



# VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (VAD)



# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022



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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAT	Community Agricultural Trainers
CHILD	Community Holistic Integrated Learning and Development
CMT	Community Monitoring Teams
CRANE	Children at Risk network
FOLD	Facilitating Organizational Learning and Development
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HURINET	Human Rights Network
HWF	Hand Washing Facility
IDRF	International Development Relief Fund
IEC	Information Education Communication
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JAD	Just A Drop
M.O.U	Memorandum of Understanding
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MRDF	Methodist Relief Development Fund [All we Can]
NGO	Non- Government Organization

NRM	National Resistance Movement
OD	Open Defecation
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Learning Use Management
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RWHTs	Rain water Harvesting Tank
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHC	School Health Clubs
SHEP	School Hygiene / Sanitation Education Programme
SMC	School Management Committee
UN	United Nations
UWASNET	Uganda Water and Sanitation Network
VAD	Voluntary Action for Development
VIP	Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WATSAN	Water And Sanitation
WSC	Water and Sanitation Committee
WUC	Water User Committee

# Message From The Executive Director



**Benedict Male**

Executive Director,  
Voluntary Action for Development [VAD]

Despite the disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) has actively responded to the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Uganda where we work.

By March, the statistics were grim, without the safety-net schools usually provide, over half a million teenage girls had been defiled and impregnated; forced to become mothers before fully knowing what childhood is. The impact of COVID-19 had pushed millions out of work and business had been fully shattered. In the most vulnerable communities where we work, the after-effects of the pandemic worsened the grim effects of poverty and exclusion. The usually precarious lives of the children living in these locations made even more uncertain.

Thankfully, beyond the numbers, are people; real lives whose resilience, hopes and aspirations

refuse to be bundled-up and summarized as mere statistics. This report is about over 47,703 children and families as well as rural vulnerable communities we serve, and how VAD has been able to work with them and their communities in order to protect their futures and bring services closer.

I would therefore like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the stakeholders, including donors, sponsors and project partners who have meaningfully contributed. Despite the sector-wide economic crunch witnessed by development actors, your commitment meant that for hundreds of thousands there was a reason to keep hope alive. Key among our partners is the Government of Uganda, who not only provided in-kind, legal and policy environment support to our work, but also a suitable enabling environment. The Government's notable commitment to implementing the Parish Development Model is worth noting.

There has also been progress in increased collaboration with the private sector, cultural and faith institutions, as well as other civil society actors. One area we are particularly excited about is the increased focus on emerging partnerships for local resource mobilization for example in the previous year VAD secured funding from UMEME Limited a local subsidiary of Government of Uganda. Looking forward to the challenges ahead, the Board is committed to leveraging its networks to grow the local resource base required to realize our new Strategic Plan.

Finally, we continue to pray for peace around the world and look forward to a better year ahead.





**Katongole**

Chairperson, Board of Directors [BoD]  
Voluntary Action for Development [VAD]

## Message From the Board Chairperson

We continue to find ourselves in a world with extensive challenges and much uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic endured throughout 2021 and its effects on the country in the year 2022 and beyond as this report was being written and the war is taking place in Ukraine.

During these extremely turbulent times, it gives me confidence to see how Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) as local humanitarian organization is becoming increasingly aligned in purpose, and how our strategic objectives and themes continue to make meaning for the lives of the most vulnerable communities we serve.

This year (2022) VAD has continued to recover from the shocks of COVID-19 pandemic and is in

a resilient and solid position to continue making a difference in contexts where the organization's programmes are most needed.

The Board expresses its gratitude to VAD's management, staff, development partners and all who worked to create impact at scale throughout 2022 to reach over 47,730 people with services. The commitment and professionalism of VAD's team members around the country is an inspiration in these turbulent times. This appreciation also extends to all our partners, local and foreign with whom we work to implement our projects.

In particular, we are grateful to our God who made it possible.

