



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OPM - DINU



EUROPEAN UNION

IMPACT STORIES



DINU SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NORTHERN UGANDA

INTEGRATED APPROACH:

DINU implemented a wide range of sustainable interventions that improved the livelihoods of many people in Northern Uganda

FOOD SECURITY

Farmers are now earning better after being trained in modern agronomic practices.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Key infrastructure investments have had a positive impact in the region.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Communities were encouraged to have their say on issues pertaining improved service delivery.

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FOREWORD

Message from Minister for Northern Uganda

First of all, I thank Government of Uganda and the European Union for their wise thought to give this grant to Northern Uganda. The history of Northern Uganda in light of the LRA war is well known. Twenty years down the road, the effects of this war left a trail of poverty, trauma and a different mindset. The war left a mindset of devastation, a mindset of vulnerability, a mindset of nobody is thinking about us, a mindset of really something more should be done for Northern Uganda, etc. I have learnt that you cannot deal with the effects of war within a short time.

Nationally, poverty indices have been reducing. But poverty indicators for Northern Uganda remain worryingly high in spite of many government interventions. The figures show that poverty levels in Northern Uganda are at 54% compared to elsewhere in the country. Acholi subregion poverty levels are at 68%, Karamoja at 70%, so there are still gaps.

Emphasis of poverty eradication is at household level. This is why the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) tried as much as possible to include components of food security, nutrition, infrastructure development and good governance.

Now, DINU was designed to last for five years but COVID-19 pandemic interrupted implementation. But the interventions of the programme were strategic. For instance, the Gulu Logistics Hub, Atiak-Laropi road, community access roads in Adjumani, Abim and Moyo, markets in Zombo, Paidha, Kole, Agago districts, etc. The markets will make women to earn income, mobilize produce and mobilize people to engage in production.

The local governments were trained in strategies of revenue collection. For a long time, local governments



Hon. Grace Freedom Kwiyucwiny
State Minister for Northern Uganda

have struggled with low local revenue collection. With DINU intervention, a number of district local governments were empowered to collect revenue using digital tools. For many districts the revenue has increased. We pray that this is maintained and that the revenue is well utilized.

DINU also intervened in community customary land titling. The land has gained value. The community in Apac, Agago and Maracha districts have been supported to title communal land.

“
I am happy that grinding mills have been established in Lamwo where mini grids are. This means the youth are getting employment.
HON. GRACE FREEDOM KWIYUCWINY

The programme also constructed produce stores and bulking centres. We hope that with the coming of Parish Development Model, farmers will be able to plan their production, storage, marketing and processing taking advantage of these facilities.

The Gulu Logistics Hub is another strategic investment. It is meant to be an inland port where trade takes place. Processing, clearing and other transactions will take place at this hub. With this logistics hub, we are targeting trade within the region, and with neighbouring countries like South Sudan, DR Congo and Central African Republic. This will boost production and value addition.

The Atiak-Laropi road has been in a bad shape for a long time. Before it was upgraded to tarmac, whenever it rained vehicles would get stuck for days and weeks yet this road links us to South Sudan and West Nile. But because of DINU programme the road was worked on and now travel to and fro is very easy and comfortable. Previously us who use small vehicles would take up three hours to travel from Gulu to Adjumani but with the tarmac road it now takes an hour. Because of this road, transport, and connectivity have been made easier and doing business is cheaper. Such investments are key to development.

The 25 villages in Lamwo received electricity from solar energy for the first time. I am happy that grinding mills have been established in Lamwo where mini grids are. This means the youth are getting employment.

Much as we appreciate these developments, there is still a lot that needs to be done. There are still many areas in Northern Uganda that have bad roads, that have no electricity, etc. we want to see these resolved. Solar goes deeper to the rural areas where the national grid is not yet accessed.

FOREWARD

Message from Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda

Northern Uganda is a key region of this beautiful country with a lot of potential for development not least but because of its proud and resilient people who have endured so many challenges over the decades. For the past six years, the European Union together with the Government of Uganda, has funded the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) programme. DINU is a prime example of EU's long standing partnership with the Government of Uganda to improve livelihoods and local development with the ultimate goal of contributing to long lasting peace, security and stability.

DINU with its total of Euros150 million funding has been a flagship programme for the European Union. Now that the DINU programme is approaching its end, I am really happy to see all the achievements made and lives improved across Northern Uganda. For example, the construction and rehabilitation of roads to help remote communities gain access to key services; lives of



Ambassador Jan Sadek, Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda.

women vendors improved thanks to the construction of markets providing descent working conditions. And, the installment of boreholes and water distribution systems contributed to improved health and hygiene for local communities. Local governments were supported with budget planning and

increased local revenue performance.

The European Union has a long history of supporting this region, and mark my words, EU support does not end with DINU programme. The EU continues to support the Ugandan people nationwide including in Northern Uganda. In the EU we know the crucial role of local authorities and governments play in achieving development results. This was the case with DINU and it is reflected under the new programmes and projects supported by the EU in Uganda.

DINU reached far and DINU reached many across all of Northern Uganda from Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, Teso and West Nile. This is thanks to the dedication and willingness of all partners involved including the Government of Uganda, local authorities, implementing partners, and the people of Northern Uganda. As the African proverb says: 'If you want to go fast you go alone, if you want to go far you go together'. With DINU, we have demonstrated that together we can go further.



An aerial view of the Gulu Logistics Hub in Northern Uganda.

FOREWORD

Empowering Northern Uganda: OPM's crucial role in DINU implementation

Article 108 A of the Constitution of Uganda mandates Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to coordinate all Government programmes, Ministries, Departments and Agencies. In the case of DINU, OPM established many committees at national and district level so as to ensure that planned activities are effected.

The OPM's multifaceted responsibilities are key to the successful implementation of this vital initiative.

At the forefront, the OPM took on the crucial role of overseeing the direct implementation of government agencies and local governments engaged in the implementation of DINU. This involved vigilant oversight and monitoring, ensuring that every



Rose Alenga,
Ag. Permanent Secretary, OPM

aspect aligned seamlessly with the overarching programme objectives.

Recognizing the need for strategic direction, the OPM instituted the

Programme Steering Committee (PSC). Chaired by Office of the Prime Minister, the PSC boasts a diverse membership, including representatives from beneficiary ministries, the European Union Delegation, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and various line ministries. This committee served as the compass, validating the overall direction and policy of the DINU programme. Under the guidance of the OPM, the PSC diligently conducted thorough reviews and validations of work plans, budgets, and programme performance against predetermined targets. This meticulous process ensured coherence among the different components and implementing agencies involved in the DINU initiative.

DINU's positive transformation to lives

The six years' journey of implementing the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) programme has come to an end with many sweet success stories to tell. Through DINU several people's livelihoods have been improved. From connecting water-stressed villages in Yumbe District that had long grappled with access to clean water, to building produce storage facilities to lighting up 25 remote villages with solar electricity, DINU programme had a transformative impact on the lives of Ugandans in the north.

DINU is a Government of Uganda programme that is supported by the European Union and supervised by Office of the Prime Minister. It is implemented in 41 districts across five sub-regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso, West Nile and Karamoja. The DINU programme was supported to a tune of 150 million Euros.

