



SHCAN

Soil Health & Climate Action Network

IMPACT REPORT

Cultivating Growth. Building Resilience.



2025

About us

Soil Health & Climate Action Network (SHCAN) is a fully registered grassroots organisation that is transforming rural lives through sustainable agriculture, climate action, and improving the livelihoods of women and youth. We work closely with smallholder farmers to create opportunities that build resilience, improve their livelihoods, and protect the environment for future generations.

We transitioned from what was formerly called Giving Hope Foundation. We changed our name and identity to better reflect our focus on helping rural farmers grow their way out of extreme poverty.

SHCAN was formally registered in 2025 in response to the growing

challenges of soil degradation, climate change, and rural unemployment in Hoima. We place rural farmers, especially women and youth, at the centre of our work. This helps us to implement locally driven programs that strengthen their livelihoods while protecting natural habitats.

Our Mission

To foster food security, climate change resilience and sustainable livelihoods among smallholder farmers in Uganda.

Our Vision

A sustainable world where healthy soils and resilient farms support life for generations.



Our Work Begins with People

We have a strong belief that lasting change starts with people; their knowledge, experiences, and aspirations! This is why our work is grounded in close collaboration with rural communities. We listen first, learn from local realities, and co-create programs that respond to everyday challenges of rural farmers.

We work closely with women's groups, youth, and local leaders to strengthen skills, build confidence, and unlock opportunities for sustainable livelihoods in rural communities.

Our people-centred approach helps build trust, accountability, and long-term commitment to sustainable rural development.



“

SHCAN has nurtured me into a good farmer and leader in the community. I now feel respected and empowered to support my family's needs.

ROSEMARY FROM KIRAIRA VILLAGE



“

I'm grateful for this Rocket stove that we built ourselves with support from SHCAN. I now use much less firewood and cook faster without smoke.

AISHA FROM NYAKABALE VILLAGE



Microloans enable rural women to start small businesses, which help strengthen household incomes, and build long-term financial resilience.

CULTIVATING GRASSROOTS GROWTH

2,500 Reasons to Celebrate...

In 2025, your support **reached 492 families across six villages** in Kitoba, Hoima District. This positively **impacted more than 2,500 people**. This was through activities such as training in sustainable agriculture, soil health improvement programs, and the adoption of improved Rocket Lorena stoves. These households have strengthened their food security, increased incomes, and biodiversity conservation.



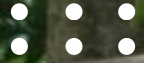
Women built **11 Improved Rocket stoves**. These are helping reduce firewood use and indoor pollution.



Soil health demonstrations equip farmers with agroecological skills to restore soil fertility, increase yields, and adapt to climate change.



Farmers, including women, were trained on **land rights and tenure security**. This has helped protect their livelihoods, reduce conflict, and invest confidently in sustainable land use.



Our Impact 2025

Soil Health Improvement

Soil health improvement is a core pillar of our mission. We recognise that healthy soils are the foundation of food security, climate resilience, and sustainable rural livelihoods. In many of the communities where we work, years of soil degradation, erosion, and reliance on chemical inputs have reduced productivity and increased vulnerability to climate shocks.

To reduce dependence on costly inputs, we trained **17 farmers to produce organic fertilisers and pesticides** using locally available materials. Organic fertilisers not only improve soil structure and microbial activity but also lower production costs, making farming more profitable and accessible for smallholder households, particularly women and youth with limited financial resources.

The project is focused on using urine, biochar, and compost to improve soil health. Farmers are gaining practical skills such as composting, intercropping, and other agroecological techniques.

The project is focusing on two predominant crops, beans and maize. It also serves as a learning hub where farmers interact with different soil health improvement techniques in real time and exchange knowledge. We hope that they will adopt best practices from this demonstration project in their own fields upon successful completion in 2027.

Soil health improvement is closely linked to community behaviour change. As trust grows and knowledge spreads, farmers will become better equipped to manage land sustainably and increase incomes.





Agroforestry

Agroforestry is integrated into our soil health work to enhance long-term resilience. We support farmers' access to tree seedlings such as coffee, *Grevillea robusta*, and bamboo.

