



## CHICKENS

### Chickens

TEAR Australia supports development, relief and advocacy projects that give priority to the rights, interests, needs and capacities of the poorest and most marginalised people. These projects seek to address both the symptoms and the causes of poverty through projects that produce tangible changes. These projects are implemented in partnership with local agencies.

This community in Uganda built a poultry house with the support of TEAR's local partner **PDS Kumi**. They are selling the eggs and distributing the income among the households involved in the project. They are also breeding poultry for sale.

The Kumi district of Uganda has many challenges: low levels of household income, lack of resources and services, low literacy rate, limited access to quality food, lack of access to clean and safe water. The main causes of these problems are poverty,

low agricultural productivity, poor health and sanitation, inadequate nutrition (especially among young children), conflict, HIV/AIDS, and natural disasters such as droughts or floods.

PDS Kumi is working in five communities within the district. In this community, Kumi helped form a Community Development Committee which now has nine members. After training from PDS Kumi, the committee took on the tasks of running community meetings, helping local people with identifying key problems, and developing action plans to bring about long term solutions.

One plan of action the community decided on was to start a poultry breeding project, to enable them to benefit from the increasing price of chicken meat and eggs. PDS Kumi supported them in the decision-making process, and provided some of the materials to construct the chicken house. The community now has sixty hens and four roosters. They invested in higher quality birds and have started a breeding program to improve their stock.

The chicken house is a community-owned asset with shared responsibilities and benefits. The community allocates various responsibilities to members for the care of the chickens. The aim is for local people to share the profits so they will be able to improve their diets, afford medical care and send their children to school. Ultimately, having an additional source of income, shared by the community and more resistant to fluctuations that affect individual households, will bring about real benefits within families, and for the community as a whole.

As part of the process PDS Kumi provided micro-business training to community members, as well as specialised training from the government agricultural department on poultry breeding. The chickens are protected from disease through training about proper care and access to para-vets.

The neighbouring community has also chosen to run a poultry project. In the next district a community group formed by another TEAR partner, Vision Terudo, has begun a poultry project to help support children orphaned by HIV/AIDS living within their community.

### Other TEAR Australia partners providing chickens:

- World Concern Burma (Burma)
- PNKS (Cambodia)
- MGVS (India)
- Vision Terudo (Uganda)