# Key Achievement for the Year 2022:

Over the last year, we have been able to reach a total of 47,730 beneficiaries which included school children, households, farmers, patients, teachers, SMT and PTA members directly with WASH services, health, livelihood services and improved access to education services through our projects across the three districts of Wakiso, Kapelabyong, Napak and Kisoro in South Western region.



# WASH: SUPPORT TO GOAL #6 AND #3

## 6

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

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ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND  
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF  
WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



## 3

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

---

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES  
AND PROMOTE WELL BEING  
FOR ALL AT ALL AGES





Access to safe water and sanitation is a universal right for every citizen be in the community, healthcare centers or schools. At VAD we refurbish broken water systems; construct new boreholes and rain water harvesting tanks, sanitation facilities, distribute hand washing facilities and undertook hygiene promotion across the communities where we work.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of WASH facilities, we trained WASH committees to maintain and repair water points in both communities, and schools comprised of community/ school children volunteers, these committees take responsibility for operating and maintaining facilities, using a fee-collection

system to pay for repairs when needed and applicable.

Our sanitation and hygiene interventions focus on promoting lasting behavior change. Instead of simply building latrines, VAD use a participatory, community-driven approach that motivates households to build, maintain, and regularly use their own latrines. Hygiene education encourages community members to modify their hygiene habits by washing their hands and dishes with soap (or ash) and practicing safe water handling.

Over the last year a total of and beneficiaries were reached at both community and school WASH interventions.

## COMMUNITY WASH



03

BOREHOLES UNITS  
CONSTRUCTED

30,974 PEOPLE SERVED



03

COMMUNITY WASH  
PROMOTION POSTERS

750 PEOPLE SERVED



10

HOUSEHOLD VIP MODEL  
LATRINE DEMONSTRATIONS

500 PEOPLE SERVED



06

WSC TRAININGS

54 PEOPLE SERVED



01<sup>04</sup> satance

PUBLIC LATRINE  
CONSTRUCTION

750 PEOPLE SERVED



01

3,000 LITTER WATER TANK

500 PEOPLE SERVED



01

LIQUID SOAP TRAINING  
(ZINGA HEALTH CENTER III)

30 PEOPLE SERVED



01

RAIN HARVESTING WATER TANK  
OF 30,000 LITERS (AMASENIKO  
HEALTH CENTRE-KAPELEBYONG)

2,000 PEOPLE SERVED



01<sup>16</sup> satance

VIP LATRINE OF 16 STANCES AT HEALTH  
CENTRE (AMASENIKO HEALTH CENTRE)

2,000 PEOPLE SERVED

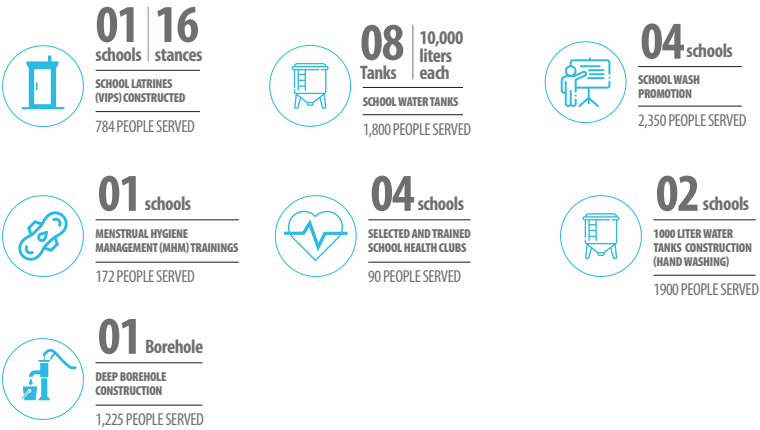


COMMUNITY WASH  
PROMOTION

3,000 PEOPLE SERVED

**TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 35,008**

# SCHOOL WASH



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 8,321



Figure 2: A woman in Kapelabyong demonstrate her dish rack she learnt in community hygiene and sanitation promotion training

# EDUCATION: SUPPORT TO GOAL #4 AND #5

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY  
EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG  
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



## 5 GENDER EQUALITY

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ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY  
ANDEMPower ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS





*Figure 3: A group of young girls receiving vocational training at Liza skills development center in Kapelebyong, constructed by VAD with funds from Friends of Uganda and Schock Foundation*

Poverty, lack of access to scholastic materials, safe and child friendly environment as well as other emergencies keep many children in Uganda out of school. In fact, children from the poorest households are four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households.

