



**Princess Diana Memorial Fund (PDMF)  
Post Conflict Sustainable Agriculture  
Programme in Rwanda and Uganda**

**Impact Assessment**

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## Executive Summary

### Diana Post Conflict Sustainable Agriculture Programme

This report is on an impact assessment study carried out for Send A Cow Rwanda (SACR) and Send A Cow Uganda (SACU). Both are local NGOs registered in Rwanda and Uganda respectively and are affiliated the UK based Send A Cow, an International NGO dedicated to eradicate poverty at household level through livestock gifts. The overall aim of Send a Cow (SAC), as described in its Mission Statement, is “to overcome poverty and malnutrition by supporting self-reliant groups which promote food security at household level through the integration of livestock into sustainable farming systems”.

With financial support from the Princess Diana Memorial Fund (PDMF), SAC developed and implemented the Post Conflict Sustainable Agriculture programme whose aims were:

- To address the plight of communities in Rwanda and Uganda that were recovering from periods of civil war, insurgency, instability and genocide;
- To enable households that suffered due to conflict to re-establish viable livelihoods through livestock farming;
- To build women’s confidence and family cohesion; and
- To build the capacity of participating community groups to manage all aspects of the project.

The consultants reviewed various documents related to the assignment and carried out individual and group interviews using a structured questionnaire. This was intended to get the background information regarding the partnership and the planned activities, the outcome and impact of the project at household and community levels. The Gako Women Group Project in Rwanda was started in the year 2001, focusing largely on rural widows and children. Men headed households also received livestock gifts in the spirit of the project’s aim of alleviating poverty during the post conflict period regardless of gender. On average, each farmer had 0.62 ha under cultivation of fodder, more than land reserved for any other activity. SACR selected and organized about 420 project beneficiaries into small manageable groups or associations of 30 members located in three zones before they were given the livestock gifts (dairy cattle, goats, pigs and poultry). Farmers were also assisted with building materials (cement and iron sheets) for the construction of cattle sheds in the form of a revolving fund.

The majority (75%) of farmers reported milk yields ranging between 1 to 10 litres per day while a few (25%) reported 10 or more litres per day. The following factors were reported to affect milk production:

1. Lack of enough land to grow forages
2. Poor milk marketing system
3. Lack of affordable concentrate feeds for cattle
4. Poor extension services in the area of feed conservation especially during the dry season

The majority of the interviewed farmers (81%) had home gardens for growing of vegetables. Much of the income was spent on school fees and food. About 50% of the respondents spent their income on the purchase of new beddings and building of better houses. All of the interviewed farmers (100%) reported a lot of respect and esteem from their fellow farmers in the community as they were relatively better off than farmers who did not receive any livestock gift. The majority (95%) of interviewed farmers reported having acquired more knowledge and farming skill, while 19% of the respondents reported to have already had contributed to the project through pass-ons and none had contributed to the revolving fund.



Other impacts reported on were on improved employment, improved confidence and income. Although a few cases of conflicts in the households due to the presence of the livestock gifts, the majority of the interviewed farmers reported an increase in household harmony, care and respect between spouses.

In Uganda the project was implemented by Send a Cow Uganda (SACU) in collaboration with two community-based organizations (CBOs) - Palema and Lacor under Laroo Children's support project, which is an affiliate of Christian Children's Fund (CCF). The CBOs were restructured and 8 projects each with an average 50 members were formed in a similar manner like that of its sister project in Rwanda. However, because of the continued insurgency in Northern Uganda spearheaded by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), much of the SACU's work was curtailed. Some funds meant for Uganda were transferred to the Rwanda project. The project targeted mainly women as the most vulnerable group. Majority of the beneficiaries (73%) were married, 23% were widowed while 4% were separated from their spouses. Due to the insurgency which began in 1987, most people in the area including SACU beneficiaries were relocated to Internally Displaced People's camps (IDP) in order to access protection from government security agencies. Due to insurgency, farmers had relocated from their homes to IDPs where access to land was limited. Cattle feeding is therefore a major constraint faced by the farmers. According to reports by the extension worker in Gulu, the Diana Project was initially started in September 2001 with 416 households organized in 2 groups. A total of 60 dairy cows were distributed to the same number of households. Three of the cows died leaving 57. From this number a total of 17 pass on heifers have been distributed to other beneficiaries and 4 are on delayed contracts. The project also distributed goats (mostly local females and Boers bucks) to farmers in six phases. Animal nutrition and health delivery system was very poor and most of the farmers had to fend for themselves if the animal fell sick. As shown in Figure 1, majority (64) of farmers reported milk yields of between 1 to 10 litres per day while a few (5%) reported 10 or more litres per day. A significant number (31%) reported yields of less than 1 litre a day. Generally, most of the animals were not getting enough feeds due:

- Lack of land to plant legume
- Farmers have limited time to gather enough fodder
- Due to poverty, most farmers cannot afford to purchase supplements feeds.

Most of the money accrued from the sale of livestock products was spent on household items and needs like radio, bicycle, beddings, utensils, new clothes, shoes, school fees, health bills and assisting relatives. Although women were the direct beneficiaries of livestock extend by SACU, they involved their spouses and children in the management and sharing of the income generated. This was reported to have improved the relationship with their spouses to a greater extent with a few notable cases where families broke up when husbands grabbed all the milk income from the wife. Among those interviewed, 52% rated their relationship with spouses as good, 30% very good, 3 % felt a bit better and 15% same as before. Challenges faced by the farmers include among others: Death and livestock thefts, delayed pass ons and sale of bulls and workload, inadequate feeds on the single extension worker.

Overall the programme met most of its stated objectives more so in Rwanda and to a lesser extent in Uganda. Significantly, the project addressed the issues of women empowerment, children nutrition and general family welfare. However, farmers need more training in gender awareness and on the negative aspect of polygamy among beneficiaries. The pass-on systems need to be reviewed and made more efficient as the off-spring seem to be a big burden to the recipients.