

ACSET
Uganda



This report presents activities conducted in 2019, successes and challenges faced during the year, strategic management resolutions for the year 2019 and possible way forward for 2020. We managed to support 6500 direct / primary beneficiaries with our different projects in Agriculture and Economic Development, Education and vocational skill development, renewable energy and Clean Drinking water. We are grateful to our partners and donors especially; [GIZ GmbH](#), [ICON-INSTITUT GmbH](#), [Urbis-Foundation](#), [Van Doorn Foundation](#), [Gered Gereedschap](#), GetOn Foundation, and Local Government of Uganda among others.



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FORWARD



‘Reaching the Unreached and Serving the Unserved’ is our new slogan that describes how deep ACSET Uganda is reaching beneficiaries in rural Uganda where social services are few and social support are inadequate. On behalf of the board of ACSET Uganda and management, I am very grateful for the contributions of staffs, donors, partners, beneficiaries and volunteers at every level of implementation and management – making ACSET Uganda a better organization now.

ACSET Uganda has been instrumental in the implementation of projects under our development model of; Agriculture and Economic Development, Education and Vocational Skill Development, Renewable Energy and Clean Drinking Water, Health and Social Protection. We have implemented solar energy projects, education, vocational skill training as well as Agriculture and Economic Development in northern Uganda. Our projects directly reach individuals, households, communities, schools and health centers. We are grateful for having reached 6,500 beneficiaries across all projects implemented. We are also very grateful to our partners and donors that supported us in the implementation of projects in the year 2019.

The German Co-operation for Development (GIZ GmbH) with funding from BMZ and European Union tendered to ACSET/ICON-INSTITUT consortium a project called ‘Promotion of Rural Development in Northern Uganda (PRUDEV) that runs up to September 2022. This project covers six districts in Northern Uganda and promotes mainly Local Economic Development (LED) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). Urbis-Foundation Germany supported our solar energy project enriching three schools and one health center in Oyam District with 20 lighting point solar system each. Van Doorn Foundation and Gered Gereedschap from The Netherlands joined hands with ACSET Uganda and opened up a Vocational Training School (Skills for All Vocational Training Institute – S4A VTI) in Oyam District providing vocational skill training to youth for self-employment and meaningful job creation. Since June 2018 up to December 2019, GetOn Foundation from the Netherlands supported our project (Women Livelihood Improvement – WeLive) promoting vegetable production at household level, Financial inclusion through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) methodology and Income generating activities among 1,200 households in Alebtong District. PRUDEV project, S4A VTI and Solar project continues to be implemented in the coming years alongside other new projects being designed.

I therefore take this opportunity on behalf of ACSET board to thank all our Board members and Management Team, staffs, donors and partners who worked tirelessly in 2019 to ensure all the above projects are implemented successfully. Your support is highly appreciated

Bruno Sserunkuma Akejo,
Founder and Director
ACSET Uganda

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Our Mission:

