



# RICE - WN

*Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment - West Nile*



**RURAL INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT -  
WEST NILE**  
*Plot 3B Mvara-Oluke Road Arua*

**VOLUME ONE  
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# TABLE OF CONTENT

CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT.....1-2

SURAD PROJECT.....3

GFC PROJECT.....4

## THE CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT IS FUNDED BY:



WWF® *for a living planet®*



THE  
WORLD  
BANK



Norad



Sida



DANIDA

Danish  
International  
Development  
Agency



European Union

## SURAD PROJECT IS FUNDED BY:



## GFC PROJECT IS FUNDED BY:

THE GLOBAL FUND FOR  
Children



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# CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

## WHAT IS RENEWABLE CLEAN ENERGY?

These are energy sources that are replenished continuously by natural processes. Examples include solar energy, hydropower, biomass, wind, geothermal as well as organic wastes.

On the other hand

Non-renewable energy comes from sources that will run out or will not be replenished overtime. Most non-renewable energy sources are fossil fuels: coal, petroleum, and natural gas.

## WHY CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT?

- To promote better health care conditions of communities: Inhalation of smoke from traditional cooking methods like open fire stones leads to health complications e.g. Lung cancer
- To conserve the environment: Cook stoves distributed in the project consume less wood fuel. Each cook stove is estimated to save 33 trees annually. The project also undertakes training of communities in the construction and use of household and institutional cook stoves in order to promote increased efforts to conserve the forests in West Nile region of Uganda
- To contribute to increased access of electricity. as stated by Uganda National Population and Housing Census, 2014 89.3% of Ugandans have no access to electricity . Through increased distribution of solar home systems within households in West Nile, the project shall contribute towards achievement of 2040 Vision of Uganda that hopes to achieve 80% access to electricity in Ugandan households.



## ENERGY SITUATION IN UGANDA

Uganda has a total primary energy consumption of 0.0593 quadrillion Btu which equals 14.94 Million tons of oil equivalent (2012) (Uganda Data portal). Biomass is still the most important source of energy for the majority of the Ugandan population. About 90% of the total primary energy consumption is generated through biomass, which can be separated in firewood (78.6%), charcoal (5.6%) and crop residues (4.7%). Electricity is contributing only 1.4% to the national energy balance while oil products, account for the remaining 9.7%. Concerning electricity generation, Uganda has an installed capacity of 822 MW, mostly consisting of hydropower (692 MW; 84%). Access to electricity in 2013 at national level in Uganda is very low with 15% (1991: 5.6%; 2006: 9%; 2010: 10%) but only 7% in rural areas.

According to Arua District Investment Profile, Arua district lies in the West Nile region of Uganda with a land mass of 4,274.13Km<sup>2</sup> and current population is estimated at 820,500 people. Approximately at least 80% of the population still uses biomass energy that is unsustainable and harmful to human health. Owing to the ongoing global drive for climate

change, the low energy access levels and high rates of environmental degradation in the Albertine graben inclusive of West Nile districts raised eye brows. As such, World Wide Fund for Nature Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO) with funding from Sida, World Bank, European Union, DANIDA and Norad launched the Clean energy project in West Nile with a goal of increasing access to renewable energy alternatives



## Arua district, Uganda

in the region. The project is being coordinated by Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile (RICE-WN) in partnership with Civil Society Organizations in the region. The project shall last four years i.e. 2017-2020 and is being implemented in six (6) districts of West Nile – Nebbi, Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Moyo and Adjumani. It covers four (4) areas of intervention which include: 1) Advocacy for policy reforms; 2) Capacity building for stakeholders in solar and improved cook stove technologies; 3) Awareness raising on aspects of Renewable Energy; and 4) Technology distribution to increase access.

# CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

## SUCSESSES STORY: ONE LIGHT SOLAR SELLS MORE THAN 20 BOTTLES IN ONE NIGHT

One of beneficiaries of the project, Mr. Opoya Charles, a Local Council Chairperson of Ocelo Village in Kucwiny Sub-county in Nebbi District Uganda, is a businessman who owns a small shop at Ocelo trading center. He got to know about the project through his involvement in a community awareness campaign done in Nebbi District on 4th November, 2017 by Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Forum (APEF), one of the partner organizations that RICE-WN is working with to promote the project in Nebbi District. During the activity, the solar home system was demonstrated and its benefits to the communities elaborately described to all participants. This compelled Mr. Opoya Charles to acquire one of the solar products for his shop located at Ocelo Trading Centre with the hope of boosting sales at his shop. On 20th November, 2017; the RICE-WN Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr. Samson Ogebo paid him a visit to capture his story of how the project transformed his life as highlighted below:



(In grey) Mr. Ogebo Samson and Mr. Opoya Charles at the shop during the monitoring visit.

