



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

A Message from SAO Uganda

Across SAO Uganda's programme areas, children, families and communities are taking practical steps towards lasting change. Children are speaking up in schools and communities. Parents are strengthening the care and protection they provide at home. Women are saving and investing together. Young people are turning skills into enterprises. Farmers are improving production and market access, while churches and community structures are mobilising local resources to address shared challenges.

This edition brings these results together through the six Strategic Objectives of SAO Uganda's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan. The stories come from the Children, Youth and Communities for Change (CYCC) Project in Kaberamaido, the Child-Centred Community Development (CCCD) Programme in Napak, the Abim revolving fund initiative, the Church and Community Transformation (CCT) Project in Hoima and Kikuube, and the Self-Help Group Approach in Sironko.

Together, they show why SAO Uganda places children at the centre while strengthening the families, livelihoods, community structures and systems around them.

OUR WORK IN FOCUS

One Vision, Connected Areas of Change

At Share An Opportunity Uganda, we recognise that a child's wellbeing is shaped by many things happening around them. A child needs a safe and supportive home, access to education and healthcare, a household that can meet basic needs, opportunities to participate and a community that can respond to social, economic and environmental challenges.

This is why our work takes a holistic approach.

The programme experiences highlighted in this newsletter—from Kaberamaido, Napak, Sironko, Abim, Hoima and Kikuube—show how different interventions contribute to the same vision: a holistically developed child within the community.

Through the stories and results that follow, we explore progress across SAO Uganda's six Strategic Objectives:

1. **Promote child rights and protection at households and community.**
2. **Promote sustainable livelihoods in the households within the supported communities.**
3. **Improve and maintain the health status of children and their households in supported communities.**
4. **Enhance youth employability and engagement in development initiatives within the partner communities.**
5. **Build the resilience of partner communities and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extremes and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.**
6. **Strengthen institutional capacity to ensure organizational effectiveness, growth and sustainability.**

Impact Across Our Communities

945 children enrolled in four supported ECD centres in Napak	3,015 members in 155 functioning SHGs in Sironko	UGX 105.33M loans disbursed by four Abim SACCOs
55 CYCC youth established or expanded enterprises	3,651 people reached directly and indirectly through CCT	2,000+ tree seedlings planted through CCT collaboration

FEATURE

PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION IN KABERAMAIDO

In September 2026, the CYCC team in Kaberamaido combined staff learning with direct partner engagement during a NEO-Connect training and field visit by Baptist World Aid Australia (BWAA). The week brought together programme information management, partnership learning and direct interaction with the communities participating in the Children, Youth and Communities for Change Project.

The NEO-Connect training strengthened the Kaberamaido team's knowledge and capacity to use the platform for programme documentation and information management. The sessions also reinforced good documentation practice, including the importance of obtaining consent when capturing programme activities and community stories.

During the same week, the BWAA team visited project communities and interacted directly with SAO Uganda staff, Children's Clubs, farmer groups and Youth groups. These engagements gave the visiting team an opportunity to see project activities at community level, hear directly from participants and appreciate the progress being made through the CYCC Project.



The activity connected three important parts of effective programming: stronger staff capacity, accountable documentation and direct partner-community engagement. It also generated photographs, short video clips and social media content that will help SAO Uganda communicate the CYCC story more clearly.



The field assignment created a visual record of staff learning, the SAO Uganda-BWAA partnership and community-level implementation. The materials captured during the visit are being organised for use in newsletters, reports, social media and other organisational publications. The experience also highlighted the value of integrating communications documentation into partner visits, trainings and major project activities.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

PROMOTE CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION AT HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITY

