



Learners of St Raphael Mbuye harvesting vegetables from the CIDI established-climate Adaptation Centre in Rakai district.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Integrated Development Initiatives-CIDI
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Message from the Executive Director

As we wind up 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all CIDI staff for your dedication and resilience throughout the year. Despite a challenging start marked by budget constraints, we concluded the year with significant achievements, including the successful launch of the Community Agriculture Initiative in the Albertine Region. I commend your active participation in the Annual Review and Planning exercise and thank our resource mobilization team, senior management, and partners whose unwavering support made this possible.

In the year ahead, we must remain proactive amid shifting donor priorities and global financial pressures. I urge each department to actively pursue resource mobilization targets and contribute to a vibrant and competitive funding strategy. We must also finalize the 2023 Midterm Strategic Plan Review, accelerate planning for the 2026–2030 strategy, and deliver key institutional priorities, particularly a functional MIS and a revitalized website.

I further call on all teams to prioritize documentation and visibility, enhance internal capacity, and continue embracing our shared standards of conduct and safeguarding. As we move toward CHS certification, I am confident in our collective resolve to deliver meaningful and measurable impact.

To our esteemed donors and partners: Thank you for making CIDI's work possible. In 2024 alone, your steadfast support improved the livelihoods of millions and saved the lives of thousands. My heart is filled with gratitude to God and each of you. I invite you to journey with us first, by reflecting on our accomplishments in this 2024 Annual Report and then forward, as we expand CIDI's impact even further in 2025.

Dr. Jjuuko Fulgensio

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jjuuko Fulgensio', written over a white background.

Executive Director
Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI)

INTRODUCTION

The year 2024 was a transformative period for Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI), marked by significant achievements across programme multiple thematic areas. Guided by its strategic plan for years 2021-2025, CIDI successfully implemented programs in water, hygiene and sanitation, health promotion, sustainable agriculture, policy advocacy, humanitarian aid, and social protection, as well as youth skilling. These interventions targeted disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas, including refugees, to enhance self-sustaining and resilient livelihoods and promote sustainable development.

Overall, 95% of the programs achieved their 2024 annual targets and contributed significantly to CIDI's vision of reducing poverty, hunger, and disease. At the institutional level, CIDI strengthened its stakeholder engagement, leveraged strategic partnerships, and adopted innovative approaches that enhanced the successful implementation of programs. During the year, CIDI further established her role in the oil and gas sector, working with the key players Total Energies and EACOP on the social and economic restoration and empowerment front. A significant 54% of the CIDI program workload during the year was in supporting Project Affected Persons and Households as well as Communities, due to the oil exploration and pipeline installation activities. This report provides an account of the key milestones achieved, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and recommendations for future interventions. The report also underscores CIDI's commitment to fostering sustainable community development.

CIDI'S STRATEGIC FOCUS AND CORE STRATEGIES:

In 2024, CIDI continued to pursue its integrated programming for community development, as well as institutional enhancement of its management and administrative support functions to deliver those programs. CIDI enhanced its institutional structures in administration, governance, finance, monitoring and evaluation, IT, and communication.

