



Annual Report Year 2023

Community Integrated Development Initiatives-CIDI

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1. Introduction

This report presents the business undertaken by Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) during the year 2023. Overall, CIDI had a successful and impactful year, achieving significant milestones in improving the economic and social welfare of rural and urban poor communities, including refugees. Through the implementation of multiple projects, CIDI advanced its vision of “Communities enjoying a decent life free of hunger, poverty, and disease.” Despite funding challenges, CIDI attained 90% of its annual targets for year 2023. Key



interventions focused on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), agriculture, climate adaptation, advocacy, and humanitarian assistance. CID I's work reached communities across 10 districts in the Karamoja, Teso, and Buganda regions of Uganda, as well as refugees in the BidiBidi settlement in Yumbe District. This year, special attention was given to peacebuilding and school feeding programs, benefiting 5,778 refugee and host-community learners. Additionally, efforts were made to strengthen climate change adaptation education for primary school students in both rural and urban areas.

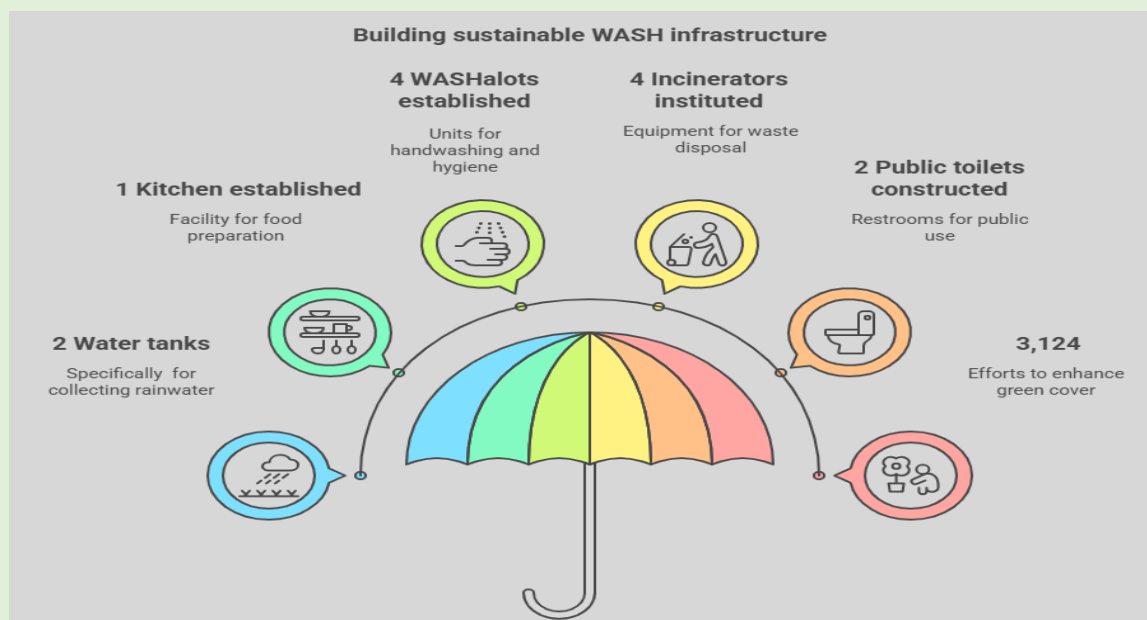
2. Key Program Interventions

2.1 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2023, CID I's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions aimed to enhance water and sanitation services in Kampala's urban poor communities while addressing water scarcity in drought-prone districts, particularly Nakapiripirit. CID I has played a critical role in improving access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in underserved areas. The integration of climate resilience measures has further strengthened the sustainability of these interventions, ensuring long-term benefits for the communities served.

WASH Interventions in Kampala

In Kampala, CID I provided essential water and sanitation services to 4 urban poor schools and 2 communities. Several investments were made to enhance access to clean water and improve hygiene standards. These investments included the construction of waterborne toilets, the installation of rainwater harvesting facilities, and the establishment of handwashing stations. In addition to these WASH-specific interventions, CID I also undertook climate adaptation efforts aimed at promoting environmental sustainability. These efforts included the installation of incinerators, and the implementation of tree-planting initiatives to enhance green cover and mitigate climate change effects. The figure below provides further details on the WASH interventions.