Children Learning, Participating and Being Heard



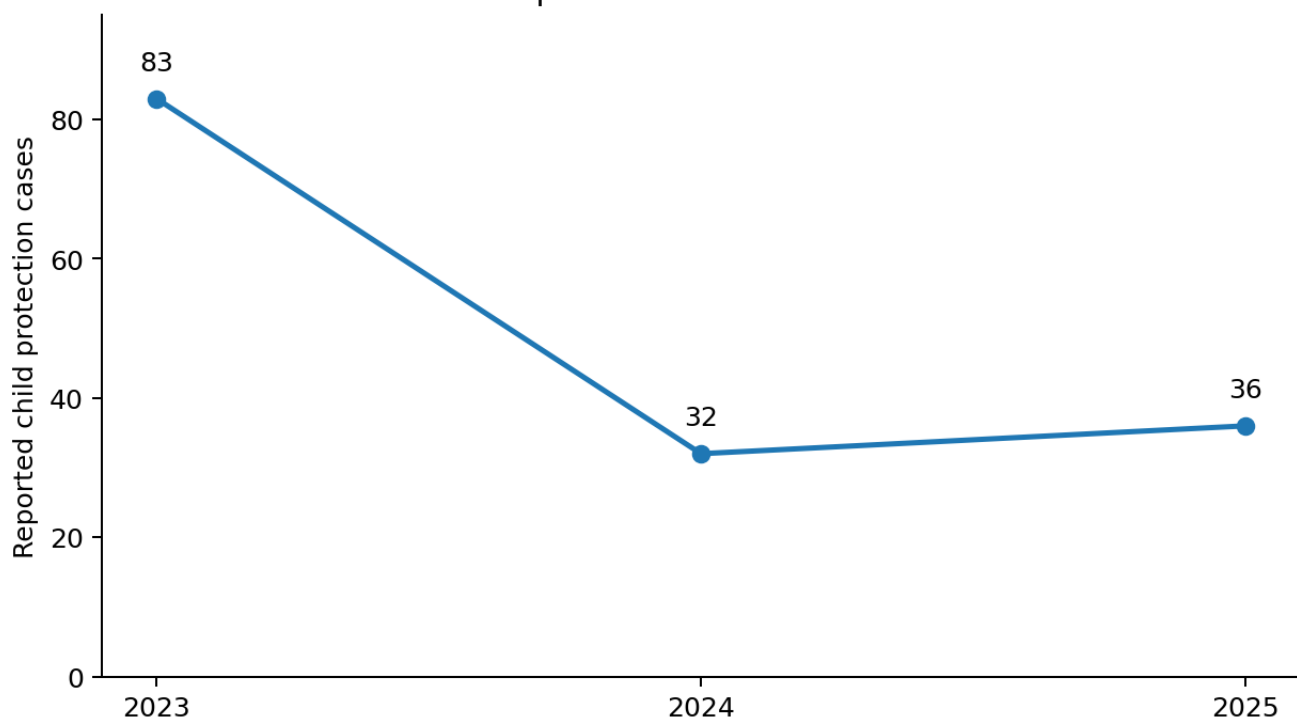
In Napak, CCCD is strengthening early childhood learning and the community systems that protect children. Between January and June 2026, 945 children – 506 boys and 439 girls – were enrolled in four supported ECD centres. Community dialogues on the importance of early childhood education reached 1,196 people, helping families and local leaders recognise their role in giving young children a strong start.

The programme also strengthened the people responsible for children's safety. Twelve ECD personnel were trained in child protection, child abuse monitoring and reporting, while 12 ECE Centre Management Committee members received capacity strengthening in governance and management. Twenty-three Children's Club patrons were trained in child-friendly methodologies and participation, benefiting approximately 1,380 children.

In Kaberamaido, CYCC is demonstrating what meaningful child participation can achieve. During the year, 91 of 536 participating children confidently presented their views during School Management Committee, Parent Teacher Association and club leaders' reflection meetings. Their advocacy contributed to the renovation of a six-classroom block, construction of a five-stance boys' latrine and permanent kitchen at Okapel Primary School, and the provision of 75 desks at Kamuk Parents School.

Community child-protection systems also remained active. Reported child protection cases in the CYCC area declined from 83 in 2023 to 32 in 2024 and remained comparatively low at 36 in 2025. The figures reinforce the importance of continued prevention, reporting, referral and community engagement.

CYCC: Reported Child Protection Cases



CHILDREN'S VOICE INTO ACTION

When children are given safe spaces to express themselves and adults respond, participation can translate into practical improvements in learning environments and community decisions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

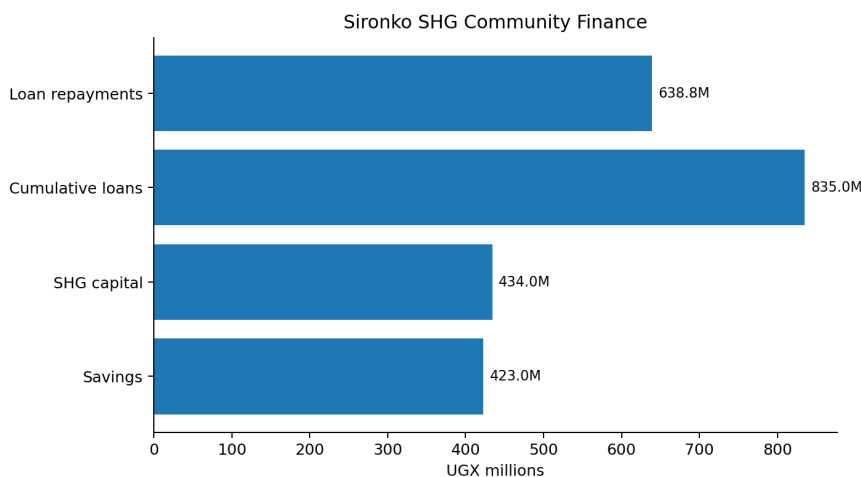
PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN THE SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES

Saving Together, Investing Together



Across Sironko, Kaberamaido, Abim, Hoima and Kikuube, community-owned savings and finance structures are helping households build economic dignity and strengthen their capacity to meet children's needs

Sironko recorded some of the strongest community-finance results. By the end of the reporting period, 155 functioning Self-Help Groups had 3,015 members. Together, the groups had mobilised UGX 422.97 million in savings, built UGX 434.05 million in total capital and cumulatively provided UGX 834.99 million in loans, with UGX 638.85 million repaid. The participating households include 7,786 children, showing the wider family reach of women's economic empowerment.