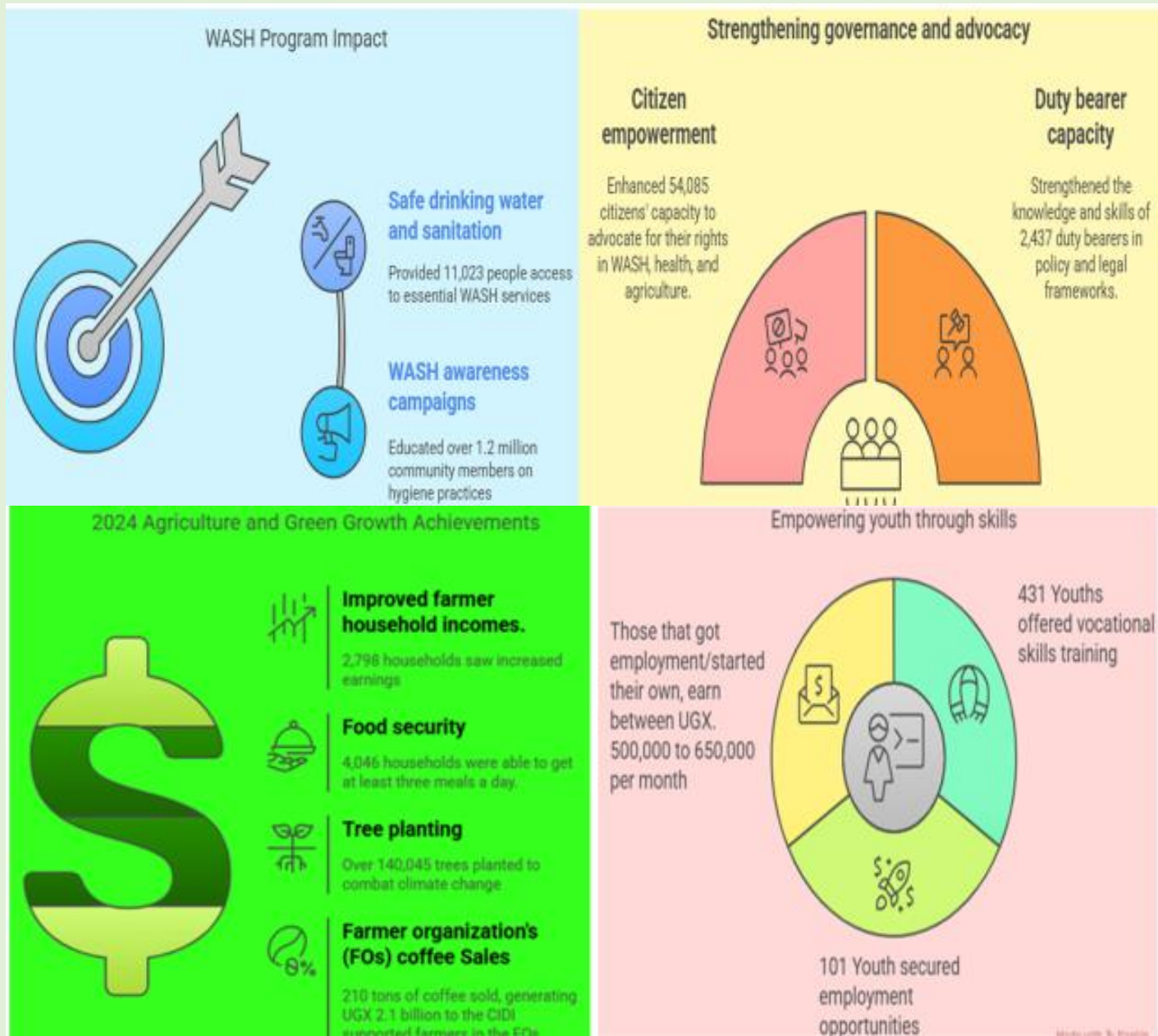


Aligned with its theory of change, CIDI has built citizen capacity in advocacy and good governance to demand better services. Duty bearers have also been committed through capacity empowerment in rights-based awareness and good governance, to be more responsive to community/citizens' demands and needs. Engagement platforms and spaces between citizens and leaders for improved dialogue, policies, and service delivery have been facilitated in 2024.

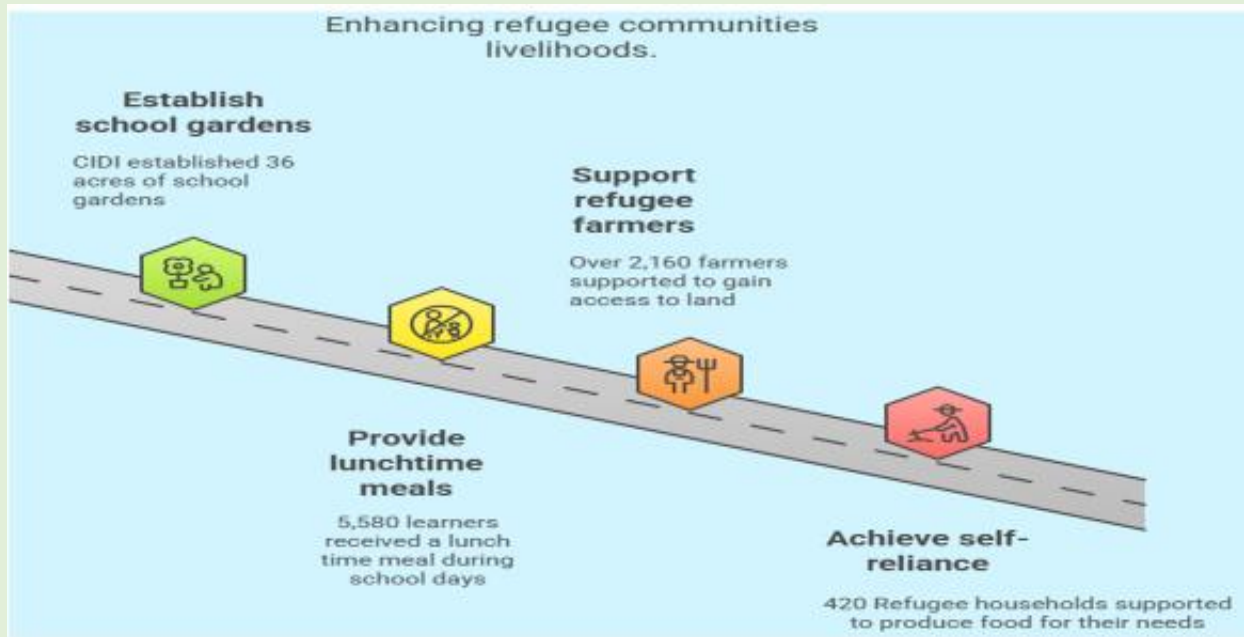
Climate and environmental action for conservation, adaptation, and resilience have been of high priority focus during the year. Several initiatives in tree planting, wetland restoration, green technologies, and sustainable food security practices have been promoted and supported among the communities reached.

