

# Cross-border cooperation in Africa

The Euroregion Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino  
starts a programme





## Contacts in the Euroregion:

### **Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol (Italy)**

Presidency – Office for Cabinet Affairs 1.1  
Development Cooperation  
Silvius Magnago Square, 1  
39100 Bolzano/Bozen (BZ) - Italy  
Phone: +39 0471 412130, Fax: + 39 0471 412139  
E-mail: eza.cooperazione@provinz.bz.it  
Contact persons:  
Dr. Elisabeth Spergser – Director of the Office for Cabinet Affairs  
E-mail: Elisabeth.Spergser@provinz.bz.it  
Dr. Alexandra Pöder – Cooperation for development  
E-mail: Alexandra.Poeder@provinz.bz.it  
<http://www.provinz.bz.it/entwicklungszusammenarbeit/>  
<http://www.provincia.bz.it/cooperazioneallosviluppo/>

### **Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy)**

Servizio Emigrazione e Solidarietà internazionale  
Via Gazzoletti 2  
38122 Trento – Italy  
Phone: +39 0461 493404  
E-mail: serv.emigr-sol.int@provincia.tn.it  
Contact persons:  
Dr. Luciano Rocchetti  
e-mail: luciano.rocchetti@provincia.tn.it  
Dr. Paola Delrio – Programme Coordinator  
E-mail: paola.delrio@provincia.tn.it  
<http://www.trentinosolidarieta.it/>

### **Province of Tyrol (Austria)**

Presidency – Department for Foreign Relations  
Eduard-Wallnöfer-Platz 3  
6020 Innsbruck - Austria  
Contact person:  
Dr. Fritz Staudigl – Director  
Phone: +43 512 508 2340  
E-mail: fritz.staudigl@tirol.gv.at  
<http://www.tirol.gv.at>

### **Brother and Sister in Need**

Heiliggeist Road 16  
6020 Innsbruck – Austria  
Contact person:  
Mag. Franz Hainzl – Programme Coordinator  
Phone: +43 (0)512 7270-62  
E-Mail: franz.hainzl@dibk.at  
[www.zukunft-teilen.at](http://www.zukunft-teilen.at)

## Contacts in the African Region:

### **Masaka District Local Government (Uganda)**

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
CAO Mr Ruhemba Kweyamba  
PO Box 634  
Masaka – Uganda  
Phone +256- 772-443736  
Email: rkweyamba@gmail.com

### **Rakai District Local Government (Uganda)**

Office of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
CAO Mr. Nkatta .B.James  
P.O.Box 21,  
Kyotera-Uganda  
Phone: +256-481-425-004 / 5 / 6 Mob: +256 772 427 209  
email: caorakai@yahoo.com

### **Caritas MADDO (Masaka Diocesan Development Organisation)**

**P.O. Box 14**  
Masaka – Uganda  
Contact Person:  
Fr. Peter Ssenkaayi  
Phone : +256-481-420976 or +256-772 415233  
Email : maddo@africaonline.co.ug  
<http://caritasmaddo.org/>

### **Missenyi District Local Government (Tanzania)**







Office of the Council Director  
Council Director Dr. Elizabeth Kitundu  
P.O. Box 38, Kyaka  
Bunazi – Tanzania  
Phone +255-754-949540  
Contact Person:  
Mr. Isaya Mbenje  
Phone:+255-717920410  
E-mail: ismbenje@yahoo.com

### **Kolping Society of Tanzania,**

Plot 7LD Maruku Road,  
Baramaga Estate,  
P.O. Box 1236,  
Bukoba – Tanzania  
Contact Person:  
National Coordinator Venanth M. Mpanju  
Phone: +255 28 2223282 / 2221236  
E-mail: kst@kolpingtanzania.com  
venanthm@aol.com  
[www.kolpingtz.net](http://www.kolpingtz.net)



## Content

	1. The origin of the Cross-border Programme .....	4
	2. Main programme objectives .....	6
	3. Main partners in the programme and management structure .....	6
	4. Target group .....	6
	5. Methodology .....	6
	6. Programme Results .....	9

