

**THE IMPACT OF SELF-RELIANT STRATEGY (SRS)
FOR THE REFUGEES IN IMVEPI**

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Declaration

I here by declare that; this work is an original of my Research and has not been submitted in any other Institution or elsewhere for academic award.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my father David Kastom, my mother Edina Kanya; my aunt Jane Modo and my brother Ojara Benson not forgetting my Dear friend Amule Thomas.

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I wish to register my appreciation to all people and organisational that have given me moral and financial assistance to accomplish this work.

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ABSTRACT

Women, adolescents and other vulnerable persons make up the target group for self-reliant strategy. This study describes the impact of self-reliant strategy on the socio-economics well-being of the refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas in Imvepi; Terego county; Arua District.

This dissertation is presented in two parts; first a quantitative of parts of the questionnaire on the distribution of respondents according to points, age, grants and income-generating activities. Secondly, a qualitative analysis of the underlying impact of the income-generating activities In the life of the beneficiaries.

We found that of the drop out youths aged 25-30 years; 48% of them are idle. The most common effect of this idleness is theft, prostitution, fighting, and creation of a lot of crimes like murder, abortion and early pregnancy. 14.3% of the school drop out youths engages in crimes like theft, fighting and defilement.

20% of the parents in Imvepi are depressed of the kind of life the children are leading; while 10% of the school dropout youths engages on prostitution; and 05% had suffered from STDs resulting from adultery; 35% were under psychological torture and quite a relative number of the girls 03% coil in shame and lack of respect for parents.

Almost all the vulnerable groups (women, adolescents, and disabled persons) found it difficult to cope with their day-to-day survival with a few gainfully engaged in income-generating activities.

All these vulnerable groups /individuals expresses lack of capital, skills training's for conducting income-generating activity while a few of them expresses in adequacy of the capital provided in form of loans by ded.

Finally, a research needs to be done regarding the impact of self-reliant strategy on the life of refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas in relation to income-generating activities.

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Quite frequently these days people talk of SRS (self-reliance) both in academic institutions and outside. The idea of self-reliance was initiative in Kiryandongo Refugee settlement in 1998; several income-generating activities are also being emphasised by individuals; governments, refugee settlements, and non governmental organisations as well as international organisations.

But in most cases little attention has been paid to research about the impact of these income-generating activities on the socio-economic wellbeing of its beneficiaries.

In developing countries; the idea of self-reliance is seen as a pre requisite in improving the socio-economic wellbeing of the people in the marginalised communities (women, adult, youths, and school drop out) so that they would not be dependents but rather support their families and parents in one way or the other.

In Uganda now days more emphasis has been stressed on self reliance for the vulnerable persons and the internally displaced persons in skills like carpentry, bricklaying and concrete practice, wood curving; agriculture, revolving loans schemes and grants for agro-related commercial projects but research has not yet been done on their impacts.

The Income generating activity aims at improving the status of the vulnerable groups (refugees, internally displaced persons, women, adolescents and elderly); most of which are engaged in various income-generating activities to supplement the small food ratio given to them by World Food Programme and also meet their basic needs on shelter, clothings, and tuition fees for their children in secondary schools within their Districts.

1.2 Geographical setting of Imvepi Refugee Settlement

Imvepi is a Refugee Settlement is situated in the northern part of Arua District; Terego county; Odupi sub county about 75 Kilometres from Arua town. It is under the care of ~~ded~~ (German Development Service). It has a population of more than 16,907 Sudanese and 378 Congolese Refugees with 4,343 and 117 family heads respectively surrounded by about 12,310 natives within the refugee catchment areas.

Arua District is located in the northwestern part of Uganda, in West Nile sub region bordered by both Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. It comprise of seven (7) sub-counties; two large urban towns, (Arua and Koboko); 237 Parishes and 2,037 villages with 900,000 people, and it has the second largest district council in Uganda with 61 councilors.

1.3 Background to the study

Previously the local settlements programme in Uganda were designed with the objective of self sufficiency in mind; lack of sufficient Arable land and insecurity forced the diversion of attention from this objective. UNHCR as well as its implementing partners concentrated on a day to day basis to cope with the insecurity situation.

The self reliant strategy was started in Kryandongo Refugee settlement in 1998; it was formulated by the office of UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda (OPM); and representatives of the refugee community such as: the Refugee Welfare Council (V), Secretary for production III; Refugee Chairpersons of all the clusters (points) including the Local Council V for Masindi District; L.C III Secretary for production and L.C. I for Kryandongo county.

The aim of this strategy was to make the refugee self-sufficient in food production, which had actually been achieved by majority of the refugees by 2002.

Most refugees who were transferred from transit centres to settlements had returned to transits for protection. For example refugees in Ikafe, Yumbe District in West Nile sub region had bumper harvest but in 1997 the persistent harassment of the rebels interrupted their march to self-sufficiency in food.

With the relative security achieved at the beginning of 1998, the momentum to look again for long term strategy of making the refugees self-sufficient was created.

Most efforts thus far forecast on achieving self-sufficiency in food production; These demand innovated methods to do more with less cost where refugees are becoming self sufficient; and should cost less in food aid and other support services that the refugees and the nationals can treated equally.

1.4 Research Problem

The idea of self-reliance has attracted majority of the people in tropical Africa in enhancing socio-economic wellbeing of the under privileged persons in Africa. Many individuals, groups and organisations have therefore, started to initiate income-generating activities for such a purpose. Indulging in income generating activities like carpentry, black smithing; small-scale businesses among other are thought to make their beneficiaries self sufficient in food production.

In Uganda today many income-generating activities have been created by various organisations and private enterprises to make the vulnerable groups (women, disabled persons, orphans refugees) self sufficient in food production. Despite of all these income-generating activities provided for the refugees in Imvepi, there seems to be low utilisation of the supports showing that the beneficiaries have not yet achieved a sense of self sufficiency in food production (UNHCR and refugees coordination meeting 2003).

1.4.1 Justification

The initiation of the Self-Reliant Strategy (SRS) is a key pre-requisite in the fight against poverty in Uganda and for the refugee/internally displaced persons and other vulnerable persons.