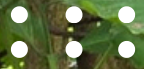
In 2025, we helped farmers access **650 coffee and 300 *Grevillea robusta* seedlings**, while the bamboo project, which was started in 2021, has reached maturity. Farmers have been selling some bamboo poles while using others as alternatives to tree resources.

This effort not only helps improve soil organic matter, reduce erosion, and regulate microclimates, but also diversifies household incomes. These practices strengthen biodiversity while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Through these integrated interventions, we have seen increased confidence and resilience among participating households compared to the rest of the community.

Our efforts are not only improving farm yields today but are also safeguarding the ecological foundation that future generations will depend on, thereby ensuring that farming remains viable, dignified, and climate-resilient for years to come.





Beekeeping & Biodiversity Protection

The Beekeeping and Biodiversity Protection initiative supported **seven farmers to adopt beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood alternative** that also complements environmental conservation. The initiative aims at enhancing household incomes while protecting trees, other pollinators, and natural ecosystems that are essential for resilient agricultural systems.

Selected farmers, including women and youth, were supported to establish and manage modern beehives through a hands-on training. Participants learned hive management, colony care, and honey harvesting techniques, while also gaining awareness of the role bees play in pollination and biodiversity conservation.

Beneficiaries started generating income from honey and other hive products in March 2025.





Workshop on Land Rights

We conducted a workshop on land rights training for rural farmers, focused on increasing awareness and understanding of land tenure, ownership, and use rights. The workshop engaged **24 farmers, including men, community leaders and particularly women**, who are often the most vulnerable to land insecurity.

The training addressed common challenges such as unclear boundaries, inheritance disputes, and limited knowledge of legal protections, which often discourage farmers from investing in long-term, sustainable land management.

Emphasis was placed on gender equity and inclusive decision-making, enabling women to better understand and assert their land rights within households and communities.



Piggery Project

The Pig Project is another example of our community-led initiative. It aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by providing them with piglets for rearing. The project seeks to enhance food security, generate income, and promote sustainable livestock farming practices among smallholder farmers. The project employs a **Pay-It-Forward System**, where each farmer will pass on the first batch of piglets to another member, therefore expanding the project's reach.

Ten (10) piglets were given to three village groups that have a **total membership of 85 farmers**. We are optimistic about the progress of this project.



Rocket Lorena Cookstoves

The Rocket Lorena Improved Cookstove Adoption project was designed as a pilot, community-led intervention focusing on women as primary users and change agents for clean cooking at household and community levels.

The project trained **ten rural women to construct Rocket Lorena improved mud cookstoves with chimneys** using locally available materials. The training emphasised both theoretical understanding of clean energy and practical, hands-on construction skills. Through a rotational and peer-supported approach, participants collectively constructed cookstoves for each household, ensuring shared learning, confidence building, and ownership of the technology.

Over a ten-week implementation period, a total of eleven Rocket Lorena cookstoves were constructed and put into use.

The Rocket Lorena stoves demonstrate improvements over the traditional three-stone fires, including substantial reductions in firewood consumption, faster cooking times, and reduced

exposure to indoor in their kitchens.

Women reported improved comfort, reduced smoke, use of less firewood, as well as more available time for productive and household activities.

Additionally, the project strengthened local capacity for clean cooking dissemination. We held a **community dialogue on improved cookstoves, which was attended by 37 people**, including the trained women, community members and local leaders. The women emerged as **community stove champions**, actively sharing knowledge and their own experiences of using Rocket Lorena cookstoves.

Some women have begun offering stove construction services as a small income generating activity. This is an early indication of economic empowerment and sustainability for the project.

This project demonstrates that low-cost, locally built improved cookstoves, when introduced through a participatory model, can deliver measurable health, environmental, and socio-economic benefits.





Microloans for Women

The Microloans Project was designed to give access to affordable and flexible financing to rural women who are often excluded from formal banking systems. The project helped **four women with small loans up to \$200 each**, who invested in small businesses, including a processing mill, chicken rearing, a grocery store, and a restaurant.