DINU was implemented by 16 partners in



Pamela Kabahezi,
OPM-DINU National Programme Coordinator

three specific interlinked sectors; namely (1) Food Security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods, (2) Infrastructure development, and (3) Good Governance. The rationale for the link between the three areas is that for food production and livelihood support to be more meaningful, the farmers had to be linked to the markets, so it was necessary to rehabilitate and upgrade roads to transport produce, build produce storage facilities for bulking, build clean descent markets for the farmers, and provide clean safe water for their health and hygiene. Good governance comes in to create an enabling environment for farmers and communities to thrive. For example, in Karamoja, police posts were built to promote peace and security. The communities in this region can carry on agriculture knowing that they are safe and secure.

Currently, if you go to areas where DINU was implemented, we have communities that are more secure than before.

Overview

How DINU has driven change over the years

The Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) is a comprehensive programme initiated by the Government of Uganda and supported by the European Union (EU) and supervised by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

Operating over a six-year span (2017-2023), DINU was implemented in 41 districts across the five sub-regions of Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, Teso, and West Nile.

The general objective of the DINU programme is, "To consolidate stability, eradicate poverty and undernutrition and strengthen sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development". Under the general objective, there are three interlinked specific objectives and a number of result areas:

Specific Objective1 (SO1): To increase food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhance household incomes.

- **Result 1.1:** Increased production of diversified food.
- **Result 1.2:** Increased market accessibility.
- **Result 1.3:** Improved maternal, child health and nutrition.

SpecificObjective2 (SO2): To increase trade of commodities within the region, within the country and with neighbouring countries through the improvement of infrastructure.

- **Result 2.1:** Transport infrastructure in the regions is improved and are climate-resilient;
- **Result 2.2:** Cargo distribution system and storage capacities are improved in Northern Uganda.

SpecificObjective3 (SO3): To strengthen capacity and gender-responsive good governance.

- **Result 3.1:** Capacities of Local governments to manage core public financial processes is strengthened to improve service delivery and local development;



Road infrastructure development is one of the key investment projects that DINU has implemented to stir economic development in Northern Uganda.

- **Result 3.2:** Upward accountability of Local Governments increased;
- **Result 3.3:** Downward accountability of Local Governments to its constituents is strengthened by empowering citizens, civil society, media, Non-State Actors (NSAs), private sector in their interaction with Local Government;
- **Result 3.4: Capacities of local government to deliver services to communities strengthened.**

DINU supports interventions in three specific interlinked sectors:

1. Food Security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods;
2. Infrastructures (Transport, Logistics, Water, Energy);
3. Good Governance

The Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), a Government of Uganda programme supported by the European Union and supervised by Office of the Prime Minister, was initiated in 2017. OPM is responsible for the overall supervision of the EURO 150.6 million programme in partnership with local governments and a wide range of stakeholders, including implementing partners: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office /Trademark Africa, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, and Uganda National Roads Authority. Other key partners include CARITAS Switzerland, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, National Agricultural Research Organisation, Lutheran World Federation, CARE-Denmark, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Center for Health, Human Rights and Development, ADOL Health Care Initiative and DIAKONIA-Sweden.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Gulu Logistics Hub: Revolutionizing trade and regional connectivity

The Gulu Logistics Hub, a comprehensive facility constructed under DINU, stands as a pivotal point for facilitating the seamless movement of goods and services. Spanning 27 acres, this expansive hub is designed to invigorate business and trade both within the region and with neighbouring countries.

The primary objective of the hub is to serve as a centralized facility for goods destined for neighbouring nations such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya. Offering a myriad of services including tax payment, maintenance and repair, customs inspections, and banking, the hub is anticipated to handle about 20,000 containers in its initial phase.

Mr. Jackson Lakor, the Gulu District Production Officer, and the district focal person for DINU, emphasizes that the hub will establish crucial market links for farmers and traders. He anticipates improvements in market access for diverse products, leading to enhanced production levels and strengthened market linkages. Additionally, the hub's proximity to South Sudan and DR Congo is expected to generate increased job opportunities for the local community, consequently boosting incomes and improving livelihoods.

Addressing past challenges related to customs, Mr. Lakor asserts that the hub in Gulu will streamline operations and enhance service delivery by handling such issues locally. With connections to the railway line and a dedicated container parking lot, the hub has sparked high expectations among the locals in Gulu for the economic opportunities it is poised to bring when operational.

Expressing gratitude, he extends appreciation to the EU and the Government of Uganda for selecting



The people of Gulu are hopeful the logistics hub will create more jobs and business for the region. The hub will link Northern Uganda to regional markets in the neighbouring countries.

Gulu as the host for the logistics hub.

The Gulu District Vice Chairperson, Ms. Vicky Atim, believes that the hub will significantly contribute to job creation and poverty reduction in the Acholi Sub-region. She encourages farmers to ramp up production and add value to their products to maximize the benefits brought by the logistics hub, emphasizing its potential to boost local government revenue.

Mr. Patrick Omayya, the chairman of Gulu City Market Vendors association, is optimistic that the hub will catalyze

business in the city, benefiting local entrepreneurs. He highlights the convenience the hub will bring by centralizing clearing services, minimizing distance, and reducing delays at customs. For produce dealers like Mr. Cosmas Okello, the hub is viewed as a positive force in cutting transport costs. He emphasizes the advantage of rail transport for bulky commodities, presenting an opportunity for local products to reach neighboring countries efficiently.



The Gulu District Vice Chairperson, Ms. Vicky Atim.

INFRASTRUCTURE



DINU aimed to increase trade of commodities within the region, within the country and with neighbouring countries through the improvement of transport infrastructure.

Atiak-Laropi road: A transformative journey for trade and connectivity

Adra Abubaker, a 50-year-old truck driver, vividly recalls the challenging experiences on the Atiak-Laropi Road before its transformative upgrade. The road, once a symbol of hardship and inconvenience, has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis, easing transportation and fostering economic growth in the area.

Small cars and taxis would avoid this route due to its rugged state, leading to a cumbersome two-hour

journey from Atiak to Adjumani town as Abubaker Adra, a farmer and resident of Atiak, reminisces.

The primary goal of DINU, with funding from the European Union, was to enhance regional and cross-border trade by revamping transport infrastructure. The Atiak-Laropi road, connecting the Acholi and West Nile sub-regions, emerged as a focal point for this transformation.

The upgrade of the 66km Atiak-Laropi road to a tarmac standard has proven to be a game-changer, as traders, drivers, and residents

along the route attest to its transformative impact. Abubaker joyfully notes that the journey time between Atiak and Adjumani town has dramatically reduced to a mere 45 minutes, revolutionizing the local business landscape. The widened road, a stark contrast to its former self, facilitates the swift movement of goods and services.

The collaborative efforts of the Government of Uganda and the European Union materialized in a financial injection of Shillings 16.3 billion for the upgrading of the Atiak-



Laropi road to bitumen II (tarmac) standard. This crucial artery starts at the junction of the Gulu-Atiak-Nimule highway in Atiak, traverses Dzaipi and Pakelle trading centers, and culminates at the docking site on Albert Nile.

