

# Provision of Agriculture Support Services in Buliisa District under Resettlement Action Plan1



**Stories of Change from the community**

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Second Left: Oneni Chan Milton with his family members after a bumper cassava harvest



## Message from CIDI Executive Director



I take this opportunity to thank Total Energies for their incredible support, contracting Community Integrated Development Initiatives-CIDI for the Provision of Agriculture Support Services (ASS) to Project Affected Person-PAPs in Buliisa District under the first Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1).

With this project that commenced in February 2019 and ended in May 2022, we have improved the lives of more than 522 PAPs (that is the primary residents, vulnerable PAPs, landowners, and land users) through training them improved farming methods,

agronomy, and provision of farm in puts including provision of drip irrigation kits, farmer groups establishment support, Village Saving and Loan Associations-VSLA, support in tree nursery services, agricultural extension services and provision of cassava improvement services.

I'm very proud that this project has been well appreciated and accepted in the community of Ngwedo and Kigwera sub county and it has transformed many people's lives as they settle to other new areas where they acquire land after compensation.

Together, we are helping the TILENGA Project affected persons resettle in their new area with minimal distortion of their livelihoods. In this magazine you will find real life inspiring stories of how this project has equipped PAPs to become better farmers producing enough food to meet their household needs and improving their household incomes through sales of surplus.

**Dr. Jjuuko Fulgencio**

**Executive Director CIDI**



# Introduction

## Oil and gas development and resettlement action

Buliisa district has come to the limelight in Uganda's development discourse due to the discovery of oil in the area. It has equally attracted a lot of attention including deliberate efforts to undertake oil development associated infrastructures to support the extraction and development of the found oil resources.

Achieving this has required the acquisition of land and resettling people with minimal distortion of their livelihoods.

Cognisant of this, implementation of the Agricultural Support Services under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1) complemented the developed and approved planned facilities at the Industrial area in Kasinyi village, Ngwedo Sub County, Buliisa District. Total E&P Uganda B.V (TEP Uganda) as the operator is developing petroleum fields, within the Albertine Graben of Uganda (named TILenga project).

At this time Total E&P Uganda B.V (TEP Uganda) was starting the development and production phase for oil and gas and several critical infrastructures that require land are being put in place for the successful development of the TILenga project.



Fred Kasangaki, watering his mango tree, from Masaka village, Wanseko Parish Kigwera sub county, Buliisa District.



## Role of CIDI in the project

As part of the TILENGA project's livelihood restoration plan, Total Energies contracted Community Integrated Development Initiatives-CIDI for Provision of Agriculture Support Services (ASS) to Project Affected Person (PAPs) in Buliisa District. This has been under the first Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1).

The project targeted assisting 622 PAPs affected by the TILENGA project land acquisition, restoring their livelihoods when they move away from their land in the industrial area of Kasinyi village Ngwedo sub county Buliisa district to other new areas where they acquire land after compensation. The project was to be implemented in 39 months commencing February 2019 to May 2022. At the conclusion of the service contract 522 PAPs had benefited from the project support: 30 primary residents, 107 vulnerable PAPs and 385 landowners and users.

### **CIDI's key contract deliverables:**

The services for which CIDI was contracted included the following deliverable areas;

- Drip irrigation services (including Vegetable production)
- Farmer Groups Establishment Support & Village Saving and Loan Associations-VSLA.
- Tree nursery services.
- Agricultural Extension Services (including Apiary/beekeeping)
- Cassava improvement services.
- Vulnerable group support.

**Agricultural Extension Services:** Focused on ensuring land-based livelihoods and food security are restored. This was done using meaningful agriculturally based enterprises for PAPs to regain their livelihoods. Agricultural extension technical knowledge and support was extended to PAPs to facilitate improvement in productivity of their different enterprises so that livelihoods are restored to equal or better standards than before the involuntary resettlement.

**Cassava Improvement Services:** In collaborations with National and Zonal Agriculture Research Institutes (NaZARDI), established and improved cassava-based enterprises to ensure farmers grow from subsistence agriculture to farming as a business.

**Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLAs) Methodology:** Establish communally owned VSLA groups to enable members save as well as have access to credit as when they require it within their community context thereby deepening access to finance services in hard-to-reach rural settings.

**Tree Nursery services:** CIDI has been promoting tree-based enterprises that supplemented food production and maturation of weather to further support household income generation and local weather moderation in context of climate change

**Vulnerable Group Support:** CIDI promoted gender mainstreaming and gender inclusion in the interventions. There was a strategic action to deliberately reach out to the most vulnerable women, children, and youths. Priority was given to the most at risk populations “vulnerable groups” reflecting individuals, households, or groups of people that are disproportionately affected by the resettlement process based on their gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage, or social status within the community.