WASH Improvement in Karamoja and Teso

In the drought-prone border districts, particularly Nakapiripirit, CIDI implemented the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Improvement in Karamoja and Teso project. This initiative focused on providing water and sanitation facilities to one school, and 2 local communities. Among the key interventions was the construction of 100 sanplasts, as well as the establishment of one valley dams to improve water availability in these arid regions. In addition to infrastructure development, the project emphasized the promotion of hygiene awareness and training, ensuring that communities adopted proper sanitation practices. Furthermore, climate resilience measures were incorporated through 3,124 tree planting activities, which aimed to enhance food security and environmental conservation.

Below is a snapshot of some rural WASH interventions:



2.2 Agriculture, Livelihoods and Green Growth (Climate Adaptation and Resilience)

In 2023, CIDI's agricultural interventions reached over 6,750 farmers, students, and vulnerable households across multiple districts, strengthening climate resilience, improving productivity, and promoting gender inclusion. Through eight well-established farmer cooperatives and five youth associations, the organization has supported sustainable agriculture, market access, and community empowerment, with functional village savings and loan schemes enhancing food security and economic resilience. Across all projects, CIDI's efforts have strengthened local communities by fostering sustainable agricultural practices, improving market access, and advocating for inclusive development. Prioritizing climate-smart agriculture, gender-responsive programming, and community-driven development, CIDI has boosted smallholder farmers' productivity and resilience while advocating for inclusive and sustainable agricultural policies. Moving forward, the organization remains committed to scaling these initiatives, expanding market access, and integrating advanced climate adaptation strategies to ensure long-term community sustainability and food security.

In Soroti District, CIDI has supported 2,100 farmers and youths across the five sub-counties of Arapai, Gweri, Asuret, Katine, and Tubur by enhancing agricultural productivity, bulking, collective marketing, and promoting climate change adaptation and green growth strategies. Those smallholder farmers have been further integrated into broader agricultural development frameworks through advocacy and networking at local and national levels. Additionally, CIDI reached 420 farmer households through 14 Farmer Field Environmental Learning Groups-FFELGs under the Sustainable Environmental Agro Solutions-SEAS II Project. The initiative focused on climate-smart agriculture, environmental resilience, strengthening farmer associations and cooperatives, and promoting environmental governance through advocacy and

radio programs. CIDI also established linkages between farmer groups and government programs, financial institutions, and business training opportunities to enhance sustainability and investment planning.



Above is part of the processing, value addition and packaging of High Quality Cassava Flour at one of the CIDI supported farmer cooperatives in Soroti District.

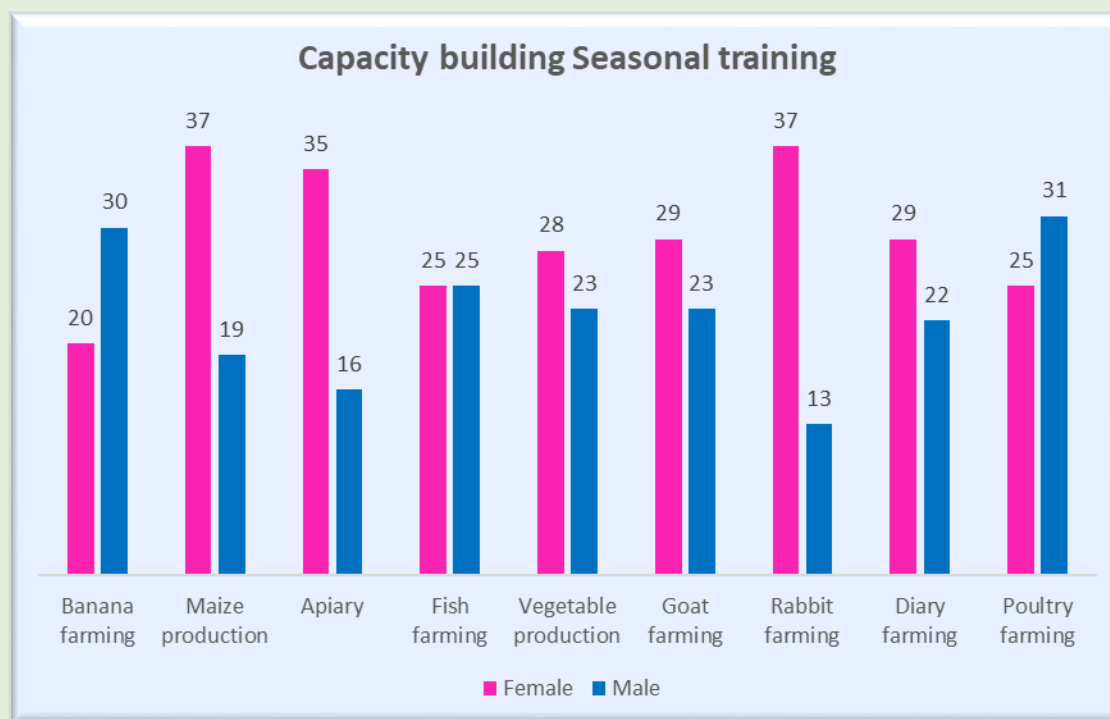
In Bukedea District, located in the Teso sub-region, CIDI provided support to 360 vulnerable households across the sub-counties of Kabarwa, Kamutur, and Aminit. The project prioritized community-driven agricultural initiatives, the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and the distribution of startup kits. Beneficiary farmers received training in sustainable agronomic practices, soil fertility management, and conservation techniques.



