TRANSFORMING RURAL LIVES

HRR

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020

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Our Mission:

To empower rural people to build resilient communities and attain socioeconomic equity through creative and community-led action.

Our Vision:

IIRR envisions an equitable world in which rural people achieve their full potential, living a life of dignity and self-reliance in harmony with the environment.



Our priorities

As the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the world at an unprecedented scale, the urgent need to address food insecurity and limited access to health and financial services has challenged many nations.

While mitigating the human and economic toll worldwide is the top priority, we at IIRR are gravely concerned about the underlying problems this emergency exposes, especially for the most at risk for severe consequencesolder people, poor households, the undernourished, and communities living in remote areas with no access to sufficient health services or assistance.

Committed to transform rural lives

Dear readers,

2020 was a year unlike any other, full of enormous challenges and hardships, but also of new opportunities for growth and development. At IIRR, we remain determined that we can all be a part of meaningful solutions to the world's greatest obstacles by working together, being courageous, and embracing new ideas that can transform lives.

This annual report reflects upon our dedication to uplift the lives of the most marginalized communities, whose range of unmet needs, in addition to the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, makes life in rural areas even more difficult. Across Africa and Asia, IIRR-supported programs create opportunities for a better life and deliberately empower smallholder farmers, women, and the younger generations in rural areas.

Our focus remains firmly on researching and implementing practical solutions that deliver effective results in transforming rural life within our five thematic areas of economic empowerment, education, environment, health, and food systems. COVID-19 impacted every part of our work, from our focus to what we can accomplish, to the different sets of needs of rural communities we supported during the pandemic. Our workers around the world often have been unable to continue programs as they were originally designed before the health crisis.

Despite challenges brought about by the pandemic, 2020 was a historic year for our organization. IIRR celebrated 60 years of hard work in effecting positive change in the lives of rural people around the world. This milestone marked six decades of meaningful, impactful action and research on the ground and has made us well fit to continue to support global action, particularly as it relates to sustainable development globally.

As one of the world's leading rural development organizations, IIRR also supports the UN and its development partners to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020 our programs saw several impressive milestones, which are covered in more detail in this report. From the initiation of a 26-month research project into CSV in Asia, the completion of a rapid biodiversity assessment of the peatland in the Philippines, the education of over 2,000 children in cattle camps in South Sudan, and improvement of salinity and drought-resilient crop production, family nutrition, and market linkage of over 2,000 households in Myanmar, to our efforts in raising awareness on sexual and gender-based violence in rural communities in northern Kenya, our work's focus remains on finding practical solutions that will transform rural lives while protecting our planet.

Looking forward, IIRR's implementation of the 2025 Agenda will require significantly enhanced, private investments. Our idea is to engage with the private sector to generate an increased social and environmental impact alongside a financial return and enable effective programming and the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Rest assured that all IIRR teams around the world will continue to work tirelessly to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, from providing nutrition-sensitive food aid, strengthening rural livelihoods, teaching communities to cope and bounce back, to supporting and planning their longer-term recovery.

We believe that positive change and groundbreaking progress continue to be possible in the COVID-19 era and beyond as long as we continue to work together and stand true to our number one priority: helping the most dire populations help themselves.

We hope that readers who are not already part of the IIRR family of supporters and participants will seek out opportunities to join us in our efforts to broaden the success of community-led development efforts throughout the developing world. Please reach out to us at us.office@iirr.org.

Best regards,

Ricardo Anzaldua Chairman, IIRR Board of Trustees

ter Williams Þeter Williams

President, IIRR

Addressing rural challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 was a year of unprecedented struggle for the world as many nations faced unfamiliar challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This health crisis ignited a global emergency which led to severe economic consequences. The pandemic is expected to push an estimated 71 million additional people around the world into extreme poverty. Combatting the virus demanded strengthened solidarity and immediate and sustained international action.

Now more than ever, sustainable, practical, and scalable solutions are a powerful force for change, particularly when they involve and empower poor rural communities. Economic growth on its own does not change lives, but investing in the resilience and participation of local communities can make a lasting difference. IIRR understands the unique circumstances of rural communities. For instance, to farm successfully, smallholders need secured access to land, water, and affordable agricultural inputs. Additionally, these communities require better access to markets, financial services, and farming technologies in order to access up-to-date and reliable information.

IIRR's Integrated School Nutrition Model (ISNM) is just one example of a project that has had great success using the existing resources within rural communities. According to data from 2019, within the 8 years of the model's development and implementation, 81,055 children have been given supplementary feeding and approximately 659,893 learners were educated about nutrition and gardening.

The success of the ISNM has allowed it to be scaled out, now mainstreamed by the Philippine government in 215 schools nationwide IIRR is committed to supporting programs that place poor rural people at their center, and we will continue to equip them with skills to empower them to grow and earn more.

Just as importantly, IIRR is determined to transform rural communities economically and socially and to promote gender equality and inclusiveness.



We strengthened capacities of women and local communities through nutrition-sensitive programming in the Philippines and other countries where we work.

