



**MD 104**

**NSR IR Project Proposal, 2023 – 2025**

**Creating Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture**



**NSR meeting in Reykjavik, January 2022**

## Contents

1	Summary .....	- 3 -
2	Introduction .....	- 3 -
3	Overall project description .....	- 4 -
3.1	Location .....	- 4 -
3.2	Goal.....	- 4 -
3.3	Objective and beneficiaries .....	- 4 -
3.4	Project summary.....	- 5 -
3.5	Complementary schemes .....	- 6 -
4	Project Management .....	- 6 -
4.1	Overall responsibility .....	- 6 -
4.2	Local project support.....	- 6 -
4.2.1	Joseph Male and the Avail Group.....	- 6 -
4.2.2	Fruits of the Farm .....	- 7 -
5	Sustainability and environmental project issues.....	- 7 -
6	Budget.....	- 8 -
7	Appendix - Local Community Development .....	- 9 -
7.1	Uganda and the agricultural sector .....	- 9 -
7.2	LAN focus areas .....	- 9 -

## 1 Summary

Lions Norway (MD 104) has for the period 2023 – 2025 developed a NSR IR Project Proposal Application titled **“Creating Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture”**. The project is set in the Aruba region and build around the **Ayiribu Primary School** which is proposed as a starting point for a broader **Local Community Development** plan being the overall objective of the initiative.

Uganda’s economic growth and development relies heavily on the agricultural sector. An intervention towards empowerment through agriculture touches a great number of beneficiaries and creates a great impact.

The model project will focus at facilitating integrated sustainable approaches that empower the community to harness their land resource in a sustainable way and be able to create a sound and productive livelihood. The project will be a focal point for the region for; knowledge sharing and modern farming skills, exposure to best practices, connectivity of farmers, and a value-chain development centre. At the model project, one will pilot and champion modern farming techniques that demonstrate and ensure that farmers can move from subsistence farming to commercial profitable and sustainable farming and create productive employment in the region.

An important element to underline related to the project is that Lions Norway has been present for many years in the region and has an in-depth knowledge of the site and the local project representatives. Another imperative element is the sustainability focus of the project - represented by the objective that the involved local individuals ultimately shall drive the project forward on a self-governing basis.

**The overall budget for the project is \$ 114,000 -**

## 2 Introduction

The Lions Nordic Cooperation Council (NSR) is a cooperation body of the Lions organisations in all the Nordic countries. NSR was founded already in 1962. NSR has been running many humanitarian relief projects during the years. The projects have been financed using NSR’s common funds and every country in its turn has had a possibility to suggest project ideas. At length, many of the projects dealt with renovating houses and infrastructures for humanitarian relief purposes in the formerly communist bloc countries, but in recent times the scope has been geographically widened.

MD 104 has for the period 2023 – 2025 developed a NSR IR Project Proposal Application which is detailed in this document. The project is titled **“Creating Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture”**.

As a backdrop for the application a description of the agricultural sector in Uganda is included as appendix (Local Community Development) to this document. This section also explains the strategy Lions Aid Norway (LAN) has adopted with respect to Rural Development / Local Community Development and which is underpinning this application.

### 3 Overall project description

#### 3.1 Location

The project is set in the West Nile Area (northwest of Uganda) in the district of Arua.

This is in the same area MD 104 has built an eye health clinic, with an associated outpatient clinic at Nebbi General Hospital, built by LAN. In the same town (Nebbi) is **Ayiribu Primary School** - which is proposed as a starting point for a local community agriculture and local community development project.



#### 3.2 Goal

The goal of getting involved in this local community is to improve the quality of life and opportunities for children / young people and other vulnerable groups in 1500 households through training in sustainable and commercial agriculture.

By establishing micro-vegetable gardens, households will have a better and more nutritious diet, greater food security and the opportunity to increase household income. The fact that Lions already has built an outpatient clinic in the area also provides good opportunities to improve the health service.



#### 3.3 Objective and beneficiaries

The project will primarily aim to improve household incomes and nutrition in homes and schools through intensive micro vegetable farms, and food security. In summary:

- Improve on food security and nutrition in the community
- Create alternative employment through agriculture
- Improve on household incomes
- Promote environment conservation and protection through promoting best farming practices
- Enhance skills development through practical on farm-based learning for the pupils, teachers, and youths who become pioneer trainers for the community.

Target Beneficiaries:

- Pupils in Schools
- Youths
- Rural women
- Underprivileged young agripreneurs
- 14-17 years old school dropouts who have not been well targeted under various programs.