Facilitator asking participants to explain the concept of group dynamics during a training on VSLA methodology

In Kyotera and Rakai districts, CIDI has impacted 1,800 farmers, organizing them into three cooperatives and three youth associations. These farmers are being supported through the CESL

Project, funded by Caritas Danmark and DANIDA under UGOPAP. CIDI also piloted a school-based climate adaptation initiative at St. Raphael Mbuye Primary School in Rakai. As part of this initiative, a 4-acre climate adaptation training center was established, featuring food storage facilities, rainwater harvesting, and a solar-powered water supply and irrigation system. The center provides hands-on training. This includes sustainable farming, apiary, fish farming, and organic pesticide production. Additionally, the initiative has fostered environmental awareness through inter-school farming competitions, climate-related debates, and the promotion of indigenous food practices, equipping 467 students and 100 parents with essential climate-smart agriculture skills. The figure below shows the distribution of learners during the trainings:



Some of the photos of the learners during the trainings:



Learners during a training on banana and Coffee Management.

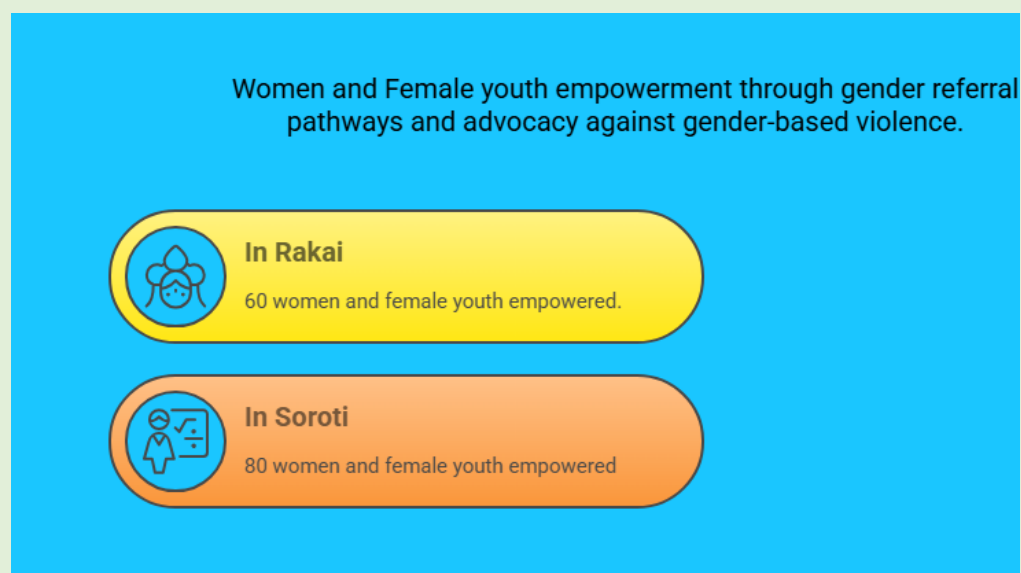


A group of learners during the goat farming training.



Learners during a training on making organic pesticides and fertilizers

A complementary top-up project, supported by Caritas Danmark, expanded CIDI's interventions in Kyotera and Rakai by strengthening institutional capacity in health and safety, promoting gender-responsive planning for better resource access, and facilitating youth inclusion in the Parish Development Model (PDM). The project also empowered 140 women and female youth through gender referral pathways, advocacy against gender-based violence, and enterprise development training for vulnerable groups. The figure below shows more disaggregated details:





Meanwhile, in the districts of Kyotera, Rakai, Lwengo, Sembabule, and Gomba, CIDI implemented the Livelihood Restoration Pilot Project under the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The project supported 72 Project-Affected Households (PAHs) by enhancing their agricultural productivity, providing technical training, and improving cattle and milk production.

