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| Danish organisation | SDG World |
| Title of the intervention | Enhancing the Livelihoods of Rural Youth, and the Environment in Rukungiri - Uganda, through Beekeeping |
| Partner name(s) | The Purple Ray (TPR), Uganda |
| Amount applied for | 99.920 DKK |
| Country(ies) | Uganda |
| Period (# of months) | 6 Months |
| If re-submission or in continuation of a previous intervention, please insert journal number | Yes - (22-3958-CSP-SI) |

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* What do you want to achieve through the intervention?

Our main goal with this project is to contribute to developing of alternative rural youth employment and income avenues through piloting the upscaling and promoting of a scantly uptaken environmentally friendly agricultural practice – namely bee keeping (Apiculture) in Uganda. The project also promotes two sub ambitions for SDG World in Denmark and The Purple Ray in Uganda. By working around environmental sustainability, supporting the creation of jobs for youths, and developing entrepreneurial capacities for incomes and fighting of poverty, the project directly interacts with several SDGs and specifically SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 8, and SDG 12. On the other hand, SDG World and The Purple Ray will be directly partnering for the first time, and as such the project acts as a launchpad to this partnership contributing to SDG 17.

This process towards achieving the above will involve three inter-connected sub-objectives, namely:

1. Mobilizing and skilling of a cohort of 100 young people across Rukungiri district in Uganda in updated knowledge, methods, and skills in apiculture development.
2. Strengthening capacities of the four (4) youth apiculture groups we will work with in Rukungiri district in updated practices relating to managing their groups, mobilizing communities, and fostering further growth of apiculture and other related objectives surrounding environmental sustainability, and creation of alternative employment and incomes for young people.
3. To reach out to and mobilize local communities and key stakeholders in Rukungiri towards garnering awareness about and support for apiculture and the related project ambitions of environmentally friendly agricultural practice and alternative youth employment.

* Why is the intervention important?

Uganda’s economy heavily relies on the agricultural sector, or as the National Development Plan phase three puts it – agriculture is the major economic activity of the country (NDP III). The agricultural sector employs 65% of the working population, of which 63% are youths mostly located in rural areas/districts like Rukungiri. The backdrop of this is that majority of the youths in the sector remain underemployed or unemployed in the sense that they work on their family farms, with the proceeds being communal. Many try to get absorbed in other informal sectors such as construction sites, car washing bays, hired as casual labour on other farms, car repair garages, hair salons, or starting a flat bread stand by the roadside among others, but these are characterized by low-quality working conditions, unstable earnings, and job insecurity. It has become a challenge for youth to find gainful, secure, and decent employment in most sectors of the economy – where opportunities for employment are highest.

The Covid19 effects on these sectors and youths has also been immense. It is common knowledge now that with the school lockdowns over at least 2 years more than tripled the competition for young people looking for meaningful employment and incomes. The exacerbated the challenges already mentioned. And the return to school did not necessarily eliminate these, it is estimated that at least 30% of all school going young people – especially girls, did not return to school. These either became young mothers in the due course, due to family failed incomes joined family labour, or by the pleasure of getting into small jobs lost the impetus to return to education. The threshold is that the pressure on young people’s meaningful engagement and self-sustenance remains a major factor in Uganda.

Covid19 aside, Uganda – and especially the agricultural sector has in many years already been struggling with challenges relating to unpredictable climate changes. Short and unpredictable rain seasons, warmer and longer droughts, and sometimes el nino like rain periods, all have added pressure to the already struggling sector. Again, it is young people making up more than 60% of the labour here that face the biggest challenges. Being in their productive years and not having the possibility to grow themselves, this coupled with limited skills, resources, and capital to invest in climate-smart mitigation and adaptation interventions is worth attention.

To sum up the above, young people anywhere in Uganda, and especially in rural spaces are facing the following challenges that make this project important to implement.

1. Low access to, and control over, productive resources like land and capital that are commonly family
2. Limited knowledge and skills in Climate Smart Agriculture against that climate change is postulated to be the biggest factors leading to the financial loss of youth investment in agriculture.
3. Income poverty, driving youth to small income-generating activities**.**

Many youths are trapped in high levels of income poverty i.e., they do not have any sustained lucrative incomes, which are a must if a farmer is to benefit from agriculture due to its seasonal returns. As a quick fix, many resort to risky business ventures like commercial motorcycle transport (boda boda), and other lowly paying service sector jobs that give a day-to-day reward. But the other nonformal jobs are also a recipe for loss of investments and further impoverishment of young people.

