



Experience by PALM Corps

In Rhino Camp (East Africa/Uganda)

A major concern during the recent refugee crisis in Northern Uganda was the need to achieve food security for refugees. While World Food Programme provided them with some food items to survive, PALM Corps provided seeds for food security (balanced diet) and income.

The main **problem** was to find a fair rationale for seed distribution.

Main characteristics

- One-time seed distribution based on nutrition needs
- Beneficiaries were receiving inputs from several projects
- Amount of seeds did not match availability of land and household workforces
- Some beneficiaries sold off seeds



Experience description

Conventionally, projects (in the region) would select beneficiaries based on vulnerability only. PALM Corps developed a three stage selection method instead: 1. Nomination by local leaders 2. Vulnerability assessment by field project officers and 3. Approval by the community. While this method created more transparency, it did not consider social impacts of calling out nepotism. Additionally, PALM Corps innovated seed distribution based on household nutrition needs instead of standard quantity for all. This led to surplus seeds being sold by some households. The reason being that a) some households received too many seeds compared to the land and workforce available and b) some beneficiaries received seeds from several projects. Another problem was that seed distribution took place only once.



Other characteristics



REASONS FOR FAILURE

- Lack of data on all relevant factors for decision-making on beneficiaries selection
- Inadequate sharing of information on beneficiaries among NGOs
- Different perception of fairness in selection
- One-time distribution



LESSONS LEARNED

- For effective coordination between NGOs and better decision-making - it's important to share information on beneficiaries
- One time distribution of inputs is not favourable
- It is important to promote preservation of local seeds



CORRECTIVE MEASURES

- Distribute inputs in reducing amounts over project cycle
- Decision-making should include farmers own capacity assessment
- Coordination among NGOs and data collection on relevant factors