

TUSUBIRA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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Word from Chairman Board of Directors



TWDA did recommendable work in 2015. I express my sincere appreciation to farmer leaders, TWDA staff, partners, donors and the various stakeholders who, together, offered support in improving the livelihood of Ugandans. Through close collaboration with communities and local authorities in Wakiso district, TWDA has learnt the needs of the people in her areas of operation. I extend my gratitude to all these authorities without whom we would not have been able to deliver our services, facilities, goods, equipment and knowhow to our beneficiaries. In the last year TWDA registered enormous achievements. With our well-known Agriculture programme in communities in Wakiso, we supported many farmers, strengthened associations and established farmer cooperatives. Our advocacy team has been sensitizing and training communities to demand for better services and effective delivery of government programmes. My special thanks also go to TWDA's Projects coordinator who is also doubling as the organizational Executive Director, Ronald Walusimbi for his tireless efforts and interventions to enable poor and disadvantaged Ugandans get a decent life. Together with TWDA staff both paid and volunteers, you have overcome various challenges in order to fulfil your goals. Keep up the good work. This year TWDA together with her partners and donors will continue her efforts to reduce poverty, improve sustainable food security and health services, increase household incomes, support WASH facilities and give access to clean water. In addition to all this TWDA will restore hope to people through education so that they are able to improve their livelihood and give their children a better future.

May the almighty God bless you all.

Maria Teresa Naava
Chairman Board of Directors

Word from the Projects Coordinator/ED



The year 2015 was a successful one for TWDA in a number of ways. Personally, it's the year in which I joined the organization and steered the implementation of the agricultural project interventions, transformation of farmer associations into primary cooperatives and change of status of the organization among others. We have achieved many of our targets, implemented important activities and improved livelihoods of hundreds of people in rural and urban areas Wakiso District in Uganda. These achievements would not be possible without the engagement and support of our international donors Caritas Denmark and our staff in Uganda. Therefore I wish to express my sincere and profound gratitude to Caritas Denmark, partners and the various Local Governments who have obstinately stood with TWDA in the struggle to mobilize and provide help to people and most marginalized communities in our areas of operation. My gratitude also goes to all TWDAs' staff and the staff of our partners with whom we collaborate in a transparent and cooperative way. You have done a good job and have contributed well to the development of this country. There is no doubt that without you, TWDA would hardly have the pride and enthusiasm to share this annual report with the public. On behalf of all TWDA, I thank to the Board of Directors for their wise counsel and direction, which they have always provided to the organisation. Together with my staff we will continue to treasure your guidance and support as will be availed to us in all spheres of the organizational performance and life.

This annual report is an account of TWDA's major project and success stories for 2015. It reflects our major achievements in realizing the various aims of our strategic plan the various. Finally, we remain optimistic that we will continue our successful and sustainable way in delivering services to Ugandan communities. Thank you very much for the interest you have in our activities. I am certain that these pages will give you a good overview and information about TWDA's work in Uganda.

For God and My Country

**Walusimbi Ronald,
Projects Coordinator/Executive Director TWDA**

List of acronyms

CAPCA: Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association.
CBT Community based trainers.
CDOs: Community development officer.
CSO: Civil society organisation
FG: farmer group
NAADS: National agricultural advisory services
NGO-IDEAs: NGO Impact in Development Empowerment and Actions
OVCs orphans and vulnerable children
PAG: participatory appraisal by groups.
SAGE: situation analysis and goal establishment.
SAPs: Sustainable agricultural practices.
SILC: saving in lending communities
TWDA: Tusubira Women's Development Agency.
TWG: Tusubira Women's Group
UNBS: Uganda national bureau of standards.
VLSA: village lending and saving associations
WASH: water, sanitation and hygiene

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

Tusuubira Women's Development Agency (TWDA) formerly known as Tusuubira Women's Group (TWG) is an indigenous, non-profit making organisation registered in Wakiso district as a Community Based Organization and as a non profit company limited by guarantee. It was founded in 1997 by a group of local women in order to have a common voice to address their problems.

Vision: A United Community free from human suffering and poverty.