1. Youth lack of well-coordinated and collective quality improvement and marketing strategies.

Much as many youths have engaged in profitable agriculture – like what we see across the four groups and 100 young people we will work with, they have taken on this role as individuals with less capacity to produce on a large scale and influence quality, price, and market, hence leading to financial loss for those engaged in agriculture due to low market margins and yet the costs of production are high.

These are some of the challenges that trigger the need for our project, and thus aspects we will work with to try and build local youth skills, groups capacities, community awareness and activism for youths, as well as collective knowledge and resilience against climate challenges.

* Describe the context of the intervention:

Globally, more than 40% of the world’s population is under the age of 25 and most of them are living in developing countries (UNDP, 2021). The majority of the young people in these countries are either underemployed or unemployed. Youth unemployment and underemployment are chronic problems. There are few decent job opportunities for young people, creating poverty or “low-pay” traps, driving social unrest, exclusion, and migration (UN, 2020). With a majority of the young people being employed on land, the impact of negative effects of climate change have rendered many young people jobless and these effects are projected to create new poverty traps which will particularly affect youth in more vulnerable categories such as girls, and young women, out of school youths, youth with disabilities, and those with limited access to land and/or capital. Urgent solutions are therefore needed to create employment opportunities for young people by investing in sustainable community-based solutions that have the potential to absorb all categories of vulnerable youth (UNDP, 2021).

Locally in Uganda, we have already introduced that the Ugandan economy relies heavily on the agricultural sector which employs about 65% of the working population, of which 63% are youth. The youth make up the largest percentage of Uganda’s population - 79% under the age of 30 years, with the majority of these residing in rural areas where agriculture is the major economic activity. However, their participation in the rural Agro-economy is limited by social, economic, and environmental factors that have worsened the unemployment situation among young people (Uganda National Bureau of Statistics, (UNBS, 2019). Attracting and supporting more young people in decent employment under various stages of the sustainable agriculture value chain is imperative. It is critical for government, communities, and other stakeholders to sensitize, train, and support rural unemployed youth and women to focus on high-value sustainable agriculture ventures (NDP III).

Under the government planning mechanisms, there are many initiates that aim at ensuring that the above happens, and that are supportive to our project. For example, Uganda remains devolved in regard to policy and planning mechanisms all the way to the district level. Each district, including Rukungiri has a focal office for agriculture and environmental planning to ensure that the national priorities are implemented here. There is also a district commercial office, which oversees and supports the emergence of cross-sectoral commercialization of economic practices – carrying with them government support and mandate to support local communities in this. There is also a clear awareness and political focus on young people’s employment and entrepreneurship initiatives coordinated by both the office of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and the office of the Community Development Officer (CDO). These again bring mandate and support to initiatives deemed relevant to the economy. All these offices find The Purple Ray and their ambitions of growing Apiculture an innovative and supported way of turning a well-known traditional practice (been harvesting) into a formalized economic activity contributing the employment.

At organizational level, The Purple Ray has already made several moves to among others become members or get associated with the Climate Smart Youth Action Network (CSYAN) that works around involving youths in innovating around climate smart solutions in all sectors. Purple Ray is also in the process of getting into the Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO), which is a platform for several businesses as well as small organizations working around turning Apiculture into not only a mainstream, but also a well-known nutrition as well as economic contributor to the Ugandan economy. Moreover, The Purple Ray has already organized several young people into different community groups to among others engage in Apiculture in an organized way, in a district that has a long history of producing honey for the country. The organization has an extended reach among young people – male as well as female, and commands respect among the social-political leadership of the region. The Purple Ray also runs community radio programs on among other agriculture, health, education, and entrepreneurship aspects.

The above presented, the local context in Uganda presents a fertile space for this project, and this will in return feed into the global needs for improving the conditions of young people towards reaching the SDGs.

* Describe how this intervention can contribute to supporting collaboration, public engagement, and civil organising and how this in time will contribute to social justice.