It is envisaged that this study is relevant in away that;

- (i) These findings will contribute some information to Non Governmental organisation and private enterprises who wish to participate in the promotion of sustainable and environmentally friendly income generating activities.

- (ii) It will provide an up to date literature for academicians and future researchers on sustainable and environmentally friendly income generating activities.
- (iii) Policy makers such as Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) for the government of Uganda; UNHCR and its implementing partners will be able to formulate appropriate programmes for the promotion of the self-reliant strategy among the refugees in Uganda.

1.4.2 Objectives

- (i) To assess that impact of the self-reliant strategy and the socio-economic wellbeing of the refugee's in Imvepi.
- (ii) To continue building the capacity of the refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas to participate in environmentally income generating activity.
- (iii) To identify and promote new domestic industries/skills for the refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas.

1.4.3 Research Question

This study seeks to address the following research questions arising from the above objectives.

- (i) What are the various hurdles that the refugees are facing in their bid for self-sufficiency in food production?
- (ii) Are there possible local level approaches for building the capacity of the refugees to participate in environmentally friendly income-generating activities?

- (iii) Which new life skills can be relevant for the refugees basing on the climatic and social conditions of Imvepi?

1.4.4 Scope

This research was conducted in Arua District Terego county, Odupi Sub County comprising of Ombia and Lugbare parishes. Ten (10) clusters (points) of more than 350 income-generating activity beneficiaries and farmers from Imvepi were involved in the research. 150 respondents were interviewed of which the refugees constitute 75% of all the respondents.

1.4.5 Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that:

- (i) Socio-economic wellbeing of the refugees can be improved by participating in various environmentally friendly income generating activities.
- (ii) Idleness among the school drop out youths can alleviate the rate of anti-social behaviours (theft, robbery, prostitution, fighting) within communities.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This section seeks to revisit the work of various individuals and groups of individuals who engaged and are still engaging in different kinds of environmentally friendly income generating activities in pursuit for self sufficiency in food production and to meet their other basic needs. A brief reference on the impact of the income generating activity on the social economic wellbeing of its beneficiaries is included here to underscore the strong impact of the various income generating activities in discussing a topic of this nature.

2.2 **A brief on the impact of income-generating activities on the socio-economic wellbeing of its beneficiaries.**

The impact of the self-reliant strategy and environmentally friendly income generating activities in the life of the vulnerable groups (women, school drop out youths, elders, and adolescents) is interwoven. No single income generating activity can be identified as leading to self-reliance but rather a combination of various environmentally friendly income-generating activities can lead to self-sufficiency in food production for example animal rearing and small scales businesses.

According the Head Of Sector for Income-Generating Activities (HOS-IGA) Peter Jurua; the impact of IGA has been seen through; the number of people owning videos, vehicles, sponsoring their children in schools, meeting their days basic needs and the peaceful co-existence of the refugees and natives through joint activities.

According to MR. EZIBON WUDU; Biyaye orphanage coordinator based in Adjumani District! Sudan mirror; 15th March – 28th March 2004. He pointed out that: Biyaye orphanage which is managed by the Episcopal Church of the Sudan (E.C.S) and has already acquired 250 chicken payers which hatches an average of 500 eggs daily beginning since mid March this year.

The orphanage fetches a daily amount of 125,000 Ugandan shillings approximately 75\$. This project is greatly helping the administration of the orphanage, by providing balanced diet for the orphans, widows and other destitute children within the community.

About 80 orphans are under the care of **Biyaye** orphanage although 250 of them are attached to foster parents in various refugee settlement in Adjumani District, West Nile sub region.

The Brain-child of Mrs. Susan Abiko Tabia from the orphanage is also engaged in several income-generating activities such as livestock rearing and making crafts in a bid to support the ever swelling number of the orphans, widows and other destitutes in the settlement.

A Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) magazine “nurturing social and political development process” by; Noah Owaranga the Executive Secretary for UCAA 2004 observed that; more than 3,490 groups having a total membership of 85,306 (30,058 men and 55,248 women). This indicates that woman more than men are responsive to self reliant participating development.

A sample indicates that of those groups reported 75% of the total group have their own internal savings scheme; and 59% have their own internal credit scheme for members.

In 2002; 46% of the groups reported have paid cash dividends to their group members amounted to 216,453,063 Ugandan shillings only; Out of the 42,539 members of self-help groups that change agents are working with 84% (35,538) felt their standard of living had improved.

On the other hand; In 2002; 587 change Agents and Uganda change Agent Association partners contested for local council elections and 70% (414) of them were elected at all levels from village committees to the District councils.

Akongo Lilly of Lamwo - west branch stated that; with the help of the change Agents trainings (C.A.T), she was able to be elected as a chairperson of women councillors at Palabek-kal sub county.

Grace Akulia; the Chairperson for Lomeri business group Yei District; southern Sudan; in her quarterly report of March 2003; comments that; encouraging the vulnerable groups most especially women and the school dropout youths in environment friendly income generating activities is a way forward toward self reliance.

According to Akulia; Lomeri business groups started with a group of two women engaged in knitting and weaving which later increased to more than forty (40) members (women). The products of this business are sold both at the local markets as well as being transported to place like Canada, America and Australia.

75% of these women (30) are now able to sponsor their children in secondary schools and tertiary institution. Recently in July 2004; we received some donation from the Norwegian people's Aid of fifteen million Uganda shillings approximately 10,000\$ for expanding out business. However, these money is being used for sponsoring at least three orphans/girls per year in ordinary level secondary schools within Yei county.

According to: Wowoji Mugun Business Association reports of Kaya; 2002 – 2003 MR. MOSES MABE the Executive Secretary of the Association said that; “There is nothing as easy as initiating a self business and there is nothing as hard as maintaining such a business”.

Wowoji Muguu started as a small carpentry workshop with only three individuals and four tools. But now days we have increased our number to eighteen and also opened three workshops with Kaya town.

Cases of hunger, poor diet, and school fees for out dependents at primary schools and lower secondary schools have become a story for most of us.

A good number of people can set up a good business entity but end up mis-managing it simply due to lack of management skills and the attitude that “I am already rich so I can drink as I want”. This is an element that is failing most our out income generating activities. And to some of us envy and evil plants become the order of the day for such people who excel in their businesses than seeking advice how he/she also would progress and be self-sufficient in food production.