The commencement of the road upgrade in March 2020 was met with relief from road users who had grappled with the challenges of a gravel road marked by multiple gullies and potholes. This upgrade not only eradicated the menace but also marked the initiation of a new era of efficient and comfortable transportation.

The Atiak-Laropi road has significantly eased transportation for vehicles of all sizes. Abubaker emphasizes the reduction in the cost of servicing vehicles, previously burdened by the road's potholes. Beatrice Apia, a trader in Adjumani, echoes the



The improved road has eased transportation of goods and services in the region and across borders.



sentiment, expressing gratitude to the Government of Uganda and the EU for the road upgrade. She highlights the tangible changes in reduced travel time and costs, enabling her to conduct business expediently.

The strategic significance of the Atiak-Laropi road extends beyond local benefits. This infrastructure development is poised to improve transportation and facilitate trade along the Uganda-South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo

corridors. The joint funding of the project by the European Union and the Government of Uganda underlines the commitment to fostering regional connectivity and economic growth.

The metamorphosis of the Atiak-Laropi Road stands as a testament to the positive impact that strategic infrastructure development can have on local economies and regional connectivity. The road not only eases transportation but also unlocks new opportunities for trade and

INFRASTRUCTURE


Twenty five villages in Lamwo District benefited from DINU programme funded solar mini grids that have powered the rural areas. The supply of solar power has sparked a boom in businesses like metal fabrication, maize and groundnuts milling, beauty salons and night life.

Impact of solar mini grids in Lamwo

In Uganda, where only 22% of the population is reported to be connected to the national electricity grid, rural areas face significant challenges, with a mere 10% connection rate.

However, Lamwo is experiencing a positive shift with the establishment of 25 mini grids, contributing to increased connectivity and access to clean energy.

The provision of solar power in 25 villages in the district is making a transformative impact on the education of school-going children, offering them the opportunity to dedicate time to their studies in a well-lit environment.

Pamela Atim, a resident of Paloga, vividly recalls a time when the idea of watching television in her living room or witnessing her children revising without the constraints of candlelight seemed unimaginable. However, thanks to the solar-powered mini grids, a collaborative effort of the Government of Uganda, the European Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and a private sector partner, Winch Energy, under DINU, rural electrification is now a reality.

"I am now watching television in my home for news and





The supply of solar power in Lamwo villages has helped school going children to have time to revise their academic studies. They now use light to revise.

entertainment. My children are revising up to the time they want to stop without worrying that the candle will get finished. In our school time, we could not even revise because our parents could not afford enough kerosene in the lantern lamps. Thanks to DINU and the Government of Uganda, we have electricity, which we use to light our homes to enhance the security of our livestock and for the education of our children," she says.



I thank the government so much for rendering us this service because we have light all the time to read our books. Before, we used smaller torches to read our books at night, but sometimes these would not provide enough light. With solar electricity, we are no longer living in darkness. The introduction of solar mini grids in Lamwo not only brightens homes but also illuminates the path to a brighter and more empowered future for its residents.

**FRANKA LANYERO,
A SENIOR THREE STUDENT**

LIVELIHOODS



Provision of solar power has led to growth of trading centres where numerous businesses are now reliant on the grid.



Residents of Paloga are now able to tune into modern gadgets like TV sets for information and entertainment.



New businesses such as welding hitherto impossible to operate in Paloga are now thriving.



It is now easier to access news, entertainment and sports programming in many centres as a result of the min grids in Lamwo.

LIVELIHOODS

Minister Ongalo-Obote praises DINU programme

In his words, Hon. Kenneth Ongalo-Obote, Minister of State in Charge of Teso Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister, gives his assessment of DINU programme in Teso Sub-region:

"I became a minister in 2021 while DINU was being implemented. Immediately after my appointment, I conducted a familiarization tour in the project areas in Teso. I found out that DINU programme was implemented in three out of 14 districts in Teso Sub-region. This means the other districts, which were left out can be considered in the next phase of the programme.

Overall, the programme has had a lot of impact in the districts where it was implemented. In Amuria, Kapelebyong and Katakwi districts, DINU programme supported farmers in value addition and helped farmers and local government authorities to collect revenue.

At a bulking centre in Amuria, I saw farmers who were adding value to cassava using the equipment that DINU had provided. The farmers harvested and dried cassava, ground it into flour in my presence. This is very important thing because farmers can now harvest cassava during the rainy season and dry it. Ordinarily, our people have been relying on the sun to be able to dry cassava and process it. So if they can now dry it without needing the sunshine this increases value. In my interaction with the beneficiaries there was agreement that the programme was working well but they wanted more.

I was also able to commission a storage facility in Kapelebyong District. The storage facility has helped the farmers a lot with storing their produce and sell it when prices are better. Previously the farmers had been storing their produce in their houses which were infested with rats and unhealthy environment.



Hon. Kenneth Ongalo-Obote, Minister of State for Teso Affairs.

The central market in Amuria was constructed under DUNU and it is different from other markets in the sub-region. The traders and farmers sell their produce, and if there are reminders, they lock them up. This has saved them the burden of transporting back the produce that is unsold. They just walk back home. This has had a great impact on the community.

Development partners have often bypassed Teso. We thank DINU programme for having considered Teso although there is need for more coverage of the region. Teso has had three major problems, namely: cattle rustlers from Karamoja, the LRA insurgency from the North, and we ourselves took up arms which interrupted economic progress for quite some time. These historical problems have made Teso disadvantaged as much as Karamoja, and Northern Uganda.

I thank Government of Uganda for restoring security in Teso. Indeed, it has gone on to show that when you have peace, people can pick themselves up and develop. I want to appreciate the work that DINU was doing in Teso. It is easy to tell the difference when you reach districts where DINU operated

and those where this programme didn't operate. The best example is the cattle market at Wera in Amuria. The way the Wera Livestock Market was planned is much better than ordinary livestock markets elsewhere in Teso. There is order and great organization exhibited. The value of livestock at Wera has increased, the sellers willingly pay market dues because they know inside the market they get paid better than when they sell along the way as compared to open livestock markets at Katine and Ngora where I have been several times. Wera Livestock market has improved the livelihood of farmers.

I have liked the idea of bulking and storage of produce. Our farmers were lacking these facilities. They can now sell months later. DINU trained farmers the importance of working in groups. I met women who were saving money as a result of training from DINU.

These women told me they were economically getting empowered and some were even planning to buy cows. The youth were also skilled in different areas. I ask DINU to come back and do more. We thank you but we want more especially for the 11 districts that were not covered."

LIVELIHOODS



DINU has trained farmers in better post-harvest handling practices for improved quality produce.

Village agro hub supporting farmers

The Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), with its focus on enhancing food security, improving maternal and child nutrition, and boosting household incomes, has delivered a ray of hope to farmers in Oyam District. Among the beneficiaries is the Noteber Business Hub, consisting of 1,700 farmers, which received a state-of-the-art bulking centre courtesy of DINU.