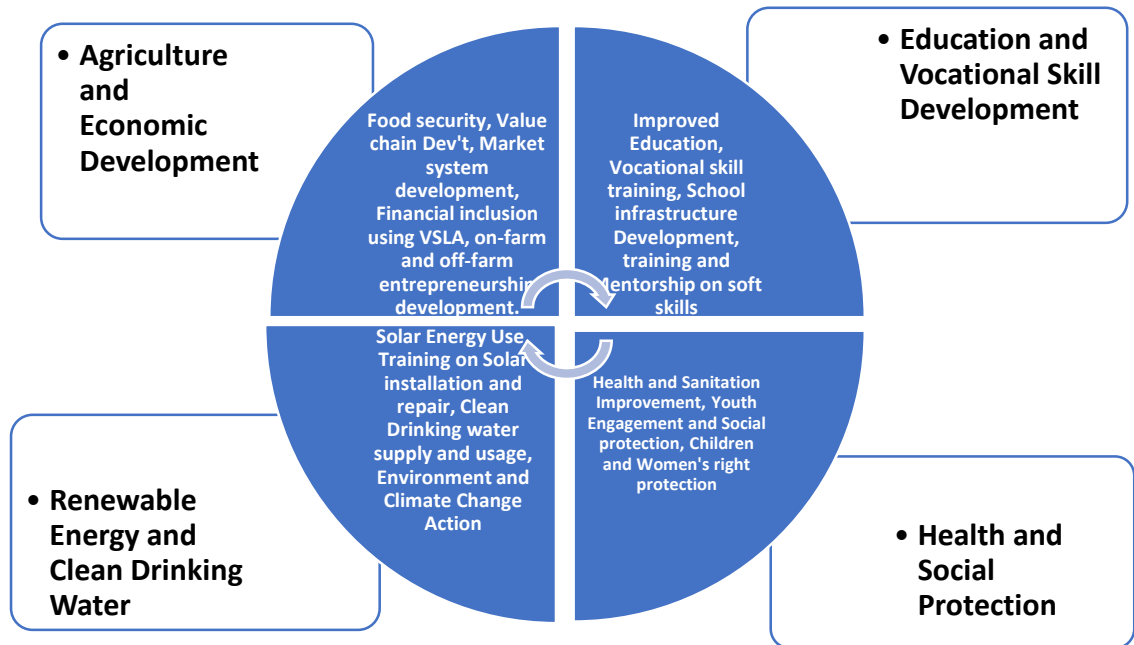
ACSET - Uganda strives to have an economically-empowered and enlightened community that works together to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable, healthy lifestyles for vulnerable children and youth.



Our Vision:

A Society where vulnerable children and youth enjoy equal socio-economic rights and better livelihoods

ACSET'S MODEL FOR DEVELOPMENT



INTRODUCTION

Action for Child Social and Economic Transformation (ACSET) Uganda is an indigenous non-profit-organization registered in Uganda under the Uganda National NGO Bureau and Uganda Registration Service Bureau (URSB) registration number 221856. ACSET Uganda is a member of Lira NGO forum – an umbrella organization of NGOs and CBOs working in Lango Sub-region with Reg. No: LF/NGO/LR/1220. ACSET Uganda is run by a management team headed by an Executive Director and supervised by five board members. Currently ACSET has ten permanent staff members and four volunteers and is currently running projects in six different districts of Uganda with several national and international partners.

Using a Right – Based – Approach, ACSET implements four inter-related and connected thematic areas, each of them with specific objectives to alleviate poverty in Uganda; Agriculture and Economic Development, Education and Vocational Skill Development, Renewable Energy and Clean Drinking Water, Health and Social protection.

Achievements in the Year 2019

A. Quality Education and Vocational Skill Development

Under this thematic area, ACSET Uganda in March 2019 joined force of Van Doorn Foundation and Gered Gereedschap from The Netherlands and started a vocational school called Skill For All Vocation Training Institute (S4A VTI). This school is located in Oyam TownCouncil serving the district of Oyam, Kole, Omoro, Apac, Lira and Amolatar. The training center was started to train young Ugandans on vocational skills that builds self-confidence by allowing them to utilize their unique gifts and talents in generating income from self-employment and meaningful employment. The ultimate aim of the S4A Vocational Training Institute

is to alleviate poverty, improve livelihood, and empower vulnerable youth to be self-reliant. The vocational training institute provides vocational training to girls and boys using formal and non-formal approaches setting them ready for job markets.

The skills being provided include; carpentry, tailoring, masonry, welding, metal fabrication, Mechanics, hair dressing, plumbing and general Agricultural trainings, which are the skills youth are most interested in and for which there is demand (labour market) in Uganda

The Training programme has two levels of vocational training, i.e. basic vocational training of youth that lasts one year and advanced vocational training that lasts two and three years. All targeting hands-on skill training of youth for self-employment or meaningful employment. The first lot of students completed their assessment in November 2019.