Beyond the financial support, the project trained the beneficiaries in financial literacy and business management. They gained skills, including developing a savings culture, loan management, basic bookkeeping, and enterprise planning.

The women have reported increased incomes and more economic stability. They have also reported financial independence and more decision-making power within their households and gained respect.



Agricultural Loans

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The Agricultural Loans initiative helps smallholder farmers access timely and affordable seasonal agricultural inputs, including seeds, organic fertilisers and farm tools. The project has supported **107 farmers from different villages in Kitoba sub-county**, Hoima district, to access high quality inputs.

Additionally, the farmers receive advisory support on sustainable farming practices, soil health management, and climate-smart agriculture to maximise yields and reduce risks.





What about Giving Hope Foundation?

In 2025, **Giving Hope Foundation (GHF)** underwent a strategic transition that was aimed at strengthening its impact and better reflecting its core areas of work. As part of this process, all programmatic and field-based activities in Uganda were rebranded under a new identity: **Soil Health & Climate Action Network (SHCAN)**. This change was driven by the need to align more closely with the organisation's focus on agroecology, climate action, and livelihood development, while creating a clearer implementation structure.

SHCAN is now a fully registered organisation in Uganda, delivering community-based programs that support smallholder farmers. The rebrand has improved visibility, enabled a more focused programming, and strengthened local ownership among beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders across the agricultural and climate sectors.

Giving Hope Foundation continues to operate in Denmark, supporting resource mobilisation, strategic partnerships, and institutional development. This structure allows SHCAN to focus on implementation while GHF works to strengthen global positioning and sustainability.

Together, the two entities operate in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner, united by a shared mission to improve livelihoods, promote sustainable land use, and build resilient rural communities.

Our Partners & Supporters

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our institutional partners and individual supporters whose generosity makes our work possible. Because of your support, rural farmers are gaining access to training, tools, and opportunities that strengthen their resilience and improve their livelihoods.

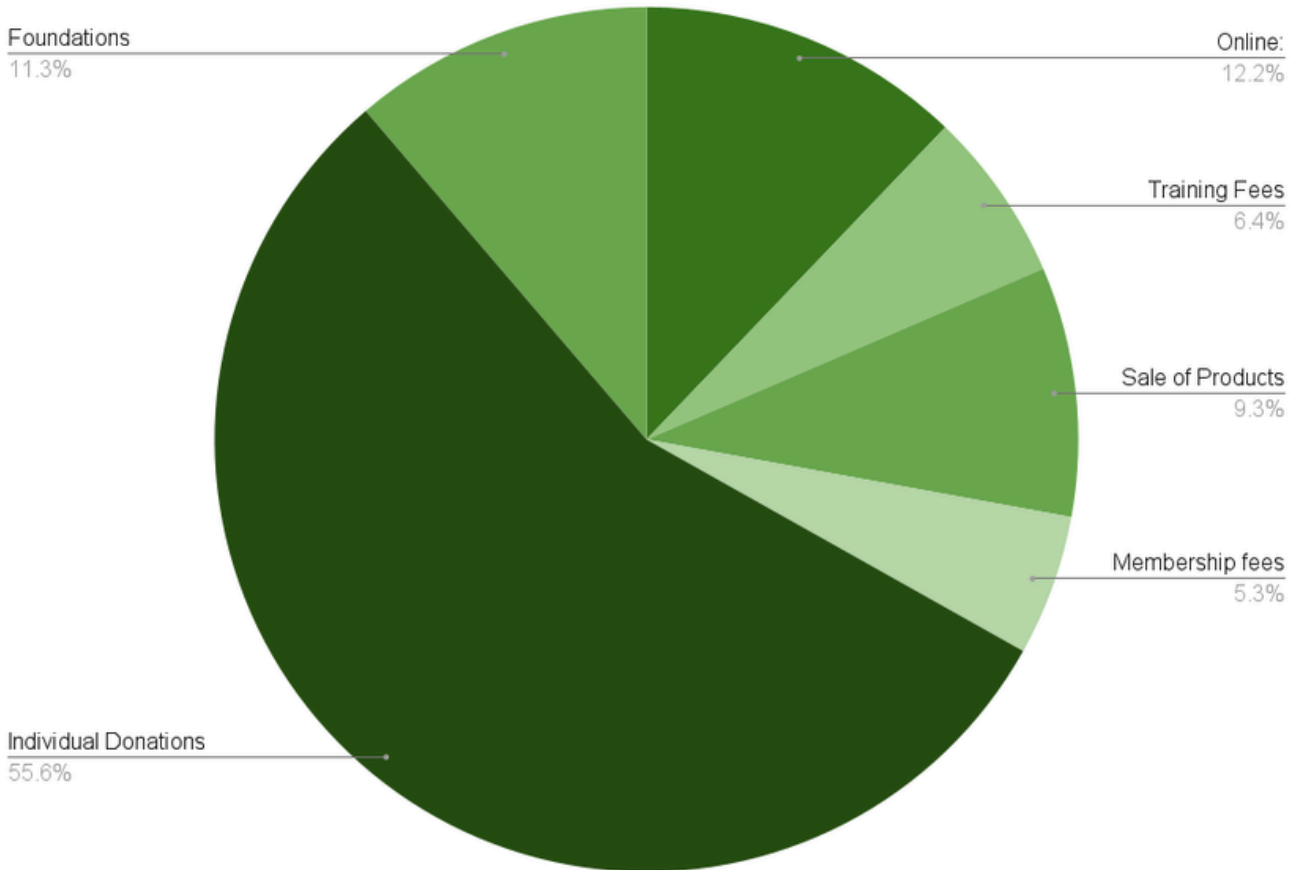
Your partnership goes beyond financial contribution – it represents trust, solidarity, and belief in our community-led model for development. Every seed planted, every farmer trained, every woman supported, and every biodiversity initiative launched is a direct reflection of your investment in lasting change.

