

CASCADE PROJECT OVERVIEW



Catalysing Strengthened Policy Action for Healthy Diets and Resilience (CASCADE) intensified its efforts to integrate nutrition and food security into national and subnational systems. The CASCADE project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and Implemented by CARE International and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, the programme collaborates with key local partners, including Food Rights Alliance (FRA), Africa Innovations Institute, Kyambogo University, Farm Africa, and 20 grassroots women-led and women's rights organisations, to improve food security and reduce malnutrition in women of reproductive age and children.

Geographic Focus: Six sub-regions of Uganda: Tooro (Southwest), Karamoja (Northeast), Acholi (Northern Uganda), Busoga (Eastern), Lango subregion (Northern Uganda), and West Nile region with national level interventions. The program operates across fifteen districts and three cities: Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kabarole, Kyegegwa, and Fort Portal City; Kotido, Abim, Napak, and Moroto; Kitgum, Lamwo, Gulu, Nwoya, and Gulu City; Lira District and City; Adjumani and Kamuli Districts. In Africa, CASCADE is implemented in six countries: Benin, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Mozambique.

Primary target groups: 2,000,000 Women of reproductive age and children

Project Goal: Improve food security and reduce malnutrition for women of reproductive age and children.

Project Objectives/Domain areas

1. Nutrition-related Policies are Effectively Coordinated and Implemented:
2. More private sector actors engage in nutrition-related private service provision: Strengthening private sector capacity to deliver accessible and affordable products and services that promote healthy diets and resilience.
3. Community structures are supported by implementing gender-transformative approaches facilitating equitable nutrition-relevant services.
4. Women demonstrate agency to make decisions about healthy diets in households through resilience building, nutrition education, and agricultural training.
5. Increased synergy by data sharing and knowledge management through the rollout of the Food Systems Dashboard, media engagement, and multi-sectoral coordination.

The reach: To date, the CASCADE project has reached 1.89 million people (56% female) across Uganda through the production of safe, nutritious, and affordable foods. Already, 60 private service providers are supported by domain two of the project led by GAIN to produce safe and nutritious foods. By strengthening private sector capacity to deliver accessible and affordable nutrition-related products and services, significant progress has been made in promoting healthy diets and community resilience.

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, 60 MSMEs received technical assistance in food safety, product formulation, certification, and packaging, enhancing their ability to produce safe, nutritious, and affordable foods for children and pregnant women. Through the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN), private service providers have actively engaged in national policy dialogues, advancing implementation of Uganda's nutrition policy. These efforts have spurred local production of nutritious foods, created employment for women and youth, and leveraged university interns to strengthen MSME product development and adoption of good manufacturing practices.

CASE STORIES

1. Jenny Foods – Gulu City

Founder: Jennifer Anena

Core Impact: Empowering vulnerable women while promoting affordable, nutritious foods.



'After the product improvement and packaging training from CASCADE, I had another training with our mothers also on how we can make our packaging more friendly to the environment.' –
Jennifer Anana

Jenny, a female youth entrepreneur, established Jenny Foods with a mission to support **women affected by gender-based violence, war, and HIV** by engaging them in food production, thereby empowering them to be self-sustaining. Her flagship product is a composite flour mix made from pumpkin seeds, soya, silverfish, and vitamin A maize—a highly nutritious blend for malnourished women and children. As the team lead of 'Hands of Women Foundation', Jennifer builds the capacity of young mothers on value addition for nutritious products.

Successes

- Technology-Driven Innovation:** Integrated a **QR code labelling system** to provide **real-time nutritional information** on products.
- Training & Capacity Building:** Improved her packaging, marketing, and digital presence, through the knowledge benefited from **CASCADE** trainings.
- Community Nutrition Leadership:** Conducts nutrition awareness campaigns and educational programs for local households.

2. Christechel Produce Supplies – Mbale City

Founder: Nafula Sylvia

Core Impact: Developing safe, high-quality nutrition products for local and export markets.

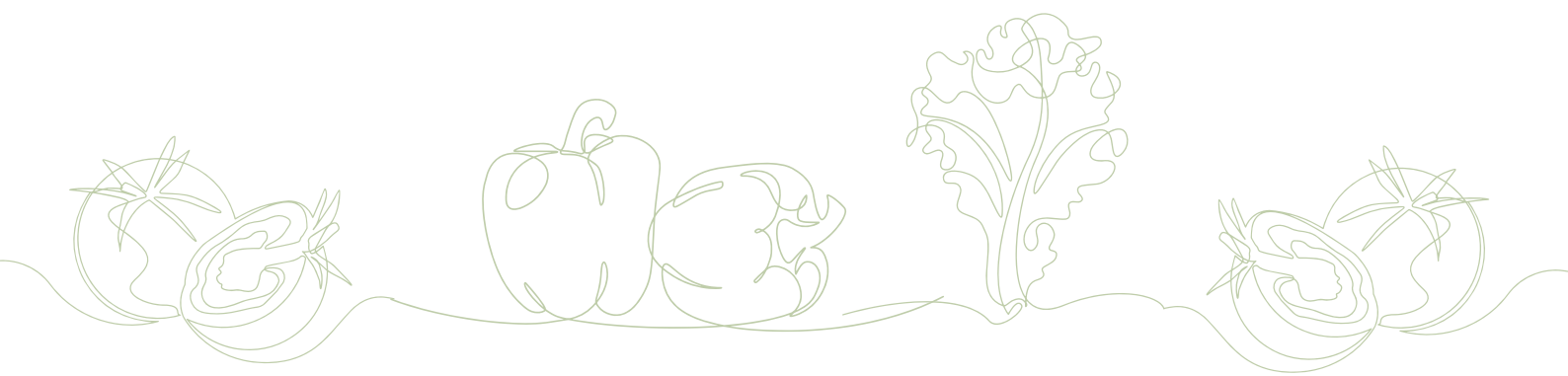


'If it wasn't for GAIN, I wouldn't have met those other business owners. It's a very big network. I now have a bigger picture than what I used to have.' –
Nafula Sylvia


Christechel specialises in composite flour blended with silverfish, rice, and vitamin A maize to enhance food quality. The business is also **leveraging university student internships** to introduce **new product lines** and improve operations, through the technical assistance provided by the intern, **Nambuya Sonia**, and networking opportunities with other women-led businesses initiated by **CASCADE**.

Successes

- a. **Community-Based Marketing:** Uses churches, hospitals, and antenatal clinics to educate women on nutritious food options.
- b. **Internship Success:** Hosting students who provide **technical assistance** to develop **new, market-ready product lines**.
- c. **Women & Youth Empowerment:** Providing jobs and skills training to women and young professionals in the nutrition sector.



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