



Country Office - Uganda

Plot 653 Ntinda, Kisaasi Road,
P.O.Box 16567, Wandegaya, Kampala

Tel: +256 414 286 984

Email: ifraduganda@gmail.com

Description of activities 2014-2015

A. Introduction

IFRAD is a regional focused and nationally registered membership based organization working to increase economic opportunities in local environments. We deliver high-quality technical services in the field of economic development and are recognized as thought leaders in knowledge innovation in Uganda and in the East African region. Since 2009, we have delivered services in 6 Ugandan districts of Kayunga, Mukono, Mityana, Gulu, Nwoya and Arua, and influenced policy and practice regionally at various platforms in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Sudan.

We build the capacity of local organizations to empower youth, women, small-scale farmers, and vulnerable people to participate in profitable value chains, grow businesses, reach new markets, access finance, and obtain meaningful work. We additionally build capacities for young people in the informal sector to organize and meaningfully participate in key governance processes related to improving the business operating environment. We contribute to the improved evidence base in the area of youth economic opportunities by creating learning opportunities for both implementers and policymakers.

Our services are based on an appreciation of client assets and market needs, a commitment to local ownership and sustainability, and the application of actionable learning for increased program impact. We invest in the following areas:

B. Strategic Objective 1: Policy Research and Advocacy

IFRAD's policy advocacy issues will be focused on both in-house and outsourced research on priority and emerging issues. In order to build the quality of policy advocacy engagements for economic based and governance institutions as well as donor strategy formation, the IFRAD will invest in building of new knowledge, validating and documenting of proven models of effective and efficient socio-economic empowerment of young people across Uganda and in the East African Community. This will be through conducting high value research with ground breaking empirical findings and recommendations. The IFRAD will strike partnerships where

necessary, in order to contribute to new knowledge across diverse areas of socio-economic engagement especially with the youth.

The following research studies shall be conducted between 2015/2016 to guide country decisions for the realization of key development policies to include Vision 2040 and the post 2015 SDG's. IFRAD will conduct research around; improving access to finance and markets for enterprising youth, improving the business operating environment, ICT for development, private sector growth and wealth creation.

For AWP 2015, the following studies have been planned;

- 1) Conducting an Access to Finance study for youth in agri-business value chains
- 2) Conducting a study into the state of employment programs in Uganda
- 3) Conducting a study on young people in Ugandan contexts and the EAC integration processes

C. Strategic Objective 2: Capacity Building and Business Evolution

Capacity building is a wide concept, and many times it is interpreted differently. IFRAD considers capacity building as any activities aimed at improving the abilities of an enterprising client/beneficiary to become better at whatever they set out to do. We believe that understanding local context, tailoring programs, and building local capacity are critical to achieving sustainable impact. We build the capacity of local organizations, institutions and groups to design, implement, sustain, and scale up economic development initiatives by helping them develop and deliver products that respond to market demand and the needs of their target populations.

The following capacity building activities shall be conducted between 2015/2016 to guide country decisions for the realization of key development policies in the country. For AWP 2015, the following activities have been planned;

- 1) Mobilizing and organize the informal private sector networks in selected contexts on economic development and governance issues
- 2) Conducting mapping of formal private sector networks at local government level in selected contexts
- 3) Conducting capacity gap assessments with identified private sector networks on economic development and governance issues
- 4) Developing tailored capacity building plans jointly with private sector networks and implement them.

- 5) Conducting studies on profitable value chains with the aim of increasing productivity and incomes.
- 6) Conducting Business Innovation/Evolution clinics.

D. Strategic Objective 3: Building Business Competitiveness

IFRAD defines Business Competitiveness as the ability of businesses to expand and sustain growth with increased levels of innovation, productivity and efficiency. With the belief that if small and medium sized businesses and enterprises at grassroots level are supported through facilitation of appropriate business linkages, access to information, investing in affordable technologies for development and expansion of business networks, then mutually supportive and progressing private sector shall thrive.

We advance competitiveness by investing in learning and sharing. We invest our resources in building, disseminating, and supporting the application of industry knowledge within the youth economic opportunities field. We share promising practices and develop innovative platforms through physical and virtual learning events and, as a result, improve both our technical services and the overall ability of the youth economic opportunities field to effect meaningful change.

The following business competitiveness activities shall be conducted between 2015/2016 to guide country decisions for the realization of key development policies. For AWP 2015, the following activities have been planned;

- 1) Organizing private sector actors and networks in selected contexts on economic development and governance issues that affect the business environment
- 2) Developing a quarterly information sharing series on 'The reality of doing business in Uganda' in various media formats
- 3) Developing an ICT innovation hub for businesses ('future hubs')
- 4) Supporting the establishment of interactive platforms for information sharing among private sector actors and networks
- 5) Organizing business fairs/exhibitions/exposure/learning trips for enterprising people in selected contexts
- 6) Developing a competitive employment readiness and linkages program that meets market demands, with a foundation on empirical and pragmatic models

E. Strategic Objective 4: Building a Sustainable Business Eco-System

IFRAD defines the business eco-system as the socio-political and economic environment in which an enterprising person and their business operate. It is primary about the external

factors/players that may influence the performance of the business. We believe that the entrepreneur can be facilitated to play an active role in predicting and controlling the environment in which they exist. Our approach to controlling the business eco-system is based on conversational and situational organization of the private sector and active citizenship through our ability to convene eco-system actors such as financial institutions, governments, trade and business institutions, the private sector and the final business clients.

We strive to increase the overall effectiveness of the private sector by connecting key stakeholders to each other and to actionable information through our 'Private sector-competitiveness platforms' that involve the three-party government-financial institutions-private sector actors in selected contexts.

The following activities aimed at building a sustainable business eco-system shall be conducted between 2015/2016 to guide country decisions for the realization of key development policies. For AWP 2015, the following activities have been planned;

- 1) Mapping of existing micro and macro private sector support networks
- 2) Organizing private sector dialogue meetings on thematic issues in the business eco-system
- 3) Creating linkages among private sector actors (forward and backward linkages)
- 4) Supporting the formation and development of group savings and credit schemes
- 5) Supporting the growth and development of strong cooperative movements in selected environments.

F. Strategic Objective 5: Institutional Capacity Enhancement

The needs of our clients are many and they differ, so IFRAD continuously evolves and strives to enhance its ability to exceed expectations. Through this objective, we invest in hiring and maintaining high quality and competent staff, secure safe and accessible offices, manage operational functions of the organization as well as invest in fundraising and effective corporate governance. We aim at remaining a leader in facilitating inclusive private sector-led growth in Uganda and in the region.