Nutrition-focused food aid in rural communities

Our community-level response to COVID-19 lockdowns focused on promoting healthy eating and sustainable food security during and after quarantine. It involved distribution of food packs composed of locallysourced, nutritious foods to families with members who are pregnant and lactating, infants, and children in their first 1,000 days of life.

The contents of the food aid were sourced from partner farmers who are engaged in IIRR projects involving the promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices.

Nearly 8,000 people were reached through this project in IIRR's four learning communities in the Philippines, namely: Maragondon and Silang, Cavite; Guinayangan, Quezon; and Ivisan, Capiz.

Advancing financial literacy

Revitalizing rural economies is an essential part of our work. Strengthening small entrepreneurs in rural communities has never been more urgent than it was in 2020.

To diversify the sources of income of assisted rural communities in Uganda, IIRR led financial training programs. As a part of this initiative, over **36,000 beneficiaries** were trained in advanced financial literacy and advanced business development skills.

The impact of the Community Savings and Credit Group was significant, increasing their savings portfolio and increasing group members share value by an average of **\$80 to \$270** per month, with more than 70% of membership being female and more than 15% being young adults aged 18-30 years. These participants were also linked to more than 10 formal financial institutions.

Strengthening rural economies

We believe that economic empowerment of rural women as farmers, entrepreneurs, and leaders is important in alleviating poverty, increasing food security, and achieving gender equality.

IIRR enhanced the trade and enterprise capacities of 80 youth and women livestockbased enterprises through capacity building, remunerative market linkages, and innovation grants. This resulted in increased production, incomes, and adoption of sustainable business practices.

As a result, over **42,000 pastoralists** increased their trade and became resilient from climate shocks.

Ten livestock markets in Kenya and Ethiopia were transitioned into business hubs providing market linkage and diversified support services (insurance, finance, agrovets, market information, transport etc.) to livestock traders.



Aligning our work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IIRR's unique focus on SDG attainment in rural communities places the needs of the people at the forefront of everything we do. In 2020, even as we put significant emphasis on health programs in the face of COVID-19, our work contributed to the SDGs within each of our five primary thematic areas.

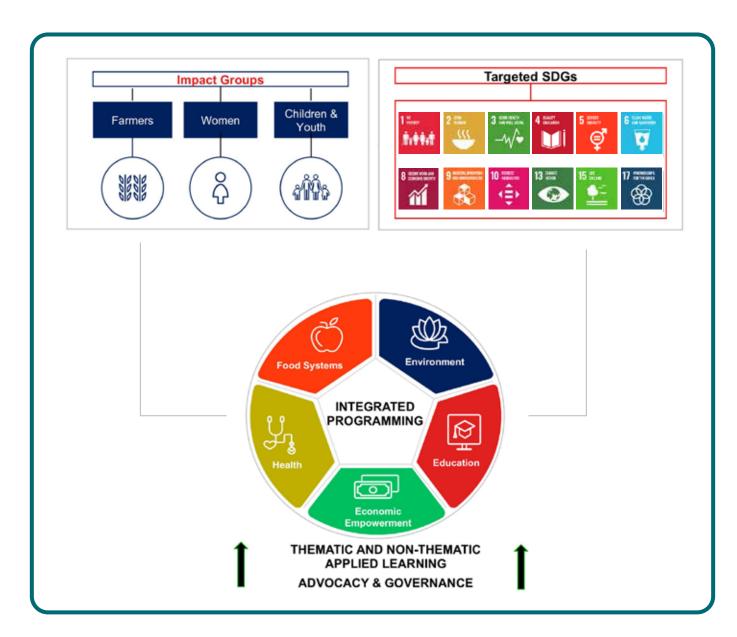
In the category of Health and in line with SDG #3- Good Health and Wellbeing, IIRR developed programs to manage disaster risk reduction and establish village health and nutrition services, among other health initiatives. Our COVID-19 response, however, contributed to more than just health focused SDGs. Our work in strengthening food systems and improving livelihoods through our COVID-19 response also contributed to SDGs #2-Zero Hunger, #1-No Poverty, and #8-Decent Work and Economic Growth. Additionally, in the thematic area of Economic **Empowerment**, IIRR programs of Financial Inclusion, Social Protection, Enterprise Development, and Securing Assets targeted SDGs #1-No Poverty, #5-Gender Equality and #8-Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Our Environment focused programs, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Reduction, have worked toward SDGs #6-Clean Water and Sanitation, #13-Climate Action, and #15-Life on Land. In 2020 IIRR continued to research and implement new, groundbreaking solutions to climate concerns, and is proud to have also focused these efforts on empowering women in pursuit of gender equality.

IIRR's Education programs worked to achieve SDGs #4-Quality Education, and #5-Gender Equality. The programs within this theme this year included Access to enable inclusive and Equitable learning and Skill for Success to employ quality skilling, reskilling and upskilling opportunities for the vulnerable.

Finally, our programs with the thematic area of Food Systems have aimed to end hunger and achieve food security. Our Food Security and Nutrition and Agriculture initiatives have worked in pursuit of SDG #2-Zero Hunger, and continue to support the overall wellbeing of rural communities.

