



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEM, AUGUST 2025 EDITION

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By: ATHIENO Caroline, Busiinge Amooti, & Isingoma Edward

Editorial

We are excited to share highlights of the August 2025 events. JESE envisions a community where nature and people flourish. Our areas of focus are Natural Resource Management, Livelihood Improvement, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Skills Development.

We want to use the space to thank you for staying with us on our journey. We cannot do it alone. In our June Newsletter, we bring you updates from various thematic areas of: Skills development, WASH Agricultural Enterprise, Natural Resources management, and operations to keep you tuned to our activities.

These updates are a result of collaboration, partnerships with other partners and stakeholders at local, regional, national, and international levels.

ATHIENO Caroline

Communications and Advocacy Manager-JESE.

JESE Program Review Meeting

On August 5, 2025, the JESE family had a crucial program review meeting at the New Fort View Hotel in Fort Portal Tourism City. This follows the departmental reflection meetings spearheaded by the Program Managers and Heads of Departments.

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the organization's representation, promote mutual learning, improve the efficacy and efficiency of JESE's operations, and increase awareness of the institution. Other topics of discussion at the workshop included examining implementation strategies, exchanging work methodologies, and enhancing data collection for institutional reporting.

The Executive Director, Mr. Baguma Patrick, thanked each member for participating in the evaluation process. He described these collaborations as a key element of JESE's operations and underlined the importance of the organization's continuous interaction with Mountains of the Moon University (MMU), Kabale University, and Makerere University on research-related issues.

Hygiene standards, late reporting, business planning, data gathering, fundraising, logical frameworks, cooperation with district offices, traffic at JESE's office, and the creation of breastfeeding areas were among the important topics brought up and discussed during the conference. It was also emphasized that every project requires technical staff. Crucially, the safeguarding topic was postponed to the general meeting on September 5, 2025, due to time constraints.

During the discussion, it was decided to take decisive action to solve the issues that were highlighted and to streamline processes going forward. The JESE family reaffirmed its dedication to promoting teamwork, increasing organizational effectiveness, and guaranteeing long-term influence throughout the communities it serves. The proactive strategy for enhancing internal procedures and collaborations highlights JESE's commitment to quality and ongoing development.



JESE group photo after Review Meeting at New Fort View Hotel, Fort Portal Tourism City.

JESE makes strides to improve WASH in schools.



JESE, with funding from Join For Water, held a WASH training in reusable menstrual pad making and liquid soap production at Bunoga and Busabura Primary Schools in Kamwenge district.

The training engaged 104 girls and 83 boys from the upper classes, as well as the PTA Chairperson, teachers, and members of the School Management Committee (SMC).

The training focused on practical skills in reusable pad making, equipping pupils and school leaders with knowledge to promote Menstrual Health Management.

Additionally, the participants were introduced to liquid soap making. This is aimed at strengthening hygiene practices through locally available, low-cost solutions. This activity is designed to bridge the knowledge gap in menstrual health and hygiene, while facilitating knowledge transfer from schools to households and communities where the pupils come from.

By equipping learners and school leaders with hands-on skills, the training contributes to sustainable hygiene improvement, school WASH club functionality, and wider community adoption of safe practices.



Left, Pupils being engaged during the training. Right, Pupils display their final products after the training in Rubona P/s

Role Model Men and Women Mentors meet to reflect

The Jese-Dreams project, with support from CARE International Uganda, held a review meeting at Heritage Country Resort in Kyenjojo on August 15, 2025. The gathering brought together Role Model Men (RMM) and Women Mentors (WM) to reflect on the project's progress, enhance team collaboration, and strengthen their commitment to community mentorship.

The gathering fostered a sense of cohesion and a common purpose while giving team members a forum to exchange experiences and accomplishments.

Ms. Twinomugisha Lucky emphasized important gender-related concerns throughout her speech, which support the project's goal. She emphasized the need for information sharing and efficient communication techniques as crucial instruments for changing the attitudes and actions of the community.

“My sincere gratitude to all RMMs and WMs for their constructive involvement and significant contributions in their communities. I want to urge all participants to keep setting an example, modeling knowledge, deference, and love when guiding others.” She remarked.

Reporting practices, team development, tackling low facilitation difficulties, increasing project visibility through materials, strengthening communication, and hitting goals were among the main themes covered during the conference. Together, the group determined practical solutions to these problems, guaranteeing further advancement and increased influence.

