

Coffee Empowering Communities



Mt Elgon, Mbale area, Uganda



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$70,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

SEPT 21

SEPT 22



Overview

Entrust has supported the establishment of a coffee cooperative since 2016-7 amongst the very poor and remote villages of Mt Elgon, in eastern Uganda. Building on the success of five seasons of coffee planting, production and export, and having supported an expansion of their infrastructure to further grow capacity, we turned our focus to providing intensive training for 1950+ farmers and their families, together with some infrastructure to further expand the project. Training will help farmers to increase their coffee yields and the quality whilst improving productivity and land cultivation practices. This has been the biggest and most successful year to date with farmers enjoying 40% higher prices than FY21. Exports increased from 25,000 kg to more than 60,000 kg!

Objectives

Impact



Beneficiaries of coffee farming

Direct beneficiaries: 1,950 farmers (fair prices and bonuses for 'hungry season', off-season agricultural training); 150 seasonal workers (fair employment); 20 skilled workers (building, plumbing, etc.) Indirect beneficiaries: 14,500+ family members!



Greenhouse construction

Funds part supported the crucial development of a new greenhouse at the Muyanda site. This will continue to help with expansion of coffee deliveries from farmers. Funds were prioritised for this in lieu of purchasing a pick-truck this year.



Site development

To accompany the rapid and exciting growth of the coffee industry on Mt Elgon, further site development took place at Sipi and Bulaago sites - new drying racks, fencing, water supply, road access, steel-framed drying shelter, for example.



Training in coffee farming & processing

Farmers received training during the "off season" to help them develop their plots of land and to understand good coffee practices - caring for the land, water management, organic farming, pruning and nurturing of trees and the like.



Life change

- Farmers gained new skills and a strong support network
- A good yield and fair price improved the financial situation of farmers, allowing them to buy more food during the "hungry season"
- Income means children were sent to school, living conditions improved and money to access health care is resulting in healthier families
- The local community are learning it is possible to operate business in a fair and transparent manner and still be profitable



Ronald's Story

Ronald has been an integral part of the team since joining over two years ago. After finding it hard to get a job, he came to our partners on a "trial" run and has never looked back. He is now the key operator of the roasting machine and handles customers, orders and record keeping. Our partners are delighted to offer opportunities for skill development and job opportunities throughout the whole coffee process. There are now 150 seasonal workers and 20 skilled workers (carpenters, builders, electricians etc) in addition to the 1,950 farmers who benefit from this project. Local jobs - from crop to cup!

The coffee project on Mt Elgon is going from strength to strength with the whole community benefitting from the crop. Plans to expand will bring further benefits and we're pleased to be involved in this for-profit social enterprise!



Richard - A Passionate Farmer

Richard has been one of our partner's longest-serving farmers and advocates in the community of Bukhanakwa. As a local councillor, he has been a key link person with the wider community and farmers in a remote area high in the mountains.

He has a keen interest in quality and has directly contributed to and encouraged excellent coffee practices, making Bukhanakwa one of the most popular coffees! Our partners have recently completed farmer training in the area which was extremely well received. It is very rare for any company or official to visit such a difficult place to access, so the deepening relationship with Richard and his community has been so important.

Pic: Richard, right, with staff Isaac.