Our work this year has been in pursuit of these and other SDGs and our programs often interlap, contributing to a well-rounded response to the global challenges facing rural communities. IIRR is proud to be a part of the global push to attain the SDGs.



Across all thematic areas, IIRR aims to deliberately empower farmers, women, children, and youth. IIRR has also mindfully crafted the thematic areas and programs to contribute directly to select SDGs.



Scaling our impact

How we measure our impact

Our focus is on programs with strong results for improving the lives of rural poor. Our progress is reported quarterly (the Executive Board and Global Management Team, and the Annual Impact Report) and we seek opportunities to expand programs that enable us to reach more rural communities that are facing extreme poverty.

In recent years, we have increasingly strengthened our focus on measuring/tracking results. IIRR's 2020- 2025 Strategic Framework represents a pioneering initiative to sharpen and broaden the evidence base for measuring IIRR's impact.

In learning communities, IIRR, affected communities, and our local development partners learn together and jointly construct new poverty reduction models for wider replication and scaling. In the coming years, IIRR will continue to identify initiatives and technologies that work well in one country or region and derive insights in order to replicate a similar model in a similar community. We scale out/up initiatives and technologies that have worked in each community or clusters of communities in a country or a region to other communities within and outside the same country.

Replication and scaling out/up will be a shared responsibility between IIRR and all key development actors. The aim is to graduate hundreds of thousands from poverty and to ensure that the technologies are climate-smart and sustainable and do not harm our environment and natural resources. Simple, low-cost methods - like organizing exchange visits or conducting training- will be adapted to ensure widescale replication.

Where we work

IIRR maintains a strong presence in Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia where it has country programs in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. We also maintain a small office in New York City where the majority of board members live.

We support partners across the globe, working in some of the most challenging and complex environments through our international training courses. For 60 years, we have trained and collaborated with over 14,000 prefossionals in 46 countries to find solutions for ending poverty. Country program in Asia
 US Office
 Reached by our training programs

IIRR in numbers



375% increase

in individual farming income through adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture techniques



400% increase in farmer's incomes Chicken Raising techniques helped communities in Cambodia to increase their annual income



4 million children fed through our Integrated School Nutrition Model in the Philippines



Over 21,000 land titles of Certificates of Customary were distributed in Uganda, offering increased access and security for smallholder farming families





IIRR is dedicated to supporting rural communities around the world by collaborating with partners from different sectors.

Together with our development partners, we build on the unique assets and strengths of the rural people. We focus on learning what works for them through research, action, sharing, and enriching their knowledge. We then implement field programs that empower rural communities.

Today, IIRR continues to influence local and national agendas to mobilize political commitments, funding, and innovation necessary to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Our partners



How we work

We ensure that our results address the global challenges related to poverty, inequality, education, climate crisis, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace, and justice. We believe that poverty is interlocking with no simple solutions.

We are inspired by and follow **Dr. Yen's credo**, a set of operational principles which remind us of our continuous effort to build the following:







xcellence

IIRR is guided by highly professional work ethics that demand integrity and transparency in all aspects of our work.



teamwork

IIRR uses a multidisciplinary approach that places value on diversity, inclusiveness, and open communication to ensure all voices are heard.



individual qualities

At the workplace and at all times, IIRR's teams are guided by the '4Cs': Competence, Creativity, Character, and Commitment.

help.

Our Strategy 2020-2025

Transforming rural communities - now and in the future

The environment in which IIRR operates is constantly transforming. In order to respond dynamically to these changing conditions, we adopted a new Strategic Plan in 2020. It came into force in 2021 for a period of four years. This Strategy builds on the previous five-year strategy for 2015-2020.

To perform our work effectively, we intend to become more efficient, flexible, innovative, competitive, swifter in responding to the needs of the communities we are serving, and more agile in finding opportunities to transform rural communities.

Our new strategy will help us to do this. It focuses on ensuring we sustain and scale impact and tailor to the needs of each rural community with which we are working. At a glance, IIRR aims to increase core function staff capacity, engage more subject matter experts, and strengthen our fundraising capabilities.

IIRR also plans to standardize its process for onboarding partners/resources, strengthen knowledge management and sharing, and create staff development and retention tools.

Finally, IIRR aspires to employ knowledge sharing databases, develop IIRR virtual training programs and certifications (for both external and internal stakeholders alike), and invest in monitoring and evaluation data management.

2020 at a glance

2,110,000+

RURAL INDIVIDUALS HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM OUR PROGRAMS IN JUST A YEAR

36 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

2,000+

WOMEN AND GIRLS PREVENTED FROM SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

150 KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS PRODUCED



50,000+

PARTICIPATED IN OUR ONLINE SESSIONS AND CONFERENCES GLOBALLY

5,050 PASTORALIST STUDENTS RECEIVED QUALITY EDUCATION

104 RURAL COMMUNITIES BETTER TRAINED ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

40 schools trained on disaster risk reduction planning

What others say about IIRR during our 60th year

I didn't expect our school to reach such achievements and recognition."