The cooperative, deeply involved in the rice, maize, and soybean value chain, plays a crucial role in promoting commercial farming as a means to combat food insecurity and poverty. Mr. Hassan Ocen, the chairperson of Noteber Business Hub, acknowledges the pivotal role played by DINU in transforming their agricultural practices. He notes that, prior to the intervention, challenges such as poor post-harvest handling and storage issues plagued the farmers. The introduction of the bulking centre, equipped with a 500-metric-tonne capacity, has revolutionized their approach.

“With the capacity built, we are able to store our produce the right



Bulking centres are equipped with modern produce storage equipment. These centres were constructed under DINU Programme to support farmers store their produce and earn better prices.

way and do collective marketing and access better markets,” he says. The cooperative has shifted from individual selling to collective marketing, ensuring better market access and improved financial outcomes for the farmers.

The bulking centre, equipped with digital weighing scales, pellets, hand maize shellers, moisto meters, trollers, and aflatoxin testers, stands as a testament to DINU's commitment to improving the quality and standardization of agricultural produce. This infrastructure not

only addresses the challenges of post-harvest losses but also enhances the overall efficiency of the cooperative's operations.

The bulking centre serves as a hub for six other cooperatives that have joined forces to create the Noteber Business Hub, comprising over 6,000 members. Beyond providing storage solutions, the bulking centre plays a pivotal role in linking cooperative members to markets and processing some of the agricultural products they generate.

LIVELIHOODS



Many farmers are now weighing in and storing their produce for better prices.

Storage facilities: Fostering collective production and marketing for agricultural prosperity

In its commitment to addressing critical challenges in agricultural storage, post-harvest handling, value addition, and collective marketing, the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) has rehabilitated a key agro-storage facility in Acowa Town Council, Kapelebyong District.

Mr. George William Moka, the chairperson of Okoboi Modern Farmers Association, reflects on the struggles faced by the cooperative in storing their produce before DINU's intervention. With the construction of the storage facility, farmers now have a secure space to store their crops. Mr. Moka emphasizes the strategic importance of the storage facility, especially given its proximity to Karamoja, in safeguarding the agricultural products. Thanks to DINU's efforts, the storage capacity has been expanded from 50 bags



Farmers bulk their produce at a storage facility in Okoboi.

to an impressive 100 tonnes.

The primary objective of such storage facilities is to facilitate organized smallholder farmers' access to formal markets through group bulking and marketing. Equipped with quality assurance machines, the storage facility ensures that farmers meet export market

standards, consequently leading to increased income realization.

Farmers now have the flexibility to store their agricultural produce until market conditions are favorable, allowing them to sell when prices are higher. DINU's impact extends beyond Kapelebyong District, with similar storage facilities constructed in the districts of Amuria, Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, Kwania, and Otuke in the Lango sub-region.

These bulking centres stand as beacons of progress, fostering collective marketing, enhancing storage capabilities, and empowering smallholder farmers to navigate the agricultural landscape more effectively. DINU's strategic interventions are not only addressing immediate challenges but are laying the foundation for sustainable agricultural practices and improved economic outcomes in Northern Uganda.

LIVELIHOODS

DINU Youth Skilling Programme has empowered youths with practical skills to create jobs in Northern Uganda.



Empowering youth entrepreneurs: A fresh start with DINU's support

The Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre in Omoro District was abuzz with excitement as the Minister of State for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation, Hon. Grace Freedom Kwiycwiny, officiated at the handover ceremony for the start-up kits for the DINU sponsored 1,300 youths.

She said: "Substantial progress and gains are being made to prioritize skilling of the youth across the country. I encourage you to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to start your own business to fight poverty".

A total of 1,300 enthusiastic youths, representing various districts in Northern Uganda sub-regions of Acholi, Lango, West Nile, Teso, and Karamoja were trained in agriculture and agribusiness related areas under the DINU Youth Skilling Programme. The programme aimed to equip young individuals with essential tools for embarking on entrepreneurial journeys in agriculture and agribusiness.

Each youth would receive a set

of start-up kit, providing them with a solid foundation to leverage the practical skills acquired during their training. The ultimate goal was to empower these youths to combat poverty by putting their newfound expertise into practice.

Among the success stories emerging from this initiative is Gloria Akello, a trained beneficiary of the DINU Youth Skilling Programme. Trained in agriculture and agribusiness skills at the

Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre, Gloria wasted no time in applying her knowledge upon returning home. With a bold entrepreneurial spirit, she invested in 90 one-day-old chicks, purchased at Shs2,800 each. Applying the techniques learned at the Centre, Gloria nurtured the chicks and successfully sold them when they reached one month of age, each fetching Shs12,000.

Emboldened by her initial success, Gloria reinvested her earnings by acquiring 400 more one-day-old chicks. In addition to poultry farming, she ventured into a piggery project, diversifying her income streams. Gloria's forward-thinking approach and determination underscore her plans to share these valuable skills with her peers, particularly focusing on empowering young girls to combat vulnerability and poverty.

The DINU Youth Skilling Programme beams a ray of as hope, offering tangible support to Northern Uganda's youth, paving the way for a brighter and more economically empowered future.



Substantial progress and gains are being made to prioritize skilling of the youth across the country. I encourage you to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to start your own business to fight poverty.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN UGANDA REHABILITATION, HON. GRACE FREEDOM KWIYCWINY

LIVELIHOODS



Some of the DINU trained youths are now adding value to their piggery and poultry enterprises to attract better prices.

Empowering youths through value addition

A melo Technical Institute played a pivotal role among the eight technical training institutes collaborating with the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) programme to impart essential skills to the region's youths.

The training encompassed diverse fields such as horticultural production, agroforestry, tree nursery management, and livestock management, emphasizing the incorporation of value addition skills.

Beyond conventional vocational training, Amelo Vocational Training Institute embraced a holistic approach, introducing learners to value addition techniques such as meat roasting and juice production derived from their agricultural endeavours. Mr. Patrick Ejom, the principal of Amelo Technical Institute, emphasized the significance of instilling value addition skills, enabling trainees to market their products more efficiently and command higher prices.

"Value addition to a product fetches more money than selling an unprocessed product. We also provided our trainees with



Mr. Patrick Ejom, the principal of Amelo Technical Institute

psychosocial support skills, including marketing, customer care, and nutrition," he says.

Throughout the Northern Uganda region, a total of 1,300 youths underwent practical skills training across eight centers. Patrick expressed gratitude to DINU, Office of the Prime Minister and the EU for providing this opportunity to empower Uganda's youth. He remains optimistic that these skilled individuals will contribute significantly to increased productivity, thereby addressing food security concerns. Patrick acknowledged the positive outcomes, with some participants already engaged in

poultry farming, tree nurseries, and other entrepreneurial ventures.

Omara Joshua, a beneficiary of the DINU Youth Skilling Programme, exemplifies the success stories emerging from this initiative. Starting a piggery after his training at Amelo, Joshua diversified his business by roasting pork from the pigs he raised. "I farm my pigs. When they mature, I slaughter them and sell them as roast pork. Right now, I am self-employed, earning an average of Shs200,000 per month from roasting and selling pork. I want to thank DINU for this opportunity in our lives," he says.

