

MAIN FINDINGS

EVALUATION FINDINGS OF THE REALIZING LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH SAVINGS AND EDUCATION (REALISE) PROJECT

The REALISE Project was implemented by the Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO) in five sub-counties of the Hoima district in Western Uganda (Kitoba, Kigorobya, Bugambe, Kyangwali, and Buhanika) between January 2013 and December 2016.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

700 VSLA GROUPS



56 CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES



5,500 DIRECT CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES



WHAT ECLT DID

- **WORKED** to withdraw and prevent children in or at risk of being in child labor.
- **TRAINED** community workers to refer child laborers to service providers.
- **FACILITATED** child labor committees.
- **PROMOTED** awareness campaigns on laws against child labor.
- **CONSTRUCTED** and/or renovated 14 schools.
- **CREATED** Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) Groups.
- **PROVIDED** VSLA members with business skills.

WHAT IMPAQ DID



IMPACT ANALYSIS

Quasi-experimental design with difference-in-differences (DID) method using carefully selected comparison sub-counties that are observationally similar to the REALISE treatment counties.



IMPLEMENTATION STUDY

In-depth project document review, semi-structured key informants interviews, and focus group discussions to understand the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

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“The VSLA training has enlighten us to grow a business.”

-Members of a VSLA Group in Kyangwali

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“I would cry at the garden seeing other children go to school while I was working.”

-Butoole School in Kyangwali

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“I cannot survive without VSLA, it is part of my life and brings me many benefits.”

-Members of a VSLA Group in Kyangwali

IMPACT ANALYSIS

BEFORE/AFTER THE INTERVENTION IN TREATMENT SUB-COUNTIES



Before: 1 in 2 children were in child labor (tobacco and non-tobacco).



After: 1 in 4 children are in child labor (tobacco and non-tobacco).



Before: 1 in 4 children were in child labor for the tobacco growing industry.



After: 1 in 14 children are in child labor for the tobacco growing industry.

IN TREATMENT SUB-COUNTIES

↓ **83%**

Exposure to hazardous work conditions fell by 83 percent

↓ **58%**

Child labor (tobacco and non-tobacco) fell by 58 percent

↓ **75%**

The child labor in tobacco growing fell by nearly 75 percent

↑ **4%**

School attendance increased by nearly 4 percent



HOUSEHOLDS MAIN SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD

- Tobacco growing: decrease from 10.72% at baseline to 6.68%
- Commercial farming: decrease from 22.19% to 5.3%



PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT

- Heard of laws against child labor: increase from 47.41% at baseline to 79.87%
- Have someone who belongs to a savings scheme: increase from 18.45% to 42.73%



PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS AGED 18 OR MORE ENGAGED IN NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Increase from 23.97% at baseline to 50.32%

IMPLEMENTATION STUDY



RELEVANCE

It was implemented in a tobacco-growing district where child labor was highly prevalent and designed using a holistic approach to combat the factors that enabled child labor.



EFFECTIVENESS

The training of community workers and promotion of awareness campaigns kept the community engaged, children were reinserted in the school system, and VSLA groups allowed community members to find opportunities to purchase school materials, start businesses, and gain economic empowerment and independence.



EFFICIENCY

It developed partnerships with the government and used existing structures.



SUSTAINABILITY

Community members learned about the negative consequences of child labor and the value of education. Also, communities have developed child protection systems that will remain sustainable as long as its members are actively involved.



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

VSLA Groups have provided women with economic empowerment to engage in income-generating activities of their own. It was not uncommon that women make up the majority of VSLA participants.



REMAINING CHALLENGES

- A small group of children could access vocational training services, which are particularly important for older children who face barriers to be reinserted in school.
- The work of Child Protection Committees as well as gatherings within the community were made difficult due to transportation and communication barriers. Families located in remote areas were less likely to be visited.
- Increased school enrollment caused classroom congestion, and children lacked school materials and uniforms.