

**Contribution of Compassion International to the Livelihood of Smallholder  
Farmers in Bushenyi District**

**By**

**Aryamanya Wycliffe Muhumuza**

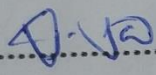
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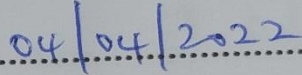
**A Research Report Submitted to the Directorate of Graduate Studies  
Research and Innovations in Partial fulfillment Of the Requirements  
for the Award of Master of Agriculture and Rural  
Innovations Degree of Bishop Stuart University**

**April, 2022**

**Declaration**

I, **Aryamanya Wycliffe Muhumuza**, hereby declare that this research report titled **“Contribution of Compassion International to the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Bushenyi District”** is my original work and to the best of my knowledge, it has not been submitted in any institution for any award.

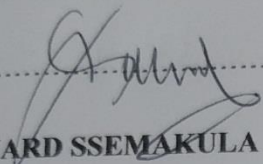
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**Approval**

This is to certify that this research report titled “**Contribution of Compassion International to the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Bushenyi District**” has been done under the supervision of the following supervisors and is ready for sub-mission to the graduate school of Bishop Stuart University.

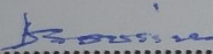
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## **Dedication**

This research report is dedicated to my family for their endless financial and moral support during the completion of this research report.

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### **List of Abbreviations**

AOR	Adjusted Odds Ratio
BUA	Bottom-up Approach
C.I	Confidence Interval
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CI	Compassion International
DV	Dependent Variable
IV	Independent Variable
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TDA	Top-down Approach
UNNF	Uganda National NGO forum
VO	Voluntary Organizations

## **Abstract**

The study aimed at assessing the contributions of Compassion International to the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Bushenyi district western Uganda. The specific objectives were to; (i) assess the household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs; (ii) assess the level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs, (iii) analyze the contribution of compassion international to food production and security, and (iv) examine the challenges being faced by Compassion International that hinder their operations in rural settings of Uganda. The study used a descriptive survey design that applied both quantitative and qualitative approaches for data collection. Data was captured from 206 respondents using both questionnaire and interview schedule. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 16 to get both inferential and descriptive statistics. The study found out that smallholder participation in Compassion International programs has resulted in livelihood changes such as; enhanced child education, household economic and spiritual empowerment, increased access to agricultural inputs, income generating projects and enhanced household capacities. The study also found out that beneficiaries participated in compassion programs through attending organization outreaches, seminars and annual meetings, mobilizing local resources towards the cause, participating in project activities, paying annual membership fee and giving feedback on project activities and operations. Compassion International has contributed towards household food production and security of the household across the district through setting up agricultural support projects, mobilizing farmers, providing agro-inputs and facilitating extension service delivery. The study further established that; poor funding, corruption and mis-use of fund, competition and lack of good relations with the local government are the key challenges hindering compassion international operations in Bushenyi district. The study concluded that though smallholder farmer participation in compassion programs has resulted in improved livelihood changes for member households, there remains a huge socio-economic gap in Bushenyi district. The organizations' operations are still hampered by a number of challenges. The NGO should handle poverty reduction strategically, dynamically, and comprehensively. This is because poverty is caused by many factors that need a comprehensive and diversified approach. It requires looking at other categories of needy people in the society like the widows, elderly and disabled persons, rather than emphasizing one category.

**Key Words: Compassion International, Livelihood changes, Smallholder Farmers, Bushenyi District**

## **Chapter one: Introduction**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This study assessed the contribution of compassion international to the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Greater Bushenyi district. This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, the general and specific objectives, the research questions, the conceptual framework, the scope of the study, the significance and justifications of the study, and the operational definitions of terms and concepts. The background of the study is written based on the funnel approach; from the international context, through regional, national, to the local context.

### **1.1 Background to the study**

Non-governmental organizations are not for profit, organizations on a local and national level, facilitating community efforts for community development (Rutanga, 2005). NGOs works through people-centered modes of development such as availability of micro-finance, community participation in development ensuring community health education and infrastructure improvement over time. They are viewed as nonprofit organizations involved in socio-economic development of the communities generally and rural communities specifically (Oyinbo & Olaleye, 2016). Their role was recognized very little during 1970s but boomed in the sector of development particularly in service delivery, advocacy and community empowerment immediately after 1970s and 80s (Rutanga, 2005). This shift occurred as a result of states inefficiency and failure in service provision and uplift of poor in underdeveloped and least developed countries. The neo- liberalism accompanied by structural change in aid paved the ground for NGOs as alternative for development (Nader & Foundation, 2016).

Globally, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) have emerged as an important element of contemporary society and act as a link between grassroots peasants and civil society (Ogaboh et al., 2014). In the last two decades there has been a great deal of interest in agriculture and livelihood improvement. NGO's have taken lion's shares in promoting and implementing different development activities in social welfare services. Non-Governmental Organizations as a third sector to institutional frameworks play a crucial role in providing strong support to the development issues. They play an important roles; especially where governments and private sectors shows less interest (Access, 2017). NGOs, mostly those operating at grass-root level

complement government efforts by providing certain basic amenities to their communities of operations (Bekele et al., 2019). An example is Compassion International which is a Christian humanitarian aid child sponsorship organization dedicated to the long-term development of children living in poverty around the world.

In Africa, NGO's are not a new phenomenon (Kassie & Fellizar, 2017). The number of non-governmental organizations working in Africa has mushroomed, and the resources they control have grown significantly. The philosophy behind the formation of NGOs raises from the need to bridge the poverty gap created by low level of development in community. However, whilst the NGO sector has expanded enormously, its contribution to social, economic and political changes remains a subject of inquiry (Yona & Mathewos, 2017). Recent studies indicate that the NGOs' are fundamentally constrained by regime impediments. For instance NGOs are discouraged from performing roles that are considered "politically sensitive". This so called "sensitivity" limits their role in working for meaningful change in the political arena.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, poverty reduction and improving smallholder livelihoods are the central objective of development. In pursuit of solutions to developmental problems besetting the African continent, the donor community is increasingly regarding Non-Governmental Organizations as an important agency for empowering people thereby leading more effective and sustainable local development services than those promoted by the governments (Adjei et al., 2012). NGOs play an important role in the economic development of SSA countries by provide services to society through welfare works for community and agricultural development (Banks & Hulme, 2012).

Non-governmental organizations play a significant role as vehicles for promoting socio-economic economic development through helping vulnerable societies solve common problems such as; food security, water scarcity, agricultural inputs, limited, technical knowledge and marketing of produce (Uganda National NGO forum, 2012). All these services aim at improving developmental activities by enabling the households gain economic benefits to sustain their well-being (Obvious and Prospel, 2008).

Uganda is still faced with very numerous problems of development and some of these problems are fundamental in that they threaten the survival of the country (Daina, 2012). These problems confront the biggest part of the population on a daily, if not on hourly basis. A major

contributing factor to this sad situation is that till up now, government has not been able to involve all the people of the country fully in the agricultural development process (Muhumuza, 2007). Non-Governmental Organizations are considered to have the capacity to reach people at the lowest level and work closely with the poor in communities. They are vital in reducing poverty among the absolute poor people (Mugambe, 2008). They aim at providing voluntary services such as religious, educational, literacy, scientific, social or charitable to the community (Republic of Uganda, 2012).

Whereas some authors trace the origin of NGOs in Uganda to the colonial period, these organizations gained popularity in the 1980s and have since been working alongside government programs in Uganda (Muhumuza, 2007). Their popularity is based on the argument that NGOs not only improve local people's participation but also use appropriate approaches to development. The increased number of NGOs in Uganda is largely be attributed to the influence of foreign aid (Obvious, 2008).

Since, government's capacity to facilitate the provision of basic services to the poor and engenders self-reliant, sustainable development has been severely constrained by a number of factors such as; lack of resources, and qualified people, enormous social deprivation, rapidly growing population, inefficiency, and inability to reach the poorest sections of the community (De Connick and Kayuki, 2005). Government is forced to forge effective partnerships with NGOs and CBOs to alleviate poverty through economic development (Rutanga, 2005).

NGOs like Compassion International have emerged to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in the community. The organization focuses on households or individuals in extreme poverty as her beneficiaries. It supports these households through their children in a variety of ways, by basing on chronically poor indicators such as orphanage, displacement, destitution, neglect, landlessness, child-headed households, single-headed households, people living with HIV/AIDS and physical disabilities (Uganda National NGO forum, 2012).

It works under the belief that every child is a unique creation of God and has been given opportunity to realize its potential. Founded in 1952 by an American Evangelist, Rev. Everest Swanson, in response to the orphan crisis which had been created by the American war in Korea. In Uganda, it started from Masaka district in 1982 with the focus on improving on the welfare of children and their households through reducing poverty and vulnerability. By 2006, there were

150 projects covering different districts with 40,013 households supported through Compassion's Ministry in Uganda (Uganda National NGO forum, 2012). It is estimated that by 2012, around 50,000 households in Uganda were benefiting from Compassion International.