Nancy Atim, another trained youth, has transformed her vegetable cultivation techniques. Growing various vegetables, she adds value to eggplants by drying them, extending their shelf life. During harvest times, Nancy generates an impressive income of Shs150,000 per market day. Her words of gratitude echoed sentiments shared by many beneficiaries: "Thank you DINU for equipping me with this skill." The programme not only imparts practical skills but also fosters self-reliance, entrepreneurship, and economic sustainability among Uganda's youth.

LIVELIHOODS



Odur Alfred, a beneficiary of the DINU Youth Skilling Programme, putting skills he acquired into practice near Gulu City.

Empowering youth entrepreneurs

Odur Alfred, a beneficiary of the DINU Youth Skilling Programme in Pader District, has turned his training at the Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre into a thriving agroforestry business. Specializing in raising and selling tree seedlings, Alfred focuses on indigenous tree species, contributing to the restoration of the environment, particularly those

affected during the LRA war.

Recognizing his expertise, Pader District Local Government awarded Alfred a contract to supply tree seedlings to Ata and Awer sub-counties.

Additionally, he secured another contract to provide 4,000 tree seedlings to a local NGO. Alfred not only earns substantial income but also shares his orchard management skills with fellow youths and the community. Grateful for the empowerment from

the Government of Uganda and DINU, Alfred emphasizes the importance of putting acquired skills to practical use.

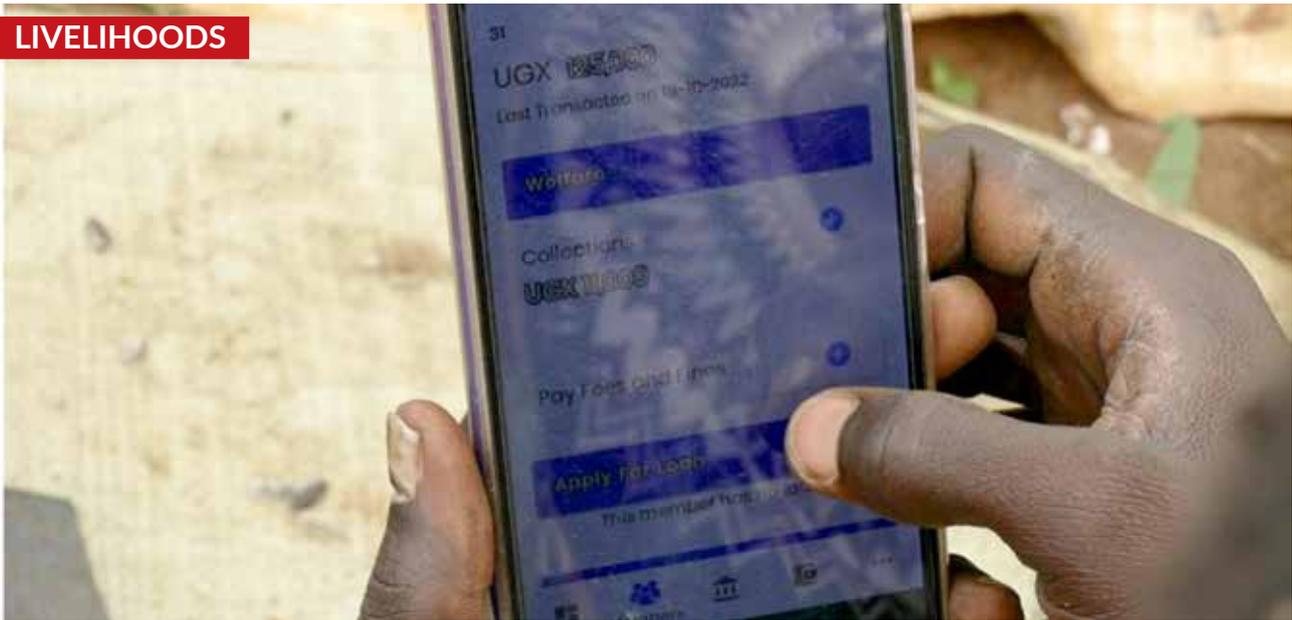
Chrispus Okello, a youth from Omoro District trained in vegetable production under DINU, has successfully applied his skills in agribusiness. Investing Shs319,000 in growing watermelon, eggplants, tomatoes, and pigeon pea seeds, Chrispus utilized techniques like making hybrid fertilizer and compost manure.

After a successful harvest, he earned Shs3 million, enabling him to buy goats, pigs, and save Shs800,000 in a local savings association. Previously dependent on his parents for financial needs, Chrispus now stands independently. Eager to expand his farming endeavors, he expresses gratitude for the farm inputs provided by DINU, including a wheelbarrow, hand hoe, and water tank. With a focus on excelling in commercial farming, Chrispus sees farming not just as a practice but as a sustainable business.



A total of 1,300 youths were trained in practical skills under DINU Programme. Most of these youths are now self-employed and sharing their skills with others.

LIVELIHOODS



Kennedy Oyaa, the group secretary, explains how the application works.

Digital solutions transform smallholder farming practices

The digitalization of smallholder village savings and loan associations (VSLA) operations has provided members with a safe place to save and access money, increase production and saving capacity. Among the farmer groups benefiting from this initiative is the Nyek Pi Lonyi group in Lamwo District, which has embraced digital solutions to streamline its operations.

In a departure from traditional manual record-keeping, group members are now learning how to maintain digital records using mobile phone handsets. The digital solution involves transferring VSLA meeting minutes onto a phone app, which also encompasses essential details such as collected amounts, loan application appraisal, disbursed loans, and loan payments.

This Mobis app is an android-based

smartphone application with a VSLA management platform. The application automates our recordkeeping needs like the savings and loans. This has made it easy, especially for the female members without a bank account to get loans," says Kennedy Oyaa, the group secretary.

Nancy Apiyo, a digital solutions facilitator, underscores the positive impact of the application, stating, "This application has motivated farmers to increase their saving motivation. The farmers are saving more. The group that has savings of up to Shs5 million qualify to apply for a loan in a bank. DINU has helped in training the farmers about financial literacy."

Beyond enhancing financial literacy, the digital solution has proven to be a catalyst for increased access to information among group members. Furthermore, it facilitates seamless information sharing with commercial banks, fostering a more efficient and connected ecosystem for smallholder farmers. As the agricultural landscape undergoes this digital transformation, farmers are empowered to make informed decisions and elevate their farming practices to new heights.



Nyek Pi Lonyi group members are happy about VSLA App since it has eased savings.

LIVELIHOODS



Farmers in Zombo now plant in rows for increased production following the DINU training.

Zombo potato farmers reap bountiful harvests and profits

The Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) has been instrumental in empowering farmers in Zombo District to achieve substantial success in potato cultivation, exemplifying the programme's objectives of enhancing food security, improving nutrition, boosting household incomes, and fostering resilience, particularly in the face of climate change. This success story is a testament to the positive impact of comprehensive training and support provided by DINU.

Farmers in Zombo District, having undergone rigorous training in advanced agricultural practices by CARITAS and partners the DINU, embraced mass production of potatoes. The shift toward large-scale cultivation paved the way for a unique venture - the production and sale of potato crisps. By adding value to their produce, these farmers demonstrated how strategic interventions can significantly increase income.