SNAPSHOT OF 2024 PROGRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

Below is the summary of the thematic performances:

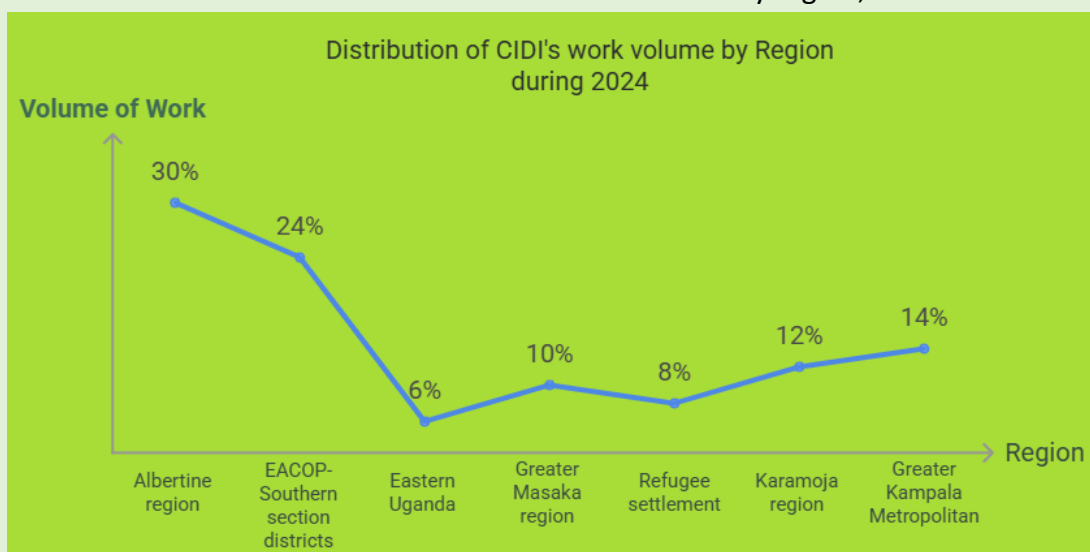


Humanitarian Aid and Social Protection.



WHERE WE WORK:

In Uganda, East Africa, the needs at the household level remain substantial. However, communities also possess significant potential in the form of local talent and natural resources. CIDI adopts a household-centered approach to address these needs holistically, drawing on the existing human, physical, and environmental capital within target areas. In collaboration with both national and international partners, CIDI delivers a comprehensive package of services to vulnerable populations across rural and urban settings. This integrated approach continues to advance progress in food security, household income, and health outcomes among underserved communities. Below is an illustration of CIDI's workload by region;



DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, each department played a critical role in advancing CIDI's mission by implementing targeted programs and initiatives aligned with our strategic objectives. This section presents a summary of departmental achievements, reflecting our commitment to delivering impactful, sustainable solutions across all areas of operation. The following highlights illustrate the coverage and intensity of work carried out in support of food security, income generation, and health improvement:

GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND ADMINISTRATION.



CIDI Executive director (third from left) with his Deputy during a technical support visit in Buliisa district.

The Governance, Administration, and Management report remains a cornerstone of institutional accountability, offering stakeholders a comprehensive overview of CIDI's governance framework, organizational performance, and administrative effectiveness. In alignment with the CIDI Strategic Plan (2021–2025), and specifically its 2024 targets, the Governance department undertook the implementation of critical activities derived not only from our overarching strategic direction but also from identified performance gaps in the execution of the 2023 strategic initiatives.

In 2024, the department focused on its three strategic objectives:

Objective 1: Promoting understanding of CIDI's vision, mission, core values, and strengthening governance.

Fostering a shared understanding of CIDI's vision, mission, and core values among internal and external stakeholders was a central priority. Board members, staff, and Annual General Meeting (AGM) members were systematically oriented through multiple platforms, including meetings, digital media, visual displays in office premises, and other accessible means. Notably, it is now mandatory for staff to include the organization's vision, mission, and core values in their official email signatures, reinforcing consistent messaging and institutional identity.

Dissemination of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan followed a similar approach, ensuring alignment and strategic clarity across the organization. As a result of these deliberate efforts, 95% of board members, staff, and AGM participants demonstrated clear awareness and understanding of CIDI's foundational principles. Governance was further strengthened through enhanced board functionality. Board members were effectively oriented on their governance roles and remained actively engaged across key areas, including financial oversight, policy compliance (e.g., conflict of interest), strategic reviews, and high-level resource mobilization. The board also fulfilled its reporting obligations to the AGM as planned.

Objective 2: Strengthening internal leadership and management for improved program implementation.

Significant strides were made in reinforcing internal leadership and management structures. The Senior Management Team (SMT) enhanced its oversight and supervisory function through structured field visits, planning sessions, and performance reviews. More than 28 monitoring visits were carried out by the Monitoring and Evaluation unit, alongside the Executive Director's targeted oversight missions. Board members conducted two strategic supervisory visits to support field and head office teams. SMT meetings were held to drive strategic leadership, with team members demonstrating a clear understanding of their mandates and accountability roles.

The appointment of a new Human Resources Manager strengthened institutional leadership and contributed to workforce stabilization, positively impacting program implementation across the board.

Objective 3: Enhancing management of partnerships and networks.

In line with our strategic commitment to collaboration, CIDI prioritized the strengthening of existing partnerships and expansion of its networks in 2024. Relationships with long-term donors and development partners were maintained, and knowledge-sharing was enhanced through comprehensive documentation of key project successes with CAI project making notable efforts.