### 3.4 Project summary

Project idea	<p>Develop demonstration gardens for vegetable gardens at the school with the objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training in the cultivation of quality vegetables suitable for commercial trade</li> <li>• Support with seeds and basic training in modern agricultural methods</li> <li>• Harvesting and processing / storage after harvesting</li> <li>• Support and help in organizing the farmers</li> <li>• Support for the establishment of a forum for farmers with a focus on learning and exchange of experience</li> <li>• Support in marketing</li> </ul>
Area	Ayiribu Primary School in Nebbi - Proposed as a starting point for the village development project
Number of inhabitants	The starting point is 1500 households (uncertain of the total number of inhabitants)
About the school	Ayiribu Primary School - a school for deaf and blind children. There are a total of about 2,100 children in the area. Unknown number of students at the school. The school is in possession of an area of 40 hectares that can be made available for a farmer training project. There is also a need for more and better learning tools for the deaf and blind children at school
Agriculture in the area	Lack of organization and training means that the status today is the production of a limited selection of food for own consumption, and with good opportunities for more efficient operation and a larger selection of what is produced through a sustainable model for training. With such training, households' incomes can be increased, diet improved and thus help to improve living conditions
Local Lions	There is today an active Lions Club in Arua - located in the same region
Export opportunities	The area borders the DRC Congo and South Sudan, and is a strategically important trading point between Uganda and the surrounding countries

### 3.5 Complementary schemes

To implement the sustainable agriculture and local community development project, there will be several complementary schemes that are important elements of the project. Three examples of such schemes are outlined below:

Eye health clinic	Need to be revitalized. The clinic is in Nebbi, and is a good starting point for future health projects
Water	The school has a well, but this no longer works due to rusty pipes and wear / lack of maintenance. There is also a need to streamline the operation of wells using solar power. The area has challenges with water for agriculture due to instability during rainy seasons
Toilet Facility	Improved hygiene and sanitation at the school

## 4 Project Management

### 4.1 Overall responsibility

Lions Aid Norway (LAN) will have the overall responsibility for the NSR project and will in this respect report project progress and information regularly to the NSR IR Committee.

### 4.2 Local project support

In Uganda, LAN has for several years had a professional and successful support from David Mutayisa and his NGO, Spice of Life (SOL), and has prolonged his contract to have an experienced project manager on the ground. <https://spiceoflife-ug.org/>

With respect to agriculture knowledge and experience, LAN has established cooperation with Joseph Male and the Avail Group, and this organisation will provide the knowledge base and guidance with respect to the NRS project proposed. More information on the Avail Group in the sections below and <http://www.availgroup.org/>

#### 4.2.1 Joseph Male and the Avail Group

Joseph Male is the founder of the Avail Group. Joseph is an agricultural entrepreneur and a rural innovation practitioner, developing and supporting community development through innovative sustainable farming! He developed the demonstration gardens to gain a sustainable livelihood which soon grew into the Avail group with his passion to interact with nature through farming. The Avail Group is made up of 4 operations, which includes Consultancy, Fruits of Faith Farm (see below) and Avail Agriculture Sales.





#### 4.2.2 Fruits of the Farm

The Fruits of Faith farm is Avail's main demonstration garden and commercial growing programme. The farm provides a base from where to operate the Avail group and allows them to provide practical training and education to commercial farmers, entrepreneurs, start-up businesses, communities, and young people. The gardens allow to share knowledge on the importance of irrigation systems, the use of innovative methods of increasing yields and crop protection and highlight how to incorporate a microclimate into the gardens to address climate change. They provide tours, demonstrations, training courses and even camps to suit everyone's needs.



### 5 Sustainability and environmental project issues

The Government of Uganda has issued a “[Second National Development Plan](#)” which prioritizes investment in Agriculture as one of the three key growth opportunities. Focus will be on strengthening agricultural research; implementing the single spine extension system<sup>1</sup>; technology adaptation at the farm level; increasing access to and effective use of critical farm inputs; promoting sustainable land use and soil management; increasing access to agricultural finance with specific options for women farmers; and strengthening agricultural institutions for effective coordination and service delivery.