The project through its interlinked objectives will promote sustainable collaboration, public engagement, and civil organizing at Micro, Meso, and Macro levels, where in this context the micro is the sub county level, Meso is the district level and Macro is the national level. These are as follows:

1. At micro level, there will be four (4) groups comprising of at least 25 members each that will collaborate in their respective sub-counties through peer-to-peer learning around the issues of the project, as well as interactions related to cross-cutting issues such as gender, market linkages, and post-harvest handling of apiculture products such as honey, bee wax, and acropolis. As part of civil organizing, the apiculture groups will invite their peers, families, community decision makers, and lower local government officials especially the department of production, marketing, commercial officer, and community services department to see as well as engage with products and services done by the group members. This will create awareness and hopefully instigate community activism in a rural community like this that is commonly marginalized on national plans and priorities.
2. At meso level, the project will engage with the district leadership – both formal and informal (political and social-cultural), here specifically the department for production and marketing at the district level who will support the different groups with apiculture extension services and other apiculture-related technical services offered. The department for commercial services will be engaged during the post-harvest handling of apiculture products such as honey and bee wax in order to promote the quality of the products. The community at large will be engaged through the community engagement meetings that will comprise of different informal sector associations. The Purple Ray already have a good working relation with the different departments, and these are always open to support in return.
3. At the macro level, The Purple Ray will subscribe to be members of Climate Smart Youth Action Network-CSYAN who are members of “The Uganda National Apiculture Development organisation-TUNADO”. Through these, TPR will disseminate the project in these networks, and hopefully motivate others to both uptake and offer inputs to what we are doing in Rukungiri. Moreover, [CSYAN](https://www.csayn.org/) has already pledged to voluntarily share some of the knowledge resources from TUNADO as part of institutional mentorship process that they give to new members, and also in the future create possibilities for having our communities products in their [world of bees online shop](https://worldofbees.shop/).

* What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?

The intervention itself is environmentally friendly because there is enough documented evidence which demonstrates that beekeeping fosters climate resilience. They provide an important ecosystem service via pollination, directly contributing to enhanced food security, and increasing yields in 75% of global crops. Bees are known to depend on a healthy environment with unpolluted flowering plants in agricultural and natural areas. Beekeeping promotes sustainable production patterns, but also tasks us to plant forests/plants with a great diversity. To ensure this, the project will respond to the increasing rate of wetland and forest clearing by planting trees and flower plants around the hives for the production of pollen. Each beneficiary will be expected to plant at least 10 trees – especially fruit trees (Mangoes and Avocado Trees), adding fruits for domestic consumption and sale to generate extra income to the project scope. This will also empower us to achieve socio-economic growth through “***future sensitive ways”***.

1. **The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.

SDG World and The Purple Ray (TPR) will be cooperating on organizational level for the first time, and thus the choice to pilot this partnership with a small-scale project that we find interesting and answering to the two partners’ missions/visions. However, Andrew Julius Bende a member of SDG World board has been interacting with Honda Agono the founder of TPR, who has in turn been interacting with Peniel Rwendeire of NAC under the CSYAN initiative in Uganda. On introduction to SDG World about 6 months ago, the rest of the members here found TPR fitting within the framework of SDG World, and the local partner’s activities and reach in their communities being deemed as impactful and relevant in the current SDGs context. The project idea also has a great potential, thus the start of the partnership.

* Describe the partners and other actors’ contributions, roles, and responsibilities. Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.

SDG World as Danish partner will be responsible for the overall framework of the project and supporting TPR to understanding the rules of the fund and supporting them to effectively implement the project locally through consultations, monitoring and capacity building where necessary. TPR as the local partner will be responsible for the on-ground implementation of the project. They will ensure that all the activities that take place, providing timely feedback to SDG World and joint learning along the way. The two partners will cooperate on the monitoring activity where SDG World travels to Uganda for field monitoring.

* Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.

NA

1. **Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)**

* Who will benefit from the intervention? How many people will benefit in total? How will they participate in the intervention?

Our project will in total directly train 108 youths and group leaders in the primary target group segment and engage at least 252 community members, community leaders, TPR staff and volunteers under the secondary target group, that have direct proximity to the project objectives.