Since 2000 with the introduction of Universal primary Education in Uganda, there has been enormous progress on the goal to provide primary education to all children in the country.

However this increase in enrollment came with heavy challenges and constraints on the Government coffers leading to lack of access to key education infrastructures (classroom blocks, sanitation facilities and teacher houses) in School especially Government schools where education is presumed free and supported by the state.

Many children in these poorest of the poor communities study under trees, lack basic school infrastructure ( classroom blocks and toilets), girls do not have access to proper MHM, and have no access to basic scholastic materials such as books, pens and school feeding which lead to high school dropout now estimated at 56% for girl and 45% for boys.

VAD with support from partners, VAD construct semi-permanent classroom blocks, permanent classroom block, segregated latrine structures with washrooms for girls, provide scholastic materials, pens, books and pencils and text books as well as construction of teachers' houses across schools in Napak and Kapelebyongo Districts. This year VAD also constructed a vocational training institute for girls who fail to continue with formal studies.



Figure 4: A 3 classroom block vocational training institute in Kapelebyong District with support from Friends of Uganda-Germany & Schock Foundation.

This year a total of 4,075 beneficiaries were reached with education interventions including construction of the vocational training institute, implementation of the school feeding programme in Nyada primary school to mention.

## EDUCATION

**01** School

**PERMANENT 3-CLASSROOM BLOCK VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE STRUCTURES**

45 PEOPLE SERVED

**Assorted**

**VOCATIONAL CENTER FUTURE**

45 PEOPLE SERVED

**05** acre schools garden established

**SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME PROMOTION (1 SCHOOL- NYADA PRIMARY SCHOOL)**

784 PEOPLE SERVED

**01** Group

**TRAINED SCHOOL TEACHERS, PUPILS AND AGRICULTURAL CLUB IN BEST AGRONOMIC PRACTICES & POST HARVEST HANDLING**

40 PUPILS, 8 TEACHERS & 17 SMC PEOPLE SERVED

**Assorted**

**PROVIDED AGRICULTURAL INPUTS (BEANS, GREEN GRAM, AND MAIZE, AND CASSAVA CUTTINGS) AND 2-OKEN, PLOUGHS (2) HAND HOES (20) AND 2 WHEEL BARROWS**

784 PEOPLE SERVED

**01**

**CONSTRUCTED A SCHOOL GRANARY**

784 PEOPLE SERVED

**Assorted**

**CONSTRUCTED THE SCHOOL, KITCHEN INSTALLED WITH ENERGY SAVING STORES AND SAUCEPANS WITH COVERS**

784 PEOPLE SERVED

**Assorted**

**PROVISION OF 2 DRY RACKS FOR PROPER DRYING OF HARVESTED CROPS**

787 PEOPLE SERVED

**TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 4,075**





*Figure 5: Pupils of Nyada PS display their maize harvested as part of the school feeding program in Kapelebyong district, SFP funded by Signpost International*



*Figure 6: One of Farmers' group in Aturai village receiving startup capital to improve on their business and incomes in Kapelebyong District with support from Signpost International*

During the year, VAD focused on food production for improved nutrition; improving the natural resource base; improving household income through agricultural enterprise, diversification of sources of revenues. With support from Signpost International, community members were organized into five farmers' groups of 25 each and their capacity were built in groups

dynamics, business enterprises and improved agronomic practices for increased production as well as initiation of VSLA schemes to mobilize capital for development and supporting business enterprises to improve household incomes, increase agricultural production through accessing quality agro- inputs to mention.



