

We contribute to:



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD / YOUTH & WORK

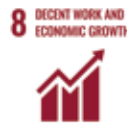
2022 was the year of battling climate change. Changes in climate include erratic rain patterns. For some project areas, such as in Burundi and Uganda, rains came too late, and water was very scarce. In other regions such as Pibor (South Sudan), heavy rains caused floods or washed away precious crops and topsoil.

We have carried out an inventory of climate problems and localized solutions. The results have been shared amongst country offices and partner organizations. In the coming years, we plan to realize more climate-adaptive programming together with the communities that we serve.

In 2022, we saw how youth is engaging in green business and value chain production. Thanks to irrigation, innovation, and access to local markets and finance, a number of farmer groups were able to achieve year-round agri-production. Creative methods, such as drying and grinding fish, were used in other areas to extend food security at times of drought. And Integrated Farm Planning (IFP) turned out to be an effective and promising method to transform the agricultural practices of model farmers and surrounding farmers through training of trainers.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Key statistics:



733
(youth) farmer groups supported

17,530
number of youth (19-25) supported in youth groups
49% male /51% female



19,031
people received agricultural inputs



SOUTH SUDAN

Fish on dry land

During the rainy season, the river in Pibor has more than enough fish to feed the community. But food is scarce in the dry season.

To increase the availability of protein in the dry season, women formed groups of twenty to process the fish they collect when the river is full. They dry the fish in a locally made oven and then grind it. The fish powder is put in jars and partly used at home to feed the family, and partly sold at the market. This is improving the economic situation of the women in Pibor.



Andries Schuttinga, CEO of Help a Child, visiting the project members in Pibor.



Young women from Pibor demonstrating their dried fish products at the market.



DRC

Hope reborn through agriculture

To support people in Masisi who returned home after being displaced, Help a Child supported 2,882 people to form self-help groups. Through these groups, the households received agricultural tools, vegetable seeds, and training in good agricultural techniques.

The lack of seeds and tools meant that the yield was not enough to feed the families and malnutrition became prevalent. Now the yield has increased, giving the family enough food to eat. The introduction of market gardening allows the farmers to make up the food deficit

in their household and contributes to the recovery of the economy in their homes.

In total 870 households, existing of 6,858 people, were directly supported by food security activities.



One of the farmer groups in Masisi, DRC.



Mrs Antoinette (48), widow and mother of six, was affected by many displacements and conflicts in her village in Masisi but restarted her agricultural activities after receiving seeds and tools. *'Many thanks to Help a Child for allowing me to relaunch my agricultural activities and begin to restore my income sources. This assistance gave me the hope of living again after so many displacements and conflicts in my village.'*

MALAWI

Youth business, green business

Malawian youth is on the right track in scaling-up innovative green businesses.

After clean cooking training, facilitated by Help a Child, youth groups in Mwalwene, Zilakoma, and Edingeni are proactively advocating for reducing firewood use and bringing back lost forest. The Jovwira youth group of fifteen members set a great example by planting 8,719 pine trees as a long-term investment on community wasteland. By doing so, they can earn money and save our planet for future generations.



42 youth groups

supported in Malawi

INDIA

Mapping opportunities for farmers

Motivation + innovation + cooperation = flourishing agribusiness. That is the idea behind the Integrated Farm Planning approach, or PIP, to use the French acronym.

In 2022, PIP was brought to Gajapati, India. Help a Child started by facilitating training for 160 farm families from eight villages. The key tool in this approach is a map drawn by all family members to describe the current situation and envision the future situation of their farm. Based on experiences elsewhere, we are hopeful that this programme will create a solid foundation for soil and water conservation and increase agricultural income.



Farmers from Gajapati district listening to a PIP training on agricultural sustainable practices.

Want to read more about PIP?

helpachild.org/our-expertise/food-security-livelihood/pip/





Fighting climate change

If we go back to the summer of 2022, news images come to mind: dry riverbeds in Italy, inland navigation that had to be suspended in several places. The effects of climate change are clearly beginning to permeate Europe, but have been visible in other parts of the world, such as Africa, for much longer. 'Climate change is real here in Africa.' This statement clearly echoes throughout the survey that Help a Child conducted among our implementing partners last year.



Full attention during a farmer awareness and training meeting in Purnea, India.



This youth self-help group in Rwanda has become an official cooperative, specialized in organic vegetables for the Kigali market.



A PIP farmer from Edingeni, Malawi, shows her PIP plan to other farmers for input and discussion.

Due to climate change, our partners experience the need to adapt current programming towards more climate-smart approaches. In fact, adaptation is not an option, but rather a survival strategy to cope with food insecurity, soil degradation and lower economic revenues. In dialogue with our partners, and in turn with the communities that we serve, we identified four main pathways:

- 1 Improve communities' and households' knowledge of water management and water harvesting and mainstream these activities in our programmes.**
- 2 Raise more awareness of climate change among children aged eight to 15.**
- 3 Empower and mobilize communities to undertake joint environmental activities, such as community clean-up days.**
- 4 Link up with specialized and expert organizations on climate adaption.**

Help a Child is determined to continue down this path. An important start has already been made by embracing Integrated Farm Planning or PIP, a model from Wageningen University, aimed at increasing the intrinsic motivation of farmers and their families to adopt climate-smart agriculture. Besides PIP, environmental activities, such as tree planting and clean-up activities, are increasingly embedded in our project interventions. Another important window is to apply innovative techniques such as solar irrigation, climate-neutral greenhouses, and vertical gardening. These techniques make efficient use of available resources. At the same time, they boost the image of agribusiness as an exciting and attractive profession for youth. It is time for a new generation to take over.

Adaptation is not an option but rather a survival strategy.



Litter collected by the community in Orwamuge, Uganda, during a clean-up day. This generates a healthy environment and a small fee for daily costs such as school fees.