Wonekonye Transporters Koboko 2001; Biography of the organisation.

This Non Governmental organisation started in Kaya-Sudan in 1992 as a black smithing/Tin smithing group of three people and later expanded to five people.

We could produce different kinds of tin stores, cooking ovens, fans and boxes and sell them at the local markets, By 1993 the business expanded to supplying food items for Kaya Health Centre and by 1994 we could now supply food items like eggs, meat, potatoes, bunches of banana daily to Udabi Health Centre.

The businesses progressed rapidly to the extent of setting a grinding mill at Bamure Sudan-Uganda Boarder and today a big workshop with many vehicle and a timber cutting machine established at Koboko-Kaya road.

As the saying goes "failure in a business is a public feast but progress in business is a personal success", Wonekonye today faces a lot of threats from both community members and friends in a bid to disrupt the business. However; our player is that in God all things are possible and we shall never fail. "James Lemi business manager".

"Mrs. Jessica Masanganzira" asserts that Kiboga Change Agents Association are reaping big from the fruits of Change Agent trainings (C.A.T); Their savings association "Tokolerewamu" has expanded to 6 savings and credit groups. By December 2002, they had a total of 135 clients has given out 95 loans and made a profit of 2,727,770 Ugandan shillings only. Members of these three group (branches) are also running consumers union to support their branch members.

Further, Mrs. Mugisha Lydia a member of Mpongango women's group composed of 26 members (20 women and 6 men) trained in 1997 in Rukungiri 2 and is now looking after 50 orphans providing them with shelter, clothings, food and above all education.

Mpongango Women Group has congratulated the Uganda Change Agent Association for the great work they are doing to offer hope for vulnerable children and orphans providing them with scholastic materials; school fees as well as offer hope for the future of these children.

Jessica Masanganzira also said the change Agents of Bwera branches weave baskets to earn a living, which is really improving their standard of living. She thus emphasised that children need to be introduced to be self-reliant at a tender age.

Mr. Maw John; Agriculture supervisor; Yei county Southern Sudan; Sudan mirror 15th 28th March 2003. In South Sudan, farming is an activity carried out salary by more than 80 percent of the people. Most of whom had abandoned on the pretext that it is not economically worth while.

Generally farming much as a farmer grows crops for food, they always concentrate on one commercial crop that may not necessarily be consumed at home as food crop but may be sold out for cash or income.

Such an enterprise is one that gives relatively high are turn in terms of higher yields, low cost of production and available market for the products. It requires full dedication and commitment to its management if better results are to be obtained and subsequently higher income for the family.

It should have ever, be noted that every crop can become an economic enterprise depending on the prevailing conditions and market. South Sudan has great potential for crop production and animal rearing thus, justifying agriculture as the main economic activity that can fortunately be practiced by every body.

Based on this facts; agriculture once researched upon; can greatly improve the living standards of the people.

According to Mr. Vincent Ssempijja in the New Vision; April; 23; 2004; page 38. He observed that in order to increase the District revenue for Masaka more fish pond should be dug.

Fish farming has already been started in twenty sub counties where farmers have already dug over 350 bigger fish ponds and the District authorities are helping farmers whose fish ponds are ready to stock the fries (young fish).

"Kikingo" fish farming association in Pakile county; Adjumani District started fish farming in 1998 with three (3) fish ponds and 500 fries. In October 2000, we have been able to raise a profit of 1.3 million (one million three hundred thousand Ugandan shillings).

Now we have expanded the project to ten (10) fishponds and it is giving a good income. It is our prayer that the refugees engage in fish farming so as to become self sufficient in food production said Joseph More in a sensitization workshop on self reliant strategy in Adjumani District on 28 – 02 – 2004.

(SAWA) Sudan Active Women Association – Koboko, West Nile sub region Arua District asserts that It is very simple to become self sufficient in food if only the skills of the women within the community are identified and supported. The Sudan Active Women Association established at Koboko started as a simple business for four women in knitting and weaving which expanded to more than thirty women and has been recognized world wide.

According to the Chairperson "Agnes Bonura" we have now gained out stand in SAWA and are able to support our families in all basic needs.

Women of all kinds be they widows, marriage, school dropout girls and so forth should faster, identify her talent, join group of weaving/kneetting and seek support form possible helping hands. This will help them become self-reliant rather than "goal-keeper" i.e waiting for everything from their husbands.

Weaving a bed sheet along with good design cost twenty thousand Ugandan shilling be it at home or SAWA centre and if you can weave two bed-sheets in a week it would be better than staying idol.

There is nothing that is hard to be learned and there is not simple but what is needed is interest in what you want to do and commitment. It is therefore, a high chance for all our Sudanese women to wake-up from sleep and fight poverty as we talk of women emancipation today.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Methodology

In a bid to collect reliable and representative information about the impact of the self-reliant strategy for the refugees in Imvepi; appropriate methods for data collection were used to ensure fairly good representation of the refugee population.

This section therefore, elaborates the sampling design used, procedures in identifying sample units, methods of data collection and analysis.

3.1 Sample Design

The design puts into consideration a number of facts that distinguish the population of the income generating activity beneficiaries, these factors include, activity; points (cluster); religion, gender and age of respondents. The area of study is divided into points, ages, sex and location because some of these variable in a way influence the extent of the results on the impact of the self reliant strategy in the socio economic well being of its beneficiaries. For example some points may be having good market and soils while other have poor markets and few women get involved in the income generating activities. Imvepi refugee settlement has been chosen simply because the idea of self reliant has been initiated for the refugees and natives within Imvepi refugee catchment areas.

Secondly; the researcher had leaved there for the last eight years as a resident and can also speak Arabic and Ban language clearly.

Further, the researcher could easily interact with the refugees from one place to another without requesting for any means of translation.

Income generating activity beneficiaries, refugee welfare council executives; individuals; farmers and Local Councils of the catchment areas are included because of the following reasons.

The loans, grants, and life skill beneficiaries were the main respondents concerned plus a few private business individuals, farmers and Local Council leaders. The loan grants and skills beneficiaries were one hundred fifty only.

The Local Council members were also selected because they are the caretakers of the natives and can also help in sensitising their community member on sustainable environmentally friendly income generating activities.