2.3 Advocacy and Governance- CIDI Advocacy Achievements of 2023

CIDI has actively engaged in advocacy across sectors such as water, sanitation, food security, youth empowerment, climate action, and public health, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving services and governance. By collaborating with stakeholders at local, national, and international levels, CIDI has driven policy changes, implemented effective programs, and ensured sustainability. Key initiatives include the CA-WASH Advocacy project in Kampala, which mobilized urban communities for improved water and sanitation, the National Youth Advocacy Platform (NYAP) that empowered youth in policy discussions, and the Right to Food Project in Soroti, which promoted seed selection awareness and community seed banks.

WASH Advocacy: CIDI worked to improve water and sanitation services in Nakawa, Kampala, by empowering urban communities and schools. The organization has facilitated engagements between water vendors, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), and the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to advocate for better WASH planning, budget monitoring, and social accountability. Additional efforts focused on promoting climate-resilient sanitation solutions and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in 7 schools through training programs, awareness campaigns, and infrastructure improvements. As well, CIDI worked closely with youth and women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) to enhance gender-responsive budgeting and participatory planning. Those initiatives were undertaken under the CA-WASH project, funded by the Danish People's Aid (DPA).

CIDI's commitment to improving WASH conditions in schools has been further reinforced through the School WASH project, also supported by the Danish People's Aid with funding from the NOVO Nordisk Foundation. Through this initiative, CIDI reached seven(7) schools in Nakawa, providing menstrual health management (MHM) training for 20,000 girls and boys and sensitizing them on the impacts of COVID-19 while ensuring access to psychosocial support. To strengthen MHM mainstreaming, School Management Committees in the seven schools have been trained, and community outreach programs have been conducted for 1,000 out-of-school children. Practical interventions have included training 760 schoolgirls in and out of school in making reusable sanitary pads and investing in critical WASH infrastructure such as 7 changing rooms, 8 incinerators, and 8 rainwater harvesting systems. Additional advocacy efforts included conducting consumer perception surveys, developing policy briefs, and producing IEC materials to promote best WASH practices.

Food Security: In partnership with PELUM Uganda, CIDI has also been at the forefront of advocating for food security through the Right to Food project. This initiative focused on

building awareness around participatory variety seed selection and enhancing seed quality control in Soroti district. CIDI further strengthened local agricultural resilience and food security. This was, by promoting entrepreneurship through the establishment of 2 community seed banks and organizing radio awareness campaigns.

Through the Right to Grow program, implemented in partnership with The Hunger Project Uganda, CIDI worked to eliminate malnutrition in the districts of Nwoya, Maracha, Kabale, and Bugweri. The project facilitated media engagements, advocacy forums, interface meetings, and CSO coalition meetings, alongside organizing a national dialogue on WASH and nutrition issues. Training sessions were conducted for 60 technical and political leaders on key sanitation approaches, including the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) method, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), and Baby WASH. CIDI also kept actively involved in national and global WASH events such as World Toilet Day, Uganda Water Week, and Global Handwashing Day, contributing to the WASH Parliamentary Forum Annual Symposium.



Presentations of action plans in Maracha district.

Youth Advocacy Participation: Youth advocacy remains a key priority for CIDI under the National Youth Advocacy Platform (NYAP), implemented in collaboration with Caritas Denmark as part of the Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP). Through this initiative, CIDI has coordinated five regional youth structures across Uganda, bringing together 78 member organizations working with 320,735 youthful people (177,428 Females, 143,307

Males). This NYAP coordination has enabled young people to actively participate in government policy formulation and planning at both local and national levels. Advocacy efforts have emphasized improving farm production, productivity, and market access while also promoting climate change adaptation and green growth initiatives. CIDI continued playing a crucial role in strengthening youth advocacy networks and fostering collaboration with relevant stakeholders.



NYAP coordinator alongside other CSOs presenting the CSO position paper to the parliamentary committee on Natural resources.

In Soroti, teenage mothers, school dropouts, and women are being organized into advocacy groups. They are addressing gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, and barriers to girls' education. Community outreach and radio talk shows are being used to spread their message. A key initiative is the young people's forum, which is being structured as a youth parliament. Young individuals are engaging in debates and discussions on issues affecting their rights. The forum is promoting advocacy and policy dialogue, ensuring their voices are being considered in community decisions.



