



Love Mercy Social Impact Report

The Wellbeing of Women
and Communities in
Northern Uganda

August 2022

Prepared by





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Acknowledgement of Country

Huber Social acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and future.

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Executive Summary

2021-22 was a particularly challenging time for people and families in Uganda. While the nation is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic effects, drought has continued to plague the country for the fourth season in a row.¹ This has had devastating effects for communities particularly in Northern Uganda, where the lack of rain has severely impacted crop production, leading to reduced household incomes, food shortages and hunger-related deaths.² With about 40% of the region's population facing high-levels of food insecurity, access to food and water as a source of family sustenance and income generation is absolutely vital.³

Since 2010, Love Mercy Foundation has been working to address poverty in Northern Uganda through strengthening access to food, health and financial security. Cents for Seeds, the Foundation's seed-lending program, provides women with the tools and training to grow, harvest and sell their own crops, and encourages participation in VSLA groups to generate further income and help their communities to grow and prosper.

This report presents results from the fourth social impact measurement of Cents for Seeds that Love Mercy has undertaken with Huber Social. It presents findings overall, as well as offers insights into results by the three sub-counties which participated in measurement, so that Love Mercy can demonstrate the impact it has at the community level.

It should be noted that this year, changes in program impact and outcomes have been assessed by comparing this year's measurement results against those of 2021, averaged across communities which participated in measurement both years. Past reports have analysed participant results against those from women who are not in the Cents for Seeds program; however, due to the small number of surveys completed from the



non-enrolled group, this type of analysis was not possible. In future measurements, Cents for Seeds Staff will increase efforts to recruit non-program participants to join in survey activities.

Key Findings

Key findings from this year's measurement include:

- **Overall wellbeing has improved since 2021** – Overall wellbeing saw a dip last year, due in part to the global pandemic and drought. In 2022, despite the continued drought and widespread food shortages, average overall wellbeing has increased by +3% for women participating in the Cents for Seeds program. This increase suggests that the Cents for Seeds program still



Executive Summary

supports participants' overall wellbeing in light of deteriorating environmental conditions.

- **Cents for Seeds builds on key program outcomes** – Compared to the previous year, participants report having greater perseverance (+26%), stronger agriculture skills (+24%) and less fear (+23%), all of which are key program outcomes for Cents for Seeds. Access to healthcare (+21%), feeling safe (+17%), and having a peaceful home (+14%) have also improved for participants since 2021.
- **Participants report having less financial management capacity** – This year, participants reported that their ability to save (-6%), plan money use (-7%), and pay back money on time (-6%) have all decreased on average since 2021. However, this is more likely due to a decrease in access to income as a result of drought-impacted crop yields, which aligns with what has been directly observed by Cents for Seeds staff. Given that financial planning is one of the strongest predictors of wellbeing for participants this year, a decrease in this factor presents a constraint to participants' overall wellbeing.
- **Access to food and water continue to decrease** - Access to food and water were found to be important to wellbeing across the whole sample of participants as well as in most parishes. However, access to both has decreased significantly since 2018, regardless of program involvement, and now the majority of participants now report having no access to food and nearly half must travel over 10km to find clean water.
- **Love Mercy can support Cents for Seeds graduates by building hope** – Historically, average overall wellbeing has been lower

among Cents for Seeds graduates as compared to other program participants. To better understand how Love Mercy Foundation can successfully support its graduates in transitioning out of the program, statistical analysis was used to identify which unique factors are important to their wellbeing.

Having hope for the future was identified as having a strong relationship with wellbeing but was also one of lowest scored factors for this group, -25% lower than current program participants. To have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of its program graduates, building and sustaining hope should be a feature of both the Cents for Seeds program as well as any follow-up support programs.

Applying the Findings

While Love Mercy Foundation's mission is to empower communities to overcome poverty as a result of the Ugandan Civil War, the Foundation also recognises the role that climate change plays in the country's protracted recovery. Previous partnerships have led to the Well Worth It project, enabling the drilling of new wells and the repair of existing ones in communities with limited clean water sources. However, access to food and water remains a challenge, and has been identified as a priority need for many of the communities that participated in measurement this year. Love Mercy may wish to consider how they can leverage their relationship with these communities to connect them with drought-resistant water and agriculture solutions that can withstand the new climate challenges this region will continue to endure.