3.2 Identification of sampling unit

The sampling units were the ten points in Imvepi refugee settlement (points A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J) and other respondents. (Farmers and private business owners). Identification of key informants depends on their businesses; sex; age; and experiences in other income generating activities. Farmers have also been selected so that they could express their experience of how agriculture can be an income generating activity.

All these were done to improve participation of the respondents and to increase the validity and reliability of the collected data so that it reflect the reality on the ground as well as the impact of the self-reliant strategy is concerned.

3.3 Nature of survey

The study is mainly qualitative; income generating activity beneficiaries (revolving loan, grants, and skills beneficiaries) were mainly consulted. Other individuals that were also consulted include agricultural farmers, refugee welfare executive members, Local Councils leaders of Odupi division; Lugbare and Ombia parishes were also interviewed. Individual discussions were also seen necessary because other individuals can provide adequate information when consulted individually.

3.4 Data Analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative analysis were used for example, the number of people interviewed was indicated; the distribution of respondents per points (clusters), distribution of respondents by age and distribution of the agro-related commercial project grants beneficiaries by sex were also used among many other ways of the quantitative data presentations used.

The number of people interviewed with in the (10) ten points (clusters) in Imvepi refugee settlement were one hundred fifty. (One hundred from the revolving loan scheme beneficiaries and fifty from skills training beneficiaries however, only ten (10) rejected to be interviewed.

Respondents were from different tribes religions; points (clusters); ages and income generating activity.

Table (I) (a) Distribution of respondents per points from the revolving loan schemes

Points	No. of people
A	10
B	16
C	8
D	6
E	15
F	12
G	5
H	7
I	3
J	18
Total	100

Table (I) (b) Distribution of respondents per points for skills training beneficiaries

Points (Clusters)	No. of people
A	4
B	3
C	5
D	6
E	8
F	3
G	5
H	5
I	4
J	7
Total	50

Table (II) Distribution of respondents per religion

Religion	No. of people	Loans	Skills Training
Catholics	150	20	13
Muslims		15	2
Protestants		20	8
Adventist		32	7
Church of God		9	15
Pentecostals		4	5
Total		100	50

Table (III) Distribution of respondents by age

Age differential	No. of people	Loan	Skills Training
15-20	150	20	10
20-25		18	25
25-30		45	3
30-35		16	12
35-40		8	0
40 <		3	0
Total		100	50

Majority of the respondents were from an age range of 20-25 years old and few of them were from age range of 25-30 years old for the skills trainings. Most of which neglected the life skills trainings on the pretext that; there are no markets for the products of the skills trainings such as handcrafts, furnitures, tins and crochets while other felt it would degrade them in the public image.

3.5 Limitations

- (a) During the writing of this research, the respondents were willing to give information for the hope that more loans and grants would be given for them.
- (b) Some of the respondents were so rigid to give information because for them, the questions were more of knowing one's income, assets and plans which was an infringement on their private businesses.
- (c) The research was limited to income generating activity beneficiaries, refugees' community and natives within the refugee catchment areas who are benefiting from the income generating activities.

- (d) This research could be only adequately collected in after noon hour from 1:00p.m – 5:00p.m since most of the beneficiaries go for field works in the morning.

- (e) The data collection is also limited to the policies of ~~dcd~~ and the income generating activity sector; that is no information should be gathered from the office or settlement without the consent and approval of the camp commandant for Imvepi and head of sector for income generating activity.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Data presentation and analysis

4.1 Introduction

This study seeks to assess the self reliant and socio-economic wellbeing of the refugees and the hosting communities; income-generating activity beneficiaries within the catchment areas including those with special needs like the women, adolescent, and vulnerable persons with emphasis on commercial projects in Imvepi; Terego county. Using the methodology the following are the findings.

ded-IGA sector provides support to identified needy refugees comprising of revolving loans, scheme, grants, industrial attachments and skills training for income-generation.

So far revolving loans have been given to more than 245 beneficiaries (140 female, 105 male) in various activities like produce buying, eating, houses, butchers, handcrafts, bicycle repairing, small scale businesses, tailoring, tinsmithing, wholesales and knitting/weaving. Disbursed loans amounted to 20, 700, 200 Ugandan shillings and more than 200 people are practicing their life skills acquired from skills training centres like ocea skills training centres and Tumaini-African Foundation.

A number of business groups have been selected for an interview according to points (clusters).

In point A: Waranaka business group of produce buying composed of two men and one female in an interview conducted on 08/03/2004 it was found that they were able to purchase simsim and sorghum during the harvesting season that is December to January and caw peas, maize and oil during distribution of food ration in the settlements.

This produce will later be sold when the price appreciated to either schools, collages; or at the local markets and those within the refugee catchment areas like Gkubala and Opotani market.

Pen Kimange group of point A, with a total of 5 (2:3) female and male also presented such a similar achievement. Business groups of point B especially superstar of 5 people (3 female; 2 male); Nesitu group of 7 members all female and Nyosukolong group of 3 members (1 female, 2 male) all those groups operate small scale businesses in commodities like Dagafish; sugar; salt; soap; cosmetics etc.

These people have been able to improve on their daily basic needs, expenditure on feeding, pay their children's school fees in the secondary schools within Arua District; increase the business skills and pay their loans promptly.

Taban Ben and Flora Apai also indulge in small-scale businesses such as opening kiosks, sell of dagafish, sugar, vegetable oil, soap and many more.

Both had these words to say. We congratulate the administration of ~~ded~~ for the economic and social support through loans which has made them able to meet their basic needs on food, clothing and fund their dependents in Quiva and Imvepi self help secondary schools.

Point H: business groups of; Angelina and Achole Mary (2 female) doing butchery business Ludia Ate – catering, Lunguli group and Tolemera group doing small scale business have also been able to supplement their food ratios provided by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Ludia Ate have been able to purchase a new phoenix bicycle and support her grant children through clothings, feeding; primary school education and paid tuition together with examination fees for her daughter in A – level last year 2003. She said it would be good if such loans are also extended to other needy identified refugees to enable them improve their standard of living.

