

We contribute to:



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD/CLIMATE/ YOUTH AND WORK

For children and their families, sufficient and healthy food is key for their development. In 2023, efforts were made in Help a Child programmes to help and assist communities, farmer households, youth clubs, and children's clubs to grow their own healthy food.

In some cases, such as in South Sudan and DRC, food assistance is still needed. Help a Child's approach is to minimize food aid and strive for self-reliant families. Help a Child is using the PIP approach: a Participative Integrated Planning approach that helps farmers and communities by making a family farm plan and coaching them over the season to make their own plans come true. The PIP approach has a proven concept of goal-setting and works at the same time on the foundation principles of resilience-based stewardship, with motivated stakeholders who feel responsible as good stewards of the land and its natural resources, and on investing in the resilience of their landscape.

Within the Youth & Work programme, we have been intensifying access to capital for youth and improving their businesses. From monitoring indicators, we saw that some youth businesses were just pumping money round and not making substantial profit. For the coming year, we plan to intensify our efforts to improve the businesses of youth groups and youth individuals.

Regarding climate, Help a Child started a QuickScan on climate adaptation. Together with our local communities, we are drawing up an inventory of problems caused by climate change and together determining which solutions will be suitable for climate adaptation. The first results are expected in the first quarter of 2024.



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:



941
(youth) farmer groups supported

8,237
number of youth supported in youth groups
44% male /56% female



18,461
people received agricultural inputs



UGANDA

Self-reliant and **ready for work**

Initially he was a farmer and grew potatoes, but when the Community-Based Youth Skilling Centre (TWCCCD programme) called for applications for youth skilling, Felix (29 years old, from Abindi Parish in Bileafe Sub-County), applied.

After completing a course of three months, Felix bought a sewing machine and now proudly calls himself a senior tailor with an overwhelming number of clients daily. He is trained in tailoring and clothing cutting. Felix now sews clothes from a trade centre. 'Thanks to my quality work, I have many customers. This allows me to pay the school fees for my children, sew clothes for them, buy food for the family, and I also save some money every week in my savings group,' says Felix with a smile on his face. The personal business strategy has also helped Felix to resume his house-building, which initially stopped at beam level due to a lack of money.

Through the introduction of Community-Based Youth Skilling and Production centres by the TWCCCD programme, three young people were able to acquire their own sewing machines, which helped them to raise daily income for their households. 'I cannot thank AEE Uganda and Help a Child Africa enough for helping us to become better young people who do not sit by the roadside asking for money. Continue the good work and train more young people to stand on their own,' says Felix with gratitude.



21 youth groups supported in Uganda





MALAWI

Growing green: **sustainable change** through youth-led initiative

Young people in Chizuzu have started using a shade net when growing tomatoes. The use of the shade net has increased their enthusiasm for green business.

Francis, one of the young people involved in cultivating under the shade-net, highlights the remarkable difference in quality between the current tomatoes and those from previous years. Despite prior tomato-growing experience, they have never seen such high-quality produce. 'This is not our first time planting tomatoes, but we have never witnessed tomatoes of such high quality. Our interest in green business has increased and we will work hard to benefit our community,' Francis said.

According to Francis, they are anticipating profits of approximately 1.5 million kwacha (€ 780) from the current tomato harvest. Beyond the shade-net initiative, the young people are actively engaged in tree planting

to counteract environmental damage caused by the opening of new farms and timber mining. 'We have also learnt many environmental conservation methods; that is why as young people we have taken a role in restoring the environment so that we can enjoy the life of a rich environment as it used to be in previous years.'



INDIA

Cultivating change through innovative farming

In India, the government of Jharkhand, together with Help a Child India, connected rural women with sustainable sources of livelihood. Under this initiative, women are being motivated to take up modern farming techniques.

Rural women who once cultivated vegetables using traditional farming methods are making good profits by growing fruit with assistance from the government. One of these initiatives is the cultivation of strawberries, which has become a strong pillar of women's empowerment.

Katrina, the mother of one of our community ambassadors, is a farmer in Rania. She previously cultivated vegetables just for the family needs. Her yield was not good and her earnings were low. Thanks to the programme, Katrina was provided with a poly-house nursery, seed bed, mulch, and a micro-drip irrigation system. With the aid of these, she cultivated strawberries and started to earn income from selling them. Katrina is from a poor background and was unable to send her children to school. But due to assistance provided by the government and Help a Child India she is now

able to generate income for her family and provide education for her children. This is a nice example of how we can team up with local government to improve the situation for those in need.



51 persons were trained in farmer groups of which **21** women in Rania





The power of a Self-Help Group

Making savings and giving small loans to its members. That is what Ubumwe, a Self-Help Group (SHG) formed in June 2018 in Rweri, Rwanda, started doing. Before joining the SHG, members were living in poverty and their only source of income was subsistence agriculture and selling their agricultural products. This had a lot of impact on their family's lives: their children were not having basic needs met like nutritious food and school materials.

After mobilization of our partner EPR/CCDP to form a Self-Help Group, the mindset journey changed and development started from that moment.

1

The group started with weekly savings of 200 Rwandan Francs per week and now they have improved to 500 Rwandan Francs.

2

After being trained on creating IGAs (Income Generating Activities) together as a group, they decided to lease one hectare of land to cultivate maize.

3

Consequently, in 2022 they made a profit of 400,000 Rwandan Francs from two tons of maize sold.

4

In addition, in 2023 they took a loan of 1,500,000 Rwandan Francs from revolving funds to invest in agriculture activities at household level and they managed to pay the loan back on time.

Members of the Ubumwe SHG are proud of the decision to unite and form an SHG. Francoise, leader of the Ubumwe SHG: 'Since joining the Ubumwe SHG, it is no longer hard to pay school fees and get food for our children. Plus, we have a dream of buying our own piece of land near water, so that we can adapt to climate change, which is a primary challenge to our agricultural activities.'

