

About the project

“My seedling, my fruits” is a village-based initiative by Relief Partners Uganda, Aiming at restoration of fruit trees in homes. Children are the target population, they are trained, given different species, directed on how to plant them. This generation is one of a kind, in this generation, villages have little or no fruits, its painful to witness a person with three acres of land buying a papaya at 4000 UGX yet if planted, the plant can give him/them more than 200 fruits over a period of 5 years. This project therefore aims at restoration of fruit trees using primary school children as restoration agents/ champions, the children fully participate in problem identification, project planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Problem statement

Prior to 2000, villages in Uganda were well known for having plenty of indigenous fruit trees ranging from paw paws, oranges, jackfruits, guavas, lemons, pineapples, among many others. The 19th and 20th generations were the type which enjoyed fruits from home to another, village to village; children could easily tell which jackfruit tree had nice fruits. There were a variety planted by our fathers and grandfathers, the situation however worsened as forests got depleted, firewood became scarce, timber dealers and charcoal burners also resorted to avocado trees, jackfruit trees, mango trees for survival of their business. Village children of the 19th century never bought jackfruit opposed to this generation. This therefore, has increased malnutrition and constant occurrence of famine besides, the trees modified the climate making it suitable for agriculture.

Justification

Relief Partners Uganda’s slogan states, “Restoring dignity”. This was well thought after and severally scrutinised before it was made official. The dignity of a community is firstly its ability to maintain its food basket, this includes the foods eaten raw and those cooked. Fruits to mention are those non cooked food supplements rich in vitamins, proteins, iron and other minerals without which, malnutrition prevails. There have been campaigns over radios and televisions encouraging people to plant more fruit trees and discouraging them from cutting down those trees for whichever reasons. This however hasn’t created an iota of a difference, ultra-poverty levels in villages compel the ignorant and destitute dwellers to resort to cutting fruit trees to solve short term problems though causing long-term problems. The country side is at the verge of doing away with fruits despite their usefulness. Relief partners therefore, uses the primary school children as fruit tree planting champions, these are trained to own the trees, take care of them and guard them jealously against opportunists.

Objectives

Overall objective

To restore fruit trees at house hold level using primary school children so as to eliminate fruit deficiency and ultimately supplement food supplies at household level.

Specific objectives

- 🌱 To plant 500000 varieties of fruit tree species in 50000 homes in Mubende district between April 2022-March 2024 to restore fruits in village homes.
- 🌱 To encourage afforestation at household level in Mubende district through training and encouraging 100000 primary school children to be tree planting champions by 2024.
- 🌱 To introduce 20 exotic fruit varieties in 100 homes in Mubende district by 2024 as a pilot project to supplement the indigenous fruits and ultimately embrace them as a future alternative business.