In point D loan beneficiaries like Mandita David Bros, Juma and Sons Enterprise also engaged in small scale businesses that can at least meet their basic need in clothings, feeding, school fees in primary and ordinary levels secondary schools with medication that does not involve serious cost and referrals to big hospitals like Mulago and Kulumva Hospital.

One of the focused group discussion in point J involves groups such as Saima Joyce group; Nyarapara group, Lomeri group; Markety group and Alex Kujo. All these operates a small scale business with a membership of 50 and were to meet their basic needs on feeding, clothings and medical.

The natives focused group comprised of Yinga Women Association in Lubgara, Alioni group, Anguzu group; Yinga Youth Association and Ombia group; all of Ombia parish operating small scale businesses such as beverages, sugar, simsim, salt, soap etc.

The Chairman for Ombia business group comments that; "we are able to meet our basic needs and educational needs for our dependents in primary and secondary schools within the parish.

In 2002, a total of 64 persons (11 female 53 male) undertook trainings at Ocea training centre in five trades like brick laying and concrete practice 22 graduated all male, wood curving 5 all male, basic block and concrete practice 23 (19 male and 4 female) domestic science 12 (1 male 11 female); tin smithing (TS) 2 all male.

Last year (2003); August we graduated 58 (47 male and 11 female) from O.T.C (Ocea Training Centre). The graduates were trained in various disciplines i.e carpentry and joinery 13 male, block laying and concrete practice 33 (32 male 1 female); domestic science 10 female and 2 male for tinsmithing. This marked the 8th graduation ceremony since the time of Oxfam.

The community based skills training unit in Imvepi also graduated 4 candidates; 2 in tailoring and 2 in carpentry and joinery since it has been newly started and only train those who cannot join Ocea skills training centre for reasons of disability and other vulnerabilities.

Tumaini – African Foundation graduated 20 girls in 3 trades i.e customer service 7; typing and office 5, knitting and weaving 7; leather and craft 1. The administration of ~~ded~~-Imvepi has also sent 23 candidates for training this year 2004.

More than 79 students (15 female and 64 male) trained in various vocational skills training institutions which include Inde-Technical Institute, Yote-Polytechnic, Moyo Technical Institute and were attached to various section for field practice and practical skills in mechanical workshops (27 male) store management; 10 (3 female, 7 male); office practice; 13 (12 female and 1 male); construction 20 all male; agro-forestry 3 all males; community service 1 male, settlement 2 males and 3 males with the income-generating activity sector.

60 community facilitator had a 5 day workshop to introduce them on the role of facilitating income-generating activities and more 50 persons attended a five days workshop for promotion of rural finance mechanism and self-reliant strategy (**SRS**).

They indeed helped very much in sensitising the refugee community on these financial mechanisms such as formation of Grinding Mill Associations (GMA); Ngunia Farmers Association (NFM) and Arua Refugee Development Association (ARDA).

Many out of school youths who attended these skills training units are now employed as builders, carpenters, office clerks, office attendants, guest house attendants with NGOs, private enterprises and community based organisations such as; Interact, ADRA, Bros and company; NPA (Nowagian Peoples Aid) International Aid Services (IAS) Sudan programme and many others.

These skills beneficiaries have been able to meet their basic needs and even fund their brothers and sisters who could not continue with their education due to financial constraints. However, a few of them are still idle because of lack of capital and some went back to school to peruse their studies.

Last year, six groups applied for agro-related commercial project grants out of which three were approved for piggery, rabbit keeping and poultry costing a total sum of 2.3 million Ugandan shillings (800,000 shs on piggery, 600,000shs on rabbit keeping and 900,000 shs on poultry).

These projects includes Yinga Taling piggery project in point H; Umoja rabbit keeping project in point J and Poultry Unit For Rural Development (PUFORD) in point E.

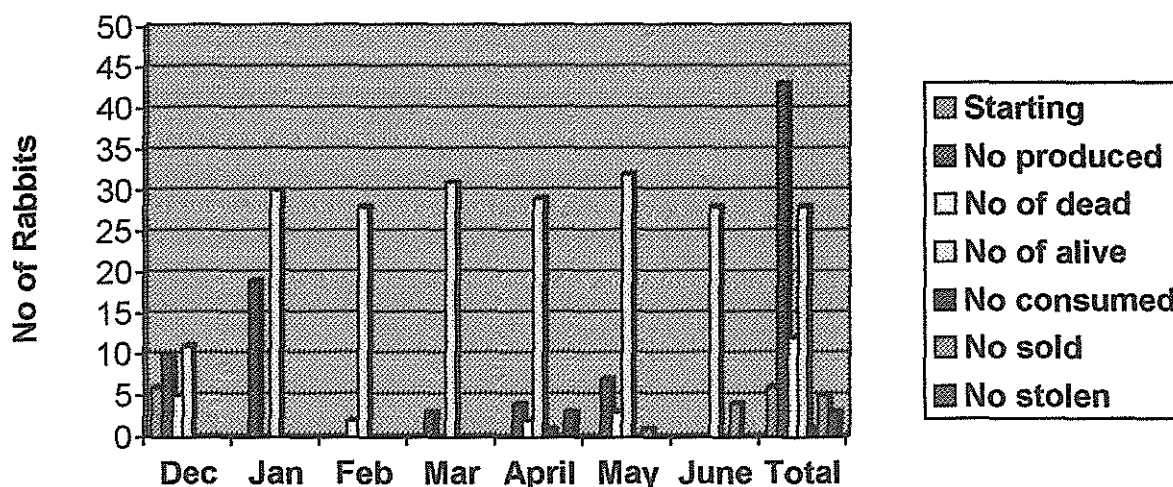
These projects were selected according to their reliability and sustainability targeting women, organised groups / individuals and other vulnerable groups.

Umoja rabbit project started on the 16th December 2003 with a number of 6 rabbits of which 5 were female and 1 male. It picked up very well that by the end of January 2 rabbits had been produced. Since it was a hot and dry season the implementers anticipated the problem of feeding so they decided to control the rate of production for a period of about 2 and ½ month (Jan – March). With the coming of rains the control was lifted and 11 more were produced in the second circle of reproduction. This continued and by the end of April, there was a total of 35 young rabbits plus the six which made a total of 41 rabbits with a period of four and half months. This therefore, implies that, had the reproduction rate not been controlled for the two and half months than it would have doubled this number. But for the purpose of good management, that control was necessary.