### Before purchasing the solar home system

In the past, Mr. Opoya Charles used to light his shop at night using a small torch. According to him, this mode of lighting was not very effective since he would close his shop quite early by 9.00 pm every evening and incur costs of up to UGX 15,000 per month on purchases of dry cells for his torch.

**Quote:** “I would close the shop by 9:00pm since the sales were low. The dim and inadequate light of the torch would not attract many clients. This brought me very low sales of only 4 to 5 bottles of soda per day.” – Mr. Opoya Charles, November 2017.

### After purchasing the solar home system

Today, Mr. Opoya Charles uses the solar home system to light his shop at night. The bright and adequate light ensures that his shop is well lit and attracts many clients who convene in large numbers every evening at his shop to interact with their friends and relatives on issues that concern them. This has greatly boosted his sales and increased returns in his business.

**Quote:** “Today I close my shop at 11.00pm since there are always clients at the shop till that time. I now sell over 20 bottles of soda per day. I used to sell only five bottles a per and take about 1 week to refill a crate.” – Mr. Opoya Charles, November 2017.

Mr. Opoya’s experience has inspired fellow community members in Ocelo Village who grow cotton as a predominant cash crop. Many of them now plan to sell their cotton and purchase the solar home systems for their homes and businesses. He has applauded the project and hopes to save money to purchase a larger solar product of 4 lights for his home as well.



# THE SURAD PROJECT

## SURAD PROJECT

The SURAD PROJECT is funded by HORIZONT3000 and it is being implemented by RICE-WN in Arua, Nebbi and Pakwach Districts of West Nile. The project strengthens farmer groups within the community to undertake market-oriented agriculture.

### Project goal

To enhance and improve modern agricultural practices in the community.

YESU KENDE women's group is one of the outstanding groups that is facilitated by the SURAD PROJECT TEAM in Nebbi District.

The group holds 25 strong and hard-working women who are ready to learn and unleash their potential in modern farming. The group produces liquid manure, organic pesticide and sells the crops in the market. This has not only saved them money, but also improved their way of living.

Monday 13th NOV 2017 Horizont3000 from Kampala and Austria visited YESU KENDE women's.

The group produces liquid manure, organic pesticide and sell the crops in the market. This has not only save them money but also improved their way of living. Thomas, the Horizont3000 Deputy Program Manager in Vienna Austria, was one the visitors from Horizont3000 said they are impressed by the hard work implemented by RICE.WN and the hard work by the YESU KENDE women. This was the results they have been looking for in the project and are looking forward to scaling up. He said that RICE-WN should share the experience, approach, challenges and our future plan with the Enabling Rural Innovation ERI. Okusia Jenifer from Horizont3000 Kampala was also impressed for the marvellous job done in a very short period of time. Horizont300 promised to support the project so as to ensure better living standards in the community.



Visitors from Horizont3000 showered with gifts during the visit



One member showing off her kitchen garden



One of the Yesu Kende women showing off her farm as Jonam Owinja (the group facilitator from RICE-WN) translates to the visitors.

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# GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN

**R**ICE-WN Celebrates The Graduation of 2015 -2016 Vocational School GFC Beneficiaries!

After one year of vocational training, finally our GFC (Global Fund for Children) girls happily smile during their graduation ceremony on 1st December, 2017. These forever happy girls schooled at “Flaminio Vocational Training Centre” in Arua district. The school is one of the best training centres for excellent hands on knowledge; indeed it's never too late to school!

In 2015, three (3) girls pursued tailoring courses and two (2) girls did salon and hair dressing whereas in 2016, two (2) girls did salon and hair dressing two (2) girls did salon and hair dressing and one (1) did catering. All these girls have successfully completed their training and are awarded certificates.



From left to right: Koli Boulis(2016), Bako Gloria (2016), Asianzu Nancy(RICE-WN), Angaika Jessica(2016), Sikina Annet(2016), and Alomo Joyce(2015)



Students lining up for their certificate awards.



Communications Officer Wairimu Veronicah takes a selfie with GFC agraduants at “Flaminio vocational training centre”



The graduates majestically marched through Arua town.

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