LAN's NSR application project “Creating Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture” delivers on several of the focus areas referred above, as well as being compliant with many of the 17 integrated [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) adopted by the United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Furthermore, the project is in line with LCIF's mission to empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding. With reference to the stated policies, and section 3.5 above, some project elements (non-exhaustive list) can be revealed. These elements are examples (dependent on the location) that can be collectively or individually applied with respect to a local community development plan which is initiated by this Sustainable Agriculture Project,

- Soil testing and seed selection – irrigation and green house technology
- Solar-powered well pump / water collection / water irrigation systems
- Rainwater harvesting from roofs and large tank collection (“Water for Production”)
- High quality solar cell / battery systems to limit maintenance and avoid hydrocarbon fuels
- Support to the deaf / blind children at the school – tools and aid, e.g. library
- Rabbit / pig / fish farming for nutrition and fertilizer purpose
- Tree planting – sustainable forest development

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<sup>1</sup> Coordination of extension service delivery countrywide both in public and private sectors

It is important to underline is that Lions Norway has been present for many years in the Arua District and consequently has an in-depth knowledge of the project location and the local project representatives. Another imperative element is the sustainability focus of the project - represented by the objective that the involved local individuals ultimately shall drive the project forward on a self-governing basis.

## 6 Budget

The project application covers the first year of the community development program. Below is a coarse implementation plan (1 year) and the corresponding budget.

ITEM	ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS	DURATION	BUDGET \$
1.Orientation Training Progam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key stakeholder engagement</li> <li>Mind-set change training</li> <li>Farmer group organization</li> <li>Micro gardening clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 pilot region demo-site identified and established</li> <li>-5 farmer groups of 15 farmers each</li> <li>School Agricultural clubs</li> <li>A Community Extension Team on each village</li> </ul>	6 months	25,000
2. Demo Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water for production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar powered production well</li> </ul>	2-6 weeks	27,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery structure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional nursery raising green-house units at the school</li> </ul>	1 month	20,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigation support 1 acre model at the school.</li> </ul>	1 month	7,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, nursery trays and peatmoss etc.</li> </ul>		30,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apprenticeship training prog. (<i>To start after the first pilot</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools club</li> <li>Drop- outs, young women</li> <li>Get certified training level 2 and 3 under DIT</li> </ul>	6 months model	Later
3. Toilet Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hygiene and sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Unit</li> </ul>	1 months	5,000
4.Value Chain (Focusing at reducing harvesting and post harvesting losses)  <i>To be discussed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training (marketing, finance, cottage level processing)</li> <li>Storage facility / &amp; pack house</li> <li>Delivery Van/truck</li> <li>Community outreach vehicle</li> <li>Value addition technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing gaps in Value chain</li> </ul>	Continuous	Work In Progress
Total				\$ 114,000



## 7 Appendix - Local Community Development

### 7.1 Uganda and the agricultural sector

Uganda's economic growth and development relies heavily on the agricultural sector which employs about 65% of the working population, of which 73% are youth. The biggest number of these youth in agriculture are women reside in rural and peri-urban areas where agriculture is the major economic activity. The youth make up the largest percentage of Uganda's population. Over 92% of the youth in employment are poor and they represent some of the biggest cohorts when it comes to extreme poverty. An intervention towards empowerment through agriculture touches a great number of beneficiaries and creates a great impact.

In the West-Nile region, youth and women un-employment is still at its peak with very limited productive employment alternatives which greatly hinders the region's socio-economic progress. Aware of this challenge, LAN is seeking to collaborate in establishing a community inclusion model project that can enhance community development and support on the empowerment process and employment for especially women and youths.

### 7.2 LAN focus areas

For more than 25 years, MD 104 has had eye health as its focus, with "side activities" such as godchildren, schools, water well exploration drilling and Aid in Meeting (AIM), as well as ad hoc activities such as refugee work and disaster relief.

The world, however, is changing and thus also the needs and directions for aid and relief work. This is appreciated by MD 104 and a new Strategy was approved at the National Convention in May 2021.

The Strategy approved builds on the experiences and investments Lions Aid Norway (LAN) has made. LAN will continue to focus on health, education, and water, *but the new Strategy entails an important change of course and takes a far more holistic perspective than before. LANs main segments are women, children and young people, and the primary areas are Uganda, Malawi, and Zambia. Rural Development / Local Community Development is a new area that precisely illustrates this holistic perspective.*

Consequently, LAN's focus areas will to a lesser extent be realized through the construction of buildings, but will be based on *small-scale collaborative, sustainable and "help to self-help" investments, in collaboration with local- and state authorities, NGOs and local Lions, realized as part of new Local Community Development projects.* Small-scale agricultural activities will probably be prominent.

The plan is significantly aimed at civil society, both in terms of content and operations, by stimulating self-directed and income-generating local activities that promote and build on our selected areas of health, water, and education. Under the help of the self-help mindset, LAN will thus at the same time contribute to achieving overall goals which are to fight hunger and safeguard the environment. It all comes together.

A significant change is that centrally managed activities in LAN are to a much greater extent linked to Lions clubs and zone activities in Norway in order to maximize the total effect, motivate and stimulate to cooperation.