The target group for vocational training are often school dropouts from primary and secondary school and no specific preconditions are required for those young people to attend vocational training. The students admitted for basic (non-formal) vocational training are those who are able to read and write because the training involves both theory and practical sessions and they are required to do examinations set by Uganda Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) under Ministry of Education and Sports. The Uganda Government Ministry of Education and Sports has already approved this programme and given a centre number UVQF / 773

Applicants for advanced vocational training however are those with secondary school certificate or certificate of informal vocational training issued by DIT. This implies that a basic vocational training student can progress from basic to advanced vocational training. Students following advanced

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vocational training are prepared to pass examination and are awarded by Uganda Community-polytechnic Certificate of Education (UCCE). The UCCE examination is set by Uganda Business and Technical Examination Board (UBTEB) still under Uganda Ministry of Education and Sports.

The training itself is classical during the theory sessions and individually supervised by instructors during the practical sessions. The instructor guides the students during their apprenticeship and provides further support as necessary. During theory and practical classes, the students are provided with handouts (notes) to support their revision.

Throughout the training, instructors conduct routine course assessment tests and examinations for theory and practical to gauge students' performances and to prepare students for the final examinations set by DIT for basic vocational training and UBTEB for advanced vocational training. At the end of the training, students are expected to pass DIT or UBTEB in order to be awarded certificates.

Towards the end of the training the student is sent for apprenticeship placement, to enable them apply their class work in real life situations. The apprenticeship is also intended to provide initial coaching to students and expose them to various private sector actors in their field of expertise where they can work and earn income for themselves.

Each year we are estimating to train 500 youth and set them ready for job placement or self-employment where after they can employ other youth. In this way, the rate of youth unemployment in Uganda will be reduced.



Training on progress

The project annual status. ACSET Uganda using S4A VTI registered 17 students and trained them from March to November 2019 (9 months).



Students conducting their exams and being assessed by DIT Team.



Carpentry students during their training session at S4A Vocational Training Institute.

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A. Agriculture and Economic Development:

Under this thematic area, ACSET Uganda implemented two core projects that included Promoting Rural Development (PRUDEV) and Women Livelihood improvement project (WELIVE) both in northern Uganda.

B1. PRUDEV: The GIZ Project “Promoting Rural Development in Northern Uganda” (PRUDEV) is a bilateral programme of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) on behalf of the Government of Uganda and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The aim of the Project is to improve the agriculture-based development of the rural economy in selected regions of Northern Uganda, and thus to generate positive employment and income effects which contribute to reducing poverty in rural areas of the region.

With that objective, the Project is oriented towards improving the general enabling conditions which are required to transform and boost the growth of the local rural economy as well as towards promoting the integration of micro, small and medium agriculture-based enterprises – including the upstream and downstream sectors - into rural markets and value chains and improving the access to required financial services and investments.

Based on a co-financing agreement between the European Union (EU) and the Federal Republic of Germany, the PRUDEV project also integrates objectives related to the promotion of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) amongst smallholder farmers with the aim to promote agricultural practices and techniques which contribute to increase farmers’ productivity, to adapt to adverse climatic conditions and to mitigate the

negative impacts of agriculture on climate change.

With local office facilities established in Gulu, the Project primarily operates in six selected districts of Northern Uganda: Agago, Amolatar, Dakolo, Kitgum, Lira and Oyam. Complementary interventions are involving actors from Gulu and Napac districts.

ACSET Uganda in a consortium with ICON – INSTUT GmbH were contracted this project in all the 2 phases in northern Uganda, covering LED and Climate Smart Agriculture respectively.

The PRUDEV project implements activities in four complementary areas:

- **Output Area 1:** Capacities for local agriculture-based economic development; aims to build the capacity of public institutions, civil society and the private sector to promote agriculture-based Local Economic Development (LED).
- **Output Area 2:** Improved market integration; is designed to increase the market and entrepreneurial focus of agricultural producers and of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and service providers upstream and downstream from agriculture, for example by strengthening farmers’ organisations (associations, cooperatives).
- **Output Area 3:** Access to financial services; complements the other two areas of activity and is geared towards improving access to demand-driven financial services for farming enterprises and MSMEs upstream and downstream from agriculture in selected districts.