Mission: To improve the Social Economic status of the targeted communities in Uganda through Supporting Appropriate Empowerment and integrated community based development initiatives.

Values are: Love, Respect for human dignity, Transparency, Equity, Trust, Confidentiality.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

TWDA has the following objectives being pursued;

- Support targeted households improve their agricultural production and food security through promotion of sustainable agriculture practices and improvement of natural resource management.
- Improve household welfare through promotion of basic health e.g. nutrition, sanitation, HIV/AIDS awareness.
- Enhance the capacity of rural vulnerable communities to effectively engage in gainful socioeconomic initiatives that will improve their standards of living.
- Improve incomes of target households through supporting them to develop marketing structures that help them access favorable and reliable markets.
- Improve the access to manageable micro-credit services of active rural poor communities through empowering them in VLSA and SILC schemes.
- Facilitate rural poor community's access to clean and safe water and improved hygiene and sanitation through promotion of WASH.
- Build the capacity of farmers to manage their activities sustainably and influence policy on issues affecting them through creating awareness on their rights and developing their ability to participate in lobbying and advocacy.
- Carry out Gender and HIV&AIDs mainstreaming.
- Strengthen the organizational capacity of TWDA to be equipped to support the efforts of the selected population groups.

STRATEGIC AIMS of TWDA

In order to realise the organisational objectives, the agency is pursuing the following strategic aims for the period 2014 to 2017.

- 1. Economic empowerment:** To increase the incomes at household and community level by strengthening production and marketing capacities of small scale farmers by 2017.
- 2. Research, Advocacy & collaborations:** Help people to live meaningful lives through advocacy, innovation & collaboration.
- 3. HIV & AIDS prevention:** To undertake HIV & AIDS awareness among target communities by 2017.
- 4. OVCs and youth:** To improve the wellbeing of OVCs and youth in target communities.
- 5. Institutional strengthening:** Create & maintain an organizational culture that supports the vision, values and Mission of TWDA by 2017.

PROGRAMS

For the last 15 years, TWDA has been working towards improving the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized community members in Wakiso district with special focus on women, children, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities and people living with HIV&AIDs. This has been realized through implementing programs that promote; sustainable agriculture practices and improvement of natural resource management, basic health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, HIV/AIDS awareness, Income generating activities, collective marketing, micro-credit services (VLSA and SILC schemes), rights awareness, lobbying and advocacy, Gender and HIV&AIDs mainstreaming.

In order to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of the projects interventions, TWDA has strengthened community participation through prioritization of use of community based trainers as well as empowering communities to undertake participatory planning and monitoring using NGO-IDEAs tools.

In the year 2015, TWDA implemented the CAPCA IV project with funding from Caritas Denmark. CAPCA IV project activities during the year 2015 were implemented in the sub counties of Kakiri, Namayumba, Mende and Wakiso as well as the town councils of Kakiri and Namayumba all in Wakiso district. Undertaking the CAPCA IV activities enabled the organisation to contribute towards the realisation of the organisational strategic aims in the following ways;