In Bushenyi district, the organization started in 2002 under the West Ankole diocese to address the same issues. In greater Bushenyi district, compassion International has 5 projects under West Ankole Diocese, 1 project under PMUC and 4 projects under full Gospel churches. Although the organization came to fill the gaps and cover the weaknesses of the state and improve livelihoods, a lot of effort is still needed in her process of improving livelihoods (Uganda National NGO forum, 2012). While it's being praised for being responsive to the needs of the people by using bottom-up approach to poverty reduction, still many households are said to be wallowing in abject and vulnerability to poverty even when they have been under NGO service provision for years. This study therefore seeks to understand the contributions of Compassion International towards livelihood improvement of beneficiaries. The study will focus at the work of compassion International at household level in greater Bushenyi District.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Compassion International is a non-governmental organization that is taken to be vital in reducing poverty among the absolute poor people in resource constrained areas like Bushenyi district, through providing voluntary services such as religious, educational, literacy, social or charitable to the community. It has presented the capacity to reach people at the lowest level and work closely with the poor in communities (Uganda National NGO forum, 2012). With its primary mission being relief, rural and social development, it is applauded as a catalyst for poverty reduction across the district. Though it is supposed to be a catalyst for development, her contribution towards poverty reduction and household livelihoods remains wanting. For instance, compassion assisted projects are unevenly distributed and only operate in ten sub-counties with each project serving only 2 – 3 parishes. This uneven distribution of projects create huge gap in services delivery creating a big poverty gap in the district. Bushenyi is on record as one of the districts with some households looming in poverty in western Uganda (UBOS 2018). Some of areas within C.I operations still have relative levels of poverty, high illiteracy, poor access to education and health services, despite such services being top priorities on Compassion International agenda (Mugambe, 2008). 14.5 percent and 22.9 percent of the district population



who are chronically poor and vulnerable to poverty appear to be an overwhelming population that raises concern regarding whether NGOs like Compassion international contribute towards the livelihood, and why, despite her increasing donor funding over the past two decades poverty levels remain high. Given the mismatch between increasing Compassion international projects and deteriorating livelihoods in the district. A study is needed to assess the contributions of compassion international to the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Bushenyi district western Uganda.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1 Main objective**

The overall objective of the study was to assess the contributions of compassion international to the livelihood of smallholder farmers in Bushenyi district western Uganda.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objective**

1. To assess the household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs
2. To assess the level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs in Bushenyi district
3. To analyze the contribution of compassion international to food production and security.
4. To examine the challenges being faced by Compassion International that hinder their operations in Bushenyi district.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What are livelihood activities and approaches used by Compassion International in Bushenyi district?
2. What is the level of beneficiary participation in Compassion International programs in Bushenyi district?
3. What are the household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs?

4. What are the challenges being faced by NGOs that hinder their operations in Bushenyi district?

## **1.5 Scope of the study**

### **1.5.1 Content scope**

The study collected information on Compassion International projects in Bushenyi District. The study specifically assessed the household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs, assessed the level of beneficiary participation in C.I programs analyzed the contribution of compassion international towards food production and security and examined the challenges faced by Compassion International that hinder her operations in Bushenyi district.

### **1.5.2 Geographical scope**

The study was conducted across Compassion International beneficiaries in greater Bushenyi district. Greater Bushenyi district is comprised of districts of Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema, Rubirizi and Bushenyi. It is bordered by Kasese District to the north, Ibanda District to the northeast, Mbarara District to the east, Ntungamo District to the south and Rukungiri District to the west. The largest town in the district is Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality located 75 kilometres (47 mi), by road, northwest of Mbarara, the largest city in the sub-region. The coordinates of the district are: 00 32S, 30 11E. The population growth rate is at 2%. The district economy depends mainly on agriculture.

### **1.5.3 Time scope**

This study was conducted for a period of 10 months that is October 2019 – June 2020. It reviewed literature for a period of 15 years (2004 – 19). It was within this time frame that the government of Uganda had embarked on patterning with different NGOs in western region to foster economic development through poverty reduction and livelihood improvement.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

C.I project beneficiaries are expected to use data to evaluate their performance toward poverty reduction. It is also hoped that the study may help the government in assessing itself on the poverty reduction strategies vis-à-vis NGO interventions.

The government may use the findings in formulating and implementing poverty reduction programs. This may stimulate the government to revisit its strategies in order to implement poverty programs which are realistic to achieve the intended objectives.

The study findings may potentially help practitioners to revise the strategies of raising sustainable resources for sustainable poverty reduction programs. For example, using locally available resources such as local labour, is an important strategic choice that both beneficiaries can put into consideration.

The study may help the researcher to expand knowledge on NGOs and poverty reduction. The study adds knowledge on the already existing body of knowledge on non-governmental interventions in development and poverty reduction across the globe.

The study also fulfills part of the requirements for the award of a Master of Agriculture and Rural Innovation of Bishop Stuart University

### **1.8 Theoretical review**

The study was hinged on two major models that is; “donor-driven model” where NGOs perform their activities with directives and strings attached from the donor countries (Mugambe, 2008). The second theory is the “third sector model” which is believed to be people-centered, flexible, and uses participatory management style in poverty reduction programs (Muhumuza, 2007). The underlying strength of donor driven model is that anti-poverty programs are planned and implemented with financial support from multinational corporations and new technologies in at-poverty programs may be introduced. Nonetheless, most of the anti-poverty programs in this model are directed from the financiers and are implemented with conditionality’s. These may not appropriately fit in solving the localized poverty problems. Since most of the Anti-poverty programs are pre-planned without involving the local beneficiaries, such programs end up becoming utopian and superficial, attracting no attention to responsiveness. This leads to un-sustainability of such poverty programs, hence persistence of poverty. It is from these arguments that the researcher will use the “third Sector” model in this study.

According to the “third sector model”, NGOs are important in making up for the institutional weaknesses of the state and market through promoting socio-economic development (independent and dependent variables). This is done through NGOs delivering social services to

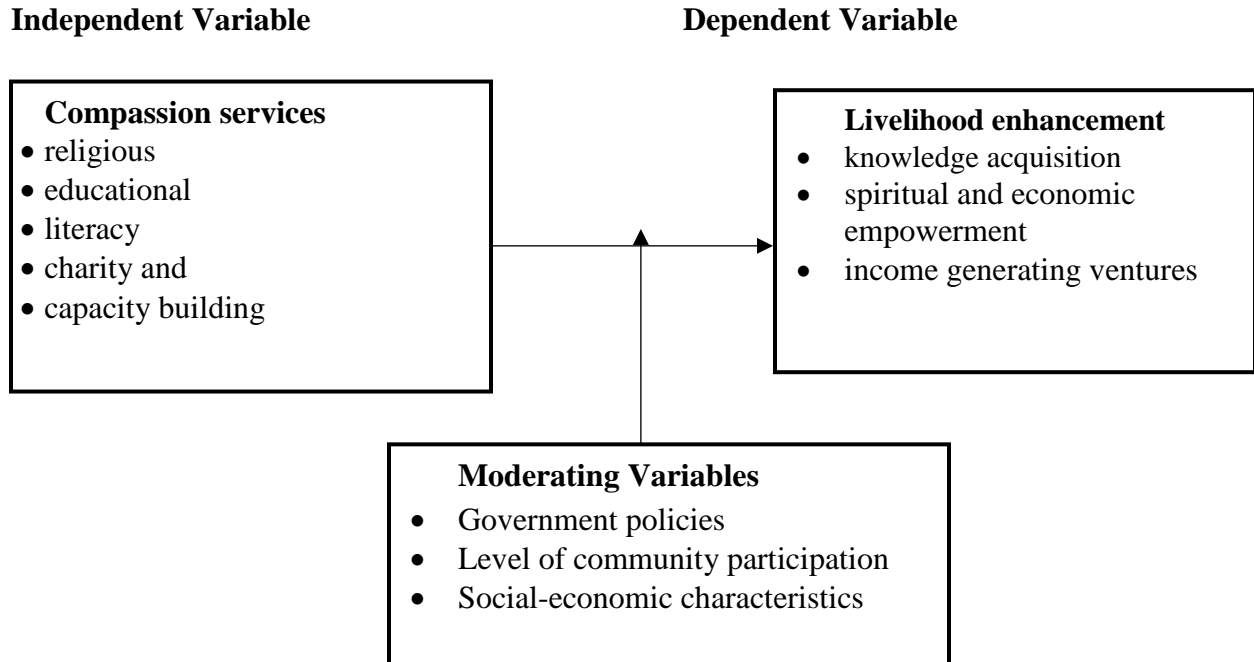
the poor, equitably and efficiently, and through participatory approach to development, i.e engaging beneficiaries in poverty reduction programs and working with local government. They are thus oriented toward bottom-up processes of development that emphasize local-level development, integrated interventions, mobilization of the poor and participation (causal mechanisms) (Muhumuza, 2007). However, certain conditions (intervening factors) such as: pre-planned agendas with strings attached, corruption, upward accountability and emphasis on paper-based rational management tools and concentration in urban areas may negate this promise. Consequently, NGOs try to fight poverty and they fail.