CIDI's achievements in Governance, Management, and Administration were however, not without some limitations. The limited adoption of customized organizational email addresses constrained efforts to standardize communication. It was as well noted that the Organizational communication practices require further alignment with established standards on branding,

formatting, and digital identity. The unfortunate loss of our Human Resource Manager disrupted some planned leadership activities and also, the planned disability-inclusion upgrades at office premises were postponed due to limited financial resources. A scheduled training session on partnership policy and leadership trainings for the SMT was not conducted due to resource constraints and competing organizational priorities. Management has, however, prioritized these in the forthcoming period.

This year's experience reaffirmed the central role of governance, administration, and leadership in driving CIDI's mission. While notable progress was achieved, continued investment in institutional strengthening, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement will be critical for sustaining momentum and ensuring long-term impact.

Departmental activities through pictures:



Some of the Board meetings



Monitoring Visits by the ED





Board members providing technical support during donor missions

POLICY ADVOCACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE.

The Policy advocacy and good governance department plays a cross-cutting role across all CIDI thematic areas, ensuring that advocacy efforts are integrated into WASH, health, sustainable agriculture, and green growth interventions. The department's overarching goal is to promote inclusive, sustainable service delivery and strengthen community resilience within CIDI-supported communities, particularly in the sectors of WASH, Health, and Agriculture.

CIDI has prioritized networking and collaboration as key operational strategies. It has maintained active participation in existing coalitions and platforms and joined new initiatives to strengthen its advocacy reach. At the global level, CIDI is engaged with the Triple Humanitarian Development Nexus under Addex Nairobi, working on the effectiveness of multi-sectoral interventions for improved WASH and nutrition outcomes, and fostering grassroots-to-global advocacy efforts under the "Leaving No One Behind" (LNOB) agenda. CIDI is also a member of Uganda's Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) country team, contributing to the national dialogue on the cost of inaction in WASH service delivery. At the national level, CIDI is an active member of several platforms, including: Urban Informality Network, Women in Climate Change,

National CSO Network on Food Systems Transformation, Grassroot Network on Environment and Climate Actors (GNECA), where CIDI serves as the Secretariat. Gender and Climate Justice Think Tank, Water Vendors' Platform in Nakawa Division, promoting timely responses to water access challenges.

The departmental focus for the year 2024 has been centered around the 4 key strategic objectives, and below are the key achievements.



Members of Grassroots Network on Environment and Climate Actors during its Launch

Objective 1: Strengthen Citizen and Civil Society capacity for engagement and service delivery.

CIDI has built the advocacy capacity of 54,085 citizens in WASH, Health, and Agriculture through targeted trainings and workshops covering WASH planning, budget monitoring, social accountability, safeguarding, and government programs such as PDM, YLP, and EMYOOGA.

Achieved a 60% improvement in adopting safe water chain management practices among schools and slum communities. There has been enhanced child rights awareness among school stakeholders that include 465 teachers, 2,210 learners, 880 out-of-school children, and 120 councilors. School-level governance and sustainable WASH practices have been strengthened through engagement with School Management Committees (SMCs) and teachers to develop and implement WASH workplans. Additionally, there is improved water supply responsiveness in informal settlements through the establishment of a water vendors' platform in Nakawa, leading to the rehabilitation of 57 prepaid meters and the resolution of over 110 water service issues. 29 youth advocacy structures have been empowered to identify service delivery gaps and advocate for improved WASH services, solid waste management, and urban agriculture, with key findings published in the State of the Youth Report 2024. The launching of the Grassroots Network on Environment and Climate Actors (GNECA), now comprising 16 registered grassroots organizations championing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of duty bearers.

Built the capacity of 2,437 duty bearers on policy and legal frameworks, safeguarding children's rights, WASH governance, and national climate change policy implementation. CIDI contributed significantly to KCCA's development and dissemination of a garbage collection schedule, which is improving waste management practices in schools and urban communities.

Objective 3: Strengthen engagement channels between rights holders and duty bearers.

CIDI influenced the FY 2024/2025 budget by participating in budget analysis meetings, developing position papers, and reviewing ministerial policy statements alongside other CSOs.

We have also actively participated in key advocacy platforms, including Uganda Water Week, International Environmental Day, Global Handwashing Day, KCCA Youth Symposium, School WASH Symposium, CSO Symposium, Uganda Parliamentary WASH Forum, the 1st Presidential dialogue on WASH, International Youth Day, and others, to promote sector reforms and policy advocacy. We have utilized the media strategically, engaging in over 10 media activities to amplify marginalized voices during major commemorations such as International Youth Day and International Environmental Day.

Objective 4: Influence policy and regulatory frameworks:

CIDI's active participation in consultations and advocacy around key legislative bills, including the Youth Startup Bill, Minimum Wage Bill, and National Graduate Scheme Bill was notable within the year 2024. Playing a pivotal role in the enactment of an Urban Greening Ordinance in Bugiri District to advance environmental conservation. And as Vice Chairperson of the Greater Kampala Municipal Development Forum, CIDI represents CSOs to promote community voices in project planning and budgeting. We have also developed influential position papers on critical issues such as water tariffs for schools, pro-poor tariff compliance, Zero Stunting initiatives, NDPIV, WASH sector reforms, COP29, and the integration of skilling in lower primary and secondary curricula. Produced a simplified, bridged version of the National Climate Change Policy to enhance accessibility and understanding among both rights holders and duty bearers.

