



Sustainable, Accountable, Empowering
Address; Kimuli Road, Mateete Town Council
Sembabule district
P.O. Box 14
Kampala, Uganda
Tel.+256782983532/ 772194119
Email nsambyacharles1@gmail.com
www.cosmadevelopments.com

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT 2019



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Introduction

This annual report is a narrative of what transpired during the year 2019 as regards programs and projects being implemented by Cosma Sustainable Rural Development, and other aspects related thereto. It provides an overview of the organization, the achievements made, the challenges encountered and future prospects.

Organization Overview

Cosma Sustainable Rural Development (CSRD) is a registered Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO).

CSRD envisions a future in which communities are empowered, self-reliant, and thriving. To achieve this future, we work to raise the standard of living among underprivileged individuals through a variety of development programs.

Between January and December 2019, CSRD continued to focus on three major intervention areas to improve the livelihoods of our constituents. These include; to education, sustainable agriculture and income generation and entrepreneurship.

Our area of operation for this year has been Mateete and Lwebitakuli Sub-Counties both in Sembabule District however after NGO board reviewed our work and granted us to expand our operations to the neighboring districts of Lwengo, Bukomasimbi, and Gomba

The following program activities have been completed in the previous fiscal year of operation;

1. Sustainable Agriculture Program

This program is a value chain intervention aimed at enabling farmers in Sembabule and neighboring districts to obtain higher incomes from their cereal crop produce

The overall objective is to enable 80% of the farmers to have the capacity to produce, properly store, and process and sell their harvested cereal crops.

The specific objectives are to:

- Provide farmers with improved seeds and inputs to improve their crop yield;
- Organize community-level trainings in sustainable agriculture techniques and strategies to overcome field calamities and increase crop yield

To improve post harvest management through collective storage, value addition and marketing

Program activities for this year included;

Seed distribution-(Revolving Seed loan)

CSRD provided farmers with improved maize seeds to increase crop yields. Recipients are responsible to return 10% of their harvest from the improved seeds to CSRD, this allows the organization to sell and buy a new batch of seeds for the next season. This year we distributed 1000 kg of improved seeds variety to 202 farmers. In the first season, about 40% of farmers returned their produce to CSRD and expect improvement in the return second season harvest.





Figure 1 Seed loan beneficiaries in their flourishing maize gardens

Drought Index Insurance

Uganda has experienced unstable climate in recent years, causing farm yields to greatly decline due to excessive rains and droughts both of which are destructive. CSRD, together with M-Omulimisa, is running a campaign developed by the Ministry of Finance of Uganda to compensate farmers for losses due to **drought** and **excessive rainfall**.

This year in the first season, 30 farmers insured their gardens. In the recent compensation plans a list of 15 farmers who were affected by drought were shortlisted to be compensated.

Water for production-Valley Dam

Through partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, government of Uganda CSRD realized a construction of a valley dam in Kasana village, Kayunga parish in Mateete Sub- County. The dam is meant to harvest rain water for both household use and agriculture production. In October this project was completed and handed over to the community for use and over 5000 people will be using this water source



Figure 2 In pictures; the community and local leadership of Mateete Sub County at the handover of the valley dam. The ED CSRD after completing the fencing of the dam

Farmer field trainings and mentorship

On a weekly basis our field staff; monitor and conduct trainings to farmers in responsive mechanisms to address field challenges in agriculture. This year, over 453 farmers participated in field trainings and a number of field challenges were trouble shot including fall arm worm, coffee bean bora and weather challenges. . We look forward to concentrate more on post harvest management practices in the next year.



Figure 3 In pictures are practical trainings on how to fight arm worms and crop diseases



Figure 4 A female farmer learning how to spray chemicals on to maize crops



2. Village Savings and Loans Associations

CSRD organizes farmers into groups to form VSLAs. VSLA is the mechanism for delivering financial inclusion for rural population especially women. The groups mobilize weekly savings and lend to themselves as way of

self help to over social economic challenges. This provides a framework through which CSRD may deliver services and programs e.g distributing improved seeds to disseminating knowledge regarding sustainable agricultural practices. This year we have been working with 10 registered VSLAs with a membership of over 823 farmers. Among the 10 groups, 7 of these groups have passed requirements to benefit from our partner. The Microfinance Support Centre to acquire soft midterm loans. . To date all the groups have mobilized savings over 100 million which they lend out to each other and later share dividends at end of year.



Figure 5 A VSLA session in progress at Nakasenyi Farmer

Village Agent model

At the beginning of 2019, CSRD embarked on involving the youths into Agriculture production in the area. CSRD partnered with Zirombe Agribusiness association (ZAABTA) to train 15 selected youths in the area in identifying services and businesses related to agricultural value chain. Out of 15, ten are actively participating in their respective VSLA sharing knowledge on new services to improve production.