Although it is reasonable to expect recipient organizations to have appropriate accountability and transparency measures, current practices are criticized for being extremely time-consuming, difficult to use, and for taking time away from important work on the ground (Mugambe, 2008). Furthermore, quantitative performance indicators may not actually measure real or meaningful change in the community (De Connick and Kayuki, 2005) and NGOs may not pursue the most relevant work because of pressure to adopt funder agendas.

## **1.9 Conceptual framework**

To address the objectives and research issues identified in the proceeding sections a conceptual framework was developed as illustrated in figure 1.1. The study looked at NGO services as the dependent variable and livelihood improvement as the dependent variable. The DV measures the outcome of the independent variables (IVs). The observed variations in the DV resulted from the effects the IVs had on the dependent. However the two sets of variables worth through intervening variables as below. Community based NGOs like Compassion International provide community with services like religious, educational, literacy, charity and capacity building. The key outcomes of the NGO services provided include; spiritual and economic empowerment, knowledge acquisition and income generating ventures. Access to NGO services works through intervening variables like government policies, level of community organization and training of NGO staff.

**Figure 1: Conceptual frame work**



**Source: Researcher developed 2020**

### **1.10 Definition of terms**

**Compassion International (CI):** Compassion International is a Christian nonprofit making nongovernmental organization (NGO). It is operational in twenty six countries worldwide. It operates by partnering with evangelical churches to support needy children and release them from spiritual, physical, social and cognitive poverty through sponsorship program. Each child is linked to a sponsor from the developed countries and the support is availed to the children through the partnering churches.

**Livelihood** “A livelihood comprises the assets (natural, physical human, financial and social capital), the activities, and access to these (mediated by institutions and social relations) that together determine the living gained by the individual or household” (Yona & Mathewos, 2017).

**Smallholder farmers;** are those farmers owning small-based plots of land on which they grow subsistence crops and one or two cash crops relying almost exclusively on family labour”. Smallholder farmers differ from the rest of farmers in the agriculture sector in terms of their limited resources. Smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa utilize simple and outdated agricultural technologies and cultivate small plots of land (Oyinbo & Olaleye, 2016).

## **Chapter two: Literature Review**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter explored the contributions of compassion international to the livelihood of smallholder farmers. It examined the key concepts and reviewed secondary information on the livelihood activities and approaches used by Compassion International, level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs, household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs, contribution of compassion international towards food production and security and the challenges faced by NGOs that hinder their operations in rural settings of Uganda.

### **2.1 Livelihood activities and approaches used by Compassion International**

Livelihood implies a means of living (set of activities a human being applies to earn everyday life) (Sahu Madan, 2010). According to Sirothiya and Lokesh, (2012) a livelihood is sustainable if it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short terms.

According to Swanson and Rajalahti, (2010), livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (material and social resources included) and activities required for means of living. So when it comes to impact assessment, it means that changes in measurable terms (such as cash and yield) must be assessed not in their own right but in terms of the contribution they have to livelihoods. Therefore, contribution may be direct or indirect (adding to income, health, food and social status improvement).

Quisumbin and Pandolfelli. (2010) explained that livelihood comprises the assets (natural, physical, human, financial and social capital), the activities and access to these (mediated by institutions and social relation) that together determine the living gained by an individual or household. A fundamental characteristic of livelihoods in developing countries is the ability to adopt in order to survive.

## **Programs**

Compassion helps those in impoverished areas using a holistic approach to child development. This approach goes well beyond simply providing food and medical aid and also involves education and training to prepare the individuals for contributing back to their community (Bahiigwa, 2012).

### **Child sponsorship.**

Children in the child sponsorship Program are provided food and clean water, medical care, education, life-skills training, and spiritual guidance through a direct sponsorship. Sponsored children are selected by the sponsors, and two-way communication is encouraged between the sponsored child and the sponsor. As of January 2019 the cost to sponsor a child through Compassion is US\$38 per month. There are currently over two million children worldwide in this program (Fischer and Qaim, 2012).

Sponsors are able to visit their sponsored children through trips planned by Compassion International (Banerjee et al., 2015). Compassion's goal is to provide a trip to each country every other year. Compassion coordinates every aspect of the trip including travel, meals, tips and gratuities, fees related to the travel, and sightseeing fares.

Compassion international has operated in countries like India for 48 years, with its \$45 million in transfers a year, making it India's largest single foreign donor. Compassion provides services under its Child Sponsor Program to 145,000 Indian children (Bandiera et al., 2012). In 2015, Compassion affiliates' offices were raided by tax investigators seeking evidence whether it was funding religious conversions. Compassion said it was then forced to direct funding to non-Christian Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh groups. Compassion refused to do so as it would be a misuse of funds that donors all around the world trusted them with. After talks back and forth, in 2017, the Government of India barred Compassion from transferring funds into India, forcing the group to close its operations in that country. The Ministry of External Affairs later clarified that the ban had nothing to do with the ideology of Compassion International (Yona & Mathewos, 2017).

In Uganda, the increased number of NGOs can largely be attributed to the influence of foreign aid although they were allegedly conceived for social service provisioning, filling the gaps left

out by the governments and empowering communities to fight poverty. According to Paudel et al., (2017), NGOs come in as the neo-liberal oriented approach with the principles of accountability, transparency and citizens participation in the development process. Uganda National NGO forum (2012), argued that NGOs were, in addition to working as poverty alleviators, emergency and humanitarian aid providers. They were also being considered to be important vehicles for empowerment, democratization, and socio-economic development. Fuglie & Rada, (2013) explained how they were done and for bridging the gap between the citizens and the state. Amone & Makombe, (2016) goes further to acknowledge how donor funds had made NGOs in Uganda to narrow their focus on the modernization projects while ignoring the need to empower people so that they could reduce poverty through their own initiatives. NGOs of which Compassion International belongs, normally select households or individuals in extreme poverty as their beneficiaries. They support these households through their children in a variety of ways, by basing on chronically poor indicators such as orphanage, displacement, destitution, neglect, landlessness, child-headed households, single-headed households, people living with HIV/AIDS and physical disabilities (Compassion International Report, 2010). The choice for these categories is attributed to the government's call that more efforts are still needed to support the chronically poor in order to meet their basic human needs.

Compassion International is a Christian child development NGO. It works under the belief that every child is a unique creation of God and should be given opportunity to realize its potential. It was founded in 1952 by an American Evangelist, Rev. Everest Swanson, in response to the orphan crisis which had been created by the American war in Korea. It is headquartered in Colorado Springs, USA. It works with other partners worldwide (Amone & Makombe, 2016). In Uganda, it started from Masaka district in 1982 with the focus on improving on the welfare of children and their households through reducing poverty and vulnerability. By 2006, there were 150 projects covering different districts with 40,013 households supported through Compassion's Ministry in Uganda (Waddington, 2012). It is estimated that by 2012, around 50,000 households in Uganda were benefiting from Compassion International. In districts like Kisoro, the organization started in 1995 under Muhabura diocese to address the same issues. It has 15 projects operating in the district under the supervision of that Diocese.



## **2.2 Level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs**

Participation is defined as people sharing ideas, thinking for themselves, expressing their views effectively, planning, prioritizing and being involved in the decision making process (Waddington, 2012). It thus involves people with similar needs and goals, in decisions affecting their lives. In Bitarabeho, (2008) views, Participation has two definitions with opposite meanings. Participation can either represent assigning certain decisive roles to the users, where they share the decision making responsibility with the professionals. Participation is also where there is no shift of responsibilities between the users and professionals but instead only the opinion of the user is considered while making decisions (Bitarabeho, 2008).

Beneficiary participation on the other hand is defined by Bategeka and Kasirye, (2013) as the theory where local community should be given an active role in programs and improvements directly affecting it. Bruce and Laine, (2013) associated citizen participation with citizen power and control. According to them, it is associated with, redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. This study therefore examined the level of power that beneficiaries have in participating in Compassion projects, right from the needs assessment, planning, implementation and management. The research question therefore assessed whether all beneficiaries participated in all levels of planning and management of Compassion International projects that intended to reduce poverty among the people in Kisoro district.

Beneficiary's participation encourages effective representation and this positively influences the social climate of programs and projects. According to Stark et al., (2015), none or under representation leads to timidity, conformity, apathy and rebelliousness by the recipient communities, rather than respect for the project and its activities. This means that for organizational projects to support reducing poverty, fair representation of all beneficiaries is very crucial. This is because equal participation allows beneficiaries to contribute in the decisions and management of projects hence being responsive to them. In this study, the researcher analyzed whether Compassion International take beneficiary participation as paramount in the process of decision making and management of its projects (Fischer and Qaim, 2012).

### **2.3 Household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs**

The importance of NGOs in this section has been viewed in two main dimensions. The first and dominant dimension is that championed by mostly western scholars, and it looks at NGOs as mainly in a positive but biased way. Under this view, NGOs are seen as important in promoting empowerment through self-help initiatives (Fischer and Qaim, 2012). Empowerment is the multifaceted process which involves transforming economic, social, psychological, political and legal circumstances of the currently powerless (Bruce and Laine, 2013). It has been alleged that empowerment is possible because NGOs have the potential of reaching the grassroots levels of the communities (World Bank, 2015). Other roles NGOs play discussed below;

Capacity building; NGOs play an essential role as capacity builders of community based groups. NGOs can serve as a conduit to financing sources, build up community management and technical capacity, and facilitate the social decision-making required for ownership and sustainability of common property resources (World Bank, 2015).