Farmers are now knowledgeable on how to preserve Irish potatoe seeds for seasons ahead.

A sack of raw Irish potatoes, which previously fetched Shs43,000, now transforms into sliced Irish crisps commanding an impressive price of Shs300,000. The introduction of value addition techniques, a key component of the training provided

in 2020, has empowered farmers to leverage their resources effectively.

Godwin Okabo, agriculture extension officer in Zombo, attests to the positive impact of DINU's collaboration with 36 farmer groups comprising 900 households, with

LIVELIHOODS



Irish potato farmers are now able to process and sell crisps for better prices.

a significant focus on Irish potato farming. He notes that, “Before the intervention of DINU programme, the farmers were growing potatoes without regarding best agronomic practices, but after training the farmers with the help of DINU on better agronomic practices, they are realizing bumper harvests. Now the farmers have been trained in value addition.”

Gilbert Amala, who heads the Kabucan Irish Potatoes Growing group that received Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) from Amelo, highlights the transformative



Members of Kabucan Irish Potatoes Growing group, prepare to process crisps for selling.



Before the intervention of DINU programme, the farmers were growing potatoes without regarding best agronomic practices, but after training the farmers with the help of DINU on better agronomic practices, they are realizing bumper harvests. Now the farmers have been trained in value addition.

**GODWIN OKABO, AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION OFFICER IN ZOMBO.**

nature of the training. The group has adopted improved planting practices, resulting in increased yields and, subsequently, enhanced income. “Before the training, we would get three bags from an acre, but after the training, we can now get up to 10 bags from an acre. This means improved income from potatoes,” shares Gilbert.

Rose Akumu, a member of the Kabuchan Group, echoes the sentiments of gratitude. Previously struggling with random potato

planting and meager harvests, she now proudly shares her success, “From potato production, we are earning money that we are using to pay for our children’s education, and medical care. Thank you, European Union.”

This success story exemplifies the transformative impact of strategic interventions and skills development, leading to increased agricultural productivity, enhanced income, and improved livelihoods for farmers in Zombo District.

LIVELIHOODS

DINU saves Yumbe village from water scarcity



The water scheme at Adibo serves an area that has a population of 5000. Community members now have access to clean safe water in their homes and at nearby public water standpoints.

According to Bernard Magara, the Yumbe District Water Officer, there was a serious need for water in Adibo rural growth centre. The community had a serious need for clean safe water. “We discovered that they had a few boreholes but these were inadequate in meeting the community water demand. Whenever it was a dry season, the water scarcity would become more problematic,” he says. Adibo stream that the community would turn to draw was not clean water for drinking and domestic use. The few operational boreholes would have longer queues of women and children fetching water during the dry season. Because of this women and children were spending the whole day looking for water. According to Magara, “The children were missing on education. Even teachers in this area would first



Access to clean water was a challenge in Yumbe and many communities resorted to fetching water from seasonal streams for domestic use.

look for water before reporting to classrooms to teach. In order to beat water source, some women would wake up at 3am to go look for water. The water scarcity was affecting productivity and education. Women

were at the risk and there was a spike in domestic violence in households”.

The solar powered piped water scheme at Adibo serves an area that has a population of 5,000. Before DINU intervention the area had only

LIVELIHOODS



With the establishment of Adibo Water Scheme, communities no longer worry about water scarcity in Yumbe.



As Yumbe District, we thank DINU programme for intervening and solving the water crisis. The programme came handy since it has helped us as district to solve this water problem in this community.

BERNARD MAGARA, THE YUMBE DISTRICT WATER ENGINEER



Bernard Magara, the Yumbe District Water officer.

“As Yumbe District we thank DINU programme for intervening and solving the water crisis. The programme came handy since it has helped us as district to solve this water problem in this community. The community now has access to clean piped water nearby and in adequate quantities,” says Magara.

The water scheme will benefit the households, schools, trading centres as well as health centres. “We have water at our door steps. We no long spend long time looking for water. This means we are using more time

in doing productive work instead of searching for water. Before this piped water, we used to wake up at 3am to go look for water and return home at noon but now we have been saved by piped water. Now we are concentrating on garden work, children are going to school and diseases have reduced,” says Irene Dciru, a resident of Marukulu Village in Arafa Sub-county in Yumbe District.

To cater for communities that cannot afford tap water in their homesteads, 10 public water points with four taps each have been built and so far more than 108 households have been connected with tap water.

Aguku Samadu, Yumbe District secretary for social services, appreciates the EU and DINU for providing clean water in Adibo. “As a district we are grateful for the Adibo water system because this water has benefited 1,300 households making our general district clean water coverage increase from 48% to 50%. This means a reduction in water-borne diseases, and also means more time for productive activities instead of searching for water,” says Aguku.

TRANSFORMATION



As a result of the DINU training, bee keepers in Amudat are earning better income after processing honey.

Honey processing boosts Amudat bee farmers incomes

Prior to DINU intervention, bee farmers in Amudat District in Karamoja Sub-region, were keeping bees and harvesting honey based on locally available methods. The farmers were not quite organized. They lacked knowledge and skills of earning suitably from the agricultural practice. Also, there was no honey collection centre and each farmer looked for market individually.

By then they would harvest honey using rudimentary ways such as using live fire to chase away bees and in the process they would kill the bees, thereby affecting colonies. By then the apiary farmers' post-harvest handling practices were wanting.

However, with support from DINU, a honey processing centre was established and equipped with a processing unit at Amudat District headquarters. DINU supplied the centre with a honey processing unit



The honey processing centre has enabled bee farmers in Amudat to process honey and its by-products.

that includes a honey processor, venom collector, warmer, two settling tanks, two sieves, manual press and displacers, and buildings housing the machines, with offices, a coffee restaurant and conference room.

DINU equipped farmers with modern beehives that could store more honey. The farmers were taught how to harvest honey the correct way and process its by-products such as wax, venom and propolis. The farmers

LIVELIHOODS



Miriam Chepkemoi, a farmer and field facilitator, displays processed honey.

were linked to better markets.

“Since it was brokers buying honey from the farmers, they would give them low prices of Shs3,000 per litre of unprocessed honey. But DINU eliminated the brokers by linking buyers to better markets where the prices for a litre of unprocessed honey is at least Shs7,000,” says Miriam Chepkemoi, a field facilitator.



DINU eliminated the brokers by linking buyers to better markets where the prices for a litre of unprocessed honey is at least Shs7,000.

**MIRIAM CHEPKEMOI,
A FIELD FACILITATOR**

“Farmers used to use live fire during harvesting of honey but after training they were given smokers. Before the training farmers would mix honey from white and black combs which was affecting the quality of honey and prices. But now farmers are able to separate the honey from different colours of combs,” says



Processed honey on display at Amudat honey processing center

Chepkemoi, who is also a bee farmer.

“With support from DINU the farmers have been organised in groups and we as a district, have been able to improve honey value chain. This has resulted in improvement in quantity and quality of honey produced,” says Joseph Nangole, the Amudat District chairperson.