To deliver all these impactful interventions, CIDI employed several strategies that include:

Capacity building and community engagement on WASH, MHM, and rights-based approaches. Strategic partnerships with key stakeholders such as Buganda Kingdom, UWASNET, CSBAG, Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and IRC. Advocacy and citizen-led initiatives mobilizing learners, teachers, SMCs, youth structures, and climate activists as agents of change. Service delivery demonstrations and policy dialogues to elicit action from duty bearers. Development and dissemination of research findings and position papers to inform advocacy. Strategic media engagement, publications, webinars, and community events (including MDD, games, and sports) to amplify advocacy efforts at the grassroots and national levels.

Photos of the departmental activities.



Some of the stakeholders' engagements during the year



Some of the advocacy efforts on climate change



Menstrual Hygiene Management advocacy initiatives in schools

WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION



CIDI Senior Programs Manager-WASH receiving an award from the Mayor of Kyengera Town Council.

In 2024, CIDI continued to deliver transformative interventions across both urban informal settlements and rural marginalized communities. Our focus areas included Kampala's informal communities, Nakawa and Makindye divisions, as well as Kyengera Town Council in Wakiso District, and disaster-prone districts such as Nakapiripirit and Katakwi. CIDI's WASH programming remains deeply aligned with Uganda's national development objectives, aiming to expand equitable access to water, improve sanitation infrastructure, and systematically reduce water- and sanitation-related diseases among vulnerable populations.

Through integrated WASH interventions using community mobilization, infrastructure development, and fecal sludge management, CIDI directly impacted over 11,023 individuals in the year. The positive shifts witnessed at the household, school, and community levels reflect the program's strength in building sustainable and resilient WASH systems. On 22nd October 2024, CIDI received formal and honorable recognition from Kyengera Town Council for its catalytic role in improving community health outcomes through WASH innovations.

Our key achievements by strategic objective:

Objective 1: Strengthening awareness and advocacy among 1,200,000 beneficiaries by 2025.

CIDI employed a participatory model, engaging communities to not only adopt WASH practices but also address conflict as a barrier to collective wellbeing. Peacebuilding initiatives have transformed social relations within disaster-prone border communities in Nakapiripirit and Katakwi, leading to more cohesive, productive societies. These have included: capacity-building for 225 Peace Ambassadors, who were equipped and facilitated to mediate local disputes, which has strengthened local ownership of conflict resolution processes. Deliberate engagement of

traditional, local, and political leaders, coupled with strategic cluster forums of cultural leaders, fortified communal dialogue structures. As a result, 67.4% of the population is now aware of conflict resolution mechanisms, 50.1% of reported conflicts were peacefully resolved, and 15.3% of cases were escalated appropriately to formal institutions, reflecting a tangible reduction in community tensions. CIDI has reached over 1.2 million beneficiaries with WASH awareness campaigns, communities are now more peaceful, collaborative, and equipped to resolve issues internally, creating a fertile ground for sustainable WASH outcomes.

Objective 2: Expanding access to clean water and improved sanitation for 900,000 People by 2025.

CIDI's interventions have significantly improved WASH conditions, directly enhancing quality of life. Safe drinking water and sanitation services reached approximately 11,023 people through infrastructure developments, including 14 rainwater harvesting tanks, 1 valley dam, 15 WASHalots, 11 incinerators, and 5 gender sensitive toilets. In schools, 32 primary and secondary institutions benefited from WASH improvements, leading to a 10.5% increase in enrollment, higher retention rates, and enhanced learning outcomes. In 24 communities, massive sensitization efforts empowered 12,320 individuals (4,200 females, 3,120 males) to adopt improved hygiene practices, leading to significant declines in preventable diseases.

CIDI recorded a 20% reduction in school absenteeism among girls during menstruation, attributed to the construction of menstrual hygiene facilities in 32 schools within Nakawa, Makindye divisions, Kyengera Town council, and Nakapiripirit, thereby enhancing academic performance.¹² Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Committees were established and are now fully functional, managing WASH resources and sustaining behavioral change within their communities. Water for production facilities increased average milk yield by 2.7 liters per animal in Nakapiripirit. District.

Objective 3: Promoting green jobs to improve life skills and incomes for 300 youths and women by 2025.

CIDI integrated environmental sustainability with economic empowerment to secure durable WASH gains. In 2024, installing energy-saving stoves in 12 schools reduced energy consumption by 30%, while rainwater harvesting systems lowered water bills, enabling schools to reallocate savings towards academic needs. Establishing a mini fecal sludge treatment plant improved environmental sanitation standards while creating employment for 53 previously unemployed youths. 490 youths trained in briquette-making and manure production; 150 have established small enterprises earning UGX 50,000-80,000 monthly. The green jobs initiative has not only improved sanitation but also economically empowered youths, reinforcing CIDI's commitment to holistic and sustainable community transformation.

The interventions yielded valuable lessons, notably that promoting WASH accelerates development across education, health, and livelihoods sectors. Implementing sanitation as a package is a very powerful strategy in the promotion of sanitation and decent living, as it generates a meaningful impact in a shorter period. This is the way to go for our future projects, too. Additionally, integrating livelihoods into WASH programming, such as energy-saving stoves

and skills training, improved community resilience. School kitchen improvements also emerged as an important but previously underexplored WASH entry point, embraced widely by stakeholders.