But it makes us proud and happy to see that the schools and families we taught now have bountiful harvests from their own gardens."



IIRR has inspired hundreds of activists around the world to take on the issue of rural development as a central issue of justice, equity and sustainability."

IIRR's role in the field of rural development has been innovative, inspirational and groundbreaking."



IIRR means giving those with limited opportunities the chance to enhance their livelihood and fostering development for generations to come.

It's working alongside compassionate and driven individuals to support the goal of equitable livelihoods for rural communities.



IIRR's approach views rural people with dignity.

As someone who has lived half of her life in a rural and marginalized community, it is empowering to work with an Institute which doesn't "Other" the rural poor, but see Us as people with the capacity to be more!



[IIRR's ICT Training Program] was a golden chance for us.

The ICT training opened many other opportunities and changed the way we do things at a personal level and in school.



OUR PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

SOUTH SUDAN 54,000 farmers reached

KENYA 75,000 pastoralists engaged in increased trade

ZIMBABWE 300% increase in vegetable yields ETHIOPIA 50,000 women farmers linked to markets

UGANDA 42,140 + female entrepreneurs learned business and marketing skills

OUR PROGRAMS IN ASIA

MYANMAR 5,000 individuals learned climate smart agriculture

> CAMBODIA 44,600 + farmers trained resilient techniques in agriculture

PHILIPPINES 1,839,445 students learned about nutrition, environment & disaster risks information

our focus Economic Empowerment

Ensuring that rural people have access to financial services and are included in a growing economy is a vital component for improving rural life around the world.





ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS IN BRIEF

The Promoting Agricultural Extension and Business program in Uganda has increased average production from 40kgs to 800kg of soybean per acre, 120 kgs to 900kgs/acre of sunflower, 80kgs to 550kgs/acre of sesame and 150kgs to 700kgs/acre of ground nuts.



In Cambodia, IIRR's assistance has helped 761 farmers improve the application of the native chicken raising techniques, leading to decreased yield times (from 6 months to produce a 1.2 kg chicken to just 3.5 months) and has increased incomes from US\$265 a year to \$US1,050.



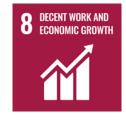
Through the Enhancing Market Response to Resilience in the Livestock Value Chain in Eastern Africa project, ten livestock markets in Kenya and Ethiopia were transitioned into business hubs, providing market linkage and a diversity of support services to livestock traders, leading to over 75,000 pastoralists engaged in increased trade.

IIRR programs on **Economic Empowerment**

contribute to the following UN SDGs:











IMPACT STORY: Understanding business essentials boosts small business in Uganda

Financial inclusion is a key component to addressing poverty reduction in rural communities, particularly for women. Understanding financial services and having improved access to transparent savings and credit options allow rural communities the opportunity for economic inclusion and self-sufficiency

Uganda's large rural population (38 million out of 53 million total inhabitants) has little to no access to financial services. The huge lending gap poses a limit for farmers and people in rural areas wanting to invest in their business, education, housing, and health. As of 2011, nearly 70% of the Ugandan population did not have access to formal financial services, including savings and credit.

In order to address this issue, IIRR has partnered with the Government of Uganda and the International Fund for Agriculture Development to implement the Project for Financial Inclusion in Rural Areas project. PROFIRA, launched in 2014, aims to widen access to financial services to Uganda's rural population as a means of combating poverty. It facilitates access to credit to rural people through Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOS) and the smaller Community Savings and Credit Groups (CSCGs). IIRR's support of the program has included the incorporation of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach into the project to improve access to credit for women. This method emphasizes the gender-balanced road to economic development goals and the role of gender justice in economic interventions.

As of 2020, PROFIRA and IIRR have helped 358,430 members to save in 12,453 newly established CSCGs with 76% being women and 43% being youth, while supporting 100,515 members in 3,529 matured CSCGs. Additionally, IIRR has worked closely with communities in consortium with Aridland Development and Caritas-Gulu to establish 311 new CSCGs. Actions taken to consolidate new groups included linking them to formal financial institutions and to the government and training 9,160 CSCG members on financial literacy and basic business development in 2018 alone. Furthermore, IIRR has been instrumental in training and supporting 260 mature CSCGs composed of women to form clusters and cooperatives to boost their agricultural productivity and sales.

IIRR's collaboration with the Ugandan government and other partners is contributing to the country's national push to reduce financial exclusion from 15% to 5% by 2022. Through years of collaborative initiatives, we are helping to reduce a major barrier to personal economic growth and inclusion



I had never kept any books of records until IIRR convened us in a 2-day training at Old Kampala. That time, I learned the value of record keeping. To be effective, I bought three books in which I started recording my daily expenses, debtors, and closing stock. Ever since, I'm now able to raise Ugx. 30,000 each day. Out of this, almost 16% (approximately Ugx. 4,800) is spent on food daily. My interaction with IIRR has helped me to expand my business networks. For the first time in my life. I receive business calls that sometimes overwhelm my capacity. This, not only means increased income - it brings new challenges as well. Such challenges include the need to expand my business including employing other women to satisfy my clients. It also means getting a bigger space than just one small room that also doubles as my bedroom and more capital investment. One important group work. Individually we can fight, but lesson I learned through this is the idea of together we can overcome poverty." ---- Nandudu Mbeera Aisha. married with 4 children from Kakajjo II - Bukesa Parish, Old Kampala

our focus Education

As Covid-19 and a global economic crisis take their toll on rural communities, how do we ensure that children, especially girls, are afforded the education they deserve?





EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN BRIEF



In South Sudan, IIRR's Integrated Field School Program has increased literacy levels by 35% with 1,200 students, 800 of which are girls, in 9 cattle camps.



NUMBER

The Implementation of TDH Echo Project on School DRR in Zimbabwe has trained a total of 51 community leaders and other influential people surrounding 4 targeted schools on disaster risk assessment and production of DRR plans.



IIRR programs on **Education** contribute to the following UN SDGs:





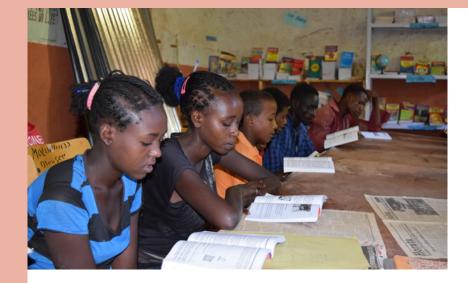














IMPACT STORY: Paving the way for a better pastoralist future

Better education for children in pastoralist communities is crucial to achieving a life out of poverty. The potential benefits of education are worth the effort for any pastoralist child. However, the Covid crisis poses new and unprecedented challenges for every child in these communities.

Over 200 million people around the world rely on pastoralism, a form of livestock grazing practiced by nomadic people, for their livelihoods. These communities, however, are often unable to meet the educational needs of their children due to the nomadic nature of their lifestyle. As of 2013, the rural literacy level in South Sudan was just 24%, the lowest in the world, with 70-90% of school-aged children not actively attending school. Promoting the education of children in these communities is of great importance to IIRR and has been the focus of multiple programs in South Sudan since 2016.

Specifically, IIRR has implemented the Pastoral Education and Integrated Field School (PLEFS) Program in South Sudan in collaboration with Norwegian People's Aid, FAO, and UNESCO. Focused on overcoming the learning gap for pastoral children, this program trains community facilitators over a 5-week period to deliver the Mobile Pastoralist Education Curriculum developed by UNESCO.

Each facilitator is designated to handle a specific category of learners; children, youth, and adults and three facilitators, one trained in each category, are attached to a cattle camp. The facilitators live and move with the cattle camp communities, conducting teaching and learning for members of the camp. Despite COVID-19 related challenges in the last year, the impact of this program has been significant. As of 2021, the program has benefited over 2,000 children, 640 youth and 480 adults in cattle camps in South Sudan. These communities are educated with the Mobile Pastoralist Education Curriculum, which is organized into three levels, and imparts knowledge on basic literacy and numeracy. This dynamic curriculum promotes well-rounded education, while still connecting topics to the communities' livelihoods and experience with livestock management. Although IIRR has run into challenges for continuing this program due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are lobbying the government to maintain the cohort for another 2 years so that learners can be supported as they enter mainstream primary education. Nonetheless, the Pastoral Education Program has set a strong foundation for future education in South Sudan's nomadic communities. IIRR also plans to introduce a skills program for those who will have attained basic literacy and numeracy to further develop their life skills.

IIRR's work has contributed to increased literacy rates, particularly amongst South Sudan's youth. Programs like the PLEFS are enabling the country's children to have significantly higher literacy rates than previous generations. As of 2018, children ages 15-24 have a literacy rate of 47.9%, whereas the general population of people 15 and older maintain a literacy rate of just 34.5%



Many girls and parents get surprised by my reading and writing skills. Because of this, some parents have begun supporting their daughters to enroll for literacy classes. We have formed a women's group and engage with the camp leaders to advocate for all girls to join the PLEFS Program. This is the only way we can prevent child marriages, which is rampant in cattle camps. I plan to take a loan to establish a nursery school near the cattle camp so that I teach the young children who cannot move when the cattle camp moves to another location."

> --- Mary Hayat, Student in IIRR PLEFS Program in South Sudan,

our focus Environment

The effects of climate change are harming rural areas around the world, proving that the future of rural agriculture depends on finding innovative, climate-smart, and sustainable practices for farming and development.



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS IN BRIEF



The Sowing Diversity equals Harvesting Security project in Uganda has helped 70% of rural farmers shift from using grass thatch houses to iron sheet houses.



IIRR has developed a series of training and informational manuals on Climate Smart Villages, which have been distributed to our rural communities in Southeast Asia.



2,000 households in Cambodia have improved salinity and drought-resilient crop production and IIRR programs have helped these communities develop 1,500 climate resilient farm plans.

