



BUKEDI RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (BRUCI).F

STORY OF CHANGE

KITCHEN GARDEN FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS.

Name of the Community: **Kinyuku community, Maliba Sub County, Kasese District, Uganda (2022)**

Key Conclusions	Specific Activities conducted by BRUCI
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floods and landslides are the biggest threat in the community. 2. Crop damage and loss of life are the greatest consequences. 3. Lack of community commitment and landlessness are the greatest barriers. 4. Government did not involve community in assessing the most significant threats. 5. Government did not provide resources to community to address risks/threats. 6. Eco system based approaches were barely used in community resilience building. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold community strengthening meetings of DRR committees at both levels. 2. Hold sensitisations meetings for community members to stop mining sand in rivers. 3. Form and facilitate forum where both local government and communities can sit and discuss their problems and resolve. 4. Purchase 5 bicycles for 5 community leaders to support movement and supervision as well as to sensitise the community members on how to fight poverty.

Sensitizing the community members on how to fight poverty this included preparation of a kitchen gardens. This activity was implemented through community sensitization on nutrition which started in the year of 2022 with the aim of disaster risk reduction and improving livelihoods. This activity has targeted the youth, women, and men respectively that aimed at establishment of kitchen gardens among the community members. This has helped in fighting malnutrition and hunger among communities because it was also evidenced in the community that whenever disasters affect them, they lack what to eat since crops are destroyed by disasters like floods, landslides, drought, soil erosion among others, and the community has carried out business development ideas actions for poverty reduction among others.

The main stakeholders included Local government. Private sector, media and community member. BRUCI has strengthened local engagement through building community capacity in disaster resilience and supporting local actions against disaster among communities. BRUCI has identified model homes (central homes) to support 50 households with disaster resilience interventions especially on establishing kitchen/ backyard gardens, supply of seeds and technical backstopping. This has been with support from local government. Local

government has worked closely with other actors / partners in development like CSOs. Local governments are the entry points by engaging the structures to mobilize and sensitize members of the community.



Figure 1: community members being trained on kitchen gardening tips and steps for sustainability.

“kitchen gardens have totally improved livelihoods in this community because we are able to harvest vegetables for food but also for selling to the fellow community members that will earn us income to sort out other family related problems like paying our children school fees” community member said

There was improved livelihood in the community due to availability of vegetables that is used as food and at the same time mind-set change, there has a greater change in the mindset of the community members whereby most of the community members have impressed kitchen gardens. From the home to home visits conducted at least most homestead has a kitchen garden that support their daily food that they eat and earn incomes after selling some of the greens and vegetables they collect from their kitchen gardens because before this activity people used not consider the importance of kitchen gardens but after engaging the community members through sensitization by both the local government and BRUCI.



Figure 2: GORET preparing her Kitchen Garden as she waits to plant as it rains.

Gorretti was a house wife that could not even bring any income or food to the table, her children would also struggle a lot with school fees when schools opened and the same to her husband, so the entire family was needy and when the project came in to the community they were very happy to be the first beneficiary in the community and because she has enough land to participate the faming from and earn money by selling the vegetables to the community members.

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Gorretti benefitted from the activity by acquiring knowledge from the kitchen garden trainings that took place during the project time frame and also her ability to set up a kitchen garden in her home that has been successful and an income source to her and entire family members. She benefitted because she is a community member that was facing disasters and famine since her childhood until the project came to the community.

Mind-set change, there has been a greater change in the mind-set of the community members and also Goretti herself whereby most of the community members have impressed kitchen gardens. From the home to home visits conducted at least most homestead has a kitchen garden that support their daily food that they eat and earn incomes after selling some of the greens and vegetables they collect from their kitchen gardens because before this activity people used not consider the importance of kitchen gardens but after engaging the community members through sensitization by both the local government and BRUCI. We have seen a change because malnutrition has reduced among children in this community.

Gorretti is the happiest in the entire community now because she has created income sources by selling her kitchen garden products after securing enough to eat with her family and improve their live livelihoods. She

is also happy that she can now teach and demonstrate her achievement to other community members in her garden and some have also appreciated her in monetary terms and some in kind.

“Before this project was implemented in this community, our children were malnourished but now we have a balanced diet and all the children health has improved 100%.” Said Goretti



Figure 3: In the second last photo is Masereka Devis Goret's husband weeding the Nursery bed of what to be planted in the kitchen garden.

“People have adopted a lot of changes as at least people can now prepare vegetables which they get from their kitchen gardens, earn a living, among others. Therefore, I appreciate BRUCI for the great work they have rendered to our community.” Said Masereka Devis