Despite significant achievements, CIDI-WASH faced challenges, including: Escalating construction costs due to rising commodity prices, and insecurity in Teso and Karamoja as a result of cattle raids was a challenge at some point, though these have now been contained. Nevertheless, these obstacles were mitigated through strengthened community engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and adaptive implementation strategies, enabling the continuation of impactful WASH programming and furthering community transformation. Through its community-led WASH interventions, the consistent integration of conflict resolution, environmental management, and livelihood strengthening into WASH programming ensures that the transformation is both systemic and sustainable. CIDI remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving Uganda's vision of universal access to water and sanitation for all.

WASH interventions visualized:



CIDI participated in the 1st Presidential dialogue on WASH



Some of the WASH investments in communities



Some of the WASH investments in communities



Community engagements and sensitization meetings

THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND GREEN GROWTH DEPARTMENT

The Sustainable Agriculture and Green Growth Department is a cornerstone of CIDI's strategic focus. Under the current strategic plan, the department targets improving livelihoods and food security for 12,000 smallholder farmers, including youth, through strengthened farmer organizations (groups, associations, cooperatives), increased agricultural productivity, collective marketing, value addition and value chain development, environmental conservation, and sustainable land use. The department's overarching goal is to foster community economic empowerment through enhanced agribusiness investment, youth and women inclusion, and integrated climate change adaptation and resilience by 2025.

In 2024, the department implemented 9 projects across various districts in Uganda, including Soroti, Rakai, Kyotera, Lwengo, Gomba, Sembabule, Yumbe, Bukedea, Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube, Pakwach, Nwoya and Amuria.



A photo showing GAPs adoption amongst CIDI-supported farmers in the Bukedea district

The report presents the key departmental achievements focused on their strategic objectives.

Objective 1: Strengthening Farmer Organizations.

In 2024, significant progress was made in building the capacity of farmer organizations (FOs). A total of 155 FOs were strengthened. Five of these were officially registered with the Registrar of Cooperatives, including youth associations in Kyotera, Rakai, and Soroti. Capacity-building interventions ranged from institutional development to the enhancement of members' skills in modern and climate-smart agriculture and the adoption of improved technologies. Gender-sensitive leadership structures were strengthened, leading to meaningful engagement with duty bearers on critical issues such as road infrastructure and regulation of agro-input quality. Notably, three out of every five issues raised by FOs have been addressed at the sub-county, district, or national levels. Financially, cooperatives supported by CIDI have adopted computerized record-keeping and completed annual financial audits. Many are now recruiting technical staff such as accountants and agronomists. The school feeding committees in CIDI-supported primary schools in Yumbe (Lokopio, Kululu, Dradranga, Mulondo, and Kijebere) were also capacitated to enhance school food health and nutrition initiatives.

Objective 2: Improving Bulking, Collective Marketing, and Value Addition.

CIDI has remained deliberate in improving agricultural production, market access, and value addition capabilities for its supported farmer households.

In 2024, market linkages between coffee farmers in Rakai/Kyotera and buyers such as NDUGU Marketing Network and UGACOF were maintained. Approximately 9,588 farmer households accessed on-farm extension services through a structured approach involving Contact Farmers, Trainers of Trainers, Community-Based Extension Facilitators, and Trainers.

Through value addition initiatives, 1,923 farmers received training, and 2,682 farmers accessed equipment provided by CIDI to add value to their crops. Key equipment installed by CIDI in the communities include, Coffee hullers, cassava processing machines, maize millers, and others. Over 210 tons of FAQ coffee were collectively marketed by cooperatives, generating approximately UGX 2.1 billion in revenue. Cooperatives further strengthened operations by hiring 8 technical extension staff and 3 cooperative managers. Overall, 59 FOs operate functional SACCOs/VSLAs, 5 FOs signed MoUs with off-takers, and 6 FOs introduced digital services. Kasasa Farmer Cooperative notably accessed UGX 90 million through the USADAF program.

Objective 3: Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security and Household Incomes.

In 2024, CIDI enhanced the agricultural skills of 12,037 farmers through training, extension services, and demonstration sites. The department developed and disseminated 39 training manuals tailored to various agricultural enterprises. As a result of CIDI's agricultural support, 2,798 households reported increased incomes, while 4,046 households achieved food security with at least three meals daily. Furthermore, 141 households improved livestock breeds through CIDI-supported interventions, while 942 youth initiated agribusiness enterprises focusing on food and horticultural crops.

Objective 4: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.

CIDI prioritized climate change resilience among supported communities within the year. A total of 8,951 beneficiaries were trained in climate-smart agriculture, with 4,776 farmers adopting the practices. Additionally, 994 households adopted energy-efficient technologies such as Lorena stoves and ECOCA. Environmental conservation efforts saw the distribution and planting of 14,045 trees across all CIDI-covered districts and the demarcation of 26 wetlands across Eastern Uganda.

However, the department did not achieve without challenges encountered, and these were mainly: Incidence of crop pests and diseases, mitigated through integrated pest management. Persistent drought and flooding, particularly in Eastern Uganda. Weak enforcement of environmental regulations due to political interference. The delayed disbursement of funds, notably under Caritas-funded projects, leading to late activity implementation.