Promoting community participation; NGOs play an important role, particularly in the promotion of popular participation and civil society, but they are not meant to substitute for government nor simply be relegated to the narrowly defined role of low-cost service provider. They can serve as a genuine complementary partner to government in the development process (Rutanga, 2005).

Opening opportunities for the community; NGOs have widely differing goals and activities ranging from community mobilization to service provision, but there are many areas of mutual concern. These areas present opportunities for new partnerships with government, donors and beneficiaries. Regular fora for building such partnerships and sharing experience need to be established (Oyinbo & Olaleye, 2016).

Access to social services; NGOs have been delivering social services which governments are unable or sometimes unwilling to provide. This function of NGOs can be found more in Western industrialized countries where NGOs work closely with their governments as partners or contractors (Ogabo et al., 2014). However this function as a social service provider is not confined only to Western countries. More and more NGOs in developing countries or countries in transition receive funds from their governments or donors and perform as service providers (CDRN, 2004). Even though NGOs have been providing services independently from

government since their beginning, cooperation with government in providing direct services increasingly became more common during the last two decades. This is mainly due to the tendency of governments to encourage NGOs to engage in service providing more and more on behalf of governments for several reasons. By funding and promoting NGOs, government is able to avoid many of its 'nitty gritty' works of service provision (Adjei & Afriyie, 2012).

Advocacy and poverty reduction; NGOs encourage social change and can protect individual rights by monitoring, by criticizing government and market power, and by influencing social or market policies. This can cause NGOs to act against government, often rendering NGOs-government relationships rather antagonistic. But this is not always the case. In cases of international or transnational matters which government cannot address eagerly for some diplomatic reasons, NGOs can make their voices heard without being restricted (Daina, 2012).

Very important monitoring, criticizing and advocating roles of NGOs may be found more in countries where government abuses its power to press down individual freedom and rights. In both Latin America and Central Europe NGOs play more monitoring, criticizing and advocating roles rather than acting as service providers because in those countries, as De Connick and Kayuki, (2005) points out, 'cold war was understood as a key component of authoritarianism, a way in which repression was legitimized'.

Needs identification and assessment; one of NGOs' main concerns has been to identify the needs of the rural poor in sustainable agricultural development. They pioneer a wide range of participatory methods for diagnosis and, in some contexts, develop and introduce systems approaches for testing new technology, for example in Chile (Compassion International Kenya, 2010). In some cases, these approaches extend beyond farming systems into processing and marketing, as with soya in Bangladesh (World Bank, 2012), sesame in the Gambia and cocoa in Bolivia.

Supports services; NGOs' rapport with farmers has allowed them to draw on local knowledge systems in the design of technology options and to strengthen such systems by ensuring that the technologies developed are reintegrated into them (Compassion International Kenya, 2010). NGOs have also developed innovative dissemination methods, relying on farmer-to-farmer contact, whether on a group or individual basis (e.g., Obvious and Prospel, 2008). In some cases, NGOs have *developed* new technologies such as soya production in Bangladesh or

management practices such as the sloping agricultural land technology in the Philippines (Obvious and Prospel, 2008), but more often they have sought to *adapt* existing technologies, such as PRADAN's efforts in India to scale down technologies developed by government for mushroom and raw silk production and so make them accessible to small-scale farmers (Ogaboh et al., 2014).

#### **2.4 Contribution of compassion international to food production and security.**

Development practitioners in particular have a key role to play in facilitating community-based membership organizations to enhance their ability to engage in socio-economic transformation, collective social action, improved resource allocation and other developmental activities critical in those rural communities with higher development requirements (Ogaboh et al., 2014).

NGOs play a more facilitative role. They assist individuals, groups and communities to create market for themselves. This includes both improving access to, and benefits generated from, existing products and markets and creating new products and new markets (e.g., through technology development and processing) (Nader & Foundation, 2016).

There is a variety of ways in which organizations facilitate agriculture development including: strengthening the capacity of individuals, groups or communities (through group strengthening and training); developing linkages to traders and other stakeholders in the marketing chain (e.g., input suppliers, credit sources and transport agents); educating and training farmers to equip themselves with the modern technology in production; and linking farmers to relevant market information (Nader & Foundation, 2016).

Responding to community agricultural needs; benefits accrued from associations are shared accordingly with fairness. They are concerned with the development problems and development programme projects in their various areas (Oyinbo & Olaleye, 2016). NGOs respond to community felt needs rather than market demand or pressure. According to World Bank, (2015), community development is the essence of NGOs.

Advocacy; advocacy is defined as a process where individuals and organizations try to influence public policies—and their practices – through the strategic use of information to democratize unequal power relations (World Bank, 2015). Fischer and Qaim, (2012) phrase, NGOs ‘keep agricultural policies honest’. This role may include the idea of being a whistle blower if certain

policies that remain unimplemented or are carried out poorly, as well as scanning the policy horizon for events and activities which could interfere with future policy development and implementation. Fischer and Qaim, (2012) opines the fact that NGO advocacy give the poor and disadvantaged groups the tools to influence public policies and their implementation practices, to challenge the status quo by addressing social injustice issues and structural causes of inequality, to defend human rights and to promote democracy.

Advisory Services; both public extension workers and private-sector firms, in responding to specific farmer inquiries about particular production problems, still commonly use the term *advisory services*. In most cases, farmers are “advised” to use a specific practice or technology to solve an identified problem or production constraint. Some NGOs have validated information available from research about the effectiveness of different inputs or methods in solving specific problems so that inquiring farmers receive objective and validated information (Bahiigwa, 2012). Most input supply firms use persuasive advisory techniques when recommending specific technical inputs to farmers who want to solve a particular problem and/or maintain their productivity (Quisumbing and Pandolfelli, 2010).

Facilitation Extension; this approach NGOs evolves participatory extension methods that focus on getting farmers with common interests to work more closely together to achieve both individual and common objectives (Quisumbing and Pandolfelli, 2010). An important difference is that front-line extension agents primarily work as “knowledge brokers” in *facilitating* the teaching–learning process among all types of farmers (including women) and rural young people. Under this extension model, NGOs work with different groups of farmers (e.g., small-scale men and women farmers, landless farmers, etc.) to first identify their specific needs and interests. Once their specific needs and interests have been determined, then the next step is to identify the best sources of expertise (e.g., innovative farmers who are already producing and marketing specific products, subject matter specialists, researchers, private-sector technicians, rural bank representatives) that can help these different groups address specific issues and/or opportunities (Waddington, 2012).

Capacity building; the major activities of agricultural base NGOs include mobilization of the masses to engage in commercial agricultural activities so as to boost their household incomes, distribution of production inputs equitably and timely to boost production and productivity at

household level, facilitating rural technological upgrading to allow smallholder farmers to transform themselves into small-scale industrialist, stimulating local and community enterprise development across the country, and facilitating infrastructure development particularly in rural areas(Waddington, 2012).

Extension service delivery; NGOs apply an innovative public-private extension service delivery approaches, with the aim of increasing market oriented agricultural production by empowering farmers to demand because of the substantive role played by agriculture in the income and asset portfolios of the poor, diseases and pests can be an important threat to livelihoods (Sahu and Madan, 2010).

Market linkage is one of the NGOs objectives right from the national to district and sub-county levels (Sahu and Madan, 2010). NGOs use market linkages to pull farmers out of subsistence to commercialized agriculture. NGOs establish market linkages with potential business people and companies to provide market for farmers to avoid wastage and dumping. These secure contracts between farmers' fora and potential buyers (Bitarabebo, 2008).

Provision of information services; NGOs develop and put in place an Agricultural Information Service (AIS) to provide market and marketing information to farmers and linking farmers to companies with inputs at a lower cost. Specific studies to identify market opportunities match market demands and supply as well as improvements in the marketing chains for different enterprises that were being undertaken (FAO, 2010).

Initiating farmer group formation; farmer groups are very essential to the present situation in Uganda's agricultural development. Bruce and Laine, (2013), also mentioned that, farmer groups are necessary in the following ways; bargaining powers so as to overcome individual weaknesses, team work so that people come together for the common goal, the group requests are likely to be processed faster, pooled of resources in a group, for instance individual resources which are usually small are polled together to form a big pool and group guarantee which offers the biggest form of security for a loan in groups.

## **2.5 Challenges being faced by NGOs that hinder their operations in rural settings of Uganda.**

Poor funding; most of the NGOs in Africa suffer from paucity of funds. World Bank, (2012) reported that lack of funds limits the quantity and quality of NGO work hence, dependence on grants and donations from donors are accepted. This donor funds are were noted to come with restrictions which inhibit the autonomy of NGOs to choose which program activities to undertake and to select the most effective intervention strategies to achieve sustainable program goals.

