



## Experience by Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD)

In Yumbe (East Africa/Uganda)

In 2017, Uganda hosted 1.4 million refugees with about 300,000 South Sudanese refugees living in the Bidibidi refugee settlement. The Office of the Prime Minister provided them with land for farming, but it was mostly infertile and located far from the settlements. Therefore, refugees could not plant enough crops for household consumption and income generation.

**AFARD empowered refugee leaders of Farmer Field Schools to negotiate for land with the host community.**

### IMPACT

- Refugees gained access to land closer to their residences
- Proximity of farmland made women's household & farming chores easier
- Promotion of peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities
- Food and nutrition security improved

### Experience description

AFARD set up farmer field schools in Bidibidi settlement, trained refugees on how to get access to farm land for themselves and provided them with information on Ugandan land laws. Consequently, refugees from the FFS took the lead in identifying landlords and negotiating with them. To support the negotiation, AFARD gave tree seedlings to the landlords as incentives. Refugees thus gained long-term access to 225 acres of close farm land allowing them to secure their livelihoods. The proximity of the farm land also made it easier for women to handle their household and farming chores. One challenge for farmers still remains though, as the community land lacks support services.



### Other characteristics



#### BENEFICIARIES

- South Sudanese refugees, esp. women farmers, gain access to fertile and large lands
- Ugandan landlords receive woodlots
- Host communities in general benefit from better social cohesion



#### CHALLENGES

- Lack of motivation for landlords to grant access to land
- Lack of access to support services e.g. water, latrines or shelter on host community land



#### LESSONS LEARNED

- Refugee leaders should take lead in land negotiations
- Refugees can motivate landlords by planting woodlots for them
- NGOs need to engage with UNHCR and OPM for land access negotiations