

Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)

Goal: Contribute to “a dignified and income secure life for all people, free from the injustice of poverty and exclusion.” The programme provides unconditional basic income grant (BIG) called Level Income for Equity (LIFE) as a social protection intervention.

The program is based on the principle that *every individual has a right to receive an income that is enough for basic needs, full participation in society and a dignified life, without any conditions in line with the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN)*. The definition of basic income is “income unconditionally granted to all without any conditionalities.

Project Achievements

- The project was officially launched at an event attended by the beneficiaries, representatives of the donor and local governments. The launch also provided the donor representatives an opportunity to monitor the project impact within the village. During the event the covenant between INclusion and the target community was reviewed, agreed, signed and launched.
- Through the Yearly Review Date (YRD) exercise, the village register was updated, with an additional 26 new members (18 females) added.
- The project continued to provide LIFE cash transfer worth UGX 56,060 to 361 people (185 females) each per month (including transaction fee but excluding the deductions for Community Fund) for 12 months. Children continued to get paid through their mothers or guardians.
- A study was conducted in December 2022 to assess the effects of the unconditional cash transfers after two years of the LIFE disbursement. The results of the study will be shared in 2023.
- 232 mobile phones were distributed to the beneficiaries in Nyakumba, the project control village.
- Routine monitoring was conducted by AFARD Board of Directors and management as well as by political and technical officials from the district and Sub- County Local Governments.



Duration: 7 years (2020-2027)



Donor: INclusion



Target group: Vulnerable people



Location: Welle – Atego sub-county, Nebbi district



Dr. Lakwo Introducing the INclusion representatives to the community and other stakeholders during the project launch

Outcomes

- All school going children were able to report back to school when the school reopened after the COVID-19 lockdown and they completed the year without any encumbrance such as lack of scholastic materials or hunger.
- Steady access to income has improved the general wellbeing of the population. Families feed on three meals a day and women go to market twice a week to buy food (including sugar, fish and meat) and other basic needs (soap, paraffin, clothing, etc.). Besides, they are able to access better health care from private facilities as government health units are in perpetual stockout of essential medicines.
- The consumption of the clean borehole water has improved the sanitation and hygiene of the community. Women also spend short time fetching water unlike in the past when they stayed overnight in queues waiting to tap some water from an underground well.
- To diversify their income sources, families are investing in other income generating activities such as produce buying and selling, mini grinding mills, sewing machines and apirary for self-employment. Youth are also using their LIFE to pay for vocational skills training e.g., tailoring skill and self-employment.
- To build resilience to shocks and increase wealth accumulation, families have continued to buy animals (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, poultry) and other assets (mattresses, bicycles, solar lamps, and motor cycles) using their LIFE. In addition, 12% of the beneficiaries are now living in semi-permanent houses that they built using LIFE. Many more houses are under construction too making Welle village a model village in the sub county.
- The community has also used the social cohesion promoted by the project to set up and enforce a by-law against child marriages. This has discouraged both their young girls from marrying out of their village because they will be excluded from the cash grant. The boys as well are not permitted to marry any young girl into the village as the new entrant will not be included in the LIFE Village Register.
- With available and steady income, the village has stopped commercial charcoal and bush burning. Instead, they have resorted to regenerating their degraded land thus LIFE has inspired environmental and biodiversity conservation as well as bee keeping.

NIDP Non- Conditional Grant turns a struggling youth into an apiary farmer

Olworngom Johnson a 30-year-old youth and father of three is a classic example of why it pays to teach a person to 'fish' than merely giving them 'fish'. Today he has moved from being known as a struggling uneducated youth providing casual cheap labour to community members to being an Apiary farmer with 18 hives. From his hives, he has already harvested 120 litres of honey which he sold at UGX 25,000 per litre earning him UGX 3 million, an amount that he had never seen in his life.

Johnson's story changed with the coming of the NIDP project in 2017 to Welle village where Johnson lives. In 2020,

Johnson was registered as a beneficiary and entitled to receive a basic income grant (BIG) of UGX 56,060 monthly that is commonly known as Level Income for Equity (LIFE). The LIFE is aimed at helping the vulnerable meet their basic needs and live in dignity. Johnson however knew that he had to move from barely surviving on the 56,060 and do something more, if his family was to move out of survival mode.

He saved up part of his monthly allowance for three months enrolled for a life skilling course in bee keeping at ADRAA, after which he bought 18 bee hives using the money he had continued saving from LIFE.



Olworngom Johnson installing bee hives to diversify his income

"LIFE has taught me that every drop in the ocean counts. No matter how small the amount if you save it becomes substantive. This grant has changed my life and that of my family. I intend to reinvest the money I have earned from the sale of my honey into buying more hives so that I can expand my business. I will always remain grateful to NIDP and AFARD for the support through the grant," a happy Johnson explained.

By: Ibrahim Bashir