In Kaberamaido, 74 CYCC Self-Help Groups with 1,261 members mobilised UGX 22.75 million in savings during the year, increasing cumulative group capital to UGX 121.51 million. A total of 423 members accessed loans worth UGX 29.11 million for agriculture, businesses, education and other household priorities.

From Production to Markets

CYCC also strengthened market access. Six farmer groups collectively sold 47.69 tonnes of fresh cassava to Lukonge Cotton and Starch Factory for UGX 14.28 million. This helped increase household income while strengthening group capital for future investment.

Revolving Funds Opening Opportunities in Abim

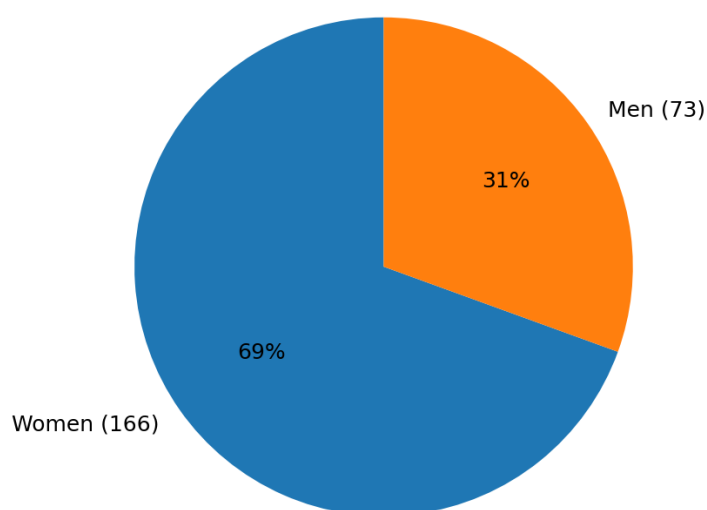
With support from Help a Child, SAO Uganda provided UGX 80 million in revolving funds to four community SACCOs in Abim: Aojapiro, Barotuke, Achangali and Acarawang. By the reporting period, the SACCOs had collectively disbursed UGX 105.33 million in loans. The report also records UGX 26.33 million in members' own savings and UGX 23.382 million recovered by the reporting date.

At Aojapiro SACCO, 45 members accessed loans totalling UGX 37.4 million for agriculture, businesses and school fees. The SACCO also purchased a cassava garden for UGX 510,000 and sold the produce for UGX 600,000, making a UGX 90,000 profit, while generating additional income through chair hire.

Churches and Communities Mobilising Local Resources

Through CCT in Hoima and Kikuube, all ten implementing churches established savings and loan schemes. By June 2026, 239 members – 166 women and 73 men – had saved UGX 19.46 million and generated UGX 4.14 million in interest. Members used these resources to support education, rent agricultural land and establish small businesses.

CCT Savings Group Participation



Church and community members in Nyakatehe, Butoole, Kituti and Wairagaza also adopted improved maize seed varieties and applied organic and inorganic fertilisers following project training, with participating households reporting increased maize yields.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN THE HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS IN SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES

Healthier Children Begin with Stronger Families

In Napak, CCCD brought essential health services closer to children through outreaches at two ECD centres, reaching 260 children. Services included immunisation and deworming, alongside linkages to maternal and child health services.

The programme also strengthened family care. Twenty Parenting Trainers of Trainers received refresher training and supported 10 prospective Parenting Groups involving 400 parents – 200 women and 200 men. The balanced participation of mothers and fathers supports shared responsibility for children's care, development and protection.

The Day of the African Child commemoration in Napak reached 480 children and also contributed to practical hygiene improvements, including four tippy taps installed at the four ECD centres.





260

children reached through
health outreaches

400

parents engaged through
prospective Parenting Groups

20

Parenting Trainers of Trainers
strengthened

4

tippy taps installed at ECD
centres



WASH HANDS AFTER USING
LATRINES

TE CHILD EDUCATE A



55

CYCC youth established or expanded enterprises

21

CYCC youth accessed PDM financing

178

youth reached through Sironko CBT to date

109

trained Sironko youth practising acquired skills

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

ENHANCE YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES WITHIN THE PARTNER COMMUNITIES

Skills and Enterprise Creating New Pathways



Young people need more than training; they need opportunities to apply their skills, earn income and participate meaningfully in community development.

