

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country: Uganda**

Project/Initiative Title: HPI Small dairy project

Nos. farmers: 5000

Hectares: 10,000

Agro-Ecological Zone: V

Improvement types

1x	2	3	4	5x	6x	7	8	9
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## A. Key Impacts

### ***A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)***

50 new groups formed

### ***A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)***

Increased status of women

## D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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## E. Project Narrative

### **Uganda: household livestock development**

Heifer Project International introduced zero-grazing of dairy production to Uganda. This involves keeping good quality dairy cows in confinement and cut and carry feeding. The system includes production of forages, grasses and leguminous trees. Much of these are grown on bunds and intercropped with food or cash crops thus conserving soil and moisture. The system also results in greater food security and better family nutrition. Animals are a good source of income and food in the dry season and ruminants can use much to the crop and food processing by-products. The gathering of manure and compost from the zero-grazing unit, provides an ongoing source of organic fertiliser and provides for the rapid recycling of limited nutrients within the system. The strengthening of community groups which provide mutual support and training is another significant component.

Dairy heifers are provided as an in-kind loan. Farmers repay the loan by raising a female offspring which is then "passed on" to another farmer in the community. Thus the group has

a capital resource which also for the benefit of the program to continue to spread. The zero-grazing system was introduced to Uganda by HPI in 1983, and has survived despite political and economic problems. It has since been adopted by numerous agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and International NGOs.

Over 5,000 families have benefited directly from significant increase in income and nutrition, resulting in dramatic improvements in housing and school attendance. Some 10,000 hectares of land have been improved or stabilised by the development of a sustainable small-holder dairy farming system. Over 50 community-based groups have been strengthened and these are an engine for rural development. The status of women has been enhanced as over half of the livestock owners are women, many of who are widows with large families.

*Source: Carolee Black*