



Reporting Period: July to December 2015
UGA-JEN-GSM-N01

Obalanga Grain Storage and Mill

Budget: \$21,100 – FULLY FUNDED!

Update:

This project is building a grain mill and storage facility for the township of Obalanga. Obalanga is now officially a town, but grew from an internally displaced people's camp during the time of the Lord's Resistance. Many of the population are extremely poor and all are scarred with experiences from the insurgency.



The physical building was completed in October and the mill has been operational since November 2015. The mill offers two machines – a maize grinder and rice huller which allows smallholder farmers to add value to their crop for sale or for their own consumption. Prior to the mill being operational, people had to walk five hours to the nearest mill. After only three months of operation there is already a queue every day to use the facilities.



The management team responsible for overseeing the mill are ensuring responsible use of the machines and establishing sound business practices. The idea is for the mill to be self-sufficient, and to that end, all revenue generated for the first three months is being kept while they analyse operating costs. Once costs are known a plan will be developed to allow them to purchase a peanut sheller, ensure maintenance costs can be met on all machines and allow them to assist poorer widows and families within the community.

Hellen from the local community comments on the difference the mill is making – previously she would have to walk 5km carrying millet or cassava for milling. Sometimes she and her family would go hungry because there was no flour. But now “you can even put water on fire to boil while taking millet to grind for lunch”. Her son says that often they would come home for lunch during the school day and there would be nothing to eat, so they would not go back to school because of hunger. He says “They are good and hygienic and the operators are good people. They do not steal flour like other machine operators do. We thank the people who came up with this idea”.

There are many more people like Hellen and her children who's lives are being improved by this mill. Thank you for making this possible.