*Figure 7: Farmer groups receiving oxen and other assorted materials for increased production and food security in Kapelebyong district, funded by Signpost International*

Over the year VAD supported over 125 women and men (farmers groups with agro inputs, (planning seeds, hand hoes, knap sack sprayers, ox- plough and oxen), trained community agricultural trainers (CATs) and supported them with bicycles, provided sewing machines, constructed a vocational school, a produce market and provided seed capital to groups of men and women in the community where we work

## LIVELIHOODS



**05** Farmers groups

TRAINING FARMERS GROUPS IN BEST AGRONOMIC PRACTICES

125 PEOPLE SERVED



**05** pairs of assorted items

PROVISION AGRICULTURAL INPUTS INCLUDING 10 PAIRS OF OXEN AND OX PLOUGHS, MAIZE, KNAP SACK SPRAYERS, 125 HAND HOES

125 PEOPLE SERVED



TRAINED FARMERS IN FOODS AND NUTRITION AND IN VALUE ADDITION

125 PEOPLE SERVED



**05** Farmers groups

ACCESSED SEED CAPITAL (ABOUT UGX12,000,000 MILLION)

125 PEOPLE SERVED



**05** Farmers groups

PROVISION OF LOAN REVOLVING OF UGX 12,000,000 TO 5 FARMERS GROUPS

125 PEOPLE SERVED



**01** Farmers groups

TRAINING IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

30 PEOPLE SERVED



**01**

CONSTRUCTED 24 STALL PRODUCE MARKET FOR WOMEN

50 PEOPLE SERVED



**05**

TRAINING OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL TRAINERS (CATS)

10 PEOPLE SERVED



**14**

PROVIDED 14 SEWING MACHINES (12 ORDINARY MACHINES, 1 OVERLOOK AND SWEATER MACHINE)

45 PEOPLE SERVED



**01**

LIQUID SOAP TRAINING

45 PEOPLE SERVED



PROVISION OF 14 BICYCLES TO CATS

14 PEOPLE SERVED



**02**

ESTABLISHMENT OF 2 ELUM CENTRES

500 PEOPLE SERVED



**01**

INCREASED DECISION MAKING OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

34 PEOPLE SERVED



OTHER BENEFICIARIES BENEFITED FROM THE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

1,270 PEOPLE SERVED

**TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 2,123**



*Figure 8: Trained CATs receiving bicycles to support agronomic activities in the community*



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Life Changing Stories

### Story 01

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#### VAD restored happiness in my marriage

Aisha Kilai is a 36 year old mother of 8. She joined a farmers group created by VAD in 2021. Their group received Oxen, Knapsacks and improved ground nut seeds. They also received training in vegetable growing and assorted Vegetable seeds.

"I adopted vegetable farming particularly tomato growing. I panted a 15X30m plot of land last May and I got 300,000 from its sale" Aisha Narrates. From this proceeds, she was able to start-up a business of selling small fish (million fish)

In their group, they were also organised in to a Village Saving and Loan (VSLA) group. "I borrowed a loan of 2 million shillings. I used part of it to support my farming activities and part of the money, I gave to my husband to support his cattle trade business. With the help of Allah, this business has worked out well and my household is now stable financially" Aisha proudly narrates.

She recalls that the situation was not easy before VAD started the project in their village. "Most times, I felt like leaving my marriage, we had no bulls to plough with and we did not have any money to hire bulls to plough for us. My household was constantly food insecure" A teary Aisha painfully recalls. "When my husband heard that I had joined the VAD group, he threatened to beat me for wasting time in meetings. But

when my co-wife fell sick, I was able to access a loan from the group to pay for her medical operation. This has made my husband change his mind about my association with VAD. My husband now values and loved me more" She concludes with a shy smile.

Aisha's husband, Mr. Zamanzan Omuria, testifies of the hard times before his wife joined VAD. "...even salt and soap was difficult for us to acquire. Eating meat in my household was a preserve of public holidays like Eid. But since Aisha joined VAD, we now have petty cash in the house and we can now afford a meal of meat once a week"

Aisha is thankfully indebted to VAD for her financial transformation but says that things would have been a lot better if the ELUM Centre was in her village. "I wish to have an ELUM Centre constructed in my land or within my neighborhood" she pleads.