# 1. The origin of the cross border Programme:

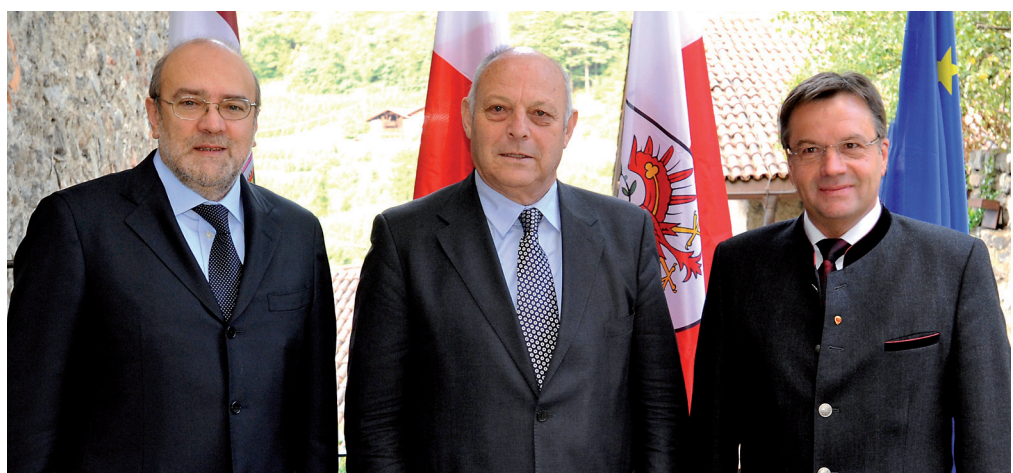
A new partnership: **The Euroregion Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino in Europe starts a cross border cooperation in Africa**

## The origin of the partnership:

As part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the historic Crownland of Tyrol included the provinces of North-, South- and East Tyrol and the province of Trento. After World War I, Tyrol was divided between Italy and Austria. The northern and eastern territories were assigned to the newly founded Austrian Republic and became what nowadays is called the province of Tyrol, whereas the southern part, which corresponds to present-day provinces of Bozen/Bolzano and Trento, was adjudged to the Italian Republic. After World War II, in 1946, negotiations between Austria and Italy led to the so-called “Paris Agreement” signed by the Italian prime minister De Gasperi and the Austrian foreign minister Gruber, in which the Province of Bozen/Bolzano and the Province of Trento were granted a certain level of self-government. Based on this agreement, in 1948 the Region Trentino-Alto Adige was created with a certain degree of autonomous legislative and executive power. In 1972 the Autonomy Statute for the Region Trentino – South Tyrol was amended with a constitutional law recognizing a stronger autonomy to the single Provinces of Trento and Bozen/Bolzano. Together with the province of Tyrol in Austria, South Tyrol and Trentino in Italy continue to act and **collaborate beyond borders** in many different fields.



Cooperation between the three provinces covers many sectors especially economy, traffic and communication services, culture, education, environment, tourism and various social areas. Among current issues there are a jointly agreed traffic policy for the extremely sensitive area of the central Alps, combined efforts to transfer heavy traffic from road to rail, securing the cross-financing of the planned Brenner tunnel, establishing a regular passenger service integrated with the existing transport services as well as common initiatives of the universities in the field of information technology.



The presidents of the Euroregion



One of the most important objectives of the Euroregion is to foster sustainable development that considers both the sensitive equilibrium of nature and environment and the economic necessities in the Alpine region.



Launch of the programme

The cooperation between the three provinces within the Euroregion has become well established and thus has generated important results such as **common liaison offices** which the three provincial governments set up some years ago in Brussels to represent the Euroregion at the European Union and in Bozen/Bolzano for the European Grouping of territorial cooperation EGTC Euroregion Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino. Other important achievements are joint meetings of the three regional parliaments and a broad institutional and technical collaboration and coordination of legal and administrative issues.

The three provinces Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino thus are connected by a tight network of friendly relations that bring about **lively exchanges in many sectors** based on many centuries of shared history and considerable similarities in their geographical situations, environmental conditions and cultural, social and economic life. In fact, the three provinces somehow see themselves as the “heart of Europe”, and they do so not only from a geographical point of view.

In 1991 the 3 Provinces started to collaborate also in the area of **international cooperation** and implemented various programs in different areas with partners in various countries around the world. According to a decision of the 3 governments in 2007 a joint partnership programme under the so-called “**Global Marshall Plan Initiative**” between Tyrol, South-Tyrol and Trentino as partners in Europe and Masaka and Rakai districts in Uganda and Misisi district in Tanzania as partners in the south was elaborated. Main objective of the programme is to fight poverty through initiatives, that support a sustainable social and economic development, as well as to contribute to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals of the UN in this trans-border area. Projects that contribute to food security and local economic development and initiatives in the area of education and health as well as in the area of water supply are predominantly encouraged. The current triennial programme lasting from October 2010 until September 2013 is a result of this long lasting partnership and operates in the partner areas, which as well share a common history of cultural and economic exchange.