# Pathway to impact

CIDI's mission in this project is the provision of agriculture support services (ASS) to Project Affected Person (PAPs) in Buliisa District under the first Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1) through a several project interventions. The services for which CIDI was contracted targeted to reach 622 PAPs that is primary residents, vulnerable PAPs, landowners, and land users through the following key contract deliverable areas.

Project intervention	Impact
<b>1. Drip irrigation services (including Vegetable production)</b>	Enhanced household food security and income. 147 PAPs adopted use of irrigation and have year-round production of food reducing their reliance on rain fed agriculture production. They were trained and supported to adopt water harvesting and conservation technologies (80% are practicing) and produce vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes, sukuma wiki, watermelon, and garden eggs among others.
<b>2. Farmer Groups Establishment Support &amp; Village Saving and Loan Associations-VSLA</b>	Increased access to finance services through local owned financial service system of VSLAs. 9 VSLAs were supported to form and enhanced capacities in VSLA management. These have enabled members' access credit, gain profit, and have invested in farm production for the market.
<b>3. Tree nursery services.</b>	Increased production of fuel wood and fruits using tree planting. A supply chain for tree seedling was established in Buliisa through establishing a well-equipped tree nursery to supply tree seedlings of various species suitable for Buliisa so far 16,727 seedlings have been produced.  In addition, 10,300 tree seedlings were procured and distributed to 107 PAPs. 107 PAPs have been trained and are now into fruit tree and woodlot production. They have also been equipped with skills on natural resource management/conservation, climate change and disaster risk reduction and response.

#### 4. Agricultural extension services



86% of 522 service beneficiaries have had their livelihood restored. This resulted from good agronomic practices of cassava (230 PAPs), vegetables (147 PAPs), maize (100 PAPs), beans (50 PAPs), groundnuts (53 PAPs) and trees (107 PAPs) and are getting good farm yields/harvest.

40 PAPs were organised into 4 groups of 10 farmers each and are involved in the production of high-value tomatoes, onions, garden eggs, African egg plants, watermelons, green paper, dodo, sukuma wiki produced for the market and earning some income.

#### 5. Apiary enterprise



Increased income from honey production. 10 PAPs were trained in beekeeping and beehive management and supported with 10 beehives each (100 beehives) and now earn about 6 litres of honey per season each sold at about UGX 26,000. Adding to household income.

#### 6. Cassava improvement services



Increased cassava production but the market potential was limited by the value chain development which did not materialise .

#### 7. Vulnerable group



Lives of 107 (F- 81, M-26) vulnerable PAPs improved through enterprises that were based on their unique needs. This reflected at follows

Improved Cassava cuttings	54
Tree enterprise	20
Vegetables	34
Apiary	3
Beans	5
Ground nuts	10
Maize	7



# People's stories of change



Ngarunsa Lootguard, CIDI staff offering agriculture extension services to project beneficiaries

## **Ngarunsa Lootguard: Field extension worker** Shares her motivation and experience on providing agriculture support services in Buliisa District under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1)

*Ngarunsa Lootguard, 33, has been working with CIDI as an agronomist, providing agriculture support services in Buliisa District under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1). In her role, she has greatly contributed to the success of the project and majority of the project affected persons have learnt several life skills from her.*

*In the story below, Lootguard shares her motivation and experience transforming the lives of people affected by the project, under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1), offering them agricultural extension services.*



My name is Ngarunsa Lootguard, I'm a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree holder of Uganda Martyr's University. I have been working as an Agronomist-Field Officer on the Agriculture Support Services in Buliisa District under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1) for more than twelve months. My roles included selection of PAPs, enterprise needs assessment of the project beneficiary members, distribution of agricultural enterprises to the beneficiary, training PAPs on agronomic practices.

After the PAPs have been supported to establish their agriculture enterprise, as an agronomist I have continued to give on farm support visits and follow up. I have trained many PAPs in different enterprises' including vegetable growing, cassava planting, tree planting, and apiary among others. I have been able to do follow ups to ensure that