IIRR programs on **Environment** contribute to the following UN SDGs:











IMPACT STORY: Restoring peatlands in the Philippines - protecting the planet

The recent biodiversity assessment that we conducted in the Leyte Sab-a peatland revealed a diverse range of wildlife species that are affected by ongoing land conversions such as construction and quarrying, slash-and-burn agriculture, and other illegal activities like forest logging and wildlife hunting. The 10-day assessment only gave us a glimpse of the range of effects of these activities but nevertheless reinforced the importance of peatland conservation and restoration.

The Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest in the Philippines is a vital part of the country's ecosystem. This wetland, which covers 1,936 sqm and spans over four villages, is constantly at risk for wildfires which degrade the peatlands and threaten the livelihoods of agricultural workers, as well as the environment. Fires are an annual occurrence at the Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest and dry out the peatlands, releasing carbon into the atmosphere, spreading fire rapidly, and making these disasters difficult to control. These fires also destroy the natural habitat of various species in the peatland and threaten the future of these fragile ecosystems.

This year, IIRR organized two distinct activities to address the needs of the peatland's communities as they relate to the at-risk wetlands. First, in April 2021, IIRR joined forces with People for Peat - a coalition made up of World Resources Institute Indonesia (WRI), Yayasan Inisiatif Dagang Hijau (YIDH), and Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC) - in organizing a webinar on peat fire prevention and management and postpeatland restoration. Secondly, in order to support the future protection of these ecosystems, IIRR collaborated with the Visayas State University (VSU) to conduct a rapid biodiversity assessment in the peatland, where a diverse range of wildlife species were discovered and identified. Our activities this year were implemented with help from the Women Enablers Advocates & Volunteers for Empowering and Responsive Solutions (WEAVERS), VSU, and the Environmental Legal Assistance, Inc. (ELAC), through the support of the Forest Foundation Philippines.

These two initiatives have only just begun impacting the local communities by helping educate about the importance of protecting the peatlands. In particular, the webinar on peat fire prevention and management was attended by more than 200 participants who represented national and local government agencies, academes, NGOs, and civil society organizations in Asia. Furthermore, the biodiversity assessment findings have allowed IIRR and its partners to make key policy recommendations that will protect the peatland's rich biodiversity. These recommendations have included the implementation of local legislation on strict protection zones and illegal hunting, an establishment of a buffer zone, and creation of a cohesive strategic local government plan for peatland protection and restoration. The push for peatland restoration by IIRR, the Philippine government, and other organizations has contributed to the reclamation of more than half of the Leyte Sab-a Peatland Forest's 3,088 hectares for agriculture.



It is so sad to see that the essence of the peatland's forest edge where the wildlife species from the lower side and the upper mountain of the peatland meet is not fully appreciated yet by the communities. The peatland could've been the best habitat for the 40 bird species. 5 reptiles, 6 amphibians and 6 mammals. They serve as indicators that the peatland is not just a barren land. This RBA is the foundation of the necessary research. Our findings proved that this wildlife is teaming with the whole peatland thus it is important that this information should reach the peatland's community to call for protection." - ! ---- Marvin Sarmiento, Wildlife **Biologist from the University of the Philippines**

our focus Food Systems

Could the pandemic mark a turning point in our approach to global food security and nutrition, bringing us closer to meeting the goal of zero hunger?



FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAMS IN BRIEF



27 local communities in Myanmar and Cambodia have been targeted by Climate-Smart Agriculture programs, engaging more than 2,500 farmers. In addition, IIRR in Cambodia has developed 1,500 Climate-Resilient farm plans.



The Promoting Agricultural Extension and Business program in Uganda has increased average production from 40kgs to 800kg of soybean per acre, 120 kgs to 900kgs/acre of sunflower, 80kgs to 550kgs/acre of sesame and 150kgs to 700kgs/acre of ground nuts.



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IIRR programs on Food Systems contribute to the following UN SDGs:





















IMPACT STORY: Building resilience through Climate-smart Villages (CSVs) in Southeast Asia

In Asia, smallholder farmers are providing good and healthy food. Thanks to IIRR's teaching of CSV techniques, families not only enhanced their income, but also improved the overall nutrition standing of the entire community. Through CSVs, these families had to make minimal adjustments during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Many countries in Asia are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to high exposure to natural hazards such as cyclones, landslides, floods, and droughts. Impacts of climate change include increased frequency of extreme weather events, rise in sea level, and rising temperatures. All this poses a significant threat to the lives of people, human settlement, livelihoods, and food sources, among others. Furthermore, agriculture and food systems contribute a third of the global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. As climate change progresses as a detriment to the environment and human security, developing sustainable agriculture practices is essential to the future health of rural communities.