Awoja primary school pupils acting a drama on ending teenage parenting during interschool competitions.



Among Christine, a teenage mother in Awaliwali giving her views during the young peoples parliament.

Advocacy on civil society climate action: On the climate action front, CIDI, with support from Seniors Without Borders (SwB) and CISU, has spearheaded the establishment of a civil society organization (CSO) climate change network. This initiative has brought together 16 CSOs to advocate for climate change action through awareness campaigns, capacity-building workshops, and policy dialogues. Advocacy training sessions have been conducted to enhance the skills of 266 direct network members and 3,166 indirect members, leading to the development of a joint policy statement and follow-up advocacy activities.

2.4 Youth Skilling Initiative Achievement of 2023

Youth unemployment and school dropout rates remain significant challenges, particularly among teenage mothers and vulnerable girls in Soroti District and across Uganda. In 2023, CIDI continued its efforts to equip young people with practical vocational skills and economic opportunities through structured vocational training, advocacy, and community engagement. CIDI's initiatives empower youth by providing them with essential vocational skills for self-reliance, improving their livelihoods, and fostering social change. Two key projects under this initiative have been implemented with financial support from Seniors Without Borders, CISU, and Misereor/KZE.

In Soroti district, CIDI has directly supported 360 school dropout girls, many of whom are also teenage mothers, by providing them with vocational training, advocacy platforms, and economic empowerment opportunities. All training activities take place at the Vocational Learning and Training Center established by CIDI in Soroti—a dedicated facility designed to provide structured learning experiences. This initiative is part of the second phase of the Teenage Mothers and School Dropout (TMSD II) project, funded by Seniors Without Borders and CISU. To equip beneficiaries with practical skills, CIDI offers training in tailoring and design,

fashion and hair dressing, catering, knitting and crotchet, crafts and shoe making, and bakery. Other training is in the production of reusable sanitary pads, aimed at improving menstrual hygiene and increasing school retention rates among girls. Additionally, teenage mothers receive training in income-generating activities (IGAs) such as liquid soap making, cosmetic and body jelly formulation, and crafting jewelry from recycled materials.



Teenage mothers practicing tailoring in Soroti District.

To promote economic self-sufficiency, CIDI has facilitated the formation of a Community-Based Organization (CBO), through which teenage mothers manage functional Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). They have been provided with VSLA kits and seed capital to help them establish and sustain small businesses. Moreover, sixteen trained teenage mothers now serve as Vocational Trainers of Trainers (ToTs), leading efforts to identify and train other young school dropout girls. To enhance their mobility and outreach, these trainers have been provided with bicycles, enabling them to reach more vulnerable girls in rural areas.

Beyond vocational training, teenage mothers are linked to local health facilities for antenatal care and HIV/AIDS services. By combining skills training, economic empowerment, health services, and advocacy, this comprehensive approach ensures that these young women's health and well-being are prioritized, while also enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

In the Greater Kampala Metropolitan area, CIDI has sustained its youth-skilling initiatives through the Training School for Gardening and Landscaping (TCGL). This center, originally

established with funding from Misereor/KZE. The continuation of this initiative has allowed the center to expand its impact by strengthening its training programs, enhancing sustainability structures, and improving student engagement. The training center has undergone significant improvements, including the retooling of facilities and the development of a robust social marketing strategy to increase awareness and attract more youth. Additionally, mechanisms have been put in place to enhance stakeholder participation, ensuring that students and community members are actively involved in shaping the future of the center. A new database system has been introduced to track both current and graduated students, allowing for better follow-up and continuous support.



Some of the TCGL students doing practical during floriculture and decoration class.



TCGL students potting during a production class

As a result of these interventions, student enrollment has increased by 50 students in full courses 23 and 36 in short and semi-formal courses, respectively, and the center has received valuable feedback that is being used to refine and improve its training programs. The goal is to ensure that the training center gradually transitions into a self-sustaining institution that will continue to provide vocational skills in gardening and landscaping to future generations of youth.

Through these initiatives, CIDI, in partnership with its funding partners, is making a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable youth. By equipping them with the necessary skills and resources, these programs are fostering resilience, self-reliance, and long-term economic empowerment within the community.

