

Heifer International

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 35 million people, with millions more now on a pathway to living incomes.



Heifer Uganda

Heifer International started work in Uganda in 1982. What began as a small project distributing a handful of cows has grown into one of Uganda's leading agricultural and community development organizations. To date, Heifer Uganda has supported more than 932,000 families in Uganda, investing in local capacity, knowledge transfer, new technology and farming capital, as well as other agricultural inputs and resources. Heifer Uganda works with farmers to scale their businesses, integrating climatesmart agricultural practices such as drought-resistant cross breeds to help farmers build resilience against climate change and sustain their incomes. Through strategies designed to engage and empower, Heifer Uganda is connecting youth to opportunities that equip them with the skills they need to find employment. With support from Heifer Uganda's expert project teams, farmers are adopting digital payment systems in milk hubs across the country, enabling them to access finance and income faster, while increasing confidence and loyalty to the hubs.

Heifer Uganda's work connects farmers to cooperatives and facilitates partnerships with the local government and other organizations, generating new business opportunities and strengthening networks. This community-led development approach is a core part of Heifer International's model, ensuring the communities it works with continue to build sustainable livelihoods long after projects end.























Learn4Agribusiness (L4A) (2018-2020)

Donors include: Edukans

Total Value: \$1 million

This project is connecting unemployed marginalized rural youth in Northern Uganda to the agricultural sector, equipping them with agribusiness skills that include post-harvest handling, processing and marketing to help increase their incomes. A total of 3,200 youth are part of the project, which has a strong focus on teaching sustainable farming practices and climate change mitigation. Farmers are already seeing increases in production, with improved processing and marketing increasing incomes from soybeans, groundnuts, sunflowers and maize. Project partners include the Edukans Foundation and the Sint Antonius Stiching (SAS) Foundation.

Fermented Food for Life (FFFL) (2016-2018)

Donors include:
Canadian International Food Security
Research Fund (CIFSRF)

Total Value: \$640,124* * Tanzania and Uganda

Fermented Food for Life worked with 18,894 families in Tanzania and Uganda, using a pro-poor business model to increase local production, distribution, and consumption of healthy probiotic fermented foods. The project worked with cooperatives, groups and individual producers, specifically focusing on women-owned businesses. With increased access to finance, women yogurt producers were able to invest in their businesses, using the proceeds to meet household costs, including paying their children's school fees, health care and feeding their families. Nutrition levels in project areas improved, with 70% of women interviewed reporting increased ability to cover their household's core costs.

Jinnai Dairy Development Pilot Project (JDDP) (2016-2022) Donors include:
Japan International Cooperation
Foundation (JICF)

Total Value: \$918,000

This pilot project is working with farmers in Gulu and Omoro districts to test a dairy micro-leasing model. Farmers have joined self-help groups and savings groups, pooling their resources and accessing financial services and new markets. To date, 467 farmers, have received technical assistance on dairy cow and poultry management, focusing on housing, breeding, disease prevention and feeding. Having successfully completed the training, 94% passed inspections to receive dairy animals through micro-leasing. Farmers that are part of the project have shown increased levels of production and productivity, increasing the amount of milk sold and also improving market access and income. Support provided to farmers has been increased through a partnership with the Microfinance Support Center and by building the capacity of community facilitators and Community Agro-Vet Entrepreneurs, as well as improving links to local governments in both districts.

East African Dairy Development (EADD) I and II (2008-2019)

Donors include: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Eli Lilly & Company Foundation, Starbucks Foundation

Total Value: \$93 million**

** all countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

Implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, this project was designed to sustainably improve the livelihoods of smallholder dairy farmers in East Africa, increasing incomes through enhanced production and market access. Heifer International led the implementation of the project through a consortium comprised of the International Livestock Research Institute, TechnoServe, Africa Breeders Service Total Cattle Management and World Agroforestry Centre. Farmers were provided with technical assistance and adopted technologies aimed at improving on-farm production and productivity. The project also helped form and develop sustainable and profitable farmer-owned producer organizations offering essential inputs, extension and business services and access to reliable milk markets. In the first phase, the project supported 203,778 farming families in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, 45,203 of which were in Uganda. Phase II supported a total of 136,684 farming families, 46,561 of which were in Uganda. As a result of project interventions, net dairy incomes increased by up to 80%.