Inadequate management; managerial leadership is key in developing sustainable programs. When projects are well matched with an organizations administrative capability-existing or expanding over time- sustainability is enhanced (Republic of Uganda, 2012). Rutanga, (2005) however noted the key weakness of NGOs in African is the inappropriate organizational structures which impact the manner in which NGOs carry out their core business

Shortage in trained personnel; NGOs earlier were assumed to be served by unpaid social workers imbued with the spirit of service and do not require any special education or training (Oyinbo & Olaleye, 2016). But the present trend who are having professional education are not interested to work with NGOs. Their vision has been changed and are interested to work in urban areas only (Ogaboh et al., 2014). Therefore, it is very difficult to get trained persons who are either willing or trained to work in the rural society where most of NGOs work. Moreover, these professionally trained persons have high expectations in terms of salaries, status, opportunities for their growth in the career of their choice. More so, due to lack of funds most NGOs are unable to spent some more funds for giving training to the personnel employed in the organization.

Misuse of Funds; it is the matter of fact that some unscrupulous elements have made fortunes by floating NGOs for their personnel gains and managing grants from the government (Ogaboh et al., 2014). It is a common experience that there have been serious charges of misuse and misappropriation of funds received as granting-aid form the government, foreign donors and raised through their own resources by the most of the NGOs. These NGOs may reflect its image to other NGOs who are working with dedication and commitment (Obvious and Prospel, 2008).

Poor public reception and participation; the involvement of local communities can promote sustainability by building a base of support and fostering a sense of local ownership of programs

as working through local communities makes it easier to take advantage of traditional organizations and indigenous practitioners and benefit from their knowledge of what may work or not work in a society (Mugambe, 2008). NGOs are meant to provide opportunities to the citizens for democratic participation but they have not been able to fulfill this obligation due to the method and manner in which they function, and failed to attract people, interested in construction work and develop channels for people's enthusiastic participation. Some of the factors responsible for such a state of affairs are general backwardness of the people, absence of adequate number of dedicated persons, over emphasis on targets and time bound programmes, political interference and vested interests, easy availability of funds without proper planning and assessment of felt needs and safeguards for the community, distrust of agencies and workers who do not have a base in the community and are unable to win its support and lack of decentralization which could give a feeling of being partners in development rather than development being thrust from above (Daina, 2012).

Lack of coordination; the absence of coordination between NGOs existing at local, state and national level has laid to the common problems such as overlapping, duplication, non-coordination etc (Daina, 2012). The absence of such a common forum also incapacitates NGOs to offer united stand against the government when it humiliates them by extraneous considerations at the behest of politicians and egoistic government officers. Moreover, the state of affairs also does not facilitate exchange of information, data collection, research, training and publication and also does not create favorable conditions where common difficulties can be placed before the government (Access, 2017).

Target orientated and time-bound Programmes; it has been observed that the donor or government who sanctions grants will put target and time-bound programmes in front of NGO. Those NGOs will take the period but the qualities of service there are offering. This leads to deteriorating in quality of service and are below expected standards (Access, 2017).

Government policy; development projects operate within the context of national policies. Therefore government commitment and policies that support project objectives are critical to the sustainability of development programs (Access, 2017). Adjei & Afriyie, (2012) contends that government commitment to a program is one of the most commonly identified factors affecting sustainability. Mistrust between governments and NGOs are deep rooted as government always



have fear that NGOs will erode their political power and NGOs also mistrust the motivations of government officials (Banks & Hulme, 2012). If government and NGO activities do not co-exist the tendency to achieve sustainable development is very much challenged. NDPC (2009) maintained that relationships between NGOs and government are affected by the specific contextual factors which may include; the nature of NGOs objectives and strategies, the area of operation by NGO, the behavior of the donor, and the nature and character of the regime.

## **Chapter three: Methodology**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the methodology that was used in the study. It gives a description of the study area and the methods that were used to collect data from the field. It gives a summary of the research design, sample population and size, data collection instruments, data type, data processing and presentation and the problems encountered during the process of data collection and analysis.

### **3.2 Study area**

The study was conducted across Compassion International beneficiaries in greater Bushenyi district. It is bordered by Kasese District to the north, Ibanda District to the northeast, Mbarara District to the east, Ntungamo District to the south and Rukungiri District to the west. The largest town in the district is Ishaka located 75 kilometres (47 mi), by road, northwest of Mbarara, the largest city in the sub-region. The district economy depends mainly on agriculture. Agriculture is a source of food for the population, subsistence income for most families and provides direct employment to 86.7% of the district population, as well as supplying raw materials to industries. Majority of the people are involved in subsistence agriculture with some engaged in commercial production of crops including: matooke, sorghum, cassava and millet. The choice of the area was because 14.5 percent of the district population are chronically poor and 22.9% vulnerable to poverty despite the existence of different NGO livelihood centered programs.

### **3.3 Research Design**

The study adopted a descriptive survey design employing qualitative and quantitative approaches for data collection. The design was selected because researcher studied the phenomena in depth to generate basic knowledge, clarify relevant issues and break grounds on how compassion international has contributed to the livelihood of smallholder farmers in the area. The design involved describing, recording, analyzing, and reporting existing conditions regarding a certain phenomena. The qualitative method was used to capture respondent's views, feelings, knowledge and opinions on the phenomena. Quantitative approach involved the use of questionnaire to capture quantifiable responses from the respondents.

### 3.4 Study Population

The study mainly targeted beneficiary households of Compassion International and other key informants like local leaders and staff of Compassion assisted projects. Household heads were considered for their direct involvement in Compassion International while key informants were considered for their technical knowledge, advisory services and policy implementation.

### 3.5 Sample Size

The sample size for the study was drawn from a target population of households participating in Compassion International programs across the district. It is estimated that 16% of the total population across the district are beneficiaries of compassion International programs. It was from this percentage that the researcher drew the sample size using standard statistical formula by Kish and Leslie, (1965) at 95% confidence interval and 5% error term as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}n &= Z_{\alpha/2}Pq/d^2 \text{ where } N > 10,000 \\n &= 1.96^2 \times 0.16 \times 0.84/0.05^2 \\&= 3.8416 \times 0.16 \times 0.84/0.0025 \\&= 0.5163/0.0025 \\n &= 206 \text{ respondents}\end{aligned}$$

n - The sample size

d - Degree of accuracy 0.05

p – target population 16% (0.16)

q – non- target population 84% (0.84)

$\alpha$ – 0.05 (level of significance)

### 3.6 Sample selection and strategy

Multistage sampling technique was used to select the sample of respondents across different parts of the district. The first stage involved a purposive selection of 4 beneficiary sub counties across the district.

The second stage employed stratified random selection of respondents from parishes and villages of the selected. In this case, beneficiaries of Compassion International programs were grouped based on the parish of residence. Parishes were considered as strata's (groups) for the research to select the required number of respondents from each cell.

In the third stage, a systematic probability sampling technique was applied to select respondents from each of the selected parishes to make a total of 206 respondents. This was achieved by obtaining a farmers list from Compassion International assisted projects offices.

In the fourth stage, a convenient (purposive) sampling technique was used in getting other key informants for the study. These provided supplementary knowledgeable and information required for the study.

### **3.7 Data Collection Methods**

#### **3.7.1 Questionnaire Filling**

A semi-structured questionnaire with both closed and open ended questions was designed and used to capture data from the target respondents (heads of beneficiary households). The questionnaire was translated into local languages to make the questions more simple, clear and understandable for the farmers/respondents. The household head was the appropriate respondent for the questionnaire designed for this study. The study questions covered a wide range of information including;

- Household characteristics like (age of household head, sex, education status, family size, source of income and livelihood);
- Livelihood activities and approaches used by Compassion International in the district;
- Level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs;
- Household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs
- Contribution of compassion international to food production and security.
- Challenges hindering Compassion International operations in the district.

### **3.7.2 Interviews**

Oral personal interviews that involve a face to face contact or conversation using an interview guide was used to capture opinions and views from key informants (local leaders and different staff from Compassion assisted projects). Interviews helped in capturing supplementary information on the subject under investigation. Interviews also helped to generate first hand and reliable data. For the respondents who did not give immediate feedback, adequate probing was used to establish the specific information regarding the study phenomenon.

### **3.8 Pilot study**

To address any deficiencies in the research instruments a pilot study was conducted. By conducting a pilot study, the researcher examined the feasibility of the approach that was used in the main study. Fisher, (2007) argued that, the accuracy of data to be collected is largely dependent on the data collection instruments in terms of validity and reliability which can only be established through a pilot test. A pilot study was conducted using 3% of the main sample size as recommended by (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). A pilot study on 10 respondents was therefore conducted.

### **3.9 Data quality control**

#### **3.9.1 Validity of the instruments**

To ensure content validity, the researcher specified the domain of indicators which were relevant to the topic under study. The validity of the research instrument was also established by holding discussion with fellow students, experts and seeking the counsel of the supervisor and modification of the instrument after supervisor approval.

#### **3.9.2 Reliability of the instruments**

To enhance reliability, a pilot test using the questionnaires was done on 10 farmers outside the sample and the results from the pilot study were used to address any deficiencies in the research instruments. In order to test the reliability of the instruments, an internal consistency technique will be applied using Cronbach's Alpha. Coefficient of 0.7 as a commonly accepted rule of thumb that indicated acceptable reliability. The research instruments used in this study were reliable at a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.791.