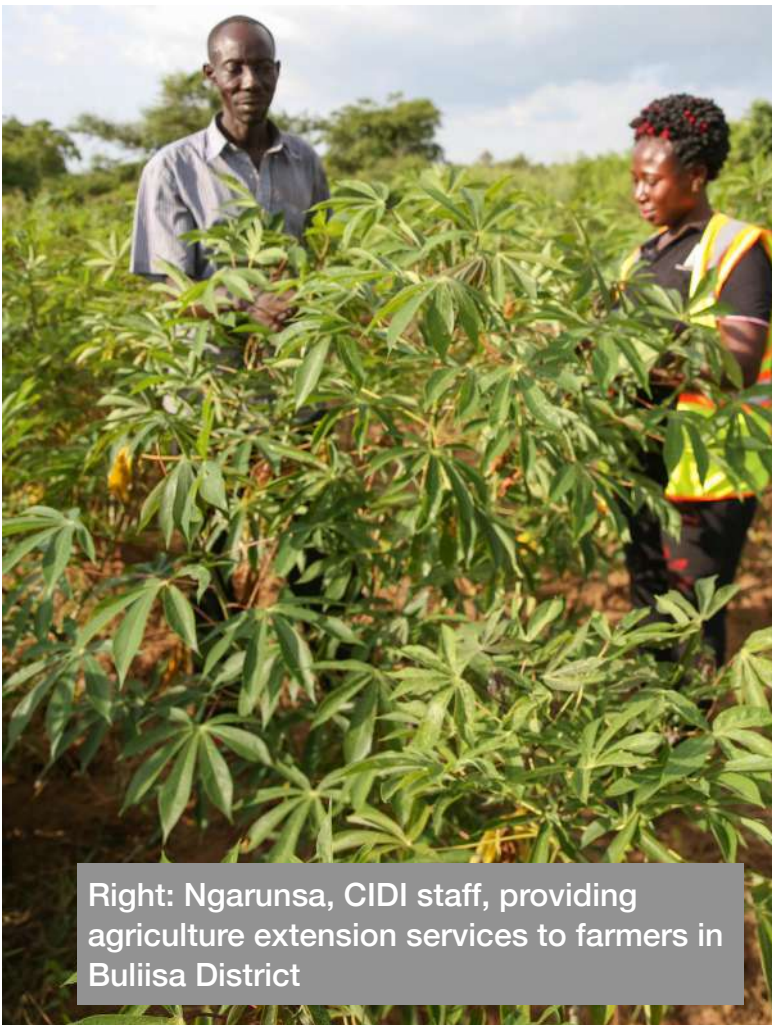
farmers are practising what we have taught them to do during the trainings. I give guidance in case a farmer is not practising well all what she or he was taught. I help farmers identify pests and diseases infestation to find early solutions for disease eradication. During the field visits I advise farmers on the appropriate time when to apply fertilisers, the type of fertiliser, how to apply it in order for them to maximise yields and increase crop production.

My work continues even after harvest, I usually conduct post harvesting handling training and support different farmers for quality assurance so that the crops are very competitive on the market. I advise them on how to dry their produce and storing them in dry places.

### Training farmers in VSLA

In my role as a project officer, I have also mobilised and trained PAPs in Village Savings and Loans Association methodology – we want to inculcate a savings culture among communities we work with as well giving them opportunities to mobilise financial resources amongst themselves. This project has so far supported the establishment of nine VSLAs and all have graduated to their 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle. I do regular support visits to guide and strengthen the VSLA in financial management and their general administration. The VSLA are very instrumental in helping farmers invest in their agricultural enterprises. Many are getting loans to buy farm inputs including seeds, fertilisers or pay for farm labour.

The money is usually paid back after harvest with an interest rate of 10%. At the end of the year, group members share their savings. I continue to encourage them to buy big assets like cows, and land after sharing their savings.



Right: Ngarunsa, CIDI staff, providing agriculture extension services to farmers in Buliisa District

### **Most significant achievement of the project**

The most significant achievement of this project is that the PAPs have acquired knowledge and skills in improved farming, this has led to improved food security and nutrition among the project beneficiary households. Previously, people in Buliisa used to get fresh cassava and vegetables from Hoima but these days all these are available locally. Even people who were not targeted by the project have also learnt improved farming methods from the project beneficiaries.

At a personal level, working on this project as an agronomist, I have got practical experience in supporting communities with agriculture extension services. Some time when we leave universities we have a lot of theories, this project has therefore given me an opportunity to put the knowledge acquired from class into practice.

Some of the PAPs were very conservative they took long to adopt improved farming methods, I had to use my skills to make them appreciate the project. Another big challenge faced was climate change leading to unpredictable rains. For example, several farmers planted their vegetables nearby River Nile banks, when too much rains came all the gardens flooded and their crops were destroyed. When the dry seasons came, they were also very long but we have supported farmer groups with mobile irrigation kits.

### **Sustainability of the project**

To sustain the project achievements, the farmers groups have been handed over to the district for continued support through their respective sub county Agriculture Extension Officers' support. In addition, many farmers are also benefiting from other organisations and government programs aimed at livelihood improvement in their communities.