Through CYCC in Kaberamaido, 55 young people established or expanded income-generating enterprises in areas including retail, tailoring, carpentry, hairdressing, poultry, vegetable growing, produce trading, crafts and restaurants. Twenty-one youth also accessed financing through the Parish Development Model. The 23-member Omwony Youth Group generated UGX 745,000 from vegetable production during the reporting period, providing additional capital for business expansion.

In Sironko, the Community-Based Training component reached 178 young people to date. Of the 120 who had previously completed vocational training, 109 were reported to be practising their acquired skills. During the quarter, another 58 vulnerable youth – 32 females and 26 males – enrolled in training in horticulture, soap making, motorcycle mechanics, welding, tailoring, hairdressing, bricklaying and concrete practice.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5

BUILD THE RESILIENCE OF PARTNER COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE EXPOSURE AND VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE-RELATED EXTREMES AND OTHER SHOCKS

Responding to Climate Pressure

Climate variability is directly affecting household food security and children's wellbeing. In Napak, prolonged dry spells during the 2026 Season A caused severe crop losses. The CCCD report indicates that approximately 2,785 acres of crops belonging to about 3,000 households were lost. A rapid assessment in Lorengechora Sub-county also found households reducing the number of meals they consumed each day.

CYCC communities in Kaberamaido also experienced seasonal weather variability. Early rains in February 2026 ended before some crops matured, reducing yields and reinforcing the project's promotion of early planting and improved agronomic practices.

In Hoima and Kikuube, CCT combined livelihood strengthening with environmental action. SAO Uganda, Baptist churches, local communities and the Kikuube District Natural Resources Department distributed and planted more than 2,000 tree seedlings to support restoration, conservation and climate resilience.

2,785 acres

crops reportedly lost in Napak

~3,000

households affected by Napak crop losses

2,000+

tree seedlings planted through CCT collaboration

RESILIENCE IS INTERCONNECTED

When climate shocks reduce harvests, the effects can reach children's nutrition, education, health and protection. SAO Uganda's response therefore connects environmental action with livelihoods, family wellbeing and community preparedness.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6

STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO ENSURE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Local Structures Taking Greater Ownership



Sustainable programmes depend on strong community structures, responsive accountability systems and partnerships that can continue beyond direct project support.

In Napak, 400 community representatives from 20 villages participated in biannual Community-Based Complaints and Feedback Mechanism reflection meetings. The process strengthened awareness of feedback channels, communication with communities and programme responsiveness.

In Sironko, nine Community Facilitators support 155 SHGs and 12 functioning Cluster Level Associations. During the quarter, mature SHGs were assessed and two new CLAs - Nywetana and Handalasa - were formed, strengthening the community structures that can sustain the Self-Help Group movement.

CCT provides another example of SAO Uganda's strategic commitment to church collaboration in community mobilisation and development. Participating churches became increasingly visible as community-development actors, with other church denominations and local leaders inviting CCT groups to share experiences on child welfare and community development. By June 2026, CCT had reached 3,651 people - 1,112 directly and 2,539 indirectly.

In Kaberamaido, CYCC community structures also demonstrated their ability to influence local development. A Cluster Level Association mobilised support from the area Member of Parliament for rehabilitation of the community borehole in Odoipe Village, improving access to safe water and demonstrating the value of community-led advocacy.

400

Napak community representatives engaged in feedback meetings

12

functioning CLAs in Sironko

20

Napak villages represented

3,651

people reached through CCT



From a child speaking confidently in a school meeting in Kaberamaido, to a parent strengthening care at home in Napak, a woman building a business through an SHG in Sironko, a family accessing community finance in Abim, or a church mobilising local resources in Hoima and Kikuube, each result contributes to a larger story.

SAO Uganda's Strategic Objectives recognise that child wellbeing is interconnected. Children are more likely to thrive when they are protected and heard; when families have food, income and access to health services; when young people have opportunities; when communities can withstand shocks; and when strong local institutions are able to lead change.

This is the heart of SAO Uganda's approach: a holistically developed child within a community that has the capacity, confidence and structures to sustain change.





**SHARE AN OPPORTUNITY
UGANDA**

Be Part of the Change

Creating flourishing communities requires collective action.

You can help by: Partnering with us

Sharing our stories

Supporting community-led development

Advocating for children's wellbeing

Together, we can create lasting opportunities for children,
youth, and families.

PLOT NO: 1448, KITALA ZONE,
KANYANYA, KAMPALA

EMAIL: INFO@SAOUGANDA.ORG
PHONE: 0414595115