2.5 Humanitarian Aid and Social Protection

As part of her humanitarian assistance support, CIDI implemented a school feeding and peace-building project for refugee and host community learners in the BidiBidi refugee settlement in Yumbe District. In 2023, CIDI implemented a transformative humanitarian project in the BidiBidi refugee settlement in Yumbe District, focusing on school feeding, peace-building, and sustainable cooking solutions. Funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation through Caritas

Denmark, the initiative reached six primary schools, benefiting 5,778 learners from both refugee and host communities.

As part of the school feeding initiative, CIDI supported the 6 schools in establishing community-led school feeding gardens. Each school set aside six acres of farmland dedicated to food production. To ensure sustainability, they were provided with improved seed varieties such as cassava cuttings, maize, beans, assorted vegetables, and fruit tree seedlings, along with essential farming tools. In addition to agricultural support, all 6 schools received infrastructure enhancements, including rainwater harvesting tanks for improved water access, storage facilities to keep harvested produce safe, and drying racks for food preservation. To facilitate meal preparation, all the schools were equipped with energy-efficient cooking solutions such as ECOCA solar cooking stoves and energy-saving wood stoves. Handwashing stations were also installed to promote hygiene and sanitation among students.



Learners of Mulondo P/s In Bidibidi Refugee settlement enjoying a porridge as a result of the school feeding program.

Recognizing the importance of nutrition education, students underwent training in food hygiene, sanitation, and their right to food, with advocacy efforts reinforcing school feeding policies and regulations. To further strengthen the program, each school was assigned four trained agricultural extension agents, primarily out-of-school youth, who established demonstration gardens and provided hands-on training in modern farming techniques. Through this integrated approach, the school feeding program not only improved food security but also enhanced sanitation and nutrition, contributing to a healthier learning environment for students.

Parallel to this, CIDI introduced a peace-building initiative to foster social cohesion and conflict resolution skills among students. School Peace Clubs were formed in each of the six schools, where students, alongside two trained peer educators and two peace patrons per school, engaged in activities promoting dialogue and mutual understanding. These clubs facilitated debates on conflict resolution, organized interschool exchange visits to share best practices, and held bi-annual school-community dialogues to address pressing issues related to peace and coexistence. Additionally, Music, Dance, and Drama (MDD) activities were incorporated to creatively reinforce messages of peace and unity within the community. This initiative has played a significant role in promoting harmony between refugee and host communities, equipping students with valuable skills in mediation and conflict resolution.

Beyond education, CIDI expanded its support to households through the ECOCA Roll-Out Initiative. In collaboration with Caritas Denmark and Caritas Uganda, 670 ECOCA solar-powered stoves were distributed to refugee and host community households in BidiBidi. The initiative sought to replace traditional cooking methods with safer, more efficient, and environmentally friendly alternatives. These stoves not only reduced reliance on firewood and charcoal but also contributed to a cleaner and healthier living environment.



ECOCA cooking technology installed in Kululu P/s kitchen

To ensure the long-term success of the program, CIDI established a local coordination unit in Yumbe, staffed with 20 trained ECOCA technicians from the refugee community. These technicians conducted monthly household visits to assess stove performance, provide maintenance, and validate their functionality, ensuring that the stoves remained a reliable and sustainable solution for the community. By integrating innovative technology with local expertise, this initiative set a precedent for sustainable change, empowering families while reducing environmental impact.



Through these humanitarian efforts, CID I has made significant strides in improving food security, promoting peace education, and introducing sustainable energy solutions in refugee communities. By addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainability, the organization continues to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for vulnerable populations in Yumbe District.

3.0 Conclusion and Future

CID I's efforts in 2023 have significantly improved the livelihoods and resilience of communities across Uganda through multi-sectoral interventions in WASH, climate adaptation, agriculture, gender advocacy, and education. Committed to strengthening both urban and rural communities, CID I looks forward to expanding its impact in 2024. As we reflect on this journey, the management and board extend heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed partners—Misereor/KZE, Caritas Denmark, DANIDA, ASIGMA, EACOP, Danish People's Aid, PELUM, Seniors Without Borders (SwB), NOVO NORDISK Foundation, and Action Against Hunger (ACF)—for their invaluable support and collaboration. Your trust, commitment, and generosity have been instrumental in our success, empowering countless beneficiaries and reinforcing our mission. We are grateful for your dedication and look forward to strengthening our partnership, achieving new milestones together, and continuing to make a meaningful difference as “your partner in tackling poverty.”