Our commitment
Caritas Switzerland is committed to a world without poverty that is guided by solidarity, justice and peace. We provide professional, effective and efficient help to people in need irrespective of their political or religious beliefs, gender or ethnicity. The aim of all programmes is to reduce poverty, strengthen people’s resilience, ensure that their rights are respected and expand their capabilities to realise goals they have reasons to value. We are an independent Swiss aid organisation and a member of Caritas Internationalis, a network comprising more than 160 national Caritas organisations.

Contact persons:
The following persons are responsible for Caritas Switzerland’s activities in Uganda:

Kathrin Wyss
Programme and Country Director
Phone: +41 41 419 22 39 (Switzerland); +256 775 787 436 (Uganda)
E-mail: kwyss@caritas.ch
Lucerne, Switzerland and Kampala, Uganda

Esther Nabukeera Sempila
Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor
Phone: +256 772 479 043
E-mail: esempiira@caritas.ch
Kampala, Uganda
Why we are here

Caritas Switzerland has been working with local and international civil society and government organisations in providing access to education and economic opportunities for young and vulnerable people in Uganda. Employment is a vital source of income that empowers people and strengthens social cohesion.

Caritas Switzerland has been engaged in Uganda for over 20 years. During this time, the country underwent substantial transformation: After almost two decades, the war with the Lord Resistance Army ended. Subsequently, the majority of internally displaced people moved out of refugee camps and returned to their areas of origin. The necessary structures and institutions enabling a democratic system and a market economy are now in place. However, Uganda is still one of the world’s poorest countries. The dynamic economy and fast growing business centres are hiding the fact that the vast majority of the population is very young, poorly educated and unemployed. At the same time, government service delivery is compromised by a high degree of corruption and challenged by rapid demographic growth. Politics are contested, gender inequalities are pronounced, and natural resources disputed. In addition, the country is vulnerable to natural disasters and to the negative effects of climate change.

Caritas Switzerland’s Uganda Programme responds to some of the most pressing of these challenges. It aims at the socio-economic empowerment and integration of youth and other vulnerable people, so as to enable human development, cover basic needs, strengthen resilience and enhance equity in Uganda. In line with the principles of the Rights Based Approach, the programme works in the Fields of Activity of Food Security and Markets, and Education and Income. Geographically, the focus is on Uganda’s greater north, where poverty is most severe, but may expand to other regions of the country in the future, in view of the replication potential of most approaches.

Caritas Switzerland’s engagement is fully aligned with the national development priorities set by the Government of Uganda to transform the Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country by 2040.

Who we are

Caritas Switzerland has been planning and implementing its interventions in Uganda with partner organisations from within the local civil society that have a proven track record of success in delivering innovative solutions to complex problems in the areas of education and income, and food security and markets.

At the core of Caritas Switzerland’s intervention logic in Uganda is the idea of strengthening systems and structures in order to promote long-lasting change and genuine progress within societies. Projects are focusing on family, clan, community or institutional structures, and on building up their support capacities to better respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals, groups, and populations.

At the same time, Caritas Switzerland is devoted to the development of its partner organisations in order to best align them with their rapidly changing and complex environment through organisational learning, knowledge management, and the transformation of organisational norms and values.

The number of partner organisations in Uganda currently stands at three. They were selected based on meritocratic principles and abide by non-partisanship and non-discrimination in carrying out their work. They employ roughly 60 staff and reach out to approximately 10,000 beneficiaries per year. Caritas Switzerland aims to increase its partner portfolio to six organisations by the end of its International Cooperation Programme 2020.

The Uganda programme expects to operate with an annual gross volume of CHF 2 million by the end of 2020. This involves having a permanent presence in Uganda, including two to five staff. Core competencies are in monitoring and evaluating the efficient and effective implementation of ongoing projects in order to ensure and demonstrate their impact on behalf of our beneficiaries and our donors; and in developing innovative projects with the potential for significant impact by being quick to identify, explore and adopt relevant new ideas.

Facts and Figures

- Engagement in Uganda: since 1994
- Mean annual no. of beneficiaries: 10’000
- Main partners: Advance Afrika, Christian Counseling Fellowship, Teso Initiative for Peace
- Main donors: European Union, SDC, private foundations

Key achievements

- Between 600 and 1’000 children and youth per annum provided with access to basic education, vocational training or entrepreneurship skills.
- Between 300 and 500 parents/caretakers per annum economically empowered through access to Village Savings and Loan Associations, entrepreneurship skills and/or start-up kits.