### 3.10 Data analysis

The data collected through closed ended questionnaires was cleaned, organized, coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Data analysis was carried out with SPSS software (Version 21). Below are details of the statistical data analysis strategy;

- Descriptive statistics (e.g., frequency and percentage) were computed to summarize participants' responses to their household characteristics like (age of household head, sex, education status, family size, source of income and livelihood); and Categories of care and support services carried out by Compassion International as an NGO.
- Binary logistic regression was performed to assess the influence of compassion international projects on livelihoods of the households as well as the challenges faced by Compassion International that hinder her operations in rural settings at  $p$  value  $<.05$  which indicated a significant statistical difference. The binary logistic regression model were presented as;

$$\log_e \left( \frac{p}{1-p} \right) = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + \dots + b_nx_n$$

Where;  $p$  = is the probability of success

$\alpha$  = is the coefficient on the constant term

$b_i$  = is the coefficient(s) on the independent variable(s)

$x_i$  = is the independent variable(s)

$e$  = is the error term

### 3.11 Ethical considerations

Research and ethical approval to conduct this study was obtained from the Research Ethics Committee of Bishop Stuart University, offices of compassion international sister projects in greater Bushenyi district and village leaders. A free and informed consent of each individual participant was obtained at the start of the study. Respondents read an informed consent form that explaining; the purpose of the study, what participation in the study involved, how confidentiality and anonymity would be maintained, and the right to refuse to participate in the study or to withdraw from the study without any penalty, the benefits and risks of participating in the study. Study participants were not be required to undergo any invasive procedures.

Personal/sensitive issues were explored when a good relationship was established with the informant. Confidentiality and anonymity were maintained by the use of code numbers on the questionnaire other than names. Information obtained was only used for the purposes of this study.

### **3.12 Limitations of the study**

The following were the constraints of the study;

**Financial Constraints:** The researcher was limited by financial resources such as the transport costs and stationery to carry out her research effectively. To mitigate this shortcoming, the researcher sourced for funds from a few sponsors including friends, family and workmates.

**Slow or non- response:** given that the researcher was unaware of the kind of respondents to deal with, some failed to respond or delay to do so. This was solved by the researcher making convenient appointments with the respondents and encouraged them to respond and gave true information in time.

Due to the sensitivity of the study, the respondents refused to give some data to the researcher citing the reasons behind the study. The researcher however overcame this by showing an introductory letter acquired from the faculty fully explaining the purpose of the research.

Bureaucracy might delay the study. From all the procedures, getting data from management take time. However, the researcher took time and appeal to the bureaucrats for data.

## Chapter Four

### Results

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the study findings. A series of tables, pie charts and graphs were used. Findings were presented as; socio-demographic characteristics, level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs, household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in the programs, compassion contribution towards food production and security and challenges that hinder Compassion operations in the study area. All the respondents the study targeted were accessed and data captured from them giving 100% response rate.

#### 4.2 Socio-demographic characteristics

The key demographic characteristics examined in this study included; gender, marital status, age, level of education, household size, livelihood activity, and landholdings. The purpose for gathering background information was to help in establishing whether the sample characteristics were similar to those of the population where the sample was got.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socio-dome graphic characteristics**

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
<b>Gender</b>	Male	86	41.7
	Female	120	58.3
	Total	<b>206</b>	100.0
<b>Marital status</b>	None married	32	15.5
	Married	156	75.7
	Others	18	8.8
	Total	<b>206</b>	100.0
<b>Source of income</b>	Farming	165	80.1
	Salary	13	6.3
	Business	28	13.6
	Total	206	100.0

According to the findings in table 4.1 above, majority 58.3% of the respondents were male and 47.2% female. More than a half (75.7%) of the respondents were married, 15.5% non-married while 8.8% were separated and divorced. Farming was the main source of income to majority (80.1%) of the respondents, followed by business 13.6% and salary 6.3%.



**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of age, education, household size and agricultural landholdings**

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Age in years	16	69	35.08	11.671
Educational in years	0	16	10.21	4.341
Size of the household	4	14	7.89	2.235
Farming experience	1	18	7.65	2.168
Size of your farm in acres	1.0	18.0	3.016	4.6452

As shown in table 1 above, mean age of the respondents were 35 years with a minimum of 16 and a maximum age of 69. Those aged 16 to 35 formed the biggest part of the study. The minimum number of years in school were 0, a maximum of 16 and an average of 10. An average household consisted of seven (7) members with the smallest having four (4) members and the biggest fourteen (14). Average landholdings amongst households were 3 acres with a minimum of an acre while the biggest holder had 18 acres.

#### **4.3 Household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International program**

**Table 3: Approaches used by Compassion International**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Bottom-up approach	145	70.4
Top-down approach	53	25.7
Others	8	3.9
Total	<b>206</b>	100.0

According to the findings in table 3 above, majority 70.4% of the respondents revealed that Compassion International applied a bottom-up approach in her operations, 25.7% talked of top-down approach while 3.9% mentioned other approaches.

**Table 4: Livelihoods services offered by Compassion International (multiple responses generated)**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Religious education and spiritual training	75	22.1
Education and training services	25	7.4
Income generating projects	55	16.2
Shelter construction	21	6.2

Buying land from gifts	18	5.3
Capacity building	16	4.7
Support of agriculture projects	35	10.4
Child sponsorship	94	27.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Regarding the livelihoods services offered by Compassion International, 27.8% of the respondents reported sponsorship of child education, 22.1% religious education and spiritual training, 16.2% sponsoring household income generating projects, 10.4% support of agriculture projects, 7.4% talked of education and training services, 6.2% shelter construction, 5.3 buying land from gifts and 4.7% mentioned building household capacity in different livelihood aspects.

**Table 5: Household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International program (multiple responses generated)**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Knowledge acquisition	45	12.4
Economic empowerment	53	14.6
Household income generating activities	45	12.4
Access to inputs	46	12.6
Enhanced capacities	26	7.1
Spiritual empowerment	50	13.7
Education and training	29	7.9
Child sponsorship	70	19.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Results on household livelihood changes resulting from participation in Compassion International program were presented in table 6 above. 19.2% of the respondents revealed that the organization has offered child sponsorship services, 14.6% talked of household economic empowerment, 13.7% spiritual empowerment, 12.6% access to agricultural inputs, 12.4% talked knowledge acquisition and household income generating activities respectively, 7.9% mentioned access to education and training services and 7.1% reported enhanced household capacities.

#### 4.4 Level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs

**Table 6: Level of beneficiary participation in Compassion international programs (multiple responses generated)**

Response	Frequency	Percent
Membership contribution	15	5.7
Attending meetings	53	20
Participating in community outreaches and seminars	65	24.5

Group information sharing	24	9
Involving in CI program activities	38	14.3
Local resource mobilization	50	18.7
Providing feedback on organizational operations	20	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The level at which beneficiaries participate in Compassion programs was assessed and multiple responses generated as presented in table 7 above. Majority 24.5% of the respondents revealed that beneficiaries participated by involving in organization outreaches and seminars, 20% talked of attending annual meetings, 18.7% mobilizing local resources towards the cause, 14.3% involving in program activities, 9% group information sharing, 7.5% providing feedback on organizational operations and 5.7% talked membership contribution.

#### **4.5 Contribution of compassion international to food production and security**

**Table 7: Contribution of compassion international to food production and security (multiple responses generated)**

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Provision of inputs	32	13.4
Financial services	14	5.9
Setting up agricultural support projects	55	23
Advocating for agricultural polices	24	10
Farmer mobilization and capacity building	36	15
Providing training and advisory services	31	12.9
Facilitation of extension service delivery	25	10.5
Information service provision	22	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Results on the contributions of compassion international towards household food production and security were captured through multiple as presented in table 8 above. 23% of the respondents reported that the organization has supported household food production and security by setting up agricultural support projects, 15% mentioned mobilizing farmers for an agriculture cause and capacity building, 13.4% talked of supporting households with agro-inputs, 12.9% offering training and advisory services, 10.5% facilitation of extension service delivery, 10% advocating for agricultural polices, 9.2% information service provision and 5.9% talked offering financial services.

## 4.6 Challenges being faced by Compassion International that hinder their operations in rural settings

**Table 8: Parameter estimates for Challenges hindering Compassion International operations**

Variables		95.0% C.I. for AOR			
		AOR	Lower	Upper	Sig.
Model	Poor funding	1.012	.406	2.521	.001*
	Corruption and mis-use of fund	1.950	.761	4.996	.004*
	Competition from other NGOs	2.786	.934	8.306	.000**
	Over dependence on donor funds	1.290	.370	4.499	.690
	Poor community reception and participation	1.321	.129	2.797	.014*
	Lack of government support	1.486	.573	3.851	.415
	Lack of Coordination among members	.604	.248	1.472	.267
	Poor power relations with the local government	.256	.106	.618	.002**
	Un-favorable policies	.749	.263	2.129	.123
	Intercept				.120

Source: computer output (SPSS) analysis, 2019

\*, \*\*, \*\*\* statistically significant at 10%, 5% and 1% significance level

The analysis in table 9 above presented a binary logistic regression output for the challenges hindering Compassion International operations in rural areas. Adjusted odd ratios were calculated and significant challenges interpreted at 95% confidence interval and 5% level of significance. Nine (9) challenges were hypothesized and only five (5) challenges remained significant. These included; poor funding, corruption and mis-use of fund, competition from other NGOs, poor community reception and participation and poor power relations with the local government.