## 2. Main programme objectives

The goal of the programme is **fighting poverty** through initiatives that promote a sustainable socio-economic development. The main objectives are to ensure food security and access to water as well as improving the quality of education and health care. Life in the respective rural areas should stay attractive especially for young people or should become attractive again. Awareness raising and training activities combined with concrete support measures should motivate people to use natural resources as soil, water, plants and trees while applying sustainable agricultural concepts to make them available also to future generations. Another objective of the programme is to promote the **cross border cooperation** between the targeted districts in the African Region but also the exchange of best practices and transfer of knowledge from the members of the Euroregion to the African Region and viceversa.



Farmers group at work

## 3. Main partners in the programme and management structure



Steering committee meeting

The three members in the Euroregion finance the programme with an **annual budget of approx. EUR 300.000**. Every province supports the program with app. EUR 100.000 per year summing up to app. EUR 900.000 for a period of three years from **October 2010 up to September 2013**.

The main implementing partners in Tanzania are **Missenyi District Administration and Kolping Society of Tanzania** for Missenyi District and in Uganda **Caritas MADDO** (Masaka Diocesan Development Organisation) for Masaka and Rakai Districts, who cooperates closely with the Austrian Foundation **“Brother and Sister in Need”** based in Tyrol.

To back the project locally a **Steering Committee**, which meets annually, was founded with representatives of the three districts in the African Region, the three provinces of the Euroregion as well as the implementing partners Caritas **MADDO** and **Kolping Society of Tanzania**. Its task is to **review the programme achievements and approve the annual plans** taking into account lessons learnt and best practices identified. So far two Steering Committee meetings were held with the involvement of the local technical staff from the various District Departments. These meetings offered the participants the opportunity to discuss common issues in the Programme area and identify possible solutions.



## 4. Target group

The **key target groups** are **smallholder farmers and their support structures**. Specific actions also target **private civil society organisations** as well as **training institutes**, research centres or centres of excellence in the agricultural sector and **the population at large**.



Piggery

## 5. Methodology

This project follows an **integrated approach** combining **good agricultural practices** with **protective environmental measures**. A multi-national and decentralised co-operation approach, which values the local skills and competences as well as the **Database Methodology** are used. Accurate data collection related to all the various activities is crucial to allow future dissemination of programme results. Moreover the **Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methodology** is applied. By offering the targeted communities the opportunity of being directly involved in all various phases of the project implementation their capacity of learning by doing and the value of community structures such as farmers' groups are reinforced. Farmer groups capable and interested in implementing improved farming methods and Income Generating Activities (IGAs) in areas with sufficient water facilities are identified. Knowledge and skills are transferred to project participants for further dissemination to local farmers in order to obtain a **multiplier effect**. Farmers who benefit from the assistance undergo **continuous training** on how to maintain their farming fields and manage IGAs in a sustainable way. The aim is to influence local agricultural policies towards **sustainable development**.



Participatory Learning and Action



Involvement of key stakeholders

In most of the sub-projects **the community contributes up to 25% of the total value of the project** with their work and with materials. Their active **participation** contributes towards the **sustainability of the actions**.

The project implementation teams ensured the **involvement of key stakeholders in all activities** of the project. **Sub county/ward production staffs** in all three Districts were fully involved in the planning, execution and monitoring of project activities and regular planning meetings were held with staff from **the Masaka and Rakai production departments**, the Masaka and Rakai **Agricultural Training and Information Centres (DATIC)** and with the sub county **NAADS (National Agricultural Advisory Services)** coordinators in the targeted areas in Masaka and Rakai Districts. The coordinators and their teams at the district and sub county/ward level took part in group identification, mobilization, assessment and conducting trainings.

Group leaders, CBEA's (Community Based Extension Assistants) and local council chairpersons in Masaka and Rakai Districts received training in **human rights, gender and good governance**. The project staff in all three targeted Districts has continuously trained and encouraged equitable distribution of benefits, responsibilities and opportunities in families and groups. Men have been encouraged to fully participate in food production and **women to participate in leadership**. Women involvement in the programme was intended to reduce their work burden and to give them the opportunity to participate in improving subsistence production systems. The intervention has so far addressed this problem by equipping women with the required knowledge and skills to address problems facing them in their farming practices. The gender trainings and sensitization workshops have enhanced women decision making and allowed the **men to share these responsibilities**, bringing forth better decision making and production.