Belopa Mungu Ezra, member of Nile Vegetable Grower's Group, has become a successful vegetable farmer in Kisomere village

# Belopa Mungu Ezra becomes a renowned vegetable model farmer in Ngwedo Sub county

*In Kisomere village we meet Belopa Mungu Ezra, 35, married and father of four children, he is one of the Project Affected Person (PAPs) whose life has been transformed with CIDI's support. He has become a renowned vegetable farmer and a member of Nile Vegetable Growers Group. When the TILENGA project came he was compensated for his land, and CIDI helped him to start a new life after acquiring another piece of land. Ezra says before CIDI intervention, he was just a peasant farmer growing cotton, cassava, and maize but after getting involved with CIDI supported project his mind set changed to start growing quick maturing vegetables with ready market.*

**“**Years ago, I would grow cotton and sell a kilogram at UGX.1000 but when I look at the vegetables, in one good season I earn more than a million shillings from quarter an acre. CIDI has supported us in our group ( Nile Vegetable Glowers Group) with an irrigation kit which enables me to grow vegetables all year round even during the dry season. I was also supported with 10 beehives and tree seedlings,” explains Ezra.

“I have 10 beehives, now eight are colonised, I recently harvested 30 litres of honey selling each UGX.2,0000. The money I earn from the beehives has made me forget about cutting trees, bees need trees. CIDI has trained me in vegetables growing, I have learnt how to make nursery beds, mixing chemicals, pest management, learnt about making organic manure and soil management. My vegetable harvest is good and CIDI has connected me to buyers of my produce, for example I supply Adonai Hotel and CIDI has continued to refer customers to me. However as more people are involved in vegetable growing the market is often flooded with vegetables thereby reducing the selling price.”



**Belopa Mungu Ezra, after CIDI training also started growing onions**

## Ezra's income flow

Ezra used to own land in Kisomere village, he was compensated for an acre of land taken to construct the Central Processing Facility. After the agriculture support Services from CIDI under the Resettlement Action Plan I, Ezra is farming on an acre of land and below is his current earning. Before project intervention, he used to grow cotton from the same size of land earning only UGX. 2,000,000. In other words, vegetable growing is a very profitable



<b>Vegetable</b>	<b>Area (acreage)</b>	<b>Income (UGX)</b>
Onions	0.125	200,000
Tomatoes	0.125	1,300,000
Cabbage	0.25	500,000
Egg plant	0.25	200,000
Garden eggs	0.25	300,000

## Group irrigation

As members of Nile Vegetable Growers Group, CIDI has supported us with moveable irrigation kit, shared between the ten members of the group. Each member books in advance to use the irrigation kit, each member buys their own fuel and oil when using the kit. But when the irrigation kit needs servicing all of us collect resources to repair the kit. The irrigation kit is very useful in the dry season, because we are able to continue growing vegetables and during this period, the vegetable prices are good.

### **Ezra benefiting from Dikiri Tegomwa VSLA**

“I’m a member of Dikiri Tego Village Saving and Loans VSLA [Together we are strong] which was started in 2019 with 25 members and now we have grown to 55 members. We save weekly, and members save any amount of money they have but when a member borrows money, they pay back with a 5% interest per month. Recently, I borrowed UGX. 270,000 am to pay back after three months. I used the VSLA loan to buy farm inputs such as vegetable seeds, fuel for irrigation, and paying school fees for my children. The VSLA is a good thing, it helps us access money to invest in our farming and pay back at harvest time. Our group is well managed, now we have saved over UGX. 20 million.

### **Ezra’s most significant achievement from the project**

I know the project has come to an end, for me the most significant achievement from this project is the improved agriculture knowledge I have acquired from CIDI. I have learnt how to establish nursery beds, I know how to manage my farm, and I’m a vegetable model farmer in Ngwedo. Even though the project has ended, the knowledge I have acquired will always enable me to remain a good farmer who inspires other community farmers in Gwendo sub-county.

## **Kisomere Women’s Vegetable Farmer’s Group members tell their story of change**

*Under the Provision of Agriculture Support Services in Buliisa District under Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1), CIDI mobilised communities into forming groups as a platform they can easily be supported. One such group is Kisomere Women’s Vegetable Farmers Group with 20 members of which 15 are women and five men. In their group, members were trained by CIDI in group dynamics and better farming methods; they established a group nursery bed, learnt growing different vegetable species, and started saving. Below are some of the individual stories from group members highlighting the significance of the groups.*



CIDI has provided mobile irrigation kits to farmer’s groups to enable members grow vegetable all year round, even during the dry seasons.

# Nyando Doreen earns big from vegetable growing, has no regrets of stopping to grow cotton



Nyando Doreen in her garden, she is happy with the money she earns from growing vegetables.

“ I was a land user and compensated by Total Energies for my land with 25 million shillings. I bought two acres of land, four goats three chicken and was able to pay school fees for my children. Since I was already a farmer cultivating a variety of crops (mostly cotton) in the land where they construct the Central Processing Facility, when CIDI came I embraced the agriculture support project they brought. I attended several trainings key among them includes nursery bed establishment and management, training on good agriculture practices such as planting and right spacing of crops, pests’ control and disease identification. Thereafter I was given vegetable seeds that were egg plant, tomatoes, garden eggs, cabbage, and onions.