Table IV (a) Data for Umoja Rabbit Project in Point J.

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Starting No.	6							6
Produced	10	19		3	4	7		43
No. Dead	5		2		2	2		12
No. Alive	11	30	28	33	29	32	28	28
No. Consumed					1			1
No. Sold						1	4	5
No. Stolen				3				3

Table V Bar- distribution for rabbit project performance



This project faced a number of problems such as:-

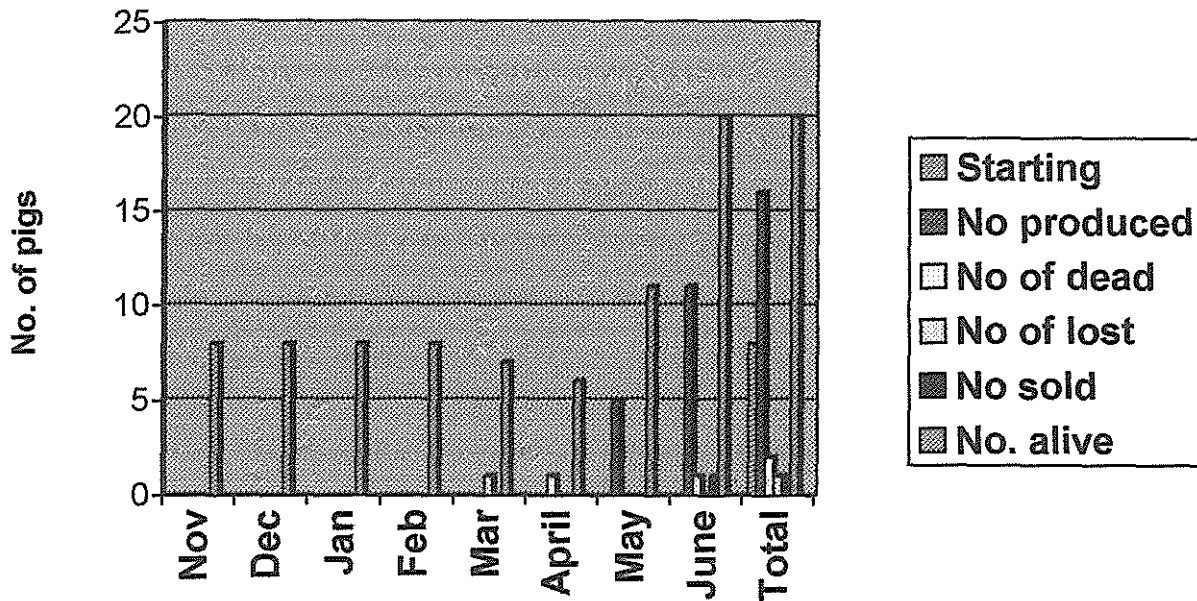
- (a) Poor weather condition characterised by prolonged drought, which led to shortage of feeds (grass and leaves) for the rabbit thus reducing the fertility of the animals.
- (b) There are also attacks on other rabbits by predators like cats, dogs at odd hours of the night killing some of them and it had not been easy to control.
- (c) Markets have also proved to be a problem though at the beginning many seem to have shown interest in the consumption of these animals but now it is not the case. However, with time this might change.

The piggery project started last year with a number of eight pigs of which six were female and two were males. One got lost in March this year due to mismanagement and one female died in April. On the 8th of May one of the female produced 5 piglets, on 1st June 6 were produced but one died; then on 5th June; a third one produced 5 piglets making a total of 15 piglets of which 6 are female and 9 are male. On the 5th June 2004, the implementers slaughtered one pig for sale to generate money for taking care of the others of which 41,600 Ugandan shillings was realised. However, two pigs were bought and the cash was not delivered to the project.

Table IV (b) Piggery Project in point H

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Starting									8
No. Produced							5	11	16
No. Dead						1		1	2
No. Lost					1				1
No. Sold								1	1
No. Alive	8	8	8	8	7	6	11	20	20

Table VI Bar – distribution for piggery project performance



This project also faced the following problems;

- (a) This project has a very major management problem, which the implementers have failed to solve. They seemed not have sense of ownership of the project despite all the efforts that the IGA and the agriculture sector have put to help them. They seem to be looking at the project as a “ded / UNHCR thing”, this attitude alone failed the project badly.
- (b) Almost all the members that are implementing this project have moved away from their original homes that were located in point H; village 3, due to unknown causes apart from one member who remained in point H this has made no attention being paid to the project.
- (c) Some of the members seem to be more based in Sudan than in the camps though this have never been put clearly by those on the ground. They are therefore, more of up and down than implementing the project.

- (d) With the excitement of the forth coming peace and repatriation, most of the members of the implementing group seems to have lost interest in the project.

So generally, this project is doing poorly though the animals are reproducing very well, it brings in fear of the nearby community extinguishing them on the fact that these animals are very destructive.

97 chickens for this project were brought in on the 18th January 2004, five days later all of them died which was later realised could be due to out break of new castle disease. So since then new ones have not been brought with advice from the veterinary doctor. This ban has been lifted and the group has plans underway to restock them in a few days time.

An order for supply has already been placed and the group members are mobilising more funds from within themselves to top-up what they are left with. These members have agreed to join the Arua poultry farmers association by buying shares and getting support from the project in the course of implementing the project.

The biggest blow this project faced was the outbreak of the New Castle disease that swept everything as if nothing was started. This demoralised some of the group members.

One other fact is that; these chickes were not from a reliable source. These probably could have caused this disease bearing that the chicks were not given the initial vaccines fully.

Although these projects are not doing well, we have registered some success in away that can be seen in the interest that the community has shown. So far a family in point E have started poultry (ducks) unit with a total number of 59 ducks; a woman in point G have also initiated a piggery project with two pigs. One other family in point G also have been studying the rabbit project and now has started with four rabbits.

4.2 Narrative presentation

The most significant impact of the self-reliant strategy quoted was improvement in the standard of living for most of the beneficiaries of the income generating activity and the skills trainings 76% while 28% of their dependents have also been able to meet their basic needs and go back to school.

