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Donor
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
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Period
Oct 2020 to Sept 2022
- 


Targeted Districts
Country wide
- 

Total Budget
\$3,393,887
- 


Partners
MFPED, Ministry of Gender, MGLSD, UMRA, PROFIRA and UWEP
- 

CMP
CARE USA
- 


SDG



1 NO POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Overview

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) identified Uganda as a focal country with demonstrated momentum to build Women Economic Collectives (WECs) in Africa such as Savings and Women's groups because these are already embedded in the fabric of communities, civil society organizations as well as government. The strategic approach for WECs is to transform the way women and girls participate in the economy to improve their livelihoods. NPRPS' primary outcome is to support

strategic policy, regulatory and programmatic initiatives that advance government buy-in to drive the scale-up of a WECS agenda in Uganda.

NPRPS' aims at identifying and strengthening key entry points in the policy and programming space that the Government of Uganda will leverage on to build momentum around scaling Women Economic Collectives (WECs) as drivers for sustainable economic growth and financial autonomy for women. NPRPS is playing a catalytic role in partnership with government of Uganda to translate evidence

based practice into policy, institutionalized system strengthening, performance, and capacity building for sustainable outcomes for Women Economic Empowerment (WEE).

Major Components

- Self-Help Group operational guidelines
- Saving Group policy framework
- Research, evidence generation & convening key multispectral stakeholders

Project Objectives



Strengthening savings groups ecosystem through an enabling legal and regulatory environment.



Strengthening government-led programs to deliver evidence and approach on women's economic empowerment outcomes.



Conducting a countrywide Women Economic Collectives landscaping study and through it provide a comprehensive database and clarity on women groups across the country.

A Core Element of the Strategy is to Support the Scale of Women's Collectives with the Layering of the Five Elements.



Pooling Savings and Sharing Risks:

Under this, NPRPS provides opportunities for saving, lending, and connecting women to financial institutions.



Participatory Learning and Life Skills:

Allowing members to engage in practical, relevant training in health and agricultural practices and services.



Access to Markets and Services:

Enabling members to participate in the market activity by reducing transaction costs



Group Solidarity and Networks:

NPRPS is building on and expanding women's existing social networks to foster trust and social cohesion.



Critical Consciousness of Gender:

Empowering women by discussing rights, inequalities, and gender norms.

Achievements

At all steps of the project, adolescent girls and boys will work with the core project teams to advance youth decision-making and responsiveness of the project by ensuring that their rights, aspirations, and ideas influence program implementation which includes youth-led research and a SHE SOARS Youth Advisory Board.

→ Institutionalized Women groups through the development, finalization and roll-out of the Self-Help Groups' (SHG through Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA).

This has Helped Government and other actors to identify groups working with PDM and support realignment of PDM Financial Inclusion and community mobilization and mindset change pillars. This will enable GOU to provide targeted support and a platform for women to be provided the right services (eg access to credit); skills training, which will result in coordinate efforts to increase HH income.

→ Savings Groups policy Framework developed in partnership with Ministry of Finance planning and Economic Development

The SG policy and guidelines are mutually reinforcing and will help in creating a digital identity for women in groups. The policy framework has also streamlined operations of savings groups their leadership and Governance. The policy framework has also provided recognition of groups by government where most of them are being integrated under the Parish development model beneficiary groups.

→ Strengthened Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) by embedding improved monitoring, research, and implementation approaches into this program.

This has improved management information systems which has enabled women groups receive money for group enterprise in a timely manner across the country. It has also improved on reporting and linkages with other financial institutions. The Baseline and Evaluation reports have provided evidence on operations of Women groups across the country. The data has been utilized in the design, planning and roll out of new interventions such as Parish development model and GROW.

→ Generated new knowledge and evidence on women economic empowerment outcomes through PROFIRA, UWEP, WECS landscaping

- to inform future policy and programming, such as the PDM and GROW. The WECs landscaping study, and accompanying dashboard, completed by IPSOS has provided insight into where SGs are concentrated across Uganda, which implementers are delivering comprehensive models for reaching groups. The landscaping study also provides key information on the approach being delivered to groups, which is instrumental to the selection of groups in DREAMS.

→ Evidence generated has also Helped guide policy and programming, through consolidated data and creation of a defragmented WEE data hub. Pivots and planning on WEE will be anchored around this data

Studies Relevance to Development, Humanitarian, and Peace

→ Creation of a comprehensive database of women's groups that will provide baseline for policy formulation and implementation, inform programing and planning across multisectoral stakeholders in Uganda like for example; adoption into the Parish

Development Model, and Emyoga initiatives.

→ Highlights modules layering on saving groups as large scale livelihood platforms that can be transformed into a comprehensive platform for building resilience for women economic growth.

→ Present an opportunity for designing, and documenting sustainable and replicable

models that drives engendered economic growth.

→ New evidence, knowledge and learning generate on WEE outcomes will inform how best to target and sustainably work with women using researched and tested gender measures for WEE.

