructed a permanent house with an iron sheet roof—the only one in their village.

**"If RWANU hadn't come, we would never have thought of construction. But whenever our women meet for training, they tell them to think about how to improve their homes. I talked with my wife, and now we have a mabati house."**

### Lead Mothers Lead the Way to Improved Health

In collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health, RWANU provides health care, behavior change activities, improved consumption of micro- and macronutrients, and conditional food rations for pregnant and lactating women and children under two. RWANU has created 341 Mother Care Groups, who work with male change agents to influence better water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices and nutrition in their communities.



# Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition (RWANU)

REDUCING FOOD INSECURITY FOR VULNERABLE UGANDANS

## PARTNERS



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**CONCERN**  
worldwide



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ACDI/VOCA is an international development nonprofit that envisions a world in which all people are empowered to build healthy families and resilient communities.

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30%