The key takeaway for the year is that consistent delays in Caritas project fund disbursements highlight the need for pre-financing arrangements, and private land ownership complicates the enforcement of environmental conservation measures. Limited civic education has perpetuated environmental degradation, but most importantly, media engagement significantly boosts project visibility, reach, and impact.

Agricultural interventions in visuals:



Learners of Ndandamire P/S harvesting Pumpkins and eggplants for the school feeding Program in Bulisa district.



Caritas Denmark visit to the climate adaptation center in Rakai.



CIDI-supported farmer in showcasing his high quality harvested beans.



On-farm trainings on Good and sustainable Agricultural Practices



CIDI-supported farmers in Buliisa and Nwoya districts practicing Good Agronomic Practices



CIDI-supported farmers in Soroti district after adding value to their maize produce

HUMANITARIAN, EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE:

In 2024, CIDI's humanitarian interventions were concentrated in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, with a strong focus on establishing resilient school feeding systems across six primary schools, promoting social protection, peacebuilding, and introducing sustainable cooking solutions. These initiatives directly benefited 5,820 learners. Core Humanitarian Standards guided all interventions, serving both refugee and host communities in Zones 2 and 3, with support from Caritas Denmark. Another program on climate adaptation, resilience building, and livelihood enhancement was also implemented, funded by Seniors Without Borders (SwB).

CIDI successfully constructed and fully equipped three modern school kitchens at Lokopio, Kululu, and Dradranga Primary Schools. These facilities were formally handed over to school management structures for ongoing operation and maintenance, facilitating the launch of comprehensive school feeding programs. Learner enrolment across the six supported schools rose from 5,778 in 2023 to 5,820 in 2024. Concurrently, dropout rates significantly decreased, with only a 0.02% dropout rate recorded, reflecting improved learner retention. The supported schools collectively cultivated 36 acres of land and were provided with high-quality agricultural inputs, i.e, vegetables, improved cassava and sweet potato varieties for seed multiplication and enhanced yields. As a result, every learner consistently received a lunchtime meal throughout the school year.

CIDI's integrated peacebuilding initiatives fostered peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities. Gender parity in education access was achieved, with boys constituting 51.1% and girls 48.9% of total enrolment. School-based peace clubs and peer educator programs empowered learners to champion gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, conflict resolution, and social harmony, significantly reducing school-related conflict incidents as reported by teachers. Through active collaboration with peace committees, local governments, police, and other leaders, CIDI strengthened the sustainability of peace and agricultural practices. Schools received modern, low-cost ECOCA solar cookers, promoting clean energy adoption and environmental stewardship.

In Zone 3, CIDI launched an environmental restoration project targeting 420 refugee households (approximately 2,160 individuals) to transition from food aid dependence to self-reliance through agricultural production. Beneficiaries received hands-on training in sustainable agricultural practices, improved agro-inputs, and support for Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) with capitalization funds, enhancing their entrepreneurial capacities in agribusiness and off-farm enterprises.

Challenges Encountered: Crop destruction by stray animals adversely impacted school garden yields. Limited parental participation in school farming activities, particularly in cultivation and weeding, hindered the full potential of school agricultural outputs.

Lessons Learned: Sustained beneficiary engagement throughout the project cycle, through information sharing and capacity building, is critical for the sustainability and long-term success of humanitarian interventions.

Photo gallery



Learners getting porridge as part of the school feeding program implemented by CIDI in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement.



Learners and their parents prepare the harvested cassava to support the school feeding program in Mulondo Bright Primary School.



Learners of washing their hands from CIDI established WASHalot in Bidibidi Refugee settlement.



Kijebere and Lokopio primary schools during the peace clubs activities of MDD and the debate competitions



The well equipped kitchen with energy saving cooking stoves (left) and ECOCA energy saving technologies(right).All these were installed in the 6 school kitchen established in Bidibidi Primary school.



Photos of CIDI-supported refugee farmers under the environmental restoration project.

HEALTH PROMOTION.

The Health Promotion Department is currently implementing a single project in partnership with The Hunger Project Uganda. In the year 2024, 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, and the following achievements have been realized:

National-Level Achievements.

The programme has demonstrated efficiency, notably influencing an increase in national budget allocations supporting food and nutrition security-sensitive interventions and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Each financial year, four stand-alone public latrines are constructed, with Bugweri District prioritizing areas such as Makuutu and Nawampendo for FY 2024/2025. Similarly, four boreholes were successfully drilled during the same period to provide communities with access to safe water.

District-Level Achievements.

WASH-related Bi-laws were formulated in districts such as Kabale, Nwoya, and Maracha. In Kabale, for example, individuals without latrines face a penalty of UGX 40,000 and are given a week to construct one. This has notably improved latrine coverage in sub-counties like Butanda and Buhara. Disease reduction has been recorded; in Kabale, diarrheal diseases dropped in ranking from fourth to seventh among the leading health issues, largely attributed to continuous community sensitizations, interface meetings, and other interventions. In Maracha district, 61 primary schools received indigenous vegetables to promote food security and improved nutrition, while supplementary feeding programs continue to support severely malnourished children under five across five districts. Water coverage has improved significantly in Bugweri, Nwoya, and Maracha, with Kabale achieving 90% water coverage and 86% latrine coverage, and 86% functionality of water sources. All these are results of the advocacy efforts CIDI has made within those districts.

