

Climate smart Jobs in Refugee and Host communities

Climate smart Adaption in Agribusiness through Hub model

Overview

Target Area of Operation:	Kyakka II, Kyagwali, Rwamwanja Nakivale refugee settlement camps
Duration of proposed Project:	1 Year (two seasons)
Grant Request (Euro)	██████████
Total Targeted Number of Beneficiaries:	█████ II holder farmers

Grainpulse Ltd background

Grainpulse today is an integrated agribusiness company, a first of its kind in Uganda, producing quality crop specific fertilizer blends for farmers while providing market access through offtake of farmers' outputs such as coffee, grains and pulses. This minimizes the movement of crop commodities along the processing value chain while laying the foundation for an environment-friendly, energy efficient operation.

Problem / Situation Analysis

Uganda has a long history of hosting refugees, with a population of over 1.5 million refugees, mainly from neighboring countries such as South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia.

Many refugees are feeling stuck, confused, and hopeless - wondering how they will survive without access to essential services and support to build a new foundation.

Approach / Methodology

Grainpulse implemented already █████ so called agri-hubs in agriculture areas but as well into refugee settlements and has the proof of concept for an immediate, sustainable impact.

- **Hub Model / last mile distribution of quality inputs and nutritious maize flour;** The hub will contain several units such as; resource center (tech support, agronomy advisory & financial services); Agri-input & animal feeds store retail / wholesale outlet,
- **Purchase of produce** – Grainpulse buys 100% of the farmers harvest from field and takes over the after-harvest processing. The farmer gets paid immediately.

Grainpulse Ltd (GPL) with partners have tested the hub model and has proven it is great concept for input/output market access reaching out to more than █████ farmers. This not only increases, inputs access, but it also a measure to control counterfeits hence quality inputs access for the farmers. **We propose to work with █ hubs to support this implementation supporting █ farmers to increase local food production by 60%.**

The model not only increases access to quality input and output, but it also:

- Access to products and services. The communities will be able to access quality inputs, tailored extension services and training for easy adoption of new technologies. In addition, they receive healthy nutritious aflatoxin maize flour and quality animal feeds taken closer to the farming communities.
- Access to better output market. GPL will be training the farmers on better farming practices especially on proper post-harvest to produce the quality of grain that GPL demands.
- Create jobs and employment opportunities
- Provide training, mentorship, and resources to support entrepreneurship and small business development among communities.
- Engage with local communities and organizations, establish proper feedback mechanisms to understand their needs and priorities.
- Collaborate with local organizations, such as NGOs, community groups, and cooperatives, to amplify impact and leverage resources.
- **Bundled subsidized inputs packages:** GPL proposes to offer in this partnership subsidized inputs to drive demand and adoption. With the recent abrupt stop especially on USAID funding. Refugees are most affected. Not only doesn't it affect food security, but also the health sector, education, protection and safety with a lot of uncertainties. The refugees will be too strained to meet daily lifestyle. This hugely affects their purchasing power for the inputs. With reduced cost on fertilizers we hope to increase demand and commercialize production. **We propose █ subsidy on fertilizers for two seasons.**
- **Strengthening agro-input/ traders partnerships to drive uptake (B2B):** To increase uptake, Grainpulse will strengthen and scale up partnerships with key local agro-dealers and agrovets. This will jumpstart and support their business without disrupting the local chains. GPL will supply products to these local outlets who further distribute into the farthest communities. We will set up demonstrations in partnerships with the local business and run marketing campaigns together to create awareness.
- Engage the community in production and livelihood activities while creating employment opportunities: Grainpulse shall engage community members with various production and livelihoods activities to promote climate smart production. GPL offer route to market with hubs in close proximity of the farmers.

Among them is encouraging animal husbandry through promotion of animal feeds to cushion farmer livelihood. Recruitment of so-called Master- and Village agents who will benefit from goods and services GPL offers. Agents will be able to earn commission from sell of fertilizers, animal feeds, maize flour and from aggregated grain.

