



 Austrian  
Development  
Agency

**Caritas**  
Austria



**Caritas Gulu Archdiocese**

## Project Summary:

### 1. General information

<b>Reference of the call for proposals</b>	EuropeAid/165220/DD/ACT/UG
<b>[Lot number:]</b>	Lot n° 1
<b>Number of the proposal</b>	24
<b>Main funder</b>	European Union(EU)
<b>Co-Funder</b>	Austrian Development Agency(ADA)
<b>Name of the lead applicant</b>	Caritas Austria (orig.: Österreichische Caritaszentrale)
<b>Co-applicant</b>	Caritas Gulu Archdiocese
<b>Title of the action</b>	EMPLOYED: <b>E</b> nhanced <b>M</b> eaningful Opportunities, <b>P</b> articipation and <b>L</b> ivelihoods <b>O</b> f <b>Y</b> outh for <b>E</b> ffective <b>D</b> evelopment
<b>Location of the action</b>	Gulu district (Awach, Unyama and Paicho Sub Counties)and Kitgum district (Omiya-Anyima, Mucwini and Layamo sub counties)
<b>Duration of the action</b>	36 Months( 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023)
<b>Total number of beneficiaries:</b>	Direct: 1,200 youth. Indirect: 6,000 people.
<b>Total budget in EUR</b>	548,692.23

**Key problems being addressed by the project:**

Northern Uganda region faces severe challenges, as around 70% of its large youth population are unemployed and live in poverty. This problem becomes even more pressing considering that approximately 25% of the households in Northern Uganda are headed by youth (UBOS 2014). Yet the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development acknowledges that there is a mismatch between youth and their individual skills/qualifications and available jobs, which leaves many unemployed. Different studies show that the high unemployment rate among youth is associated with low levels of knowledge and skills to favourably compete for available jobs in addition to lack of capital to start businesses, limited access to credit, and negative attitudes towards work. These circumstances have led many youth to engage in risky behaviours and activities such as substance abuse, prostitution, theft and gambling, leading to high cases of STIs and unwanted pregnancies. They have become a social burden, not only to their families, but to the community and the entire nation. Most youth have a poor saving culture and poor business management skills. In addition, there is low participation of youth in decision-making which also leads to their exclusion from most government programmes. The high poverty level among youth in the target areas makes them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation through indecent working conditions, low pays or even no pay and most of them have fallen victims to sexual exploitation in exchange for jobs or livelihoods.

On the other hand, implementation of existing policies and programmes on the ground shows that CSO and government officials who should address youths problems even have limited capacity to manage, monitor and report on projects coupled with poor coordination among them.

**Key actions to address the above mentioned problems:**

In order to stop this negative spiral, Caritas Gulu Archdiocese is implementing EMPLOYED project in Gulu and Kitgum districts. The Overall Objective “to contribute towards poverty reduction and socio-economic empowerment among youth in Northern Uganda in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 8 and 10”. The Specific Objectives of the project are “Youth in Acholi sub region have and apply increased capabilities and opportunities to engage in economic activities and reduce risky behaviours” and “Youth in Acholi sub region increased their participation in decision-making processes for enhanced employment and business opportunities”.

Caritas Gulu Archdiocese is working with youth on individual level, also with the private sector (local businesses and financial institutions), with political leaders as well as policy makers, and with civil society organisations (CSOs) to eventually achieve nine results: (1.1) Capacity of local CSOs and local government staff built. (1.2) Youth have increased knowledge and skills that enable them to get jobs and engage in businesses. (1.3) Business ideas developed and supported. (1.4) Employment and business opportunities created. (1.5) Increased savings and access to credits by youth (2.1) Increased awareness on rights and entitlements among youth. (2.2) Reduced risky behaviours among youth. (2.3) Increased youth engagement with government, non-government and economic stakeholders. (2.4) Youth access government programmes like youth livelihoods fund, operation wealth creation and NUSAF3.

The main activities under the EMPLOYED project include: 1.1. Capacity building and co-ordination with local CSO and local government officials of Gulu and Kitgum regarding monitoring/reporting of socio-economic developments, local (job-) markets for

youth and project management; 1.2. To qualify 1,200 youth for starting a business (sectors: agriculture, service delivery, Information/ Communication Technology), provide special support to those at risk of becoming drop-outs and establish connections with employers (e.g. apprenticeships); 1.3. Support participants to develop business ideas and gain skills to manage businesses; 1.4. Enhance youth employment and business opportunities; 1.5 Promote village savings and loan association (VSLAs) among youth; 2.1. Train youth on advocacy and leadership skills; 2.2. Reduce risky behaviour among youth through peer education, counselling and sensitization of youth on risky behaviours; 2.3. Organise regular events, discussion fora where youth can meet with local authorities and policy makers to raise their issues and concerns; and last but not least 2.4. Make youth aware of their rights and government programmes such as youth livelihoods fund, operation wealth creation and NUSAF3 regularly (websites, trainings, brochures, events radio talk show). This project puts emphasis on mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, disability, democracy, good governance, children's rights, HIV/AIDS and environmental sustainability.

Through the EMPLOYED project, 1,200 youth will be enabled to engage in gainful employment and income generating activities such as vegetable growing, poultry farming, piggery, apiculture, arts and craft, planting of fruits and trees, tree nursery management, value addition and marketing of agricultural produce amongst others. They will be socially and economically empowered through diversification of livelihoods for reduced risk of being affected by disaster. Youth engaged in productive activities are less dependent, their activities will create markets and family members of the target youth and other community members will adopt good practices from the target beneficiaries.

To ensure the successful implementation of the EMPLOYED project, Caritas Gulu Archdiocese is cooperating with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, local district governments of Gulu and Kitgum, district farmers association of Gulu and Kitgum, Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADC), various financial institutions, private sector players such as Bobi Polytechnique, Laboro Youth centre, Kitgum Vocational school, Daniel Comboni Vocational Institute, Homa farm, TAF assured mixed enterprises, St. Isidoro farm/Aquaculture school, Agoro International Vocational Institute, Gulu Christian comprehensive school and other stakeholders.



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