*Figure 1: Aisha (carrying a baby) on her tomato garden with her co-wife and husband*



# Story 02

## Because of VAD, I can see light at the end of the tunnel

My name is Alex Opio, and I am 20 years old. I live in Aturai village with my mother and 6 other siblings. I dropped out of school three years ago following the death of our father. My mother could not raise enough money to pay my fees at secondary school.

Before VAD come to our village, I had lost hope in life. My dreams of studying to become a teacher had become faded memories. As a youth with no focus, I had joined a group of youth whose work was to gate-crash parties nearby in the neighborhood and cause mayhem. I was at risk of becoming an alcoholic or getting into conflict with the law.

When VAD started this project in our village, I chose to join one of the youth groups that was formed. We call it Epepeunos youth farmers group. With the trainings VAD gave us, I learned the importance of saving money. We started group saving and loan scheme. Later VAD gave our loan scheme a financial boost of 2.4 million shillings.

As an unemployed youth, it was hard to acquire capital to start a business. I took a loan of sh. 100,000 (approx. \$30) from the group and opened up a chapati Kiosk (road side bakery business). The business was successful and was able to pay back the loan. When the planting season started, I borrowed shs. 250,000 (approx. \$70) as capital to grow green grams. In spite of the drought, I made a harvest worth shs. 600,000 (\$160) from which I purchased 3 goats after repaying the loan. I have also started mobile money business (electronic money transfer services). Next year I intend to take a

loan of shs. 500,000 (Approx. \$150) to start a small scale retail shop in my village. This will enable us in the village have regular access to essential commodities like sugar, soap and other luxuries like soda and beer.

I can see my future is getting bright and I am confident that will be able to marry and build a permanent house for my family. Since I was not able to achieve my dream of becoming a teacher, my new dream is to be able to educate my children and other disadvantaged children in the village so that they do not drop out of school like me.

With the knowledge and success, I have gained from VAD, I have been able to mobilize some more youth to start another savings and loan association. We call it Akulonyo Youth with a Vision. So far, we have uptown shs. 1500,000 (\$400) in savings.

I am grateful to VAD for giving me and my fellow youth a new purpose in life. VAD is different from other organizations that operate here in our community because their approach is to give "a hook" not "a fish"



Figure 2: Alex at his Mobile money Kiosk

# FINANCES

## Incomes, sources, expenditure and accountability

### Incomes

The financial resources of VAD declined in the year 2022 by 7% from UGX: 807,048,125 in 2021 to UGX: 704,761,291 in 2022 mostly from four donors including Aid link, Friend of Uganda, Signpost International and Just a drop. However we are very grateful for all those donors who heeded to the call and continued to support us through the year.

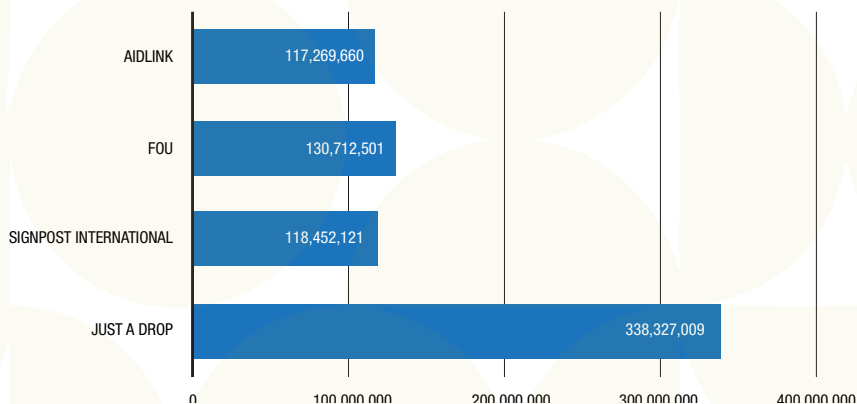


Figure 9: Revenue sources and amount in UGX (2022)