The review discussion ended well, reaffirming the Jese-Dreams project's dedication to strengthening communities via cooperative action and gender-sensitive mentoring. The effectiveness of the initiative and the promotion of long-lasting social change in the area are largely dependent on the commitment of the Role Model Men and Women Mentors.



Top-down, Role model men's and women mentors during Review Meetings at Heritage Country Resort, Kyenjojo.

JESE links Farmers to the international market.

The global demand for certified agricultural products, particularly in international markets, continues to rise significantly. In response to these evolving market opportunities, for cocoa and vanilla, JESE and Forest of the World, through the UGROW project, are actively empowering farmer-led small businesses in Kyenjojo District to capitalize on this trend.

In Q3 2025, JESE and Forest of the World collaborated with KIFECA Cooperative, Kyenjojo Cocoa and Vanilla Farmers' Cooperative, and Manuria Cooperative to facilitate the linkage of 300 organically certified smallholder farmers to Social Vanilla. Organized under farmer-led enterprises, these smallholder farmers successfully sold 4,676 kilograms of certified cocoa and vanilla to Social Vanilla, generating revenue exceeding UGX 109 million. This income is currently being reinvested to enhance the livelihoods of the cooperative members.

Additionally, support was extended to these farmer-led businesses to conduct the annual organic internal audit for the 300 smallholder farmers producing cocoa and vanilla across Kyenjojo's sub-counties of Bufunjo, Kyembogo, Kigoyera, Rwibaale, and Migamba. The internal audit plays a critical role in renewing organic certifications by verifying compliance with international standards, thereby ensuring continued access to premium international markets.

JESE and Forest of the World remain committed to building the capacity of farmer-led enterprises to sustain and expand their participation in global certified agricultural product markets, ultimately improving rural livelihoods in Kyenjojo District.



Farmers from Rwibaale, Kyenjojo District, are sorting vanilla to prepare it for the international market export.

JESE Conducts Monitoring and Evaluation to Support BANS Project

The Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE), led by Mr. Rugumayo Godfrey, Head of Department (HOD) WASH, conducted a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) visit to Kyangwali Refugee Settlement in Kikuube District from August 28 to 29, 2025. The visit assessed the progress and impact of the Biogas for Agriculture and Nutrition in Schools (BANS) project, funded by Novo Nordisk and implemented by CARE International Uganda, JESE, and the AVSI Foundation.

The BANS project aims to create self-sufficient, climate-smart school farms using biogas digesters that produce organic fertilizer (bio-slurry) and sustainable cooking energy. Targeting over 9,600 pupils across five primary schools, the initiative encourages a change from aid dependency to sustainability while improving health and nutrition.

JESE's team visited Ngurwe, Maratatu, and Karuhinda primary schools. They observed flourishing vegetable gardens with crops such as cabbage, carrots, Sukuma wiki, onions,

tomatoes, beans, and maize. Large cabbage heads weighing 3 to 5 kilograms demonstrated successful farming supported by bio-slurry.



Stakeholders inspecting and checking on cabbage heads during monitoring and evaluation at Karuhinda Primary School, Kyagwali Refugee Settlement, Kikuube District.

Teachers reported positive outcomes as asserted by Mr. Turyatunga Adolf of Ngurwe Primary school.

“Hunger is our major factor leading to poor health and dropout rates. We, however, hope that with better nutrition, attendance, and pupils’ wellbeing would improve.” He noted.

Mr. Ayikoyo Jimmy of Maratatu Primary School praised bio digesters, turning cow dung and human waste into fertilizers, reducing external input costs. Despite congestion, Maratatu provides meals to 1,000 out of its 7,400 learners, marking significant progress against malnutrition that has been the greatest challenge in this area.

“We call upon all stakeholders to view farms and biogas systems as community assets rather than donor projects”. Remarked Mr. Rugumayo Godfrey, the Deputy ED, JESE. Local management and ownership for lasting success is needed. JESE will continue backstopping throughout the project period. He added.”

Mrs. Rebecca Angumye, JESE-Bans project officer, highlighted milestones towards achieving the project goal, basically “nutritious school meals for all learners”. Notably was the bio slurry usage on flourishing vegetable gardens, and the recently launched nutrition days from 02 schools of Maratatu and Mombasa.

She highlighted integrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) to improve health in schools and refugee communities. To support school gardens, JESE provided gardening tools, including hoes, watering cans, timber, old car tyres, and empty water bottles, among others.