Community-Level Achievements

At the grassroots level, the programme has successfully built a strong knowledge base through various training initiatives, resulting in 16,457 community members' adoption of WASH practices. Internally, consortium staff were capacitated through Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET) training.

Training sessions on key WASH approaches, Capacity building in Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking (BMET), Community interface meetings and advocacy forums, and Strategic media engagements to amplify community sensitization have been the key strategies used to attain the above achievements.

Cultural rigidity in districts such as Bugweri impeded the effective adoption of WASH practices, with some communities constructing but not utilizing latrines. Continuous sensitization efforts are ongoing to address this. Nutrition mainstreaming remains a challenge, as it is not yet explicitly defined within a specific sector, complicating prioritization. However, district departmental representatives were encouraged to incorporate nutrition in their planning frameworks.

Teamwork among consortium partners significantly accelerates progress toward achieving programme goals. Leveraging specific strengths of each partner, such as CSBAG leading BMET trainings, CIDI handling WASH, and World Vision spearheading advocacy, has been pivotal. Experience sharing among implementing partners fosters replication of best practices across districts, a practice that must be sustained for greater impact. Joint implementation of activities strengthens collective advocacy, particularly in national engagements, including drafting sector-specific position papers. Active support from district leadership is critical from project inception through to implementation, providing essential technical guidance and strategic direction. Consensus-based decision-making among consortium partners facilitates smooth programme operation. Community-led problem identification and solution development prove more effective, ensuring interventions are contextually appropriate and sustainable.

Health activity photos



Interface meeting in Bugweri district.



Action planning in Kabale district

YOUTH SKILLING.

Youth unemployment and school dropout rates remain significant challenges, particularly among teenage mothers and vulnerable girls in Uganda.

In the Soroti district, CIDI has directly supported 360 school dropout girls and 50 teenage fathers, by providing them with vocational training, advocacy platforms, and economic empowerment opportunities. The project covers 24 villages in 14 parishes under the three sub-counties of Gweri, Aukot and Awaliwali in Soroti district, including 200 school children from 8 schools. 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. CIDI offers training in tailoring and design, fashion and hair dressing, catering, knitting and crochet, 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.

There have been tremendous achievements in skilling the beneficiaries across all the established 4 skilling centers (Awoja-Main, Abelet-satellite center, Aukot satellite, and Awaliwali satellite). Local leaders and duty-bearer stakeholders also show growing appreciation of these skilling centers. That has partly also been boosted by the advocacy efforts of the project supported teenage parents and school dropouts. For instance, they have successfully lobbied the woman member of parliament of Soroti district, Hon. Adeke Anna Ebaju. This yielded results when the lady parliamentarian responded Aukot and Awoja learning centers with 4 complete sewing machines (2 for each of the learning centers). All 4 complete sewing machines were delivered.



The teenage mothers of Aukot and Awoja learning centers unpacking and assembling tailoring machines given to them by Hon. Adeke Anna Ebaju-Woman Member of Parliament of Uganda representing Soroti district, in the presence of the team leader and project manager.

In 2024, 150 young school dropouts and teenage mothers, and fathers were trained and equipped with vocational skills in their preferred enterprises. 40 of these are running self-owned income-generating enterprises (32 teenage mothers, 5 teenage fathers and 3 school dropout girls). 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. Their savings fund has accumulated UGX. 5,550,000 during the year 2024.

All the VSLA groups have been linked to financial institutions, and 40% of their members have opened bank accounts. This is graduating them to accessing more credit facilities from those financial institutions as well as from government programs.

In the Greater Kampala Metropolitan area, CIDI has sustained its youth-skilling initiatives through the Training School for Gardening and Landscaping (TCGL). 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 key trainings offered align with gardening and landscaping, tailoring, hair dressing, mechanics and decoration and events management. In 2024, 64 (35F/29M) students were enrolled for long course, short course 7(5F/2M) students were enrolled for the short course. CIDI-TCGL expanded and strengthened its plant production to a more permanent structure, increasing production capacity from 38,000 to 70,000 plants produced. A solar drier was also installed for value addition to plants by improving their shelf-life, storage, and higher price value. The equipment pool was also retooled with and currently, learners are utilizing it during skilling classes. CIDI- TCGL successfully conducted its 6th graduation ceremony on 6th June 2024 at the school premises Kabojja, Kyengera Town Council, Wakiso District, graduating 43 students in several trades.

Photos reflecting youth skilling interventions:



Some of the TCGL students during practical classes on Hair dressing and Tailoring



TCGL 6th graduation ceremony graced by the Deputy director DIT and CIDI Executive Director

Some of the TCGL students during practical classes on gardening and landscaping

Conclusion:

CIDI's efforts in 2024 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, CIDI looks forward to expanding its impact in 2025. As we reflect on the progress and impact of 2024, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to you, our valued partners at CIDI. Your steadfast collaboration continues to drive meaningful change. You bring hope to communities, expand access to opportunity, and help protect and transform lives. Thank you for standing with CIDI in this shared vision to build communities free of Poverty, Hunger, and Disease.

Together with CIDI, “your partner in tackling poverty.”