

AgDevCo^o

**GULU AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
BASELINE SURVEY**
AGDEVCO SMALLHOLDER
DEVELOPMENT UNIT



ABOUT GADC

The Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADC), an agro-processor, has been working with smallholder farmers in northern Uganda since 2009 to revitalize the region's cotton industry, diversify crop production, and provide access to modern agricultural inputs, new markets, and training. GADC purchases cotton, sesame, sunflower, chilies, and maize directly from farmers, processes the crops locally, and then sells them to local and international markets.

With the support of donor funding, GADC has developed a large network of field officers who provide extension and buying services and have built strong relationships with local suppliers. GADC is currently working with over 80,000 farmers across the region and has invested in organic certification for over 40,000 of them.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

With support from AgDevCo's Smallholder Development Unit (SDU) and partnerships with 500 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), GADC will provide agricultural microloans and training aimed at improving productivity, lifting and stabilizing household incomes, and building vital financial skills.

Over the course of the project, 750 farmers are expected to receive loans in the form of buy-to-own farming equipment (including ox ploughs, weeders and planters). Production loans will be issued once a credit record is established. This will enable these farmers to increase their yields by 30% and their income from sesame production by 50%. Other farmers are expected also to increase their yields and income through hiring services from the 750 borrowers. All VSLA members will benefit from the training on financial literacy and agronomic practices, and will improve their capacity to manage credit, thereby enabling them to access commercial microloans.

BASELINE SURVEY

This report draws on data from a baseline household survey that was carried out in June 2017 by six GADC field officers with support from the SDU. The survey was carried out in the wards where the six field officers operate, across both Lamwo and Pader districts. A sample of 392 VSLA members were surveyed, selected at random from among all the group members in those wards. The sample was stratified by gender, to ensure that women and men were represented at the same proportions as in the total population of VSLA members.

THE SURVEY INCLUDED 28 QUESTIONS

4



questions about the producer and their household.

10



questions drawn from the Poverty Probability Index (PPI).

13



questions about the household's diet.



Abdul Owande, who works as a driver with GADC.



Inspecting the sorghum crop.

DEMOGRAPHICS

60%



of VSLA members are women.

35



The median age of the VSLA members is 35 years.

53%



53% of VSLA members are aged 35 or below.

96%



Almost all (96%) of the male VSLA members are heads of household.

57%



Among women VSLA members, 57% are heads of household.

FARMING

Only 7% of VLSA members (mostly widows and single women) carry out their farming activities alone. In the other 93% of cases, multiple household members are involved in farming.

46% of VSLA members say that their daughters and/or sons also contribute to their farming activities.

DIET

Survey respondents said that their households ate two meals on the day before the survey, on average.

13% of respondents said that their households ate only one meal the previous day.

The Household Dietary Diversity Score measures how many different types of food household members ate on the day before the survey.

On average, households of VSLA members consumed 5.0 of the 12 food types listed.



Alex Opwonya using the ox-drawn ripper purchased with a loan from GADC.

Households that consumed the food type yesterday

Cereals	<div style="width: 96%;"></div>	96%
Vegetables	<div style="width: 89%;"></div>	89%
Oils or fat	<div style="width: 74%;"></div>	74%
Pulses, legumes or nuts	<div style="width: 63%;"></div>	63%
Roots and tubers	<div style="width: 55%;"></div>	55%
Fish	<div style="width: 44%;"></div>	44%
Fruits	<div style="width: 19%;"></div>	19%
Meat or poultry	<div style="width: 17%;"></div>	17%
Sugar or honey	<div style="width: 13%;"></div>	13%
Milk or milk products	<div style="width: 8%;"></div>	8%
Eggs	<div style="width: 3%;"></div>	3%
Other food types	<div style="width: 21%;"></div>	21%

POVERTY

The Poverty Probability Index (PPI) gives a way to estimate the percentage of households that are below the poverty line, based on their response to 10 simple questions. In the case of Uganda, the PPI includes questions about the members of the household, their education, their housing conditions, and their possessions (including shoes, radios and mobile phones).

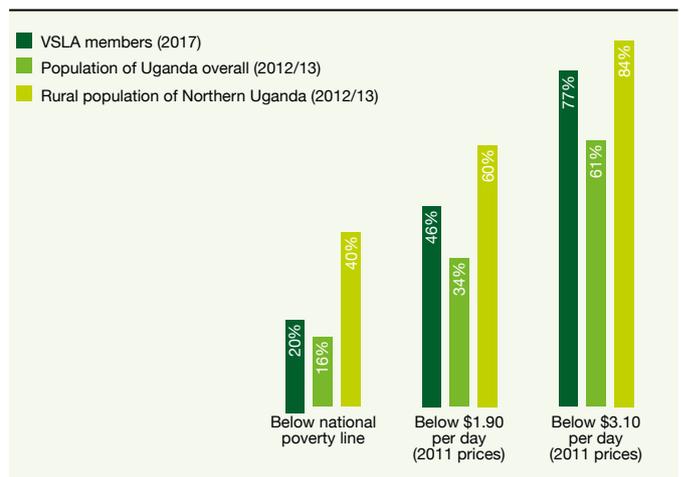
20% of VSLA members were found to be living below the national poverty line for Uganda, which is seen as the level require to secure the most basic standard of living, including food and non-food items. (This line is set at 1,982 Uganda shillings per adult equivalent person per day in 2012/13 prices). 46% were below the international extreme poverty line of US\$1.90 per adult equivalent per day, and 77% were living below the more moderate line of US\$3.10 per adult equivalent per day.

The VSLA members are generally poorer than the population of Uganda as a whole, but they are less poor than the rural population in the Northern Region.

Households of older VSLA members were more likely to be living below the poverty line.

The number of meals consumed and dietary diversity are strongly linked to poverty, as measured by the PPI. Those living above the \$1.90 per day poverty line consumed 0.4 more meals per day, and 1.9 more food types than those below the poverty line.

Poverty rates



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK AND APPROACH

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