The other significant impact was stressed that 32% of school drop out youth (both girls and boys) engaging in small income generating activities such as selling daga fish, sugar, chapats, making handcrafts and doing catering services.

About 75% of the revolving loan scheme beneficiaries have expanded the business scale; able to meet their basic needs on food, shelter, medical care in relatively cheap health centres/clinic and also pay their dependents/children in primary and secondary schools with their district for example at Quiva and Imvepi self help secondary schools.

Some of the refugees 13.3% managed to set up agricultural field for cassava, rice, and sim sim on a routine yearly base to supplement the little for ratio provided to them by ~~ded~~-World Food Programme.

Respondents said they were not being given adequate agricultural sees, planting skills and above all the soil texture is poor with unreliable rains which come at odd periods and months of the year.

About 0.8% of the Refugees in Imvepi are able to produce between 05 to 10 tones of cassava and sim sim per year. This could be sold to meet their basic needs for clothings, medical care and school fees “Loboka of point C”.

Respondents registered change of behaviour of the school dropout youths who participated in income-generating activities like carpentry and joinery, blacksmithing; block laying and concrete practice, handcrafts and small scale businesses rate of prostitution, theft, fighting and stealing has considerably reduced.

A good numbers of the respondents added that; they lack transport for the goods from purchasing areas and to the market centres though they would sell reasonable quantities at the local market but the prices are relative law. 03% of women farmers in point J have managed to cultivate more than 4.5 hectares of land comprising of field for cassava, beans, simsim, bananas, groundnuts and other miscellaneous crops such as cow peas and Okra.

These women have sponsored on of their child in the University for a degree course and are also support the other child at Makerere University who is under the scholarship HPTC – charitable trust in terms of pocket money, transport and other needs.

Some of the loan beneficiaries 02% have set up Bodaboda vehicles for transporting passengers from the settlement to nearby towns like Koboko and Arua.

One man in point E has also set up a video hall and a grinding mill which is really helping the refugees and generating much money for the own.

4.3 The respondents made the following recommendations

- The income-generating activity sector should ensure that such opportunities made available to the refugees with special needs and special consideration has to be given to them so as to practice income-generating activities.
- Special consideration for income-generating activities should be given to people living with HIV/AIDS and consequently where need be.
- Through the skills trainings and income-generating activities, refugees will be kept busy (no idleness) which may reduce rate of HIV infections.
- Equal opportunities should be given to both men and women to participate in a sustainable income generating activity and get assistance from the various schemes available.
- Agro-related commercial project grants should be increased and made available to all needy refugees.
- More skills like motor vehicle mechanics and metal / plumbing should be introduced in Ocea skills training centre because they can create easy self employment in a poor environmental.
- Children and adolescents who dropped out of schools should be encouraged to engage and train in sustainable life skills to reduce the dependence syndrome and move them towards self reliance.
- The income-generating activity sector should facilitate marketing and transport for the refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas.

- New community based skills training units should be established and strengthened in terms of tools and trainings.
- Farmers should be trained in crop planting and management skills without which they cannot be self sufficient in food production.
- The food ratio should be increased since at times there are poor yield realised due to drought.

4.4. Respondents identified the following challenges

- (a) In adequacy of the revolving loan fund to meet the market demands of the refugees and natives with the refugee catchment areas.
- (b) Poor storage facilities for the goods and produce of the income-generating activity beneficiaries.
- (c) Inadequacy of the skills acquired and tools for starting their own income generating activities.
- (d) Ignorance of some of the refugees about the importance of the skills trainings.
- (e) Lack of capital to purchase drugs for treating the live stock (goats, sheep and chicks).

4.5 Discussions and Analysis

This finding underlie the reality of the income generating activities in influence the socio-economic well being of its beneficiaries. Respondents points to specific needs that are denied and this worsened their vulnerability in food provision and meeting their basic needs.

These needs include, lack of access for better employment though one possesses the skills and discrimination in distribution of practical tools for income generation.

An intensified sensitization on the need to protect the environment against dangerous income generating activities is at the bid or worsening the situation of the people if markets have not been made available for the products of these skilled individuals.

The refugees would prefer engaging in charcoal burning and alcohol distilling as long as they can get some cash. (Peter Mawa, refuge welfare council 2003).

When more skills are created for agricultural production (crop planting, and storage) we hope it will improve food supply for the refugees community. This probably would address issue of food shortage "Joseph Tomigo Agriculture supervisor ded-Imvepi".

Most respondents stress the demand for affordable educational service (fees) and health services and the resources to access them.

There would be more promising achievement for the beneficiaries of agro-related commercial project grant once given much time to access such grants. However, it will be hard to realise these results if the climatic conditions are not reliable. "Mawa Isaac point Chairperson for point J".

One may argue that the income generating activity introduced for the refugees would realise good and remarkable success only gradually through a longer period of participation in these various business activities.

Some respondents relate situation in the refugee settlement as a place for people who have lost hope and direction. Imvepi would be a good place for rearing animals and hunting wild life than it would be for human settlement.

Many of the respondents who had been in Ikafe refugee settlement; Arniga District from 1996-1998 argued that Ikafe was a very good place for human settlement because it has good loam soil with bampher harvest though market for the produce was poor.

The need to keep struggling for self-reliance in food production the refugees seems very difficult to achieve in Imvepi within a short period of time and basing on the unpredictable climatic conditions of Terego county.

Thus solution to achieve self reliance for the refugees in Imvepi refugee settlement is to conduct continues extension services and sensitisation for the refugees to participate in income generating activities that suits the environment.

More support should be made available for recreational activities like traditional dances, cultural festivals, football clubs, and football competitions among others. It is hoped that the financial and moral support provided for these recreational activities will play a great role in making the participants self reliant in food production.

What is also needed are words, images and expression of experience of some individuals within the settlement and elsewhere who achieved self-reliance through the various income-generating activities and agricultural practices for the refugee community. These words and experiences will illuminate the feeling of hope lessens and plant a spirit of "self determination as one of the respondent said "self determination is our only hope in Southern Sudan".

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Conclusions

This study seek to assess the impact of the Self Reliant Strategy (SRS) for the refugees in Imvepi Refugee settlement; Terego county with emphasis on Income generating activities and skills trainings for the vulnerable groups (women, adolescent, school dropout youths and elderly persons) in Imvepi.