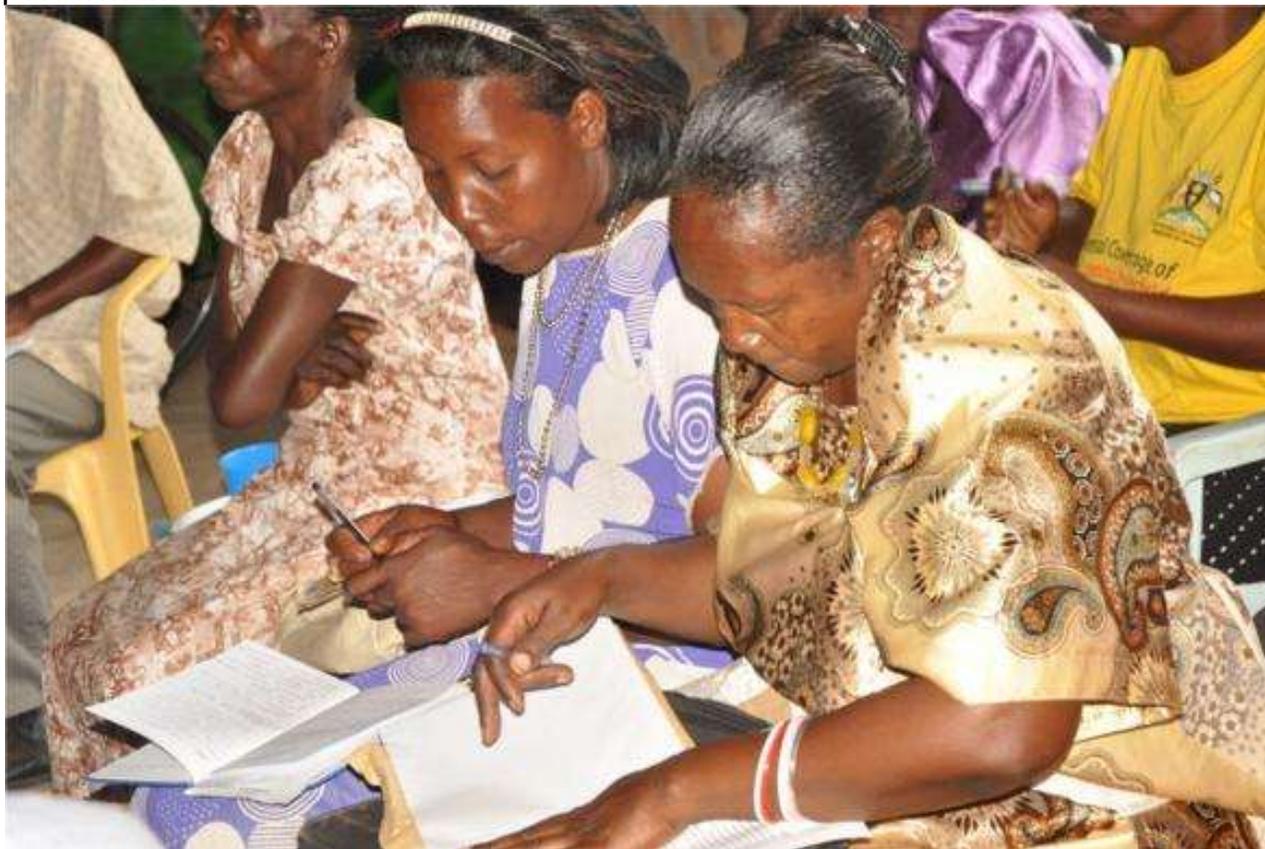
1. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

During the period, focus was on promotion of farmer to farmer extension model using CBTs, savings and credit in farmer groups, collective marketing, and advocacy by the agency and farmer associations as well as facilitating farmers associations to transform into primary cooperatives.

1. a. CBT review and feedback meetings

In an effort to strengthen and improve performance of CBTs as key drivers of the farmer to farmer extension model, CBT review and feedback meetings were organised where 23 CBTs were introduced to use of NGO IDEAs tool-PAG. This followed the realisation of the challenge CBTS faced in drafting work plans for

undertaking their farmer to farmer visits and reporting on progress made by their respective groups. This hence resulted in CBTS having a uniformed way of reporting on progress in their groups as well as contributions by their respective groups towards realisation of association CS targets. Furthermore during these meetings, their work plans and reports reviewed and given feedback on their performance.



CBTS during one of the CBT review and feedback meetings

After sensitizing CBTS on use of NGO-Ideas in target setting, plans were drafted with CBTs to have all the 23 groups and three associations supported by the organisation introduced to participatory target setting and monitoring using NGO Ideas tool known as PAG (Participatory Appraisal by Groups). As a result, all the twenty three groups and three associations supported by the organisations were able to set their targets for the year 2015 using NGO Idea tool (PAG) among them being collective marketing targets and savings and credit.

Furthermore, CBTs were offered technical guidance in SAPs by staff through regular follow up visits. This involved staff sampling some of the households that were visited and trained by CBTs.

To ensure that CBTs are exemplary in their areas, staff conducted routine household visits to 17 CBTS households. Furthermore, CBTs were availed with bicycles to ease their movements in undertaking farmer to farmer extension visits.