3. Education Sponsorship



The goal of this project is to provide education sponsorship to vulnerable children in Sembabule Districts.

The specific objective of this program is to increase children in school. This year we sponsored 25 most vulnerable students; 11 in secondary and 12 in primary and 3 University both male and female.

We held parents/guardians meetings to discuss social economic issues affecting their families and children meetings this has helped to create bond between children their guardians. We look forward to reach most vulnerable children in the area if resources are available.



Pictured is parents and children Meetings and Mayanja Augustine University student at his internship at Masaka referral hospital.

4. Youth Entrepreneurship

The overall objective of this project is to equip youths in region with vocational skills that will afford them access to a wider variety of employment opportunities.

The specific objectives are to:

1. To form youth entrepreneurship groups
2. To impart vocational skills to youths; and
3. To Mentor youth groups to successfully run their business ventures.

Thirty participants (10 males, 20 females) were selected to begin training in the production of sandals, handbags, and beaded crafts, jewelry, and exercise books.

Below are picture of the program activities. We look forward to reach more youths in our area of operation



Figure 6 Youths participating in craft and shoe making



Figure 7 some of the shoes that were made from the trainings

5. Professional Development

Mr. George Mugenyi, our Director of Programs, attended a conference on International Agro Pastoral Summit in Yaoundé Cameroon through the sponsorship of UN- FAO

The Team outsourced with a financial specialist to train us in financial accountability and reporting. Through this we have been able to improve our accountability system and reporting for this year better than previous years.

The team has also been able to get in touch with a specialist in proposal writing. Mr Emanuel Mensah from Wango-o (gender activism organization) has helped us to redesign our program writing skills together with Ms Zanna Gilbert who has worked tirelessly to improve our proposal writing skills.

We had a meeting with German technical cooperation GIZ to discuss ways on how we can develop collaboration. we look forward to more developments in year 2020

We look forward to attend major conferences like Opportunity Collaboration conference in Mexico in October 2020 and other major known conferences incase resources are available.

1. Partnerships

Special thanks go to our national partners, who have been so generous in helping us achieve our program objectives these include below;

- Microfinance Support Centre
- M-Omulimisa
- Uganda Prisons Seed Multiplication Program
- Kilimo Trust
- Wango-oo
- Wezesha Impact
- Ministry of Agriculture-Government
- Local Government
- And all beneficiaries in Sembabule district.

Challenges

Unpredictable weather conditions

Prolonged droughts and erratic rains were limitations to program interventions. This issue particularly affected the revolving seed loan scheme as farmers experienced difficulty in repayment of the seed loan as per the provisions in the procedures.

Inadequate capacity to supplement on education sponsorship

Sponsorship of student became very challenging on the part of CSRD as the organization lacks a financial sustainability project from which it can reliably obtain funds to supplement that one provided by sponsors.

Inadequate resources to facilitate personnel to run the programs efficiently and effectively

Future prospects

- Training and mentoring more youths into business ventures
- Identifying partners to enable farmers access water/irrigation pumps so as to reduce on effects of prolonged droughts
- Attending more conferences, seminars, and workshops to attain further professional development and build networks.
- Increase on number of sponsored students if and when funds become available.
- Organize farmers into more groups and increase partnership with Micro-finance Support Center
- Increase on farmers benefitting from the drought mitigation insurance
- Educate farmers on proper crop post-harvest handling practices
- Setting up community storage facilities for cereals

Acknowledgements

We wish to extend our great thanks to each and every individual, corporate body, institution and or otherwise who have contributed in one way or another in the financing and/or implementing of community development programs during the year 2019.

We are particularly indebted to our development partners for the continued full support of our programs all these years. Our sincere thanks go to the community who are implementing program, the technical staff from local government, Cosma staff, and all other parties instrumental in implementing Cosma programs.

Special thanks are due to our international donors and advisors:

1. USA Board led by our International Director Ms Jensen Reckhow
2. Individuals Donors.
 - Mrs. Wanda Gass, Adviser to the Board
 - Ms.Zanna Gilbert
 - Ms. Charlotte Newell
 - Mr. Thomas Thorpes
 - Mr. Pek Shibao
 - Ms. Judith Miller
 - Joy and Bev
 - Ms Chelsea
 - Mr Connor john Bell

Without each and everyone's input, contribution, and/ support, we would not have managed to accomplish what we did. We pledge our continued partnership and networking with you and other like-minded organizations and individuals. May the Almighty God reward each of you

Together for development,

Nsambya Charles

Executive director