In addition, CIDI gave me pesticides, watering can and a spraying pump. I started my new life in high gear, I happy that I’m far

better off than before the project. I have acquired improved agriculture skills and my household income has greatly increased. For example, last season I earned UGX.500,000 from tomatoes harvest, UGX.300,000 from egg plants, UGX.600,000 from garden eggs and UGX. 450,000 from onion harvest. I’m a proud farmer, both my food security and household income has improved.

This is more profitable compared to growing cotton, vegetable farming is very profitable. I will continue growing vegetables, I have enough skills, I give credit to CIDI and Total Energies.” **Nyando Doreen, (does not know her age) and is a single mother and member of Kisomere Women’s Vegetable Farmers Group.**

# Arambo Masiano, 57 years, a member of Kisomere Women's Vegetable Farmers Group



Arambo Masiano, 57, member of Kisomere Women's Vegetable Farmers Group



I used to live in Kasinyi as a land user with my grandchildren, our area was demarcated for construction of the oil Central Processing Facility. I was compensated with UGX 25 million shillings to buy land elsewhere to settle my family. I bought four acres of land Nebi and also land nearby on the banks of River Nile. In my land in Nebi I have planted an acre of eucalyptus trees and three acres of coffee.

When CIDI came supporting PAPs, I quickly liked the project, i attended all the training sessions, I learnt about vegetable farming and acquired leadership skills. CIDI mobilised us the women to start Kisomere Women's Vegetable Farmers Group of which I'm the chairperson and the contact person for the group members.

CIDI has trained us in good agricultural practises as well as learning how to establish vegetable nursery beds. Getting involved in CIDI's supported project, I have learnt growing vegetable as a business. Before the project, I was only growing vegetables for home consumption. I always have two separate gardens; one for producing food for home consumption and another garden is for producing food for the market where I get money to meet my household needs including health and paying education fees for my children. Among the vegetables, I find growing tomatoes, cabbages, and garden eggs to be the most profitable. I'm also starting growing watermelon soon because they have a good market. I give credit to CIDI for giving me these skills.



# CIDI: Promoting tree planting to restore our ecosystems and secure the future of the planet and everyone on it



CIDI with support from Total Energies is promoting tree planting in Ngwedo, Buliisa District. By planting more trees, this project is contributing to the global reforestation efforts, restoring lost forests, repairing damaged ecosystems and mitigating climate change. Trees also help to combat global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide, removing and restoring carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air.

# Ntakimanye Nixon: Planting trees for our future

Nixon Ntakimanye, 64, a resident of Kilyango village of Nile Parish, Ngwedo subcounty, Buliisa District is at the forefront of this initiative. Nixon is the chairperson of Apor Wegi Agro Forestry Tree Nursery Group comprising of 15 members, the group has a tree nursery bed for both fruit and non-fruit trees supplying the entire Buliisa District.

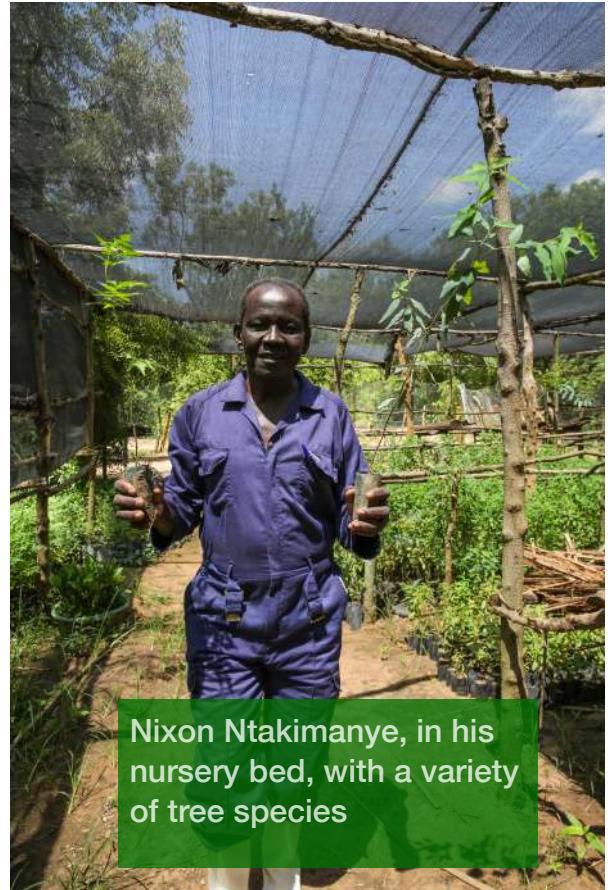
## Land compensation

In his words, Ntakimanye Nixon says although the TILENGA project affected them for the taking of their ancestral land, he has no regrets for that.