# Our approaches summarized



Boreholes construction



Water source rehabilitation



Lined latrine construction  
(institutional)



Unlined latrines construction  
promotion (households)



Construction of  
Incinerators in schools  
and health centers



Construction of Laundry  
areas in health centers



Menstrual hygiene  
management (MHM)  
sensitization and training



IEC materials  
production and  
distribution



School water tanks  
construction (Ferro cement  
tanks of 30,000 liters)



Hand washing tanks in  
schools (3,000 liters)



Hygiene and sanitation  
education/ promotion  
at community, school  
and health centers.



WASH advocacy and lobbying  
for equitable service delivery,  
accountability and transparency



Formation and training of  
Water User Committees



Formation and training of  
School Health Clubs/ hygiene  
and sanitation promotion clubs



Formation and training Health  
Management Committees at  
Health Centers

# PARTNERSHIPS

As Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) aspires to deepen its impact, partnering is core to our work. We seek to collaborate and advocate for broader impact. With nearly 25 years' experience working in Ugandan communities, we have built strong partnerships international, national and locally with donor Agencies, Government Ministries, Departments, Authorities, Local Governments, cooperate organizations,

individual, partner NGOs and the communities in which we work.

Voluntary Action for Development wishes to acknowledge and express appreciation to our funding partners listed below for their continued commitment to improve the lives of Uganda's most vulnerable populations.

## AIDLINK



# WE ARE VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (VAD)

Established in 1996, Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) is a non-profit, indigenous, Non-governmental Organization registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs Re: No: S.1594/1709.



## Our Vision

A Healthy and Vibrant self-reliant community



## Our Mission

A developing Organisation that empowers poor communities to be self-reliant through health, education, livelihood and advocacy interventions.



## Our values



### Team work:

Being helpful and supportive to one another in ways that enable success of the whole team.



### Accountability:

Responsibility taking and faithfulness in working with organizational values, purposes and resources



### Commitment:

Adhering to essential organization principles, guidelines, and timely delivery of quality work and services.



### Love and Respect:

Respect for oneself and caring for the needs of others.



# How we Work:

VAD works with local communities, partners and institutions to facilitate them to break the cycle of poverty for the last 25 years. We work towards delivering services that are appropriate, integrated, informed and sustainable in the communities where we work.

## Who do we Serve:

VAD works towards improving the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized communities in Uganda with special focus on children, women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

## Our strategic Focus:

Focused exclusively on improving livelihoods of rural poor and disadvantaged communities through water, hygiene and sanitation improvement, Sustainable Agriculture promotion, Agri-business, Advocacy and lobbying, Relief aid, Rural Micro credit scheme and the family economic empowerment

# Strategic areas

## LIVELIHOOD



**50** | WOMEN GROUPS

(1500 group members) supported with income generating activities benefiting over 7500 household members



**06** | DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

were selected and trained from the 2 villages (five women and one man) to work as model farmers benefiting over 300 households/ small holder farmers



**UGX 26,685,000**

(Euros 6,474) was given out as micro revolving loans to 30 groups benefiting over 7,500 household members



**15** | WOMEN GROUPS

community agricultural trainers identified and trained serving over 1500 small holder farmers