He argues that Amudat producers the best honey in the country. Farmers have been supported with modern bee hives and have

been trained on better harvest and postharvest handling practices.

“We now have companies coming all the way from Kampala to buy honey. With more market access, I am confident the people of Amudat will fight poverty through improved income from honey sales. As a result of DINU support in value addition in honey, the bee keepers in Amudat are able to produce more honey for the market. The farmers are now getting more money from selling honey,” he says.

GOVERNANCE



Under DINU, seven community police posts were constructed in Abim, Amudat, Karenga, Kotido, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripit districts.

DINU fosters access to police services in Karamoja

As part of Objective Three of the DINU Programme, which focuses on reinforcing capacity, gender-responsive governance, and the rule of law at the local government level, efforts were made to empower communities and improve local service delivery.

Given the historical insecurity challenges in the Karamoja Sub-region, particularly due to cattle rustling, the DINU programme took a proactive step in strengthening law enforcement.

This was achieved by constructing and equipping seven community police

posts in Abim, Amudat, Karenga, Kotido, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripit districts. The posts strategically located along the border with Kenya—an essential economic partner for Uganda.

The newly established posts are well-equipped, featuring amenities such as running water, solar power, accommodation facilities for police officers, and detention facilities complete with toilets. The inclusion of two motorcycles enhances the mobility of the police officers, ensuring efficient service delivery.

Mr. Joseph Lobot, the Amudat District chairperson, commends the initiative, noting that the police officers

now reside near the posts. In Alakas, for instance, he says the development has eliminated the need for them to trek from Amudat, as was the case before the establishment of the police post.

“Prior to its construction, residents of Alakas had to travel a considerable distance of 23 kilometers to access police services. Positioned at the border between Uganda and Kenya, Alakas is crucial for security due to its stretch of porous border,” he says.

Beyond improving local security, the presence of the police at Alakas has positively impacted the efforts of the Uganda Revenue Authority at the border post.

Gratitude from Uganda Police for DINU support



AIGP James Ocaya
Director of Research,
Planning and Development

In the challenging sub-region of Karamoja, where accessibility and permanence are daunting, a unique and serious crime of animal theft and cattle rustling, often involving firearms, prevails. The

DINU programme has played a crucial role in supporting the police, focusing on capacity building for officers and improving accommodation, thereby making significant contributions to enhancing police infrastructure in the region and curbing criminal activities.

Prior to DINU interventions, the police were limited to 25 sub-counties in Karamoja out of the total 64 in the region. Thanks to DINU, an additional 7 sub-counties are now covered, ensuring a full police presence in 32 sub-counties of the Karamoja sub-region. This support has positively impacted the living conditions for officers, making it possible to retain and recruit personnel in the sub-

region. The seven police stations constructed by DINU in Karamoja boast housing units for officers, solar energy, spacious administration blocks, running water, and police cells equipped with flush toilets.

The police presence has not only led to the containment of crime but has also facilitated community sensitization efforts. Notably, in Amudat, where female genital mutilation is prevalent, the police have conducted awareness campaigns, educating the community about the criminal nature of such practices.

The expanded police footprint has contributed significantly to regional peace.

NUTRITION



The supply of water by DINU programme has helped mothers as well as the community to grow vegetables all year round. The farmers eat vegetables for their nutrition and sell the surplus to earn money for buying other necessities.

Vegetable farming flourishes in Yumbe with enhanced water supply

Traditionally a dry land, Yumbe faced significant challenges for vegetable growers, particularly during the period from July to December when drought prevailed. DINU, recognizing this struggle, introduced a water supply initiative that has revolutionized agriculture in the district.

Mothers, who previously endured difficulties in obtaining vegetables in Aria Sub-county, now benefit from the year-round cultivation made possible by the modern farming technology established by Lutheran World Federation and partners under DINU. This initiative not only alleviates the struggles of mothers but also empowers the entire community to cultivate vegetables consistently. The cultivation of vegetables not only enhances nutritional intake but also provides farmers with an opportunity to generate additional income by selling surplus produce.

Onzima Idris is the chairperson of



Onzima Idris, chairperson of Ligachu Agro-farming Development Group, connects a hosepipe to a solar-powered generator before starting to irrigate vegetables in Yumbe.

Ligachu Agro-farming Development Group. He highlights the transformative impact of the DINU intervention. Before the project, farmers faced daunting challenges due to drought, making vegetable farming a formidable task. "With the intervention of DINU, vegetable farmers in Yumbe District can now engage in year-round farming, assured of a consistent water supply. The presence of water has enabled us to cultivate a variety

of vegetables," remarks Idris.

Manenu Lamula expresses gratitude to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the European Union (EU) for the DINU project, particularly for the steady water supply provided to farmers.

With reliable access to water and the introduction of mini-irrigation systems, Lamula can now cultivate tomatoes and various vegetables throughout the year.

LIVELIHOODS



The establishment of Wera Livestock Market has resulted into improved local revenue and better animal disease control in Wera Town Council.

Revitalized livestock market boosts revenue in Wera Town Council

Amuria District: Farming, a vital economic activity in Amuria District, has witnessed a positive transformation with the intervention of the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) in Wera Town Council. Before DINU's intervention, the livestock market that was established by UNCDF and partners, faced challenges, making it difficult to conduct effective disease surveillance and control revenue leakage.

Robert Adaku, the Animal Husbandry Officer in Amuria District, recalls the chaotic scenario in Wera market before its enclosure. The lack of paddocks to separate healthy and sick animals made disease surveillance challenging. However, with the construction of the market and the incorporation of a slaughterhouse, the process of disease surveillance, both antemortem and postmortem,



The market now attracts livestock traders from within and beyond Teso every week.

has significantly improved.

Benjamin Mukula, the Town Clerk of Wera Town Council, expresses gratitude for the well-equipped

and developed livestock market provided by the DINU project. Previously, traders and sellers would gather under trees in an open

LIVELIHOODS



An aerial view of the organized Wera Livestock Market following its completion.

area, lacking proper demarcation and control over entry and exit.

“The market structure constructed under DINU has brought control to sales. Animals bought are now placed together in one paddock, allowing us to raise more revenue,” says Benjamin. The controlled environment has significantly curbed revenue losses and improved overall revenue collection. The reserve price for the market increased from Shs2.9 million to Shs3 million per month, reflecting the positive impact on sales.

The structured livestock market has eliminated revenue evasion, making it difficult for buyers to escape without paying. Additionally, the revenue from animal permits, directed to the central government, has increased due to the controlled environment. Benjamin expresses thanks to the Office of the Prime Minister and DINU program funders for enhancing Wera Town Council’s revenue through the improved livestock market.

Silver Okure, a cattle trader from Katakwi District, attests to the market’s positive transformation. The construction of the cattle shed has resulted in better control of animals,



Benjamin Mukula, the Town Clerk of Wera Town Council, expresses gratitude for the well-equipped and developed livestock market provided by DINU.



The market structure constructed under DINU has brought control to sales. Animals bought are now placed together in one paddock, allowing us to raise more revenue

BENJAMIN MUKULA, THE TOWN CLERK OF WERA TOWN COUNCIL

attracting traders from distant places like Soroti. With the enhanced market, Silver now sells five animals per market day, a notable increase from the past when he could only sell two animals under the mango trees.