1.b Collective marketing and Cooperative governance training for associations

Staff mobilized farmers in the three supported associations to form primary cooperatives for acquisition of a stronger voice, bulking and collective marketing of their produce. The agency organised two farmer trainings in cooperative formation, governance and management that was facilitated by the district commercial officer, CAPCA Marketing officer and agency staff. This has resulted into the three associations being registered as primary cooperatives.



The marketing officer training farmers in cooperative formation and management

Staff further promoted Collective marketing of coffee through training of group marketing officers in bulking.

To ease mobility of marketing officers, 8 bicycles were procured for group marketing officers with funds mobilised by Caritas Denmark as shown below;



The chairperson BOD handing over bicycles to CBTs and marketing officers donated by Caritas Denmark

1. c Monitoring of groups by project staff.

Staff conducted routine monitoring visits to 17 groups to track progress made by these groups in realisation of the 2015 group targets as well as the corresponding 2015 CS Collaboration association targets. Staff further mobilized 22 groups to contribute towards sustenance of the CBT on a monthly basis.

In addition to that, staff conducted monitoring visits to 100 households offered guidance by CBTs in SAPs to track changes in these households.

1. d Staff technical support at association level

In order to enable associations and their member groups' realise their set 2015 targets, a number of crucial trainings were conducted by staff at group level. These included trainings in savings and credit which were conducted by the organisational accountant in concerned groups as well as trainings in Bio intensive Agriculture (BIA) especially for groups in Wakiso Sub County affected by reduction in land sizes. A total of 12 groups were trained by the Accountant in saving and credit.

Furthermore, 5 group level trainings in Bio Intensive Agriculture were conducted by staff in the year. So far 2 groups established gardens for Sukuma Wiki and onions as well as soy beans as IGAs following these trainings.



Youth being trained in sack gardening as source of food for improved nutrition and household income.

Staff additionally monitored progress made by the 3 associations in realization of their 2015 targets.

2. RESEARCH, ADVOCACY & COLLABORATIONS

2. a Association lobby activities

The agency together with the advocacy committee for Namayumba Farmers Association held a lobby meeting with the Coordinator Operation Wealth Creation Busiro North, Col. Ssegamwenge on farmers' access to NAADS inputs where the coordinator pledged to work with organised groups supported by TWDA. In addition, a lobby meeting was held with the secretary for production Mende Sub County which led to two groups in the sub county supported by TWDA receiving Bean seeds and Maize seeds under operation wealth creation. The organisation has continued inviting the CDOs for Namayumba, Kakiri and Wakiso Sub counties to sensitize farmers on criteria for accessing government programmes such as

Operation Wealth Creation, Youth Livelihood Programme and CDD, Luwero Rwenzori among others and has also occasionally invited their respective sub county speakers to be part of the meetings for associations. As a result of these engagements, Nezikokolima Farmers Group received Ugx.2,000,000 under the Community Driven Development programme from their sub county which was witnessed by TWDA staff that were invested in tents and chairs enterprises in the FY 2015/2016. Bivamuntuuyo FG found in Kasengejje is still shortlisted to receive 3,000,000 before the end of the financial year to be invested in its mushroom enterprise whereas Tulina esubi was shortlisted to receive 1,000,000 shillings. This calls for continued engagement of CDOs by concerned groups as was the case for Nezikokolima FG.

2. b Agency lobby meetings/activities

The agency organised a farmers' engagement meeting with the NAADS Coordinator for Busiro East, the District Agriculture Officer, Wakiso district and the MD Pearl seeds. Following this meeting, TWDA was also invited to attend a breakfast meeting on dissemination of new seed varieties organised by Pearl seeds and Ergerton University.



Farmers listening during an engagement meeting with officials of NAADS



Participants during the breakfast meeting on dissemination of new seed varieties

The agency was also invited to attend the launch of the E-tag verification system for elimination of substandard agro-inputs that was launched by UNBS in partnership with R-Publishings, mPedigree and USAID Feed the future. The agency was further visited by a team from mPedigree to work out ways of incorporating TWDA as a key stakeholder in sensitizing farmers about the system and capturing farmers' feedback on the system.