**165** | FARMERS

have at least adapted to one new farming technique on their farms



**195** | FARMERS

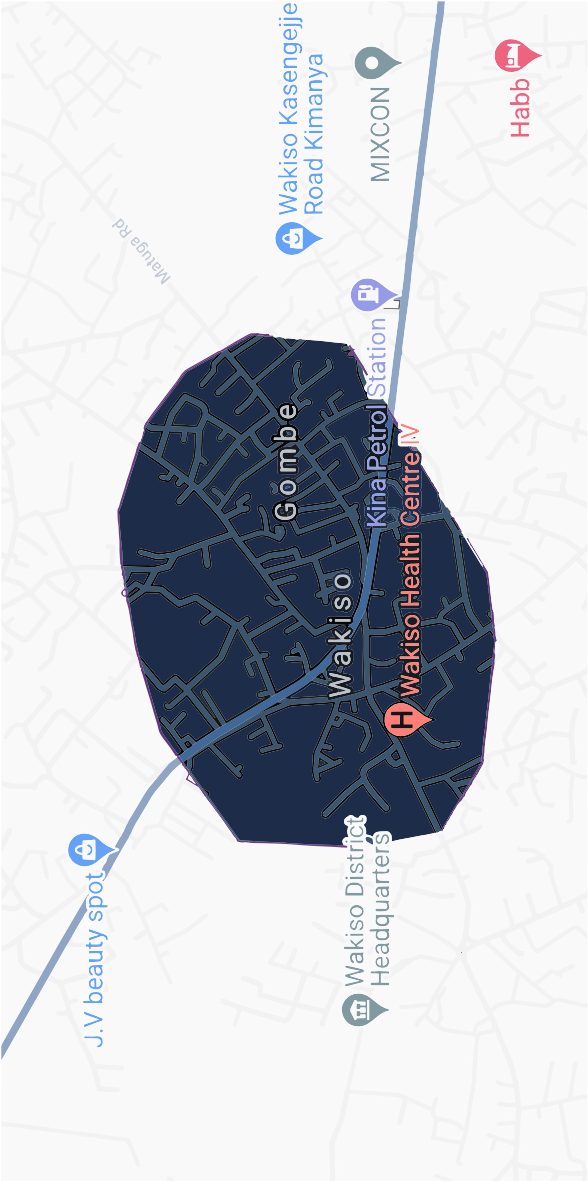
have received trainings in foods and nutrition and value addition