With the mutual agreement on a delegated cooperation between the EU and BMZ, PRUDEV was enhanced by two additional output areas which came into operation beginning in May 2019.

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Output Area 4: supporting the development of a monitoring, reporting and verification system to measure the potentials for greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture.

In addition to that, a fifth output area has been defined, however interventions haven't yet fully started.

Output Area 5: Water for production – capacity building for improved water resource management in micro- and small-scale irrigation.

The consulting services provided by ICON / ACSET are related to the output area 1: Capacities for local agriculture-based economic development. The principal fields of activity being

- **Capacity Development:** Strengthening of institutional and individual capacities of the District Local Governments (DLGs) as well as of private and civil society actors for the participative development of agri-based MSMEs as well as of up- and downstream sectors.
- **Public-Private Dialogue Fora (PPDs):** Improving coordination and cooperation of district administrations, private sector and civil society actors and creating an enabling environment for agri-based local economic development (LED).
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Supporting the implementation of concrete LED oriented measures at local level.



Dokolo District Climate smart vulnerability Assessment workshop being conducted.

With its intervention the ACSET/ICON team is contributing to the achievement of the following indicators

Module Objective: The (climate-smart) agriculture-based development of the rural economy in selected regions of Northern Uganda has been improved.		
Fully responsible	Outcome Indicator 1	In each of the six districts, 2 measures for the promotion of inclusive agri-based (climate-smart) local economic development, which have been prioritised in PPDs, are being implemented.
	Output Indicator A.1	12 new measures for creating an enabling environment for the (climate-smart) development of MSMEs in the agricultural sector as well as in up- and downstream sectors and related services have been identified in PPDs in six districts, based on the district development plans (DDPs).
Contributions to	Outcome Indicator 2	25% of the 500 participants (of which 20% women and 40% youth) in qualification measures offered by state-, private and/or civil society institutions for start-up / business skills in the agricultural sector (incl. up- and downstream sectors and related services) have a feasible business plan when the measure is completed.
	Outcome Indicator 4	The number of the agricultural enterprises or MSMEs in the up- and downstream sectors which make use of financial services offered by financial institutions from the selected six districts (200), has been increased by 10%. 40% of these enterprises have been qualified by the project in the development of business models / start-ups.
	Outcome Indicator A.2	15 state, private and/or civil society institutions offer 1 demand-oriented, practical qualification measure for (independent and dependent) employment in the agricultural sector, up- and downstream sectors or in relevant services.



PRUDEV is a GIZ tendered project being implemented by ACSET/ICON-INSTITUT Consortium

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Main Activities Implemented during the Reporting Period

During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented by the Consultant's team within the three fields of activity for Output Area 1:

Capacity Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trainings and workshops to introduce topics / LED to the local partners (DLGs, CSOs, PS) 2. Establishment and training of District-Led Resource Teams (DLRTs) – <i>for composition see glossary</i> 3. Establishment and training of District Resource Pools – <i>for composition see glossary</i> 4. Training of DEC's councils, DLRTs, DRPs, PSAs and CSOs in initiating and implementing PPDs 5. Training of media, religious and cultural leaders on communicating LED 6. Training and mentoring of district leaders on leading and communicating LED 7. Organize and facilitate experience-sharing workshops 8. Training of DLRTs, PS and CSOs on forming stakeholder platforms and holding Business Round Tables 9. Support inductions of LLG Councils on LED through supervision and advice
PPDs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Training of DLRTs in using PPDs 11. Hold mock PPDs with DLRTs 12. Participate, advise and mentor DECs, DLRTs, PSAs and CSOs on PPDs 13. Monitor and follow up on PPD initiatives
PPP Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Providing technical support to DLGs in identification, prioritization and preparation of PPPs (incl. compile lists of redundant assets and business registers) 15. Training of DLRTs on negotiating PPPs 16. Advise and mentor on PPPs 17. Monitor PPP status



Mr. Michael Tebere (Key expert 1 – PRUDEV) giving LED induction training to Short Term Experts

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B2 Women Livelihood Project (We-Live)

ACSET Uganda also implemented this project that aims at improving on food security and economic resilience of women who are care givers of orphans and vulnerable children through promoting income generating activities, VSLA and vegetable production. This project was to support Agriculture and economic development in the region and apart from the above elements of the intervention activities ACSET Uganda also trained the beneficiaries on financial literacy and general life skills.