### Poor funding

Poor funding was a dummy variable (1 = yes, 0 No). Poor funding was a positive and significant challenge to Compassion International operations at 10% level of significance. The reported odds (AOR = 1.012, 95% CI: .406 - 2.521; p = .001) implied that shortage in funds had funds

had 1.02 chances of limiting organizational operations. Therefore the earlier stated null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) that shortage in funds was not a challenge in CI operations was rejected.

### **Corruption and mis-use of fund**

As predicted, corruption and mis-use of fund was a significant constraint to organizational operations at 10% level of significance. This implied that presence of corrupt officials and mis-use of organizational funds was 1.9 times likely to limit Compassion International operations. This is because funds are very key in every aspect of operation. In this case, the earlier stated null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected.

### **Competition from other NGOs**

Competition from other NGOs was another predictor to CI operations at 5% level of significance. The reported odds of (AOR = 2.786, 95% CI: .934 - 8.306;  $p = .000$ ) implied that an increase in competition from other NGOs decreased organizational operations by 2.7 chances. This is an organizations like Compassion International are vibrant organs that require qualified labour force and technical know-how for management and operations. Therefore it was not surprising that the shortage in trained staff would affect her operations in the area.

### **Poor community reception and participation**

Poor community reception and participation also emerged a significant challenge to CI operations at 10% level of significance. The odds (AOR = 1.321, 95% CI: .129 - 2.797;  $p = .014$ ) implied that poor community reception and participation was 1.3 times more likely to affect CI operations. Community reception and participation is paramount as it promotes CI project participation and sustainability. Therefore it is not surprising that poor reception and community would affect project operations. In this case the stated null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was rejected.

### **Poor power relations with the local government**

Study results show that, poor power relations with the local government was a significant challenge to CI operations at 5% level of significance. The odds (AOR = .256, 95% CI: .106 - .618;  $p = .002$ ) implied that poor power relations with the local government 0.25 chances of hindering CI operations. Networks and Linkages are paramount in lobbying local government

support for the projects which are engines of operations. In this case the earlier stated null hypothesis (**H<sub>0</sub>**) that there was no relationship was rejected.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Discussion, Conclusions and Recommendation**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The study sought to unveil the Contribution of Compassion International to the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Bushenyi District. This chapter presents the discussion of major findings, conclusions and recommendations in relation to the objectives of the study.

#### **5.2 Discussion of findings**

##### **5.2.1 Household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs**

The study came out with different household livelihood changes resulting from smallholder participation in Compassion International programs. Through a holistic approach the organization has supported the community with a wide range of services including child sponsorship, religious education, spiritual strengthening, promoting household income generating projects, shelter construction, buying land from gifts, support of agriculture projects and capacity building. Results indicated that there were household livelihood changes resulting from participation in Compassion International program such as; child sponsorship services, economic and spiritual empowerment, access to agricultural inputs, knowledge acquisition, shelter construction, income generating activities and enhanced household capacities. This study finding is comparable to findings of World Bank, (2015) which revealed that NGOs are important in promoting empowerment through self-help initiatives. Empowerment is the multifaceted process which involves transforming economic, social, psychological, political and legal circumstances of the currently powerless. It has been alleged that empowerment is possible because NGOs have the potential of reaching the grassroots levels of the communities.

In terms of spiritual Development, Compassion International Uganda has had a history of religious affiliations and the spiritual development aspect is therefore part and parcel of what the organization had to do in the district. Basing on the data obtained from the field, the argument for promoting spiritual aspect is to make beneficiaries know God, love one another and share together the little they have as the basis for reducing poverty amongst themselves. It was

therefore interpreted that by instilling spiritual development to the children and their households, they could unite and fight poverty as a common goal. The spiritual aspect thus been achieved through conducting bible classes for children during centre days (centre days are specific days when children of all the beneficiaries must report to the CDC for livelihood trainings). This study finding is in support with Rutanga, (2005) who argued that NGOs play an important role, particularly in the promotion of popular participation and civil society, but they are not meant to substitute for government nor simply be relegated to the narrowly defined role of low-cost service provider. They can serve as a genuine complementary partner to government in the development process.

In the education aspect, compassion International provided necessary equipment's for children's formal and informal education. This has been important in equipping children with all the necessary educational knowledge in their lives so as to grow up as responsible citizens. Compassion international supports children of key beneficiaries from primary to university level. The major aim of this is to acquire knowledge and skills to use for self-reliant. In addition, the data provided by key respondents, revealed that there was a provision for children beneficiaries to attend vocational training courses if they found it hard to continue up to university level. This finding is comparable to findings by Oyinbo & Olaleye, (2016) who revealed that NGOs have widely differing goals and activities ranging from community mobilization to service provision, but there are many areas of mutual concern. These areas present opportunities for new partnerships with government, donors and beneficiaries. Regular fora for building such partnerships and sharing experience need to be established.

### **5.2.2 Level of beneficiary participation in Compassion programs**

The study came out with different ways in which beneficiaries are participating in Compassion programs in Bushenyi district. Study findings revealed that beneficiaries had participated in Compassion international programs by involving in organization outreaches and seminars, attending annual meetings, mobilizing local resources towards the cause, involving in program activities, sharing information in groups, membership contribution, and providing feedback on organizational operations. For instance, participation in outreaches, seminars and attending annual meetings has given beneficiary households a chance to feel a sense of membership which has been key for program operations, community acceptance, and sustainability. This study



findings are comparable to findings by Stark et al., (2015) who cited that beneficiary's participation encourages effective representation and this positively influences the social climate of programs and projects. They stated that none or under representation leads to timidity, conformity, apathy and rebelliousness by the recipient communities, rather than respect for the project and its activities. This means that for organizational projects to support reducing poverty, fair representation of all beneficiaries is very crucial. This is because equal participation allows beneficiaries to contribute in the decisions and management of projects hence being responsive to them.

### **5.2.3 Contribution of compassion international to food production and security**

The study came out with different roles compassion international has played towards household food production and security in greater Bushenyi district. Results indicate that compassion international had supported food production and security through a wide range of activities including setting up agricultural support projects, mobilizing farmers for an agriculture cause, advocating for agricultural policies, capacity building, agro-input provision, training and advisory services, facilitation of extension service delivery, information service provision and financial support. For instance, training and advisory services offered have enabled farmers to obtain the required information and technology needed to boost production hence meeting food demands at household level. In addition to child sponsorship and spiritual strengthening, the organization has partly played a role in encouraging the community to engage in commercial agricultural activities so as to boost their household food needs and income, distributed production inputs, facilitated rural technological extension to allow smallholder farmers transform themselves into small-scale industrialist, stimulating local and community enterprise development across the district. These study findings are in line with Quisumbing and Pandolfelli, (2010) who argued that NGOs have widely differing goals and activities ranging from community mobilization to service provision. Waddington, (2012) revealed that the major activities of agricultural base NGOs include mobilization of the masses to engage in commercial agricultural activities so as to boost their household incomes, distribution of production inputs equitably and timely to boost production and productivity at household level, facilitating rural technological upgrading to allow smallholder farmers to transform themselves into small-scale industrialist, stimulating local and community enterprise development across the country, and facilitating infrastructure development particularly in rural areas.

#### **5.2.4 Challenges hindering Compassion International operations in rural settings of Uganda**

The section presents the critical challenges hindering Compassion International operations in Bushenyi district western Uganda. Though an NGOs like compassion international is an integral part of Uganda's struggle to fight poverty, it faces different challenges that have hinder operation. These are attributed to the nature of formation and its management in Uganda as well as the aim of which it was formed. It should be noted unreservedly that Compassion International entirely relies on foreign aid. Foreign aid being unsustainable and unpredictable, is detrimental to the NGOs' reduction of poverty. Therefore, the more the organization depends on donor funds, the less competent it has become in performing their roles.

Overreliance on foreign aid has created a culture of dependence syndrome. It was found out that the biggest proportion of Compassion's funding comes from abroad, especially from western donors and governments. Although attempts to obtain the exact amount of aid received by Compassion International every year were futile, analysis of budget of some of the project centers revealed that foreign donations were the most significant source of its funds. Many of its activities were financed by USA and European governments and donor agencies. This finding is comparable to findings by World Bank, (2012) who reported that lack of funds limits the quantity and quality of NGO work hence, dependence on grants and donations from donors are accepted. This donor funds are were noted to come with restrictions which inhibit the autonomy of NGOs to choose which program activities to undertake and to select the most effective intervention strategies to achieve sustainable program goals.

Similarly, corruption and mis-use of fund was a significant constraint in Compassion International operations at 10% level of significance. It was observed that Compassion International with corrupted officials were losing millions of funds through embezzlement. This not only affects organization image but equally affects operations given that they depend on funds for day to day operations and project implementation. This study finding concurs with Ogaboh et al., (2014) who asserted that it is the matter of fact that some unscrupulous elements have made fortunes by floating NGOs for their personnel gains and managing grants from the government. It is a common experience that there have been serious charges of misuse and misappropriation of funds received as granting-aid form the government, foreign donors and

raised through their own resources by the most of the NGOs. These NGOs may reflect its image to other NGOs who are working with dedication and commitment.