The revitalized livestock market in Wera Town Council stands as a testament to the positive impact of strategic interventions, contributing to improved disease control, controlled sales environments, and increased revenue for the local community.

GOVERNANCE

Community empowerment through Baraza meetings enhance service delivery

Throughout the implementation of the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) programmes, Office of the Prime Minister orchestrated a series of public “feedback” meetings, commonly referred to as “barazas.” These community-centric gatherings aimed to empower local communities, fostering active participation in the enhancement of local service delivery.

Ms. Grace Atim, the deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Zombo District, attests to the significant impact of these baraza meetings on service delivery within her jurisdiction. Conducted in 11 administrative units of Zombo District Local Government, the barazas have played a pivotal role in instilling a sense of confidence and accountability among community members.

“Baraza meetings have empowered the community members to understand their role in demanding service delivery,” she notes. “There is

now increased confidence within the community, enabling them to openly discuss issues affecting them. Through baraza meetings, the community scrutinizes the delivery of funds and services, holding the district leaders accountable. In Abanga Sub-county, for instance, a road construction project faced delays, leading community members to suspect misappropriation of funds. However, after addressing the concerns during a baraza meeting, the road construction proceeded.



Baraza meetings have empowered the community members to understand their role in demanding service delivery. There is now increased confidence within the community, enabling them to openly discuss issues affecting them.

**MS. GRACE ATIM, DEPUTY RDC,
ZOMBO DISTRICT**

These meetings serve as a platform for communities to stay informed about government initiatives through reports provided by sub-county chiefs.”

Baraza meetings have not only empowered communities but have also brought to light instances of corruption that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. Ms. Atim recounts an incident in Nyapeya Sub-county where funds earmarked for a women’s market and road projects were misappropriated by the sub-county chief. The revelation during a baraza meeting led to the arrest of the implicated official, emphasizing the programme’s impact in empowering communities to monitor and report on public funds and service delivery.

Mr. Jacob Batemyetto, the Zombo chief administrative officer, emphasizes the value of baraza meetings in the appraisal of governance and service delivery.

“Baraza meetings have been invaluable in receiving feedback from the community, highlighting both successful endeavours and areas needing improvement,” he says.

He adds: “Through community input during barazas, we can effectively plan and address gaps in service delivery. These meetings provide an avenue for appraisal, allowing us to respond to community complaints about officers not performing their duties or being absent from duty posts. Baraza meetings are an opportunity to address raised issues and foster transparency.”

In essence, baraza meetings have emerged as a potent tool in the hands of the community, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and active citizen participation in the governance and development processes facilitated by the DINU programme.



Ms. Grace Atim, deputy RDC, Zombo District says Baraza meetings have had great impact on service delivery since they empowered community members to hold leaders accountable.



Mr. Jacob Batemyetto, the Chief Administrative Officer of Zombo District, monitors the performance of the IRAS.

Integrated Revenue Administration System: Revolutionizing Zombo District revenue collection

In 2020, Zombo District embarked on a transformative journey by adopting the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS), a pivotal initiative supported by the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) and funded by the European Union. The results of this shift in revenue collection methodology have been nothing short of remarkable.

Mr. Jacob Batemyetto, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Zombo District, vividly recalls the district's financial landscape before the implementation of IRAS. The revenue collection was stagnant at approximately Shs191 million annually. However, the advent of IRAS ushered in a new era of efficiency and financial prosperity.

"Before using IRAS, our revenue collection was so bad," he acknowledges. "But after using IRAS, we are now collecting over Shs1

billion in a year alone. For example, in the first year of using IRAS, we collected Shs890 million, up from Shs191 million before. So, IRAS has not only assisted us in improving the amount of revenue collected but also in enhancing efficiency and timeliness in revenue collection from the people."

The impact of IRAS extends beyond mere financial gains. It has empowered the district to better fulfill its responsibilities, ranging from garbage

collection and school facilities to land titling and street lighting in the town council. Zombo District has undergone a positive transformation, thanks to the collaborative efforts of DINU, the Government, and the European Union.

Mr. Edwin Ocheme, a senior accountant at Zombo District, highlights the manual nature of revenue collection before the advent of IRAS. He expresses gratitude for the enrollment of Zombo District in IRAS, emphasizing the system's reliability and user-friendliness. Through IRAS, all villages and registered taxpayers are systematically captured, simplifying the process of tracking payments and ensuring timely reminders for taxpayers.

Zombo District's success story with IRAS serves as a testament to the positive impact of embracing modern, technology-driven solutions in enhancing government operations and financial management.



Before using IRAS, our revenue collection was so bad," he acknowledges. "But after using IRAS, we are now collecting over Shs1 billion in a year alone.

**MR. JACOB BATEMYETTO,
CAO OF ZOMBO DISTRICT**

DINU KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	DISTRICTS COVERED	
SECTOR 1: FOOD SECURITY, NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS		
OPM-PMU	All 41 DINU beneficiary districts	
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)	All 41 DINU beneficiary districts. Land specifically, three districts of Apac, Agago and Maracha	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	15 districts: Abim, Adjumani, Amudat, Kaabong, Kole, Moroto, Moyo, Napak, Koboko, Nebbi, Otuke, Omoro, Pader, Yumbe and Zombo	
CARE-Denmark	10 districts: Abim, Amudat, Karenga, Katakwi, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak	
CARITAS Switzerland	Six districts: Agago, Amuru, Nebbi, Omoro, Pakwach and Zombo	
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (ITTA)	Seven districts: Amolatar, Amuria, Apac, Dokolo, Kapelebyong, Kwania and Otuke	
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	Nine districts: Adjumani, Arua, Lamwo, Koboko, Madi-Okollo, Maracha, Moyo, Obongi and Yumbe	
National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)	Eight districts: Alebtong, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Kole, Nwoya, Pader and Oyam	
SECTOR 2: INFRASTRUCTURE		
Transport	Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA)	Four districts: Adjumani, Amuru, Gulu and Moyo
	UNCDF	Four districts: Amudat, Adjumani, Abim and Moyo
Logistics	DFID/ Trademark East Africa	Gulu (All DINU beneficiary districts)
Water	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Five districts: Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido and Moroto
Energy	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	One: Lamwo District
SECTOR 3: GOOD GOVERNANCE		
OMP-Baraza	Five districts: Amuria, Moroto, Pader, Oyam and Zombo	
Uganda Police Force (UPF)	Nine districts: Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak	
UNCDF	18 districts: Abim, Adjumani, Agago, Amudat, Amolatar, Amuria, Kapelebyong, Kole, Lamwo, Moroto, Moyo, Napak, Obongi, Omoro, Otuke, Pader, Yumbe and Zombo	
ADOL Health Care Initiative	Two districts: Abim and Nakapiripirit	
Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)	Two districts: Koboko and Maracha	
DIAKONIA- Sweden	Two districts: Alebtong and Amolatar	
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)	Two districts: Amuria, Arua, Gulu, Lira, Moroto and Napak	



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