- Marketing campaigns for benefits of consuming quality crop specific fertilizers, organic fertilizers, quality fortified and unfortified aflatoxin free maize flour for better health while creating a formal demand for quality maize grain. Grainpulse therefore, request for intervention in above solutions that would positively impact on agribusiness proposition of the maize, farmers, poultry, agro-processors, provision of safe foods to the growing population but also reduce waste and carbon footprint.
- Gender and social inclusion: Grainpulse model is to work with Youth especially as agents and farmers, women working in refugee and host communities while creating jobs along the value chain.

Significance of the proposed project

Market systems in refugee settlements

Here are some key aspects of market systems in refugee settlements in Uganda:

- **Informal economy:** The majority of economic activities in refugee settlements are informal, with many refugees engaging in small-scale entrepreneurship, such as trading, vending, and craftsmanship.
- **Limited access to finance:** Refugees face significant barriers in accessing financial services, including savings, credit, and insurance, which hinders their ability to invest in their businesses and improve their livelihoods.
- **Limited market access:** Refugees often have limited access to markets outside the settlements, making it difficult for them to sell their products or access goods and services.
- **Dependence on humanitarian aid:** Many refugees rely on humanitarian aid, which can create dependency and undermine local market systems.
- **Opportunities for development:** Despite these challenges, refugee settlements in Uganda also present opportunities for market systems development, such as:
 - Supporting local entrepreneurship and small businesses
 - Improving access to financial services
 - Enhancing market access and connections to larger markets
 - Promoting private sector investment
 - Fostering innovation and technology adoption

Our proposed intervention will help to improve sustainable household livelihoods. It will address the actual needs of the community through contributing to tackling food insecurity, poverty, inaccessibility of finance and markets, and unemployment which are still major development concerns, the intervention is very sensitive to global climate change, sustainability and gender concerns amongst others.

Justification

Refugees in Uganda have made significant contributions to the country's economy and culture. As a private sector, investment in refugee communities carries multiple challenges. These communities require special approaches due to their stress of poverty, challenging infrastructure, lower educational level and lack of agriculture experience. However; UNHCR and partners are now shifting to the market systems development system where refugees interact more with markets to provide jobs, income and access to services.

GPL would like to take the opportunity to work with such communities that have organized farmers who highly depend on livelihood. However, the costs are high and working with partners to de-risk some of our operations is where we seek this partnership

Sustainability of proposed activities

Grainpulse already established several secondary processing units in Uganda. This creates a sustainable local added value system. With the long-term vision and that Grainpulse can only benefit sustainably, we stand for reliable products and balanced agriculture practices. Furthermore, the farmers begin to generate additional income and become profitable. This immediately carries long-term perspectives for the farmers to become more independent from external funds.

Proposed Budget

Overall, it is expected that a total of [REDACTED] to implement our proposed interventions, targeting approximately [REDACTED] farmers especially towards operational expenses of the hubs, setting up demos, marketing & promotions and inputs subsidy

This budget estimate is also largely informed by our previous experience with setting up similar models in Uganda. In addition to the current tax rates and prevailing market prices. However, our cost is an estimate and will depend on the detailed scope and size of work.

	Description	Grant Request	Grainpulse Contribution	Total
1				
2				
3				
4				
3				
4				
3				

From our experience of previous projects and the underlying parameters, we target the impact figures of below:

Parameters	Figure / assumption

Impact on	before	after	variance

Therefore the project budget targets an own generated yield boost in the refugees maize production of [REDACTED] in the first harvest only.

The additional volume of raw maize in only the first season can be produced into:

Product	Volume	Market value

By reading the above figures it must be considered that it is a hypothetical calculation. The estimates are based on only one season, though Uganda generally carries out two in most areas where the yields are not simply comparable. In addition, it is not advised that all farmers are producing maize in the same season. Intercropping is an fundamental farming practice and of the general agronomic advice of Grainpulse.

However, the above figures show how the impact of funds in sustainable value chains can benefit a community and build long-term perspectives without sacrificing of immediate aid. The direct additional income of every farmer outweighs a one-time food supply by far. The additional produce lowers the local market prices in the communities and is a crucial, unavoidable step towards food independency.

Grainpulse Resources

- ➔ The Grainpulse team will include the CEO; Head of Supply Chain; Head of Agronomy, Head of Commercial; Head of Finance and a Project team lead.

Contact Person

- ➔ [REDACTED]