The organisation partnered with Pearl seeds LTD and organised a farmers' sensitization meeting in identification of substandard seeds.



The MD pearl seeds sensitizing farmers in identification of substandard seeds

Farmers supported by TWDA have been encouraged to contact other NGOs for support. This has seen farmers in Namayumba FA receiving support from Send-A-Cow Project. In Gayaaza FG, 2 households received 2 heifers valued at UGX. 3,000,000. In Bugimba Twezimbe, 1 household has received one heifer valued at UGX. 1,500,000 and another one has been shortlisted for support. Kawerimidde FG still under Namayumba FA received support from VAD and PELUM to start a community seed bank for the benefit group members and the community at large.

2.c Collaborations

TWDA has further established a strategic partnership with Kiyita Family Alliance For development (KIFAD) for HIV/AIDS counselling and testing based on its expertise in this field. Furthermore, one staff of TWDA on behalf of the CAPCA fraternity attended a learning exposure visit on Bio-Intensive Agriculture (BIA) techniques that was sponsored by PELUM and is anticipated to benefit especially farmers under TWDA faced with the challenge of reduced farming areas. This has resulted in some groups benefiting by having their members (5 groups and 63 members) trained in BIA techniques for example, 17 members under Nezikokolima FG were trained in BIA techniques. In MUKABU, 12 members were trained where as in Mukisa Mpewo FG, 10 members attended the training. In Kakiri Caring, 10 members including youth attended the training. In Bivamuntuuyu, 14 members attended the training in BIA.

TWDA has further linked farmers to private sector actors to increase farmers' access to markets and improve their household incomes. For example, the agency linked farmers to Avail Group a company involved in supply of high value vegetables to high end consumers through what is called the "Basket delivery scheme". The company trained farmers in vegetable production and marketing. In addition the organisation established a working relationship with Sim Law Seeds to promote contract marketing of indigenous vegetable seeds and this has led to four groups being enrolled to kick start contract production of vegetable seeds for the company. This is particularly envisaged to benefit especially farmers in Wakiso and Namayumba. The organisation has further established working relation with DEK Energy Solutions LTD to enable supported households establish low cost Biogas plants.

3. OVCS AND YOUTH

1 group level training for youth was conducted in Mukabu in value addition to cassava. Youth were trained in making cakes and daddies using cassava flour. This is anticipated to contribute to mobilization of youth into existing CAPCA groups.



Women and youth under MUKABU being trained in making cakes from cassava flour as a value addition technique.

4. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

In an effort to strengthen the organization, TWDA registered as a non-profit company with the registrar of companies in Uganda and the registration number is **202612**. This gives the organization mandate to operate on a national level as a non-profit entity there by widening its area of reach from the original registration as a CBO which was limiting the organization to operate only in Wakiso District.

Furthermore, the organization was able to acquire an organizational website under the names www.twquganda.org.



Rev. Fr. Buye blessing two brand new motor cycles for field staff acquired with funding from Caritas Denmark.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT Remarks form Head of Finance

In the year 2012 the finance department strengthened their efforts to deliver transparent and effective accountancy for all TWDA projects and activities. Software called Microsoft Dynamics manned by the organization accountant to record its financial transactions on a daily basis. This software has a customized chart of accounts where financial transactions are systematically and accurately recorded. To ensure conformity, TWDA has also got a finance compliance officer who takes charge of all finance monitoring and internal audits with the organization on a quarterly basis. Every project TWDA runs has a separate account where its operations are carried out. It is on this account that the respective funder deposits funds. On receipt of funds from the donor, TWDA acknowledges receipt of these funds to the donor and then starts disbursing the money according to the approved budget. Every year TWDA conducts an audit to reflect the organization's financial position. These reports give a true and fair view of the financial position of TWDA at the end of year. The latest annual audit being that for the year ended 31st December 2015 conducted by Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

This report has been compiled by Walusimbi Ronald, the coordinator in collaboration with all staff of TWDA.

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