Competition from other NGOs was another predictor to Compassion International operations at 5% level of significance. An increase in competition from other NGOs was seen to decrease organizational operations by 2.7 chances. The study established that there was unhealthy competition among the NGOs and poor power relations with the local government authorities yet are supposed to congregate and cooperate for the common purpose. For instance the study discovered that Compassion International in the district has not had any joint programs with other NGOs in the district since its operation in the district. The attitude of Compassion officials towards other NGOs clearly indicated that there was a tradition of rivalry among Uganda's NGOs.

Results further revealed that poor community reception and participation was significant challenge to Compassion International operations at 10% level of significance. The operations of the organization were likely to be upset by poor community reception and participation. Community reception and participation is key in promoting NGO operation and sustainability. Therefore lack of community reception and participation affects project support and success. This study finding is comparable to Mugambe, (2008) who stated that the involvement of local communities can promote sustainability by building a base of support and fostering a sense of local ownership of programs as working through local communities makes it easier to take advantage of traditional organizations and indigenous practitioners and benefit from their knowledge of what may work or not work in a society. NGOs are meant to provide opportunities to the citizens for democratic participation but they have not been able to fulfill this obligation due to the method and manner in which they function, and failed to attract people, interested in construction work and develop channels for people's enthusiastic participation.

Poor power relations with the local government presented as a significant challenge to CI operations. Interviews conducted among compassion employees and the district authorities revealed that many of them are oblivious about one another's programs to reduce poverty in the district. The working relations between Compassion and the district authorities, was characterized by poor coordination worsened by failure to implement laws concerning NGOs and the local government. This finding is in line with the argument of Obvious and Prospel, (2008)

who confirmed that NGOs in the same field like empowering communities to reduce poverty, perceive each other as rivals- all because of donor funds. The attitude of Compassion officials towards other NGOs and local government clearly indicated that there was a tradition of rivalry between them, local government and other NGOs. Specifically, the working relations between Compassion and the district authorities, was characterized by poor coordination worsened by failure to implement laws concerning NGOs and the local government. The district officials visit the organization once in a year or even two years as revealed by one employee.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

Basing on the findings, the following study conclusions were drawn;

Smallholder participation in Compassion International programs has resulted in livelihood changes especially for some member households such as; enhanced child education, household economic and spiritual empowerment, increased access to agricultural inputs, income generating projects, shelter construction and enhanced household capacities. Organizational programs however leave a bigger part of the population not served creating a huge socio-economic gap in the area.

Member beneficiaries participate in C.I programs through attending organization outreaches, seminars and annual meetings, mobilizing local resources towards the cause, involving in project activities, paying annual membership fee and giving feedback on project activities and operations. Level of beneficiary participation in the programs differed by geographical location and economic status.

The organization has potentially contributed towards household food production and security for some member households across the district through setting up agricultural support projects, mobilizing farmers for an agriculture cause and building their capacities, providing agro-inputs, offering training and advisory services, facilitating extension service delivery, advocating for agricultural policies, and offering financial services. However due to critical issues like inadequate funding, some households remain unreached causing a hiccup in food production and security.

The study further concludes that poor funding, corruption and mis-use of fund, competition from other NGOs, poor community reception and participation and lack of good power relations with

the local government are the major significant challenges hindering compassion international operations in Bushenyi district.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Basing on the findings of the study, recommendations were drawn in line with the study objectives as follows.

- Compassion International should equip the beneficiaries with knowledge to reduce poverty through intensifying its socio-economic empowerment programs. There is need to improve life and vocational skills training mainly shoe making, carpentry, soap making, crocheting, baking and tailoring and higher education.
- Compassion International should meet all the monetary expenses related to programs and projects executed. In case of construction at project centre, caregivers should contribute raw materials available locally such as labour, bricks, stones and sand other than demanding for money from them.
- There is need for the organization to allow for full and meaningful beneficiary participation. Involving beneficiaries in active participation allow them to make right choices of intervention and becomes responsive to such interventions. Consequently, sustainability of organizational projects may be enhanced and promoted, leading to poverty reduction.
- NGOs need to expand on the number of beneficiaries in order to reduce poverty in the areas of their operation. For example, it considers at least one beneficiary from each household considered as poor. In addition, such members should be living within the short distance from the project centre. However, it was established that some of the households had around 15 members per household. This meant that it may be hard for one beneficiary to help in reducing poverty in such a large family even if the principle of trickledown effect were to apply.
- Proper coordination between the district local government and CI is paramount in the poverty eluviation process since poor coordination between the organization and local government could lead to duplication of projects. Therefore both parties should expose their work plans to each other to avoid or minimize the problem of duplication.

- The NGO needs to tackle poverty reduction dynamically, strategically and comprehensively. This is because poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that needs a multidimensional approach. There is a need to look at other categories of needy people in the society such as the elderly, widows and disabled persons, rather than placing emphasis on one category. Children that Compassion supports, for instance, just comprise a single element among many that need to be supported to realize the meaningful achievements of the NGO in reducing poverty in the country.

### **5.5 Areas for further research**

The researcher suggested following areas for further researcher;

- NGOs and accountability, legitimacy and representation of the poor in rural communities.
- The impact of NGO partnerships and networking on beneficiary project funding.
- The Impact of Compassion International on education sector.

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## Appendices

### Appendix I: Questionnaire for respondents

**Dear respondent**

I am **Aryamanya Wycliffe Muhumuza**, a student of Bishop Stuart University carrying out a study titled “**Contribution of Compassion International to the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Greater Bushenyi District**”. As one of respondents you have been selected to provide information. The study is mainly for academic purposes only therefore the information given



10. How many school going children live in this household? .....
11. How many children go to school? .....
12. What are the most pressing needs of your household?
- a. Food and nutrition      b. Shelter      c. Health care services      d. Education
- e. Clothing and beddings      f. Others, specify .....
13. How many meals do you take a day? .....
14. What about children bellow 10 years? .....
15. If less than two, why? For children, if less than three why?
- a. Lack of enough food      b. Family norm      c. Save food for another day
- d. Others, specify.....
16. Has any of the household members suffered any illness necessitating any medical attention in the last two months?
- a. Yes      b. No
17. If yes, did the household seek healthcare of any form?
- a. Yes      b. No
18. If yes, who paid the medical bills?
- a. Household head      b. It was a government hospital      c. NGO
- d. Others, specify.....
19. If an NGO, which one?
- a. Compassion      b. World vision      c. Pan Uganda
- d. Others, specify.....
20. If Compassion International, how long has it been supporting your household in accessing health services?
- a. Since ten years ago      b. Since five years ago      c. Since two years ago
- d. Bellow one year

21. Apart from health services, what else has Compassion International been helping your household with? (Multiple choices allowed)

- a. Educational support
- b. Income generating projects (IGP)
- c. Training in saving habits
- d. Spiritual training
- e. Food and nutrition
- f. Shelter
- g. farming
- h. Legal and protection
- i. Others, specify.....

22. If education, how many children does the NGO sponsor in your household? .....

23. If agricultural training, which form of training does the Compassion International provide?

.....  
.....  
.....

24. What livelihood activities has Compassion International offered to your household?

- a. Education
- b. Training and empowerment
- c. Income generating projects
- d. skills and knowledge development
- e. Others, specify.....

25. Which approaches do Compassion International used which engaging beneficiaries

- a. top-down
- b. bottom-up
- c. Others, specify.....

26. How was your household selected to be supported by Compassion International?

.....

27. Do you pay any money or items to be considered one of the beneficiaries of Compassion International?

- a. Yes
- b. No

28. Do you feel that the support offered by Compassion is benefiting you?

- a. Yes
- b. No

29. If yes, how?

.....  
.....

30. If no why?

.....  
.....

31. How do you manage the support offered to you by Compassion International?

.....  
.....

32. Do you attend meetings as beneficiary of Compassion International?

a. Yes                      b. No

33. If yes, how often?

.....  
.....

34. If no, why? And who attends?

.....  
.....

35. If yes, what type of meetings do you participate in? (you may tell them different types of meetings to choose e.g, general or consultative meetings).

.....  
.....

36. How do you describe your level of participation in Compassion International programs/activities?

a. very poor              b. fair              c. moderate              d. high              e. very high

37. Has your household life changed as a result of participating in Compassion International Programs?

a. Yes                      b. No

38. Describe your household livelihood changes resulting from participation in Compassion International programs

- a. no change at all    b. slight change    c. worse to better    d. better to worse

39. What are the key achievements of Compassion International in this area?

.....  
.....  
.....

40. How are these achievements helping smallholders to boost food production and security in Bushenyi district?

.....  
.....  
.....

41. What particular problems has Compassion faced in the process of implementing projects in Bushenyi district?

.....  
.....  
.....

42. In your opinion, what measures do you feel should be taken to curb down these problems.

.....  
.....  
.....

43. Any last remarks?

.....  
.....  
.....

**Thanks for your participation**