Beneficiary household harvesting vegetables from the Kitchen garden for home consumption.

Goal: The goal of We-Live project is to improve on food and nutrition security and economic resilience of 1,200 women in Alebtong District by 2020.



One of the beneficiaries selling Cabbages from his Kitchen Garden (Farm gate selling) in Alebtong District

The project has the following outcomes

Outcome 1. Increased Income of 1,200 Women by 50% by 2020.

Outcome 2. Increased Access to micro-Credits / Finances by 1,200 Women to boost their Small Businesses by 2020.

Outcome 3. Increased Access to nutritious food by 1,200 Women's Households by 2020.

The project up to the reporting time had the following achievements

Target	Achieved
1200 H/H / beneficiaries enrolled	1200 H/H enrolled
40 VSLA groups of 30 members each formed and doing savings and borrowing	40 VSLA groups of 30 members formed and doing savings and borrowing: 40 groups = 90,152,000 Cuml. Saving.
1,200 beneficiaries trained on VKG and farming vegetables	1,200 benef. Trained on VKG and farming vegetables

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1200 VKG constructed	1,200 VKG constructed and functioning in 1,200 H/Hs. Renovation is on-going
40 VSLA groups trained on VSLA methodology, Financial literacy and Life-skills	40 VSLA groups undergoing VSLA and Financial literacy and Life-skill.
VSLA groups linked to financial institutions	#Not yet done; groups are yet to be linked especially the mature groups.

Beneficiaries doing income generating activities as a result of VKG, VSLA and training	Over 100 beneficiaries doing small businesses of produce dealing, brick laying and vegetable selling. More to be profiled
1,200 H/H have access to Nutritious Vegetables from their gardens	1,200 H/Hs have access to nutritious vegetables from their gardens.
1,200 H/H trained on preparation of nutritious food for infants	#Not yet done – planned for this year.
Income of beneficiaries raised by 50%	Income generated from VKG in 40 groups is now: 3,093,300UGX. Profiling other groups are on-going.
	Bottle-water irrigation done in 152 gardens.



The Bicycles being given to the CBTs to facilitate training to the selected groups in Alebtong District.

B. Renewable Energy and Clean drinking water:

ACSET Uganda under this thematic area implemented a project called RELIEF 2.

Renewable Energy for Light Economic-empowerment & Food 2 (RELIEF 2) implemented in Oyam District and Alebtong district in Northern Uganda in

December 2018 and May 2019.

Yes, the project objective has been met as we have fulfilled our target activities in Oyam and Alebtong District through: Installation of Solar Lighting Systems in One Health Center (Anyeke Health Center IV) and two schools in rural areas (S4A vocational Training Institute and Sealand Nursery and Primary school. Anyeke Health Center IV has an

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average women delivery rate of 120 deliveries per month. An average of 30 cases for treatment is recorded per week for children and 25 for women are recorded. It means the health Center now has readily available power source to enable them perform their duties.

RELIEF 2 project has therefore installed a 20 Lighting Point Solar Lighting System at Anyeke Health Center IV providing light to children's ward and women's ward. The system also support use of laptop computers and charging of mobile phones with the support of DC to AC inverter installed. The project also installed 40 lighting systems in two schools (20 lighting points each) serving a population of over 456 students and 50 staffs.

