

Achievements to date (2022 – 2024)

Figures as of December 2024

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Goal:

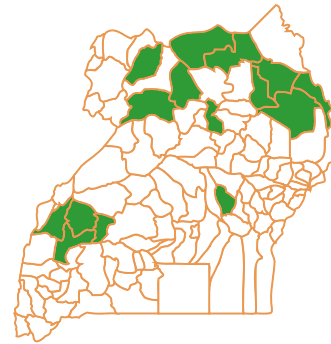
To contribute to improving food security and the reduction of malnutrition of at least one million women of reproductive age and children

Objectives:

- i. Increased access to and consumption of healthy diets.
- ii. Increased resilience to price and climate change-related shocks and stressors among household members, particularly women of reproductive age and children.

Project Reach and Target Groups:

- Total reach – **1,440,314**
- Women of reproductive age (WRA, 15-49 years) – **572,209**



Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

Funding (EUR): 10 million

Term: 2022-2026

Where we work: 15 districts, 3 cities in 5 Regions – Tooro, Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, Busoga.

Project Description

In Uganda approximately 29% and 53% of children below the age of five years are stunted and anemic, respectively. Additionally, one-third (32%) of women aged 15-49 years are anemic. Access to and consumption of healthy diets remains a challenge for women and children. The **Catalyzing Strengthened policy action for heAlthy Diets and resiliencE (CASCADE)** project seeks to improve access to and control over resources for agriculture, health and nutrition within households, strengthen private service engagement for nutrition, enhance nutrition coordination, and financing and programming and address harmful gender norms related to food, agriculture and nutrition. The country program's policy focus is the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II 2020-2025, with a goal to improve nutrition status among children under five years, school-age children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups by 2025.

How we Work

CARE leads the implementation of **CASCADE** at the national, district and community level through a consortium with GAIN, Food Rights Alliance, Kyambogo University, Africa Innovations Institute, Farm Africa and 20 Women Led Organizations. **CASCADE** Uganda has five pathways to achieve the envisioned goal namely:

- i. Nutrition public policy engagement and implementation
- ii. Private sector investment towards accessible & affordable nutritious products
- iii. Civil society engagement and support to nutrition policies and practices
- iv. Engagement of women's groups and households for increased agency and resources
- v. Collecting, systematizing and disseminating data and learning to inform policy actions and enhance coordination and collaboration among public, private and community stakeholders

Key Milestones and Achievements

- Adoption of 23 nutrition priority actions in the National Improvement Development Plan IV (2025-2030).
- Strengthening the functionality of District Nutrition Coordination Committees
- Increased utilization of the 2% Discretionary Development Equalization Grant (DDEG) for nutrition programming.
- Development of the Parish Development Model handbook and training manual to promote nutrition planning, implementation and budgeting.
- Increased the membership of the SUN Business Network from fewer than 10 members to 146 members and 50 Private Service Providers who are engaged in manufacturing, supplying, servicing and/or marketing nutritious foods.
- Establishment of 556 demonstration/learning agriculture sites using the Farmer Field and Business School model.
- Facilitation of the passage of a food and nutrition security ordinance in 2024 by Nwoya district local government that ensures increased availability of food through improved food safety, seed and food storage actions.

STORY OF CHANGE

Transforming Lives Through Nutrition and Sustainable Farming Practices

Hitimana Tabaruka is a 45-year-old refugee from Congo, residing in the Kyempango Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement with his family of eight children and his wife. For years, Hitimana struggled to provide enough food for his family due to limited access to land and a reduction in food rations by WFP. On most days, Hitimana's family could not afford three meals and went to bed hungry or relied on minimal produce from his small garden. In the face of these challenges, Hitimana joined a village savings and loans association (VSLA) and a farmer group supported by **CASCADE** where he learned basic climate-smart agricultural practices. The knowledge he gained from the saving group, and practical skills in nutrition and crop cultivation has transformed the lives of his family members. Inspired by the positive changes in their lives, Hitimana and his family have extended support to their neighbors. Hitimana explains his journey with **CASCADE** in this way:

*"Since 2012, my life, like any other refugee, has been filled with hardship. The lack of knowledge on how to grow varieties of crops in the limited space provided was a constant challenge to meet our nutritional needs. One of the most impactful lessons I learned was the concept of constructing a Madara garden – an innovative and space-efficient method to grow multiple crops in a small area. I diversified the crops I grew, ensuring that my family had a wider variety of foods. As a result, I provided three balanced meals for my family, something we had struggled to achieve before. I sold some of the produce and saved in the VSLA for future planning. We are now healthier, and I no longer need to spend large sums of money on food, as much of what we need can be grown in our garden. The improvement in our quality of life has been a direct result of the knowledge I received from **CASCADE**".*



Further Information



<https://www.care.org/our-work/food-and-nutrition/nutrition/cascade/>

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