“As a family we had 64 acres of land in Kasenyi village, Nile parish which was taken to construct the Central Processing Facility (CPF), as a clan we were compensated for the land and the money was distributed to family members. I also had another piece of land for my family in Kilyango village where the oil pipe is passing, and I was also compensated for that. You can see, I’m among the people affected by the oil project in Buliisa.”

## Support from CIDI in establishing tree nursery bed

When CIDI came to work in Ngwedo subcounty they had a tree planting program, and they were looking for someone who had experience in making tree nursery beds. Personally, I have been in this business of tree planting since 1972, as a young boy then, I used to work with my grandfather planting trees and I also earlier on had a two-week training from Nyabyeya. So, I was the best person to work with CIDI in establishing a good tree nursery bed in the sub county.



Nixon Ntakimanye, in his nursery bed, with a variety of tree species

CIDI supported me with the necessary tree nursery equipment, seeds, and refresher training in establishing tree nursery bed. In my nursery bed I plant a variety of trees including grevillea, mangoes, oranges, lemon, tangerine, citrus, Eucalyptus, neem, and many more different species of trees.

The support from CIDI came in very handy because they have given me tree seeds to plant and potting bags. Initially, I was fetching water from river Nile, more than two kilometres from the nursery bed but CIDI came in to repair our community borehole. I now have easy supply of water, even during the dry seasons, my seedlings thrive.



CIDI has supported Nixon to establish and restock his tree nursery bed, he is now supplying the entire Buliisa District with tree seedlings

## Achievement:

Since I got involved in this project, I have planted more than **16,727** tree seedlings of various species suitable for Buliisa. Total Energies is also helping me to look for market of my trees in the entire district. *Gravilea robusta* is the most favoured tree species because it is drought resistant and not eaten by termites.

Tree planting has now become my main source of income, this is where I get money to pay school fees for my children, my first daughter is currently at Kampala International University. as well as meet my household needs. I have also shared my tree planting knowledge to all my children, and I have given each 100 trees to plant, because tree planting is a profitable business venture. I have gained popularity in the entire Buliisa District as a tree farmer,



many people come here to buy and learn about tree planting. Many people have also been coming here to thank me for teaching them tree nursery business, this makes happy and feel valued in the community. From the trees planted, people also get firewood and building poles. I'm very grateful to CIDI and Total Energies for giving me this profitable nursery bed business, it has now become my livelihood.



# Fred Kasangaki ventures into growing mangoes

As elsewhere in the world, climate change is hitting Uganda, and authorities in Buliisa District are worried that the situation will run out of control if no immediate action is taken. Considering this CIDI in partnership with Total Energies Uganda has continued to support a tree growing initiative in Ngwedo subcounty, Buliisa District. Fred Kasangaki a resident of Masaka village, Wanseko, Parish Kigwera Sub county is one of the people who have positively taken up the initiative and he has planted both fruit and woodlot trees.

“ My name is Fred Kasangaki, I’m 43 years old resident of Masaka village Wanseko Parish Kigwera sub-county, Bulisa District. My mother Bagadira Beatrice was compensated for her piece of land where she used to cultivate cassava. Being PAPs, we got involved in CIDI’s first Resettlement Action Plan (RAP-1), supporting Project Affected Person-PAPs in Buliisa District.

## Choosing tree planting enterprise

CIDI invited PAPs for a meeting to talk about how best we were to be supported in our resettlement plans, we were introduced to different enterprises including bee keeping, cassava and vegetable growing but for us we chose the tree growing enterprise. I believe as Buliisa is becoming industrialised for me I must be keen on keeping our environment safe. CIDI trained

us in tree management, pest control and management using organic pesticides and gave us 100 seedlings, which include 30 mangoes, 30 pine, 20 *Maesopsis sspa* and 20 *Grevelia ssp*. We made sure that we plant both fruit and woodlot trees, our mangoes for example have started fruiting very soon we are going to be in mango selling business. We have an extension support officer who visits and gives us advice on our trees, and our trees are growing well.

## Joining Tubwohiki Farmers Saving Group

When we got involved in CIDI’s resettlement action plan, we were encouraged to form Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), a platform where we were trained in financial management, water harvesting and

conservation and post-harvest handling. I am a member of Tubwohiki Farmers Saving Group, we started 30 members but currently we are 33, we met every Sunday, and we are in our third cycle. Here members save weekly what they can afford and those who want loans they must pay 10% interest per month. The VSLA enables us access quick loans to buy farm inputs or solve any other household issues.