The M&E visit accentuated BANS’s vital role in enhancing nutrition, health, and education in vulnerable refugee settings. Its success demonstrates the potential of combining sustainable agriculture with renewable energy to achieve nutrition for learners.



Mr. Jimmy Ayikoyo, a focal teacher Bans project at Maratatu Primary School, explaining to the JESE team how the digester system will work and the management.



A team from JESE handing over garden tools to support farm activities during the M and E session

SFR2CC Project Strengthens Partnerships and Supports Community-Led Environmental Restoration in Uganda.



The SFR2CC project successfully convened its first physical partner meeting from July 14-16, bringing together implementation teams in Fort Portal and culminating in an inspiring field visit to innovative farmer groups in Karangura subcounty, demonstrating the power of collaborative approaches to sustainable development.

The two-day engagement, held at Nyaika Hotel in Fort-Portal and the Karangura agro-ecology demo farm, marked a significant milestone for the project. JESE staff members joined other implementation partners in a dynamic blend of indoor sessions and field visits designed to enhance understanding of project goals, harmonize strategies, and clarify individual roles for more effective implementation.

On July 15th, project representatives conducted a field visit to the Kanyamura Youth United Farmers Beekeepers Group and the Kanyamura Twekambe Farmers Marketing Association in Karangura Sub-County, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of community-led

initiatives. The beekeeper's group, comprising 30 members—17 women and 13 men —has become a model for youth empowerment and environmental restoration in the region.

"This visit exemplifies the SFR2CC project's commitment to supporting grassroots initiatives that align with our objectives of sustainable resource management and community resilience," said Mr. BUSIINGEs, representing JESE, the project's implementing partner. "The dedication of these farmer groups to climate adaptation and community development is truly commendable. " He added.

The origins of the youth beekeepers group reflect a remarkable transformation within the community. As shared by Mr. Muhindo Kalyata, the group's chairperson. It was established to redirect youth from counterproductive behaviors toward productive farming activities, eventually forming savings and credit cooperatives that strengthen their economic activities.

A distinctive feature of the group's approach is its emphasis on gender equality, a core objective of the SFR2CC project. Through participatory methods, both men and women collaborate actively, symbolically represented in a mosaic illustrating equitable family roles in their community.

The group has also developed a comprehensive five-year plan (2023-2028) to rehabilitate the degraded Karangura highlands, addressing environmental damage caused by sand mining and deforestation. Their restoration activities include constructing erosion-control trenches in hilly areas and planting trees to protect against destructive winds.

Dr. Violet Kisakye, Associate Professor at Mountains of the Moon University, expressed appreciation for the group's conservation efforts.

"We are committed to providing continued institutional support to further these important initiatives that align with our academic and research priorities," she stated.

Mr. Alex Saturday, a lecturer at Kabale University, emphasized the importance of documentation and knowledge sharing.

"I encourage these groups to institutionalize record-keeping for future reference, optimize agricultural timing for sustainability, and serve as mentors to neighboring farmers to promote widespread adoption of successful practices," He advised.

The partner meeting and field visit represent critical steps toward achieving the SFR2CC project's objectives, including finalizing 2026 work plans, streamlining water resources curricula for potential exchanges between Mountains of the Moon University and Kabale University, and developing shared research concepts.

As the project moves forward, the strong foundation established during this gathering is expected to catalyze more cohesive and effective joint implementation efforts, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and environmental resilience in the region.



District Stakeholders engaged in field monitoring.



In August 2025, Joint Effort to Save the Environment-Jese held field joint monitoring visits in Kitagwenda and Kamwenge Districts, bringing together District Executive Committee (DEC) members and other key district technocrats. As part of this exercise, the team visited the

Mpanga River buffer zone in Bwera Village, Rwenjaza Sub- County and Bunoga in Busiriba Sub-County, Kamwenge.

Additionally, the team visited Kiburara Prison land to assess the progress made since our last stakeholder engagement session, during which key commitments were secured. These monitoring visits are a critical step in our broader advocacy efforts for buffer zone protection and sustainable land use.

“As a secretary in Production and Natural Resources, I will continue advocating for the district's involvement in all activities of Natural Resources protection. Noted, Ms. Nankunda Doreen.

This provided an opportunity to engage decision-makers, track implementation progress, and reinforce accountability.

