



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY



UGANDA

Bukiende

Year-End Community Summary Fiscal Year 2023

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Walking with **Bukiende**

2019

2029



Communities:
7



Total Households:
4,726



Total Population:
21,815



Program Participants:
13,848

UGANDA

When Bukiende began a partnership with FH Uganda in 2019, they faced significant challenges. Low income, limited ability to cope with and recover from natural disasters, and weak governance and social accountability made moving forward difficult. One year into their journey, the world was hit by COVID-19. It hindered development activities and created new challenges like loss of employment and increased school dropouts. Families struggled to meet their basic needs—food, medicine, school fees.

In spite of these many challenges, families in Bukiende have made tremendous changes to their circumstances. For example, in 2023, a group of 50 vulnerable youth aged 18-24 enthusiastically participated in a youth empowerment pilot project to increase income and resources in the community. With entrepreneurship training, they started a number of successful businesses.

Also in 2023, FH built a brand new maternity ward to support maternal, newborn, and child health which provides a safe environment for deliveries and is already saving the lives of mothers and infants.

Bukiende currently has 80 active Savings and Loans groups providing loans and supporting members to start vegetable and retail businesses. Members can now acquire land and livestock. In addition, 210 farmer groups are practicing and teaching climate smart agriculture, resulting in improved yields that increase food security and family income.

Local leaders are involved in designing and implementing development activities with FH and supervising and monitoring FH work. “We are working harder to ensure Bukiende becomes a model region, where other districts will come to learn from,” says Samuel, Bukiende Chairperson.



Youth are being empowered through business training! After receiving a grant, these youth opened an agriculture input store, helping serve local farmers with the tools they need.

IMPACT STORY

A new start for Winnie's family

Story collected and written by Racheal Namaemba

"All this made me hate my home because I was always comparing my life with that of my neighbours and friends," Winnie shares.

Those are strong words! But Winnie was in the thick of it. She relied on her husband, David, to provide everything for her and their four children. He worked hard as a farmer, but the steep hills and sandy soil of rural Burukuru made growing a living difficult.

Sometimes David came home empty-handed and they would argue. Winnie tried to shield her children from their difficult financial situation, saying the money for food just "got lost along the way." But inside, it was killing her. "This made me hate myself and I ended up regretting getting married, especially to a man who was financially unstable."

Something needed to change.

Winnie takes action

In 2019, Winnie heard about FH Uganda's child sponsorship opportunity. She quickly took action to enroll her son, Daniel. Two years later, she heard FH staff share about early childhood development in a community meeting.

"On that day, we formed a cascade group of 12 members and I was appointed the chairperson—I'm still chairing it today," Winnie shares proudly. This experience totally transformed her home-life.



It's not only the father's responsibility to influence a child's learning attitude, but my responsibility too.

— Winnie



She began to improve her family's health by raising the standard of their latrine, teaching (and enforcing!) handwashing with her children, and cooking more nutritious food. Winnie began growing and selling vegetables to contribute to the family income and provide school supplies for her children—getting hands-on with their education.

"Learning starts at home," she explains. "No child is dull, especially when given extra attention in their academics such as checking their books regularly, helping them do their homework, visiting them at school, and engaging with teachers to find extra time for coaching them. It's not only the father's responsibility to influence a child's learning, but my responsibility too."



Winnie makes time to do homework with Jona and her other children.



Winnie uses the money she makes from her cows to provide for her family and saves the additional money with her savings group.

EDUCATION

Books, bathrooms, and beans make happy students



“Through regular reading and debating competitions, our children have greatly improved on fluency and comprehension. This will help improve the performance during exams.”

— Lydia, Mbale District Education Officer

144

Cascade group leaders trained on **early childhood development**; they trained 1,728 community members

33%

improvement in **school enrolment** over 4 years



1,000

story books distributed throughout 7 schools

5

latrines exclusively for girls constructed at Burukuru Primary School

780

kilograms of beans and maize seeds contributed to **school gardens** to feed 5,000 children



78

stakeholders trained on gender-based violence, child protection, and referral pathways

HEALTH

Bukiende fights malnutrition!



288

leaders trained on **complementary feeding**; they trained 3,456 group members

20

Cascade groups given **vegetable seeds**—onions, tomatoes, eggplant, kale

168

mothers screened for depression; 90 offered mental health support through therapy groups

1,193

people screened for malnutrition at the health facility and community level



15

health workers trained to manage moderate and **severe malnutrition**

1

Maternity ward built and clinic stocked with medical equipment



Rose had delivered all her other children at home, but something felt wrong with this new pregnancy. After consulting nurses, she chose to give birth at Bukiende III maternity ward, grateful for their care. Now, she trains other expecting mothers to choose the health centre, sharing her positive experience: “**It really helped!**”

LIVELIHOODS

Dairy farming just keeps getting better!



“As Lead Farmers, we agreed that before FH can think of supporting us with dairy cows, we need to think of helping ourselves by contributing some of the money. Every member contributed! Now, [with FH’s support] we have three cows.”
— Frances, Lead Farmer



- 15** dairy farmer groups (84 farmers) formed and **trained on livestock production and value chain**
- 15** **pregnant heifers distributed** to fifteen farmer groups; offspring will be given to group members until every household has a cow
- 210** Lead Farmers and 80 savings groups **trained in agroecological practices**; they trained 6,300 more farmers
- 80** Savings and Loans groups **trained on financial literacy** and small business enterprises resulting in 85 active small businesses
- 420** kilograms **maize seeds** distributed to 210 lead farmers for demonstration gardens
- 90** lead farmers trained on **post-harvest handling**



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Empowering the next generation



- 76** **church leaders trained** on participating in the Kingdom of God and in God’s work in the world
- 24** training sessions provided to 50 youth in the **youth livelihoods project**
- 10** **youth entrepreneurship groups** paired with mentor organizations doing similar work
- 120** **community leaders trained** on Community Transformation and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

\$20,500 in business start-up grants distributed to **10 youth entrepreneurship groups**



“I have gained confidence and self-esteem...and have also learned how to work as a team. Because of this, my businesses are doing well...The changes in my personal life have made my community regain trust and hope in youth. They now believe that young people have the capacity to change their lives and their community.”
— Sarah, youth entrepreneur

“Thanks to FH for the wonderful trainings and support which have pulled me from grass to grace, now my children can have enough food to eat.”

— Robert



Thank You

FH Canada and FH Uganda, together with the communities of Bukiende, thank you for your generous support! By walking with these families through financial contributions, child sponsorship, and many prayers, you are helping end poverty—one community at a time.