We have also supported over 50 women with Self-rechargeable solar lanterns to support lighting at household levels. These women are practicing village savings and loan association (VSLA) as a means of improving their economic resilience

and financial literacy. More training is still on-going on financial literacy, business skills and village savings and loan association (VSLA). They are actively saving income in their VSLA and loaning small amount of money to its members in order to strengthen members' small businesses (income generating activities).

Thus project was successful through the support and partnership with Urbis-foundation that enabled ACSET Uganda to support households with Mobile Led self-rechargeable solar lanterns and 4 VSLA groups under a project.



The solar panels being donated to S4A Vocational Training institute and the solar lantern being donated to Households within the project areas.

Revenue	2019	2018
Opening Balance	3,450,000	15,354,650
Grants		
GetOn Foundation - Netherlands	102,000,000	77,900,000
Urbis-Foundation - Germany	38,000,000	40,000,000
Van Doorn Foundation - Netherlands	21,875,000	5,916,636
ICON-INSTITUT GmbH - Germany / GIZ GmbH	945,821,079	401,179,100
Miscellaneous Income (IGA)		
Total Revenues	1,111,146,079	540,350,386

Expenses		
Programme / Project Direct Expenses		
Education and vocational Skill Training	18,000,000	5,916,636
Kitchen Garden Project	-	4,325,600
Renewable Energy Project	34,000,000	38,564,000
Women Livelihood Improvement Project	68,600,500	38,146,000
Agriculture & Economic Development (PRUDEV)	549,341,479	277,747,500
Sub-Total	669,941,979	364,699,736
Administrative Expenses		
General Staff Salaries and Allowences	279,545,000	142,456,500
Social Security Fund (NSSF) Expenditure	27,954,500	14,245,650
Utility Cost	2,850,000	
Administration and logistics costs	70,300,000	1,708,000
Office Rent		2,880,000
Transport and Telecommunication	12,302,100	3,168,000
Committee Expenses		2,500,500
Sub-Total	392,951,600	166,958,650
Fundraising Costs		
Brochures, News letters & Event expenses		1,567,000
Travel costs		3,675,000
Sub-Total	-	5,242,000
Other		
Total Expenses	1,062,893,579	536,900,386

Net Income Before Taxes	48,252,500	3,450,000
Income tax expense		-

Net Income	48,252,500	3,450,000
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Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent	3,450,000	
Property and Equipment	41,582,500	
Total Assets	45,032,500	
Liabilities	230,000	
Net Assets	48,252,500	

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	48,482,500	3,450,000
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Challenges of 2019

PARTNERSHIP:

During the year 2019, we had one of the best projects in the life of ACSET Uganda and we have registered so far the highest success stories in the existence of ACSET Uganda.

However, we still face challenges in resource mobilization especially on fundraising for administrative costs and investment that can lead to self-sustainability of ACSET Uganda.

The organization has been managing herself from the little project funds allocated for administration and human resource.

We still invite willing companies, donors to come up and support ACSET Uganda. In the coming years, we shall have strong plans put into implementation to ensure that ACSET Uganda reaches many rural beneficiaries and able to meet her administrative costs and human resource costs by herself.

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

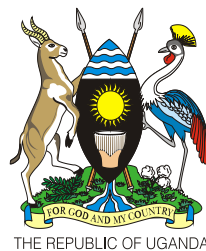
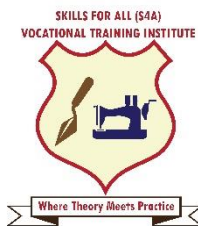
With introduction of many projects, some of which are being implemented at the same time, ACSET Uganda faced challenge with her accounting system that has been simple excel sheet book keeping system. It presented challenges to the finance team in order to follow and track every small spending being done. We have however upgraded our accounting system to QuickBooks that is much easier to operate and helps track every single spending of the organization amicably

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All Donations / Gifts Are Equally Valued!



- 1) Lewis Bland and Family – USA
- 2) Monica and Peter Ajer – USA
- 3) O'iga Amel'kina – Sweden
- 4) Helene Puehringer – Sweden



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