The act of increasing the amount of loans (revolving loans) for the identified needy refugees and natives within the refugee catchment areas in a bid to make the refugees self reliant in food production will not be easily achieved without management skills for the loans and businesses.

The struggle for self reliance in food production will not be as simple as the blinking of an eye but it will rather take a number of years for it to be realised if the refugees are still leaving in Imvepi refuge settlement.

Further, no single remedy can be sufficient to make refugees self reliant unless other ways such as supporting recreational activities, employing the refugee (unskilled) as manual labours in road maintenance and training them in other relevant skills are introduced.

Breaking through the habit of dependency, idleness and fear of participating in the life skills trainings at Ocea and Tumaini African foundation^{*} will take place gradually through sensitization and encouraging the adults (25-30 years old) to attend such skills training.

5.1 Recommendations

- (a) There is a need for more sensitization for the refugees community on environmentally friendly income generating activities.
- (b) The refugee communities should be enlightened about the possible available material and non-material local resource they should also be able to identify and economically utilise such resources.
- (c) Farmer should be trained in crop planting crop storage and management of their funds with the help of the agricultural sector.
- (d) Equal opportunities should be given to both men and women to participate in sustainable income generating activities and also be able to get assistance from the various loan schemes.
- (e) Marketing research; skills and transport should at least be facilitated for the loan beneficiaries and farmers.
- (f) Special consideration for income generating activities should be given to people living with HIV / AIDS and consequently where need be.

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Appendix

Title : An investigation on the impact of the self-reliant strategy for the Refugees in Imvepi; Terego county; Arua District; West Nile sub Region.

1. Name of the point (cluster).

2. Respondent's name.

3. Respondent's age.

4. Marital status.

5. Religion.

6. Education and occupation.

7. What do you understand by the term (S.R.S)
Self-reliant strategy as imparted on the refugees since 1997?

8. What are your comments about the S.R.S); do you appreciate it? If
yes or No give your reasons.

9. What role does UNHCR and its implementing play towards this
strategy?

10. How has these income generating activity supports improved your
standard of living and if not why?

11.(a) Which kind of supports do you think should also be created?

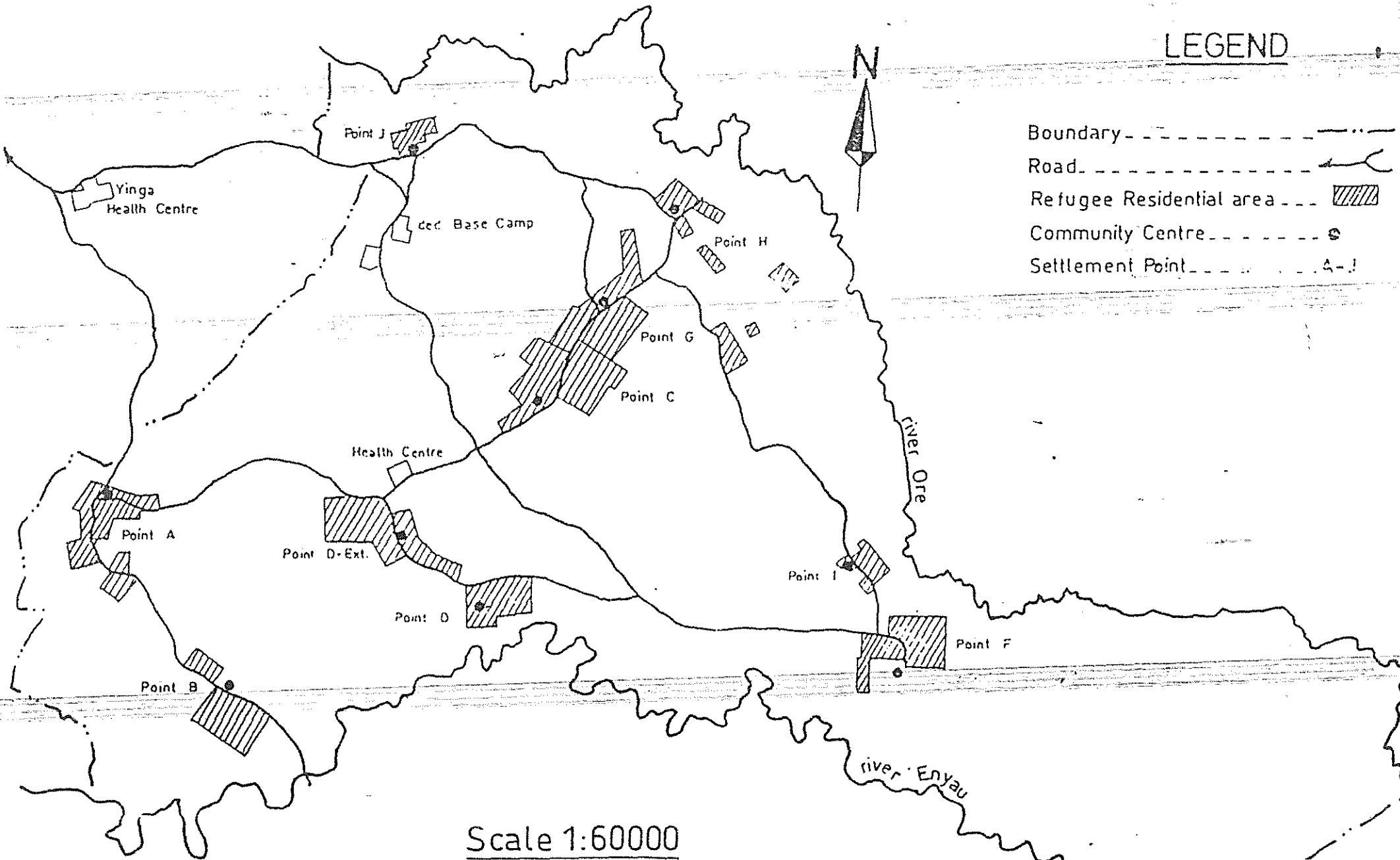
(b) Give reasons for your answer.

12.(a) Assuming that there are no more assistance from UNHCR, what could you do to be self sufficient in food production?

(b) Give reasons for your answer.

IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

LEGEND



Scale 1:60000