We are deeply thankful for your continued confidence in our mission!

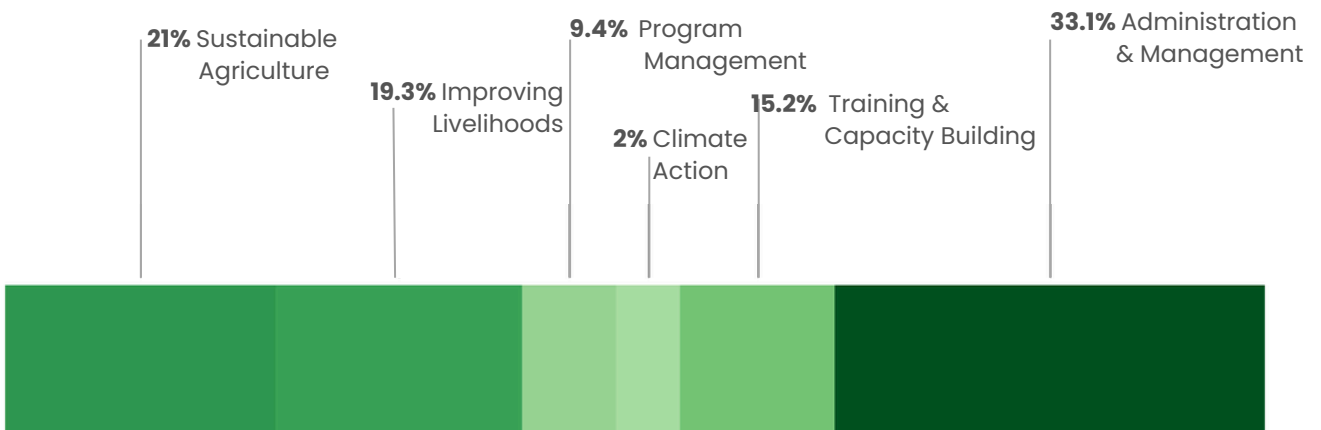


2025 Financials

Revenue by sources: **131,325,500 UGX**



Expenses by Program: **123,045,000 UGX**



PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE UNAUDITED FIGURES AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



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