In pursuit of this objective, IIRR initiated a 26-month research project into Climate-Smart Villages in June 2020, funded by the International Development Research Centre-Canada. This project aims to to further generate new knowledge on the role of local platforms in supporting climate change adaptation in agriculture. In particular, it studies the work of IIRR and its partners in implementing CSVs in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Cambodia as platforms for climate change adaptation and resilient and sustainable small-scale agriculture. In the Philippines specifically, the research teams are now gathering data to assess the costs and potential of CSVs in providing both social and economic benefits to the poorest and most vulnerable in the village. A total of 112 households have been surveyed and 32 key informants have been interviewed from two CSVs in Ivisan, Capiz and three in Guinayangan, Quezon for the socioeconomic analysis of the CSV approach and a specific Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practice.

This year, IIRR has been able to begin implementing Community Support Activities which aim to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, especially women, in Ivisan, Capiz and Guinayangan, Quezon. As of the 1st quarter of 2021, a total of 213 households from the two municipalities received farm inputs such as various fruit tree and coffee seedlings, corn and vegetable seeds, and planting materials. Small equipment and infrastructure rehabilitation materials for duck raising and native pig facilities have also been provided to farmers' cooperatives in Ivisan and Guinayangan, respectively. These impacts have been observed despite COVID-19 challenges, painting a positive image for future research and program implementation



"The provided seedlings, especially bananas, were beneficial since my previous crops were destroyed during Typhoons Yolanda and Ursula. I'm also looking forward to harvesting these fruit trees as they can be our sources of additional income and food."

---- Jocelyn Nocceno, 57 years old, Barangay Untala, Ivisan, Capiz

our focus Health

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the continued importance of health, nutrition, and healthcare resources in our rural communities. As the pandemic exacerbates existing health concerns such as gender and sexual violence, IIRR's commitment to supporting the health needs of rural communities is strong as ever.



I Hangout





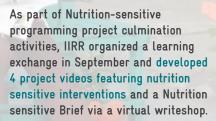
READING

O kohi

IIRR's COVID-19 response in the Philippines showed early successes, with more than 1,200 households benefiting from our nutritious food aid in Guinayangan, Quezon, in addition to the more than 3,500 individual families that benefited from school gardens during lockdowns.

IIRR distributed vegetable kits and fishing kits to more than 4,200 beneficiaries in Rumbek.

Following the floods in South Sudan,



IIRR programs on **Health** contribute to the following UN SDGs:















IMPACT STORY: Fostering community health in Northern Kenya

Breaking traditional social norms on the role of rural women and girls and getting sufficient access to health services including sexual and reproductive health care is important. IIRR's work in protecting girls and women from all forms of discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence continues to get attention from its development partners.

Rural communities in Northern Kenya have struggled with sexual and reproductive health education. Youth in East Africa face some of the highest rates of HIV/ AIDs, in part due to limited knowledge of sexual and reproductive health. Sexual and reproductive health education is particularly scarce in rural communities which make up 72.5% of the Kenyan population, making health education focused at these communities especially important for supporting the health of the nation. Furthermore, these communities continue to experience gender-based violence, often occurring due to harmful cultural practices that include female gential mutilation and forced child marriage.

In order to address these concerns, IIRR implemented the 'Stop Violence against Women and Girls' project in the Northern Kenyan counties of Samburu, Marsabit, and Isiolo. With financial assistance through United Nations Trust Fund grants to End Violence against Women, this project sought to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and to advocate for gender equality. In particular, this project aimed to improve access to support services in psycho-social, medical, and legal categories. IIRR's program to combat gender violence coincides with Kenya's national commitment to invest \$23 million by 2022 and a further \$50 million by 2026 to help fight gender-based violence.

Thanks to IIRR's project, over 8,427 community members in 2020 were made aware of the negative consequences of sexual and gender-based violence in their communities. Throughout the program's duration, over 16,196 people in Northern Kenya have been impacted, contributing to a more equal and safe future for women's health and equality in the region. Notably, IIRR's health programs in Kenya have garnered international attention. Our 'Stop Violence against Women and Girls' project along with other community-based projects were featured in UN Women's Community Mobilization for Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls Brief. The UN brief called attention to our program's strengths, including the identification of unique community needs and advocacy for mainstream judicial handling of issues of sexual and gender-based violence



"Finally, it is critical that we do not lose sight of the root cause of sexual violence, namely structural gender-based inequality. We must remember that attaining the Sustainable Development Goals requires attention to rural women and girls, and the specific risks they face in undertaking essential economic activities." "

--- UN Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten. Ms. Patten was appointed as the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict



Financials Report

We are sincerely thankful to our supporters, donors, partners, and volunteers for providing resources that helped us pursue our work and mission.

As experienced by many organizations in 2020, IIRR saw a decrease in operating revenues from 2019 as a result of the extended global pandemic. Nevertheless, through your generous support 2020 revenue reached \$3.4 million, of which \$3.0 million or 88% came from partner project funding and various other contributors supporting our programs. The remaining 12% of revenue, or \$400 thousand, came from offering training courses, technical assistance, and other services that augment the development funds for the communities we serve.





TOTAL	\$ 3,273,870
6% Others	190,134
6% Earned Revenues	212,320
88% Contributions/ Grants	\$ 2,954,236



For the year 2020, spending was \$3.8 million; this includes expenses in implementing the projects which were approved in the current year and also from previous years. Of this spending, 87% or \$3.3 million was used to implement our core programs on Education, Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation. The remaining 13% or \$499 thousand, was expenses for Management, General Operations, and Fund Raising.