Farmers digging a drain



## 6. Programme Results

The three partners of the Euroregion decided at the beginning of the programme that each province would focus on one district in order to ease the administration of the funding and the coordination of programme activities.

The Autonomous province of Bozen/Bolzano focuses on Mis-senyi District, the Autonomous Province of Trento on Masaka District and the Province of Tyrol on Rakai District in the implementation of the rural development program. The overall programme in the three districts has yielded in the first two years **positive results** as regarded to the overall and specific objectives.

### **Farmers are organized in groups and their leaders have the capacity to advise and monitor**

The programme implemented by Caritas MADDO aims at improving public health, household income, food security and access to water in **1,800 direct beneficiary households** and 5,400 indirect beneficiary households in the **sub counties of Lwambenge and Bigasa in Masaka District and in 1.638 households in the sub counties of Kakuuto, Kasaali, Kasasa and Kyebe in Rakai District.**

Farmers in **Masaka** and **Rakai** Districts are organised in **120 groups** (60 respectively) with an average number of 31 members and their leaders have capacity to advise and monitor. The farmers have been mobilised to form new groups and also old non-functional groups have been mobilised and reorganised. The formed groups have been helped to draft or improve their bylaws but also to carry out democratic elections of their leaders. Presently the number of **women in leadership is over 60%**. The groups have been sensitised and trained in financial management and record keeping. The saving culture has not yet picked, however half of them have shown capacity to save. Through cooperation the farmer groups have accessed a good market for their crops such as beans, maize, ground nuts, banana, coffee and the **targeted areas are well known for quality products**. In so being, the traders are buying from both direct and indirect beneficiaries at good prices. **Cooperative societies** have been formed in two sub counties in Rakai District which will be strengthened and consolidated in the third year of the programme.



Women with dairy cow



Baseline Survey in Rakai district

### Baseline survey conducted

A baseline survey was conducted at the beginning of the project to ascertain the status of the target communities in the areas of project intervention. The survey also aimed at establishing benchmarks upon which the project will measure its impact. Random sampling was used to select the respondent households in all the areas where the 120 groups had been identified. 10 households per group were randomly selected from each group, which translated into a sample size of 600 households in each targeted District. A predesigned questionnaire was used to capture the required information. When this information was compiled it resulted into the project baseline data. The project compares progressively its achievements against this baseline data.

### Food security improved and farmers income increased

**60 farmer groups in Masaka District and 60 farmer groups in Rakai District** have received necessary trainings to enable them practice **sustainable agriculture** on their farms. In Rakai district for example 564 farm trainings were conducted by the end of the second year of the programme. Through team work approach farmers have rotated on different farmers' farms to do the labour intensive activities like digging contours and planting trees etc. The farmers have applied over 60% of the concepts in agriculture production taught to them. This has **improved yields** as reported **by almost 50%** of the farmers. The farmer groups have been supplied **with planting materials which are pest and drought tolerant**. They are **multiplying this planting material** to share it with all members of the community.



Crop demonstration site in Masaka District

**Livestock was provided** and through house demonstrations and feeding skills farmers have learnt improved methods to be applied on their farms. There is growing number of farmers improving livestock management i.e. zero grazing, improved nutrition and veterinary treatment at roughly 30%. It is estimated that over 40% of farmers are able to earn more than 1 USD a day. Farmer group representatives have been facilitated to visit and see improved farming techniques. **Caritas MADDO staff** have also visited the **Euroregion** three times for **study tours mainly in the dairy and agriculture sector**.



Delivery of goats





Produktion of quality maize seeds in Missenyi District

From the second programme year two **District Agricultural Training and Information Centres** (so-called **DATIC Schools**) in Rakai and Masaka are being supported. **75 young farmers from Masaka and 75 from Rakai District** were selected in the second year and they attended **training in different agriculture skills**. In both districts youth's group projects have been implemented or young farmers have started working on their individual projects. Youth provides new advisory input within the already existing farmer support structure and play therefore a key role in the programme. **Seed multiplication in Missenyi District** has enabled farmers to get access to quality seeds within short distance of their homes hence reducing the production costs and ensuring constant availability. This has contributed to increase crop production and productivity and therefore the income of the farmers in the district. Seeds producers have benefited from this project economically by selling seeds produced and ensuring sustainability by establishing a revolving seed fund.