In the primary target group, we will reach the 8 representatives from the 4 youth groups that will be capacitated with the ambition to strengthen the groups, as well as the 100 (70 female, 30 male) youths coming from the 4 youth groups in the district that will take part in the project.

The secondary target group of the project will involve 4 TPR staff that will be directly involved in implementing the project, 5 volunteers from TPR that will support with different roles, 2 SDG World representatives that will be involved in the project, as well as at least 240 community members that we expect to be part of the 6 community events that we will implement in the district. On top of these, we will involve 4 district/local council stakeholders from the office of production, Chief Administration Officer, Community Development Office, and youth affairs department.

On a general level, we envision a reach of at least 5,000 community members through the radio talk shows. This is around the audience of the radio stations we will be engaging. Through the youth groups reach at least another 200 youths across the district that have proximity to the groups. And on national level through the national platforms CSYAN and TUNADO reach at least 50 organizational members that are part of these platforms through our information dissemination here. We also hope through information events in Denmark to reach the 70 SDG World subscribed members

* Describe how the intervention will be implemented: what activities will be carried out? With whom? And when?

The project will be implemented based on the three specific objectives in section 1, and outputs below.

1. Under objective 1, the logic is to equip young people with skills in apiculture, from the technical aspects of the practice itself (rearing bees, how to start, maintaining a healthy environment, security aspects, harvesting of biproducts etc., to promotional aspects around mobilizing communities to support the practice, enterprising around turning apiculture into business for jobs and income, growing the reach of the product market through quality specifics and market analysis/growth. This involves these outputs:
   1. Train 100 (70 female, 30 male) youths in the apiculture value chain through holding two rounds of 2-day trainings for the youths.
2. Under objective 2, the logic is that while youth groups have a history of formation and mobilization of members, the organizing, management, sustainability, and profitability of such groups remains a puzzle. The idea is thus to bring in these specific skills in the ambition of strengthening these groups to sustainability. Another factor for this capacitating in relation to apiculture is that it remains expensive for low-income youth groups to afford basic start-up equipment for them to have a chance to grow their groups and practice. This is also a part of what we aim at giving solution to by providing different technical inputs. This will involve the following outputs:
   1. Strengthen youth groups and support them into apiculture micro cooperatives for business sustainability. This will include supporting the 4 groups to register with the office of the district commercial officer to gain access to government support, train groups leaders in how to effectively manage and grow their groups, as well as do analyses on how linkages can be built to commercial honey buyers for possibilities of expanding the groups’ market.
   2. Equip community groups with supportive and improved equipment & quality management. This will include facilitating the purchase of modern beehives, harvesting kits, smokers, a honey processor, and well as securing the bee farm spaces.
3. Under objective 3, we want to build community wide awareness and support for apiculture in the district, as a way of building support for the practice. This involves ensuring that more people get attracted to the practice, support the youth groups, get familiar to, and start buying the products from the youth groups, as well as other actors in the community adopting the model and staring their own apiculture farms. This involves the following outputs:
   1. Organize 6 monthly community engagement meetings/forums to mobilize community members to the project and inform them of what is going on and how they can support/be part of the project. This will also involve connecting with apiculture concerned local offices for their support and mentoring.
   2. Organize 6 monthly apiculture awareness radio talk shows to bring the project message to the district wider audience. The ambition is the same as in 3.1. above – to mobilize and inform community.
   3. Support to the implementation of climate smart agriculture promotion activities during the project, including facilitating/mandating the planting of at least 1000 fruit trees as a way of reinforcing the bee ecosystem, while contributing to protecting the environment. The fruit trees/gardens will also have nutritional and economic benefits for the communities in Rukungiri.

The different objectives and outputs will follow the timeline in the picture/table below:

Table

Description automatically generated

1. **Intervention-related information work in Denmark**

* The purpose of the information work.
* Give Danish public access to what is happening in Uganda and engaging them in our work.
* Utilize this information for lobby and advocacy towards policy support for development work.
* The target groups of the information work.
* Our members and followers through online channels and our Annual General Assembly
* To other Danish CSOs present in Uganda and the Danish public through public workshops
* The means of communication to be used (social media, printed matter, theatre, events, or the like).
* Public workshops & events, social media, World Wide Web (our website), and Printed content.