

# PRODUCTION FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

## Orphans and Vulnerable children

More than half of Uganda's 33 million population is under the age of 18 years. While the country is progressively providing economic opportunities for young people, the poorest children remain behind. Of the 2.5 million of the country's orphans almost half, 1.2 million, have been orphaned by AIDS. Compared to their peers, orphans and vulnerable children experience psychosocial, economic and health problems more severely. They are more likely for example, to be malnourished and subjected to sexual violence and child labour. Using a Vulnerability Index and Child Status Index we work with communities to identify the children with the greatest need. We are working in Ibanda, Kamwenge, Kasese, and Kibaale districts.

### Holistic Responses

While our main goal is to help more of these children and their families sustainably improve their nutrition, these children have other interlinked needs that we are working to address.

### Community resource persons

Resource persons with knowledge and experience in supporting vulnerable children are recommended by local government and community structures

### Technical support

Project Agriculture Field Officers work with Community Resource Persons to reach OVC households. Referrals are made for additional services.



*"Not only are we helping save the lives of vulnerable mothers and children, we are bringing economic benefits to the local farming communities many of these same mothers and children live in."- Ambassador Scott DeLisi*

### In numbers 2013



**536** OVC given health nutrition information



**388** OVC given psychosocial Support



**375** children given protection



**19** Community Resource Persons and 3 Agriculture Field Officers trained in OVC programming



**159** out of school OVC identified for vocational skills



Over **2000** OVCs selected from **467** Households

### Household support

- Kitchen gardens planting
- Education on good nutrition
- Practical skills on preparing balanced meals
- Sensitization on health centers to access care for malnourished children
- Family counseling on domestic violence, parenting,
- Promotion of child rights

### Improving household nutrition and incomes

*When Flora Bagenzi, grandmother and caregiver of 4 young orphans in Kamwenge district, began participating in the PIN project she was anemic and the family suffered from malnutrition as they could not afford to buy nutritious food. Flora was taught how to build a kitchen garden where she and the children were able to grow vegetables in a small backyard space. Flora's family is now having nutritious meals and the surplus sold to buy school supplies for the children. Flora is also now able to participate in her local village savings and loan scheme as she has accumulated savings.*

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