### Dream for the future

I have learnt a lot from CIDI, prior to the project I did not know much about tree management but now I have the knowledge and confidence on tree planting. Soon I'm planning to get money to purchase land, plant more mangoes trees and later build a juice factory. I really appreciate the training I have received from CIDI.



Christine, has used profits from farming to buy some sheep and goats livestock

# Cassava growing after resettlement: a game-changer in Oneni Chan Milton's life



**Oneni Chan Milton, 55, he is a very proud cassava farmer , Kasinyi , Village, Ngwedo Sub county**

Oneni Chan Milton, 56 years old, a father of 19 children, and resident of Kasinyi village, Nile Parish, Gwendo sub county is feeling very optimistic. Thanks to CIDI's support and training in better farming methods. Oneni is one of the PAPs who are excelling in farming, earning far more than they used to prior to the Agricultural Support Service project implemented by CIDI under the Resettlement Action Plan 1 (RAP1) to ensure food security, improved incomes, and nutrition. Below is Oneni's story of change.

"In 2019, I was affected by the oil and gas development, Total Energies took our land to build the Central Processing Facility and compensated us. I was a land user; I was using half an acre and I was compensated with two million shillings. When CIDI started working in our community, people affected by the TILENGA project were called for a meeting to discuss how best we can be

supported to live a better life. CIDI thereafter trained us in improved agriculture as well as providing us with farm inputs.

### **The benefit**

Before CIDI's support and training in improved farming methods, as a family we used to depend on subsistence farming, growing local cassava which would take two years to mature but with low yields. The yields were always poor, I could not have to earn an income and sustain the livelihood of my family. But CIDI gave me quick maturing and high yielding cassava variety. Personally, I chose cassava farming, I received nine bags of cassava cutting to plant one acre of land. In 2020 I planted three acres of cassava and in 2021 I planted six acres. The years 2021 was a good year



Left: Derrick, 16, and his father Oneni Chan Milton, showing their cassava harvest. Onen has used some of the money from selling cassava to buy goats, at the time of the he had 12 goats.

for me because Total Energies and CIDI bought from me 200 bags of cassava cuttings at two million shillings and sold the rest of my cassava harvest on market at three million shillings, this was good money.

In 2022, I have planted 15 acres of cassava. I have used income from cassava growing to buy various assets and paid schools fees. Today I have 12 goats, I have bought three acres of land at 1.5m each and rent five acres at UGX.120,000 per year, I have increased my acreage to 20 acres for cassava cultivation.

I chose to grow cassava because it was more profitable compared to my previous farm enterprise, on average I'm making between four million shillings to 4.5 million per season from cassava. In a good season, I harvest fifty to sixty bags of fresh cassava from an acre. My future aspiration is to buy more land, support my children attain a good education and build a permanent house.




Left: Oyikuru Walter together with CIDI extension staff

# Oyikuru Walter, 30, son of Roseline Ungeyera of Kisomere village Nile parish, Ngwendo sub county Buliisa District share his family story of change



After CIDI training, Oyikuru Walter is now growing a variety of crops

 Before the CIDI's intervention under the Buliisa District Resettlement Action Plan I, at home we used to grow cotton as our main cash crop, we did not know about these other crops, yet the cotton market was in decline day by day.

The agricultural services CIDI has brought in our community has given us a new ray of hope to increase our household income.





<b>Plant</b>	<b>Area Cultivated (acreage)</b>	<b>Earnings from previous harvest (UGX)</b>
Egg plant	0.25	500,000
Tomatoes	0.5	1,200
Cabbage	1	1,400,000
Garden egg	0.25	700,000
Onion	0.25	300,000
Watermelon	0.75	800,000

In 2020, we started growing cassava but latter on mum advised that we start growing vegetables including garden eggs, and egg plants since they grow fast. And have ready markets. CIDI provided us with inputs and knowledge growing vegetables.

In 2021, we expanded our vegetable garden to include Onions, watermelon, and green pepper. These vegetables have turned out to be high value crops that are beneficial to our family. We already have our plans of increasing our production area in the next years to cover 20 acres instead of the three acres we are currently cultivating.



## **Kisomere Women vegetable growers**

“ My name is Christine, am 22 years old and mother of three children. Our family was compensated as a land user and we received one million shillings, we used the money to buy two goats, hired three acres of land. When CIDI started working in our community, I joined Kisomere Women Vegetable Growers Group in Nile Parish Ngwedo Sub County. CIDI trained us in growing vegetable as a business, and also supported our group with a mobile irrigation kit. We produce vegetables even in the dry seasons.

Personally, I produce vegetables for eating at home and selling, last season I earned about UGX. 700,000 from selling cabbage and egg plant. I used my earnings to buy for hens, hired an acre of land to plant more vegetables. I also used the money to pay medical bills for my family. My future plan is to continue with growing vegetables, make more money and build a permanent house. I’m very grateful to CIDI.

