

EVALUATION UGANDA

Evaluation Report

'Support of self-help organizations' and
'Fighting poverty through social structures:
Consolidation of self-help associations in Uganda'

Uganda Kolping Society (UKS)



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Summary (English)

The Kolping Society Association (SEK e.V.) is specialised in development cooperation and is the most important partner of the national Kolping Societies around the world. SEK's overall goal is to fight against poverty through the establishment of sustainable social structures in form of self-help groups, the Kolping Families. In Africa, a major focus is on rural development, with activities to increase agricultural output, distribution of livestock, rural microfinance and introduction of appropriate technologies.

In Uganda, the project partner is Uganda Kolping Society (UKS), a non-profit organization, based in Hoima Municipality. The organization is democratically structured and has 12,865 members in 307 groups, distributed over 9 of 10 regions in the country.

The key target group belongs to the economically weak population, mainly in rural areas but also in towns. People who are directly reached by the interventions are small-scale farmers' households or family enterprises and youth and young adults without any school graduation or completed vocational training, especially in the urban and peri-urban areas.

Since 2012, UKS has implemented two projects with external funding from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The evaluation focused on the implementing organization and the project's relevance, achievements and outcomes.

Overall, it can be stated that the set-up, structure and performance of UKS is strong. The same applies to the clarity of strategic objectives, the organizational profile and the impact orientation of UKS. The working atmosphere is good and the leadership team is comprised of several technically competent staff, who handle the portfolio they have been assigned well. Field staff are all very diligent and experienced, always in touch with and appreciated by the people they support.

The comprehensive strategy of the projects comprises development-oriented activities in six areas: Improved livelihoods; gender equality; youth's social and economic situation; environmental protection; beneficiaries' capacity development for active citizenship and sustainable organizational structure.

In principle, the expected results and activities for the achievement of the project purpose and overall objective are spelled out clearly, the outcome and output indicators were of good quality (SMART), but partly not sufficiently precise. The programme's theory of change is coherent, but agricultural commercialization and marketing, the negative effects of climate change and the insufficient access to agro-technical improvements were not addressed, although these are determinants in rural development. The current drought reduced expected production per unit area, both for crops and livestock.

The programme's performance is effective. Outputs and activities are appreciated by the target group and are contributing to improved livelihoods. The budget corresponds to standard budget allocations of development oriented aid projects.

Kolping Microfinance Uganda Limited (KMF) is offering financial services such as commercial loans and agricultural loans to Kolping beneficiaries and the surrounding communities and is successfully growing.

The programme for skilling youth is a good approach, but with neither a starter kit nor any other kind of further support, success in form of (self-)employment is limited.

Gender issues are well addressed through the family groups and women are well represented, also in the leadership organs of their groups. In the UKS Director's Board, there are 3 women members, totalling female Board membership to almost 30%.

The self-help group approach with its Kolping family spirit and its inclusive community approach, and the saving and credit schemes are the strongest elements of sustainability for this programme. However, about 35% of the members are non-active.

In general, it can be stated that many beneficiaries are enabled to use their resources and potentials. They are able to generate and increase their incomes to sustain their livelihoods. Many, especially women, have learnt the culture of saving and investing (planning), a paramount impact of the programme.

There is no doubt that the structure of UKS is strong and the programme management professional. This should be sustained. The same applies to the gender and youth commitment. It will be paramount for the organization to strengthen its structure through the professionalization of the income generating organs.

Partnerships, innovations and creative strategies are needed to address the gaps in and the losses of agricultural value chains.

With the upcoming challenges for agricultural production through climate change effects, it will be indispensable to support and to strengthen the farmers and their resilience with climate smart agricultural techniques.

The monitoring system should complete relevant data and should invest in modern IT based monitoring tools.