Insights and outcomes from this field visit will inform discussions during the upcoming DEC meeting, where our advocacy issue on buffer zone protection is expected to be tabled and prioritized on the meeting’s order paper.

The District Executive Committee members from Kitagwenda and Kamwenge committed to;

- Continue sensitizing community members adjacent to the River Mpanga and advocate for environmental protection-Kitagwenda
- Support in the implementation of protection and conservation activities- Kitagwenda
- By-laws, ordinances, and policy to be formed and tabled during the council meeting-Kamwenge.
- Community mobilization of the community to observe the regulations on buffer zone protection

. This will ensure the districts own the work started by JESE and other implementing partners.

Key to note:

When we don’t conserve our environment, we will not have our tomorrow.

Nature can survive without us, but we cannot survive without nature.



Follow the link below for the detailed story.

<https://nilepost.co.ug/iyf%20we%20can%20academy/281579/kamwenge-leaders-jese-renew-commitment-to-safeguard-river-mpanga>

Two life-changing facilities were handed over and commissioned in the Kamwenge district.



JESE, with funding from Join For Water, with support from the Kamwenge district Local Government, handed over eco-san toilets, a water harvesting tank, and a water extension project in Kamwenge district.

The projects are estimated at about 180.000.000 UGX, benefiting Busabura Primary school in Busiriba Sub-County and three villages in Kahunge Sub-County. The eco-san toilets and rainwater harvesting tank handed over were to ensure that they improved WASH services and attendance among school-going pupils.

Additionally, the water extension project in Kahunge is intended to reduce the long distances moved by girls and women in search of water, allowing them time to tend to household chores.

Speaking to the participants, Ms. Katusiime Harriet, the CAO of Kamwenge district, appreciated the work done and reminded JESE and Join For Water that the district still needs their services.

“Sustainability is key. Beautiful structures like these need to be well managed. I want to task the Headmaster of Busabura PS to ensure that the facilities are not put to waste.” She noted

The JESE program Manager, Mr. Tusiime Lawrence, emphasized the need to use the resources sustainably attributing the success of the facilities to the funding received from the Belgian government under the Join For Water an International NGO.



Participants during the commissioning of the water extension project in Kahunge Sub-County, Kamwenge district.

For the detailed story, follow the link below.

<https://parrotsug.com/kamwenges-busabura-ps-gets-ecosan-toilets-water-tank-to-improve-hygiene-and-sanitation/>

Over 50 Youth engaged in a mentorship session.



During August 2025, JESE, PELUM Uganda, through the YALTA PROGRAM in conjunction with YPARD (Youth Network), convened over 50 youth across the country in a physical mentorship session on Agroecology Entrepreneurship and Business enterprise development at the YPARD FARM DAY OUT at KCCA Farm in Kyanja.

Prof. Clovis Kabaseke (YALTA Youth mentor & Agroecology Lecturer of the Moon University) gave the keynote address, shared knowledge about Agroecology Entrepreneurship, and the role of youth in promoting Agroecology in Uganda.

In his keynote address, he encouraged youth to at least familiarize themselves with the 13 principles of Agroecology and ensure that they at least integrate these in their enterprises.



The JESE Program Officer engaging participants during the event.

A Warm Cup of Change in Kyangwali !!!



In the third week of August 2025, in Kyangwali, something simple yet powerful happened under the BANS project by JESE – the introduction of porridge to pupils at school.

Now, to many of us, porridge might sound like an everyday thing.

But to these young learners, it's much more than just a meal.

It's energy for their growing bodies, focus for their studies, and motivation to stay in class.

Too often, children in underserved communities go through long school days on empty stomachs.

And when a child is hungry, learning becomes a heavy burden instead of a joyful experience.

That's where this initiative steps in – filling not just bowls, but also hearts with hope.

Standing there and watching the smiles as the first cups were served, we were reminded that real change doesn't always come in grand gestures.

Sometimes, it's as simple as a warm meal that says: "You matter.

Your education matters.

Your future matters."

This is more than porridge – it's an investment in the next generation.

Imagine if more schools, communities, and organizations embraced this model.

How many more children would stay in school?

How many more dreams would be kept alive?

As we celebrate this milestone, let's also challenge ourselves: What small but impactful action can each of us take today to make education more inclusive and nurturing?

Because at the end of the day, it's not just about feeding stomachs... it's about fueling possibilities.