1. International Office of Migration (IOM). 25 July 2022. "African Heads of state and Governments Meet in Uganda to Call for Concerted Efforts to Tackle Climate Change." Accessed 16 August 2022. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/african-heads-state-and-governments-meet-uganda-call-concerted-efforts-tackle-climate-change>

2. Reuters. 20 July 2022. "More than 200 people die as drought ravages northeast Uganda." Accessed 16 August 2022. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/more-than-200-people-die-drought-ravages-northeast-uganda-2022-07-19/>
3. World Food Programme. 1 June 2022. Country Brief. Accessed 18 August 2022. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/uganda>



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Improving Wellbeing and Preventing a Famine Crisis

The communities in northern Uganda have persevered in the face of ongoing obstacles over the last year where the challenges of climate change, conflict and COVID-19 created a compounding effect in 2022.

With four consecutive years of no rain in northern Uganda's wet season, 2022 began with the lowest return rate ever from seed loans. Sporadic rain at the beginning of the wet season created hope for a reprieve in the drought, however, the much-needed rains did not continue in all areas. Multiple partnering communities reported that their seeds had dried out.

In line with global financial patterns, the prices of basic resources have continued to increase whilst access to these resources is decreasing. In these communities, roadside stalls are disappearing, goods available in the markets are reducing or if available, are unattainably overpriced. Communities reported a sense of unease in meeting in large groups to handle money which reduced women's opportunity to physically make deposits, if able. Many participating women reported saving little to no money in the VSLA in comparison to strong harvest years. Love Mercy's Founding Director Julius Achon described that African communities are "heading towards a famine".

Rising above these challenges and continuing to partner with local women for the twelfth year running, the Love Mercy teams have worked hard to make sure the Cents for Seeds continued to be effective this year. Directed by the local experience & expertise of the in-country agronomy staff, Love Mercy re-purchased seed loans to ensure participants do not face further barriers to success. Under the team's guidance, Love Mercy is investigating climate risk solutions and pilot

projects to provide more opportunity for women despite challenging agricultural conditions. Graduation has been paused for the next two years to ensure participating women can remain and gain the most out of the program.

Love Mercy has taken these measures to enable continued participation in the program because, **despite relentless external challenges, measurement has consistently demonstrated that Cents for Seeds has a positive impact on overall wellbeing for women** in the program. The continued way in which Cents for Seeds strengthens community capabilities and provides choices and opportunities for a hand up in difficult circumstances cements its importance within these communities. 2022 saw a marked increase in the amount of new community participants showing up for seed loan distribution where Cents for Seeds can celebrate their record high of 19,000 participants this year.

Now more than ever, seeds are needed to help combat the rapidly approaching famine. Cents for Seeds can help meet this need.



MISSION

To partner with local communities to find innovative solutions to **reduce poverty and increase wellbeing following 20 years of civil war.**



Cents for Seeds

Program Summary

Uganda is home to some of the world's most fertile land. Harnessing this resource and empowering communities with agricultural economies is key to supporting the restoration of a country still recovering post-civil war.

Enter Love Mercy's Cents for Seeds program. This program upskills three districts across northern Uganda with agricultural knowledge, practices and start-up capital via seed loans to generate sustainable and independent sources of both food and income.

Strategically building on existing strengths and resources within local communities, the program is based on empowering women to be income-generators and encouraging the usability of local land. In providing these care-taking women with the opportunity to earn an income, this has a flow-on effect in improving families' access to food, education and health care.

Beginning with just 100 participating women in 2010, Cents for Seeds reached 19,000 women in 2022 helping families thrive and become more resilient as they continue their journey to recovery.

The Cents for Seeds Program Model

This seed loan system is a self-generating cycle where the returned seeds are then re-loaned to other participants.



1. Seed loans and agricultural training

Working as a micro-loan program, participating women receive biannual seed loans. Resourced with a gardening tool and training, these seeds are then planted and harvested often to fivefold the original seed amount. After returning the initial loan amount, women are free to sell, store or barter the remainder for ongoing food security and economic profit.

2. Financial training

As access to financial institutions is low in rural Uganda, women in the program form Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA). VSLAs operate as local community-run banks, upskilling women's financial literacy and modelling the benefits of savings. Participants use savings to access credit to purchase larger items such as livestock or agricultural tools, as well as fund their children's education and start their own businesses.



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Why Measure Social Impact?

This is Love Mercy's fourth annual Social Impact Report from Huber Social as part of