# Key challenges faced during project implementation

## Overwhelming expectation:

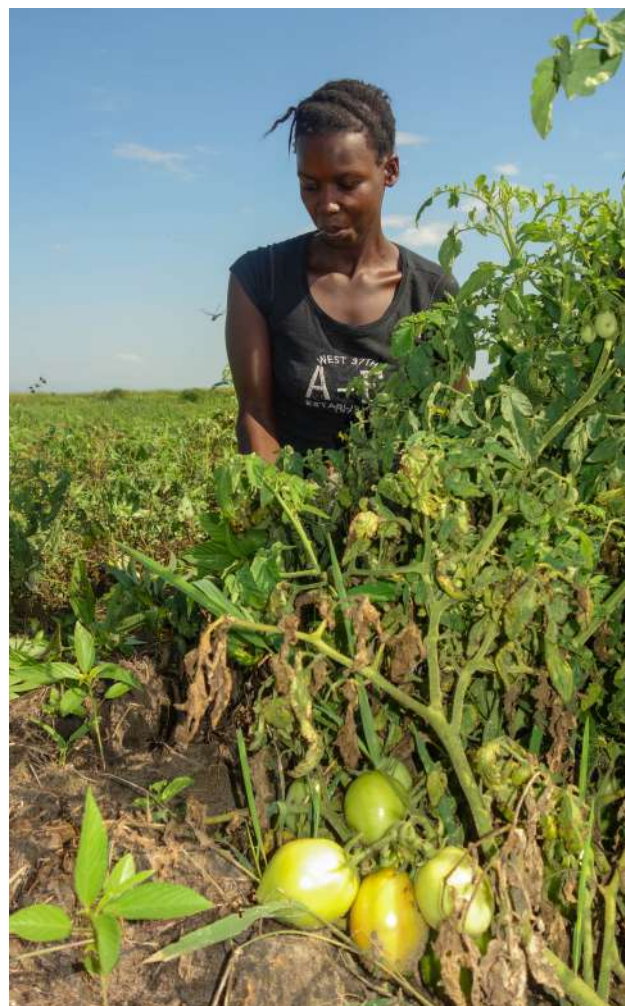
One of the biggest challenges faced by the project is that the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) are expecting too much in terms of compensation package from Total Energies. Several people felt that the package given to them in return to their land was too small, this has caused complaints on the appropriateness of what was provided in restoration of their livelihoods.

**Climate change:** Many PAPs involved in agriculture were affected by unpredictable weather patterns, the rainy seasons often come with too much rainfall causing water to submerge all their gardens and when the dry seasons come, they are longer than usual affecting their farm harvests. To mitigate this effect, PAPs were under this service contract empowered with knowledge and skills in the appropriate good agronomic practices.

## Limited access to water for irrigation:

Bullisa district is a water stressed district, in this project CIDI has supported several PAPs with irrigation machines but these face the challenge of limited access to water for irrigation. People whose gardens are far from the river have very limited access to water sources for irrigation of their gardens.

**Covid 19 pandemic:** In a bid to curtail the spread of Covid19 pandemic, the government put in place measures such as a country wide lockdown, suspension of public transport and people gatherings, all these measures affected the implementation of the projects especially during 2020 and partly in 2021. As time went on the project was implemented under strict Standard operation procedures whereby staff had to undertake regular Covid19 tests and vaccination, there was also time lost when project staff had to be under quarantine before mobilising.



Several PAPs and community members are not benefiting under this service contract, and these are continuously demanding for support. This is because they live in the same locality with their counterparts who are supported by CIDI under this service contract and consider themselves equally affected by similar livelihood challenges.



## Key lessons from the project

- Continued support is still required for some of the enterprises PAPs are engaged in such as VSLAs, vegetable production and Apiary. VSLA has proven to be an outstanding venture that could be prioritised for continued support.
- PAPs have gained great interest in vegetable production and should be supported to access good markets.
- Apiary has proved to be a profitable enterprise for the PAPs, more people should be supported and encouraged to enrol.
- There is need for more community awareness creation on the importance of tree planting, environmental conservation, and climate change awareness. Majority of community members are interested in early maturing plants rather than tree growing.
- Several PAPs and community members not reached under this service contract have continuously demanded to be supported under the project. This is because they live in the same localities as those that have benefited from the service contract and consider themselves equally affected by similar livelihood challenges.
- The training and skills given to the PAPs have been adopted not only by the PAPs but also the host communities. For instance, under cassava production and vegetable production, there was witnessed adoption by community members that on their own initiative had gone ahead to access improved agricultural materials on their own.
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