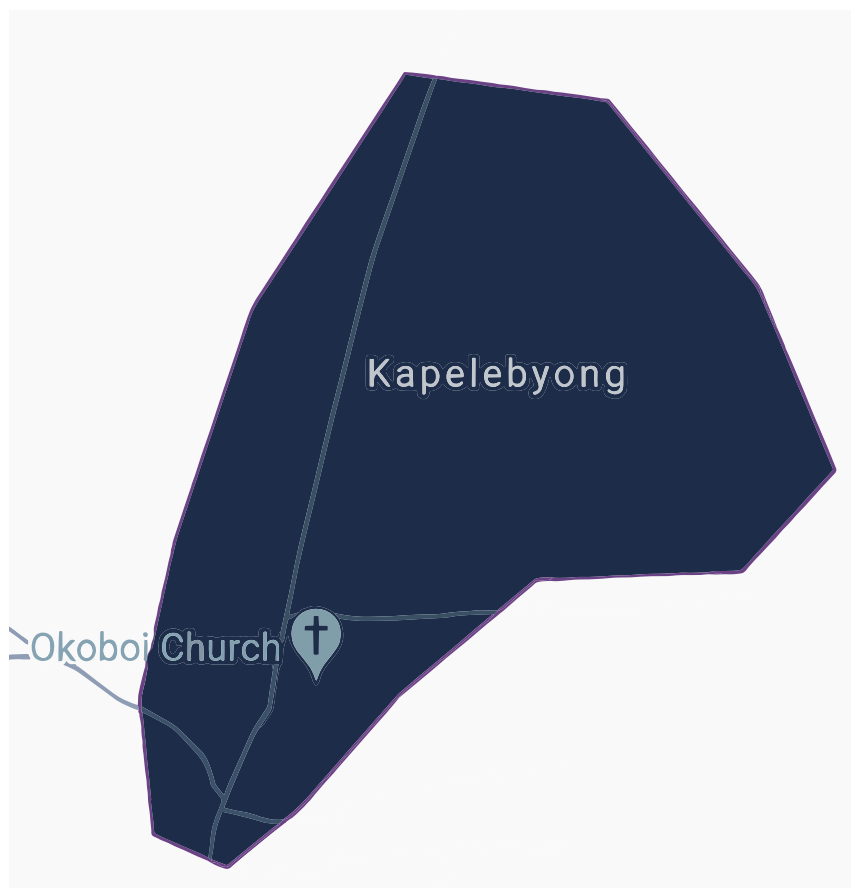
**135** | SPONSORED AMBASSADORS

and children identified and supported

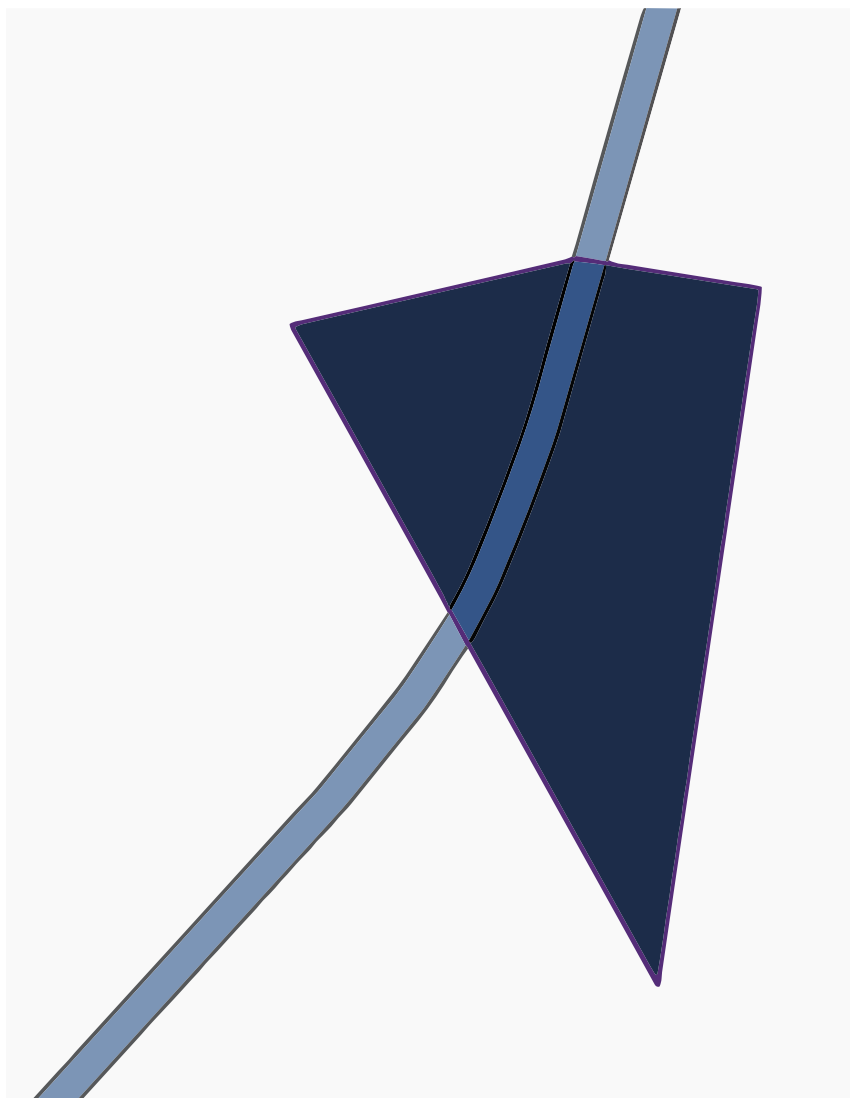
# Operation areas



Map of wakiso district



*Map of Kapelebyong district*



*Map of Napak district*



3 kms, Kampala - Hoima Road  
Plot: 330, Block 10  
Nakulabye Bukesa - Kiyindi Zone  
P.O. BOX 34365, Kampala, Uganda

T: +256 393 110 520  
E: [vad@vaduganda.org](mailto:vad@vaduganda.org)  
[vaduganda@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vaduganda@yahoo.co.uk)  
W: [www.vaduganda.org](http://www.vaduganda.org)