### **Milk and meat production enhanced**

The local **Agriculture Department in Missenyi District** has procured liquid nitrogen containers and a motor cycle and trained two inseminators in the techniques of artificial insemination in Arusha. These support measures have enabled the inseminators to reach more livestock keepers and to increase the rate of **cattle upgrading**. The district has been able to improve productivity by raising both the quality and quantity of milk and meat produced but at the same time to reduce livestock numbers which have been causing environmental degradation due to overgrazing. Beneficiaries were actively involved in the project implementation through selecting animals for insemination from their herd and paying an insemination fee. Through this project with the increased production of milk, meat and manure for soil amendment, it is expected to increase household food security and income especially for women keeping improved dairy animals.



Milk cooler for MADDO dairy plant

### Milk processing enhanced

The programme in **Masaka District** supported the farmers to acquire the necessary equipments to improve their capacity to collectively market their milk. The farmer groups in Lwabenge Sub County have been supported to establish a **milk collection centre at Miwuula**. Caritas MADDO provided the centre with a cooling tank while the Local Government of Masaka District supported the cooling centre with a generator. The dairy plant recapitalisation in terms of machinery has increased the quality and quantity of milk produced. Presently farmers easily market their milk to the dairy plant. The **milk van** bought in the first programme year has provided good services like delivering milk on time to the **central dairy plant in Masaka town** managed by Caritas MADDO. The laboratory established to check milk quality has reduced the rate of milk going bad due to instant checking of quality. High quality milk, processed milk and products like yogurt access good market and reputation.



Milk van for MADDO daries plant



Pupils planting trees at schools in Minziro ward

### Farmers grow a variety of trees for income generation and environmental conservation

In the **second year** the Euroregion with its partner Kolping Society of Tanzania has focused on actions which aim at improving the capacity of community members **to adapt to the adverse effects of climate variability** through the implementation of community driven, sustainable and innovative initiatives and strategies. A project which foresees the **establishment of tree nurseries for climate variability adaptation and mitigation** was sustained and will continue in the third programme year.

In 2012 **five tree nurseries** were established at **five school centres** in Minziro ward in **Misenyi District** and are tended and protected by school pupils in collaboration with their teachers and project staff. School pupils were enlightened on the need and essence of raising tree seedlings, tending, protecting and planting them for climate variability mitigation and conservation of environment in general. With the establishment of **7 fruits orchards in 7 schools** it is expected to improve the income and nutrition status of the targeted beneficiaries.

Moreover 25 **homestead tree nurseries** out of 50 have been established. A total of 150 household members have benefited from this activity. Besides establishing tree nurseries a **Training of Trainers (ToT)** workshop was also held. The workshop involved village Government leaders, village environmental conservation committees and school teachers. The 60 participants of this workshop were taught to teach other villagers and school pupils on measures needed to **mitigate and adapt to climate variability and to conserve the environment**. A total of **162.000 trees of different species** were **planted** in woodlots, farms in degraded forests and water catchments areas. These actions have reduced the pressure on natural and planted forests and the women workload for fetching fire wood for long distances and benefited 15.290 inhabitants of Minziro and Bugandika wards. Moreover 90 households were trained in building solar cookers and fuel saving stoves with locally available material. This enables farmers to save time, firewood and curtails the rate of felling trees.



The Euroregion has continued the collaboration with **Missenyi district Administration** in the second year and in the Annual Steering Committee Meeting it was decided to implement a project with a key focus on the **improvement of rangeland** through increased accessibility and availability of pasture and water to livestock. Moreover a key attention is put on the use of **appropriate agronomic and agroforestry practices to control soil erosion and improve soil fertility** in villages along rivers as part of its strategies in minimizing consequences of climate variability in the district. The planting of seedlings in 4 villages along rivers, the construction of **charco-dams** and **watering troughs**, the establishments of **pasture production and conservation demonstration plots** and the **production of drought tolerant cereal food crop** are the main planned activities foreseen in the second and third programme year.



Water diversion drain in Masaka ditric



Energy saving stove

Farmers in **Masaka and Rakai Districts** grow a variety of trees, mostly **fruit trees for income generation and environmental conservation**. The community has been sensitized more on the need to conserve the environment and also sensitized on the potential of earning good income through trees especially fruit and other multipurpose trees. **Tree nursery establishments** were supported with rare tree seeds with unique characteristics like tolerance to drought and to many soil types, soil fertility maintenance and high medicinal value. The 240 farmers trained in nursery management selected for proper management of nurseries performed well. A total of **55 groups in Masaka and 16 groups in Rakai District** were provided with tree seeds and supplements to establish nurseries. The protection and conservation of trees on the farm has been supported through the promotion of **energy saving technologies**. There are over 55% of farmers who constructed and are using energy saving stoves which reduces the amount of wood used by 60%. Furthermore farmers have been exposed to bio-gas technology and many have applied it.



Meeting of Village Health Team members

**Improved access to quality health**  
**Village health teams (VHTs)** were identified and trained in the two sub counties (Lwabenge and Bigasa) in **Masaka District** from 24 villages. The **144 VHTs** have been facilitated with transport means i.e. one bicycle per member. The trained VHTs have taken up their role of providing education services and awareness in primary health care and preventive health. The overall training of the Village Health Teams has impacted positively the hygiene and sanitation practices of the target area. 50% of the households have indicated reasonable response by putting up required structures like tippy tap, fairly better toilets, rubbish pits, utensils racks etc.

Two wards for patients at Bunazi Health Centre in Missenyi District have been constructed. The community contributed to the construction of these buildings. The reasons for this proposed activity were many: Bunazi Health centre is located at the District head quarter and Bunazi village is a fast growing town. The health centre in Bunazi is the only one and the growing population poses bigger challenges to the existing structure. The need for the wards is high as for example pregnant women requiring caesarean operation must be transported to Kagera hospital which is 16 km away. Surgical doctors for carrying out operations are available in the district but failed to do the activity due to lack of wards.

Moreover beds were delivered to the **Kyamulibwa Health Centre IV in Masaka District** which has reduced over congestion of women in the labour ward.



Women awaiting consultation at Kyamulibwa Health Centre

**The community is using proper hygiene, sanitation and nutritional practices**

The programme values the role of community-based trainers. These community based Extension Assistants (CBEAs) were selected from amongst the group members. The primary role of these CBEAs is to assist fellow group members in the adoption of the promoted practices through guiding, advising and encouraging. Each group democratically selected 2 CBEAs (one male and one female). In light of their responsibility, a training in extension methods was conducted to enable these CBEAs get acquainted with their responsibility and also to acquire basic extension methods. The community was able to identify and elect **120 Community Based Extension Assistants (CBEAs) in Masaka District and 112 CBEAs in Rakai District** who underwent two community workshop trainings on basic agriculture extension skills, hygiene, sanitation and nutrition. The CBEAs have set up **147 model units/demonstrations** for food security and more than half of the groups have started group projects. As a result better **nutrition** in terms of meals is enjoyed by the farmer community and hygiene and **sanitation** have **improved**. Already over 70% of the CBEAs are doing good advisory work and together with group leaders they have monitored project progress. The programme has provided the CBEAs with monitoring forms as a way of evaluating the implemented activities, after which results are discussed together for a way forward.

The number of groups addressing HIV/AIDS issues in the community has also increased. 25 solidarity groups to support HIV/AIDS cases have been formed.



Tippy Tap handwasher





Pupils at school

### Improved access to quality education

A **dormitory for girls** at Nkenge co- educational Public Secondary School located in Bugorora Ward 30 km from Bunazi in **Misenyi District** has been built to enhance school attendance and reduce dropout rates. The school has a total of 188 students, 98 girls and 90 boys. In order to attend school some students had to walk 30 kms daily, sometimes under difficult conditions. Political leaders and village leaders were involved in mobilizing the community to participate in the project through collection of sand and stones. This was a great support for the project.

### The number of people with access to safe water for domestic and livestock use is increased

The number of people with access to safe water for domestic and livestock use has increased: **21 wells** have been constructed in the targeted areas in **Rakai and Masaka Districts**. Water source committees were established and trained to operate and manage the wells and so far they are doing well in organising farmers to keep highest level of cleanliness. They are also involved in the management of a local fund raised by farmers to maintain the established wells. In areas where shallow wells could not be established, the groups were to be supported with a revolving fund to establish **low cost water tanks**.



Well in Kifukamiza



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MASAKA DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COUNCIL



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
RAKAI DISTRICT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COUNCIL



PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI  
TRENTO

AUTONOME  
PROVINZ  
BOZEN  
SÜDTIROL



PROVINCIA  
AUTONOMA  
DI BOLZANO  
ALTO ADIGE