We are proud to be recognized as an accountable and transparent organization receiving the highest ratings in the industry.



OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL	\$ 3,861,232
3% Fundraising	99,712
10% Management & General	398,840
87% Program Services	\$ 3,312,618



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS in US Dollars (AUDITED)

Audited STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

in US Dollars

II US Dollars	Without donor	With donor	Total	Total
	restrictions	restrictions	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating Revenues:				
Contributions/Grants				
Foundations	\$-	\$ 2,113,536	\$ 2,113,536	\$ 1,755,764
Governments	159,001.00	224,056	383,057	241,168
Individuals	57,597	25,972	83,569	198,938
Corporations	303,641	101,907	405,548	229,964
Use of campus facilities	111,954	-	111,954	644,802
Training courses, study missions and technical assistance	100,366	-	100,366	388,837
Workshops	-	-	-	28,411
Publication Sales	-	-	-	3,901
Others Reveneus	75,840	-	75,840	67,809
Total operating revenues before releases	808,399	2,465,471	3,273,870	3,559,594
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	2,440,968	(2,440,968)	-	-
Expiration of time restrictions	-	-	-	-
Total operating revenues	3,249,367	24,503	3,273,870	3,559,594
Operating expenses:				
Learning Community	2,872,975		2 972 075	3,656,815
		-	2,872,975	
Applied Learning	494,538	-	494,538	730,477
Management and General	394,980	-	394,980	506,123
Fund Raising Total operating expenses	98,739 3,861,232	-	98,739 3,861,232	126,529 5,019,944
	0,001,202		0,001,202	0,010,044
Change in net assets from operating activities	(\$611,865)	\$24,503	(\$587,362)	(\$1,460,350
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Contributions	-	-	-	-
Interest income	564	-	564	24,312
Interest expense	-	-	-	
Translation and exchange gain (loss)	34,691	-	34,691	(72,408
Others	116,369	_	116,369	152,970
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	151,624	-	151,624	104,874
	,,,		,	,,,,
Change in net assets	(460,241)	24,503	(435,738)	(1,355,476
Net assets, beginning of the year	1,329,447	3,063,777	4,393,224	5,748,700
Net assets, end of the year	869,206	3,088,280	3,957,468	4,393,224

Latest annual report filed with the Attorney General of the State of New York is available from IIRR or from the offices of the Attorney General of the State of New York, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

 The Institute is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and has been classified as an organization which is not a private foundation under Section 509 (a).

The Institute qualifies as an organization to which contributions are subject to special limitation provisions under Section 170 (b) (1) (a) of the Code. Donations and contributions made to IIRR are tax deductable.

	As of December 31		
	2020	2019	
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,445,558	\$1,393,240	
Investments	778,638	766,401	
Contribution receivables	1,919,947	1,769,816	
Other receivables	190,538	104,007	
Prepayment and other current assets	25,716	53,310	
Total Current Assets	4,360,397	4,086,774	
	4,300,397	4,000,774	
Noncurrent Assets			
Noncurrent portion of contribution receivables	291,034	709,017	
Property and equipment - net	169,819	226,309	
Retirement benefits asset, net	73,335	59,161	
Other noncurrent assets	32,032	37,682	
Total Noncurrent Assets	566,220	1,032,169	
	\$4,986,636	\$5,229,172	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	\$966,494	\$723,082	
Non-current Liabilities	\$300,+34	ψ120,002	
Other noncurrent liabilities	2.637	2,637	
Total Liabilities	969,131	725,719	
	505,151	720,713	
No. (A (-	869,206		
Net Assets		1,329,447	
Net Assets Without donor restrictions			
	3,088,280	3,063,777	
Without donor restrictions	3,088,280 3,957,486	3,063,777 4,393,22 4	
Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions			

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION in US Dollars (UNAUDITED)

Partners and supporters

IIRR is very grateful to our donors and takes this special opportunity to acknowledge the following institutions and individuals for their commitment to the rural poor. Your generosity and support are helping us to enable communities to reach their full potential and implement solutions to poverty.

Thank you!

DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT, AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Anonymous Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Asian Development Bank (ADB) Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office, Philippines Deutsche Gesellschaft fÜr Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Family Health International Solutions LLC (FHI) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Foundation of International Development Relief (FIDR) Girja Integrated Rural Development Association (GIRDA) International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) International Development Research Centre (IDRC) International Labour Office (ILO) Kenya Markets Trust (KMT) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)- Uganda Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MoFPED)- Uganda Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda Polish Humanitarian Aid (PHA) Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) Terre des Hommes (TDH) Italy

The World Food Programme (WFP) U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWomen) United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) ViiV Healthcare World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP) Latter Day Saints Charities (LDS-C) The Pelon Charitable Fund The Sunshine Care Foundation, Inc.

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OUR SHINING STARS (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

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OUR SUPPORTERS (\$500 - \$999)

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