

MREDF Department Report 2022 for Uganda

1. Introduction

This report presents MREDF Department in Uganda implemented activities, milestones, achievements and challenges during Quarter two of the year (April-June 2022). Generally, the quarter has been quite a busy period for MREDF Department. The major activities carried out by MREDF Department during the quarter were: business partnership with Hey Honey, supporting the process of group loan applications, support monitoring of Deaf trainees at World Ventured Buwambo, efforts to encourage DMI loan recipients to repay, and supporting visits by DMI and the main donor for DMI International Kathi Ediger who was in Uganda for a week.

2. Business partnership between DAU and Hey Honey, Norway

During the quarter, we successfully established business partnership between DAU and Hey Honey, as a joint-venture IGA project for DAU. Hey Honey is based in Norway. Hey Honey buying the products from Uganda through DAU made by Tooro Gallery Company based in Fort portal, Western Uganda. As a result, a MOU between DAU and Hey Honey was signed regarding this partnership. In order to ensure this goes on as planned, a down payment (50%) was paid to Tooro Gallery to produce and process the products ready for shipping. The first consignment of products is expected to be sent to Norway in October this year. Leveraging on this, it will help in bringing other international business partners on board to support the work and IGA for DAU.



3. Supporting group loan applicants to apply for loans and their orientation

In the quarter, a total of 29 loan applicants were supported to apply for the group loans through the new Group Loan programme funded by DMI-M&R Ediger Development Fund. The DAU staff, Board and Bible school students were invited to attend the training, which brought a total number of 45 participants. This particular pioneer cohort of applicants were invited between 17th and 18th June 2022 hosted by Immanuel Church of the Deaf for orientation on the Group Loan programme, and provide with useful knowledge and skills on business and financial literacy to ensure that they use the loans properly, engage in good and sustainable Income generating activities and repay the loans.



The group loan applicants during the workshop at ICD Makerere

4. Support monitoring of sponsored Interns at Ideas Workshop in Buwambo

In the quarter, we visited and provided support monitoring to the eight Deaf interns at Ideas Workshop who are actualising themselves with the world of work and acquiring skills in vocational marketing. During the visit, it was observed that some of the interns are generally experienced challenges in terms of health. One student Robbinah was bit by a dog and was rushed to Entebbe hospital for further treatment. The few others occur to get sickness but always being treated. Appreciate the opportunity provided to them, look forward to entering into self-employment and work to live a sustainable life.

5. Contact with DMI loan recipients

During the quarter, we proactively contacted individual loaners who acquired loans from DMI International to repay. They were positive about repayments and look forward to completing their loans. Otherwise, they still appreciate the loan support provided by DMI International through DAU, which has encouraged them to engage in useful IGAs, acquire assets and have high prospects for living independent and sustainable lives.

6. DAU Business Van

The DAU business Van, purchased with support from MRDEF, has already started doing business. The van is one of the major Income Generating projects for DAU. A number of clients from different NGOs and companies have already registered with us to hire the van and promised to support our business. Going forward, efforts will be put on encouraging our customers to do repeat hires and marketing to ensure that other clients hired our van. Not only our van but we also work together with other vans for Jeremiah Mboya and Mark Lwanga. As we share the business to support each other. We are glad to report that the van has not encountered problems. It is in very good mechanical condition and well maintained. The policy and guidelines for using and hiring of the van have been developed which will improve operations of the business.



Van poster

7. Strengthening DAU's Govern Issues

In a bid to strengthen DAU's policies in the best interest of external donors, Anti-Corruption, Whilist and Safeguarding Policies have been developed for DAU. The aim of the policies is to demonstrate DAU's commitment to the upcoming external donors and with the safeguarding policy, DAU is committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults against sexual abuse, exploitation and harm. This will set down the procedures for reporting and recording suspicions, disclosures, and allegations of abuse and exploitation within DAU.

8. Exchange support to other African Deaf Action organisations under MREDF Work for DMI International

During the quarter, the Project Development Officer provided support to other Deaf Action chapters in Africa on the MREDF group loan approach and kept communicating with DMI International Development Coordinator. Support was provided to Deaf Action Tanzania, Zambia and DR Congo on the process of the Group Loan Approach. As a result, Deaf Action Tanzania has already launched the new group loan approach while Deaf Action Zambia and DR Congo are in process to launch the programme.

9. Supporting visits for DMI International Development Coordinator and Main Donor for DMI International Kathi Ediger

During the quarter, DAU through MREDF Department coordinated two monitoring visits were done by DMI International Development Coordinator Matthijs and the main donor for DMI International Kathi Ediger as they visited Uganda from 25th June to 3rd July 2022 where they also interfaced with the work of DMI in Uganda and different projects under MREDF. Similarly, on 1st July, the founder of MREDF, Kathi, also visited Uganda where she supervised the different projects in Uganda from 2nd to 9th July 2022. Kathi appreciated the good work we are doing towards MREDF projects in Uganda and pledged continued cooperation.



Kathi during the monitoring visit to one of the interns



Matthijs during interactions with Brian Mubiru, one of the MREDF beneficiaries in Uganda

Photo highlights



Above: Matthijs and Kathi during meeting at UNAD





One of the loan applicants receiving a certificate after the orientation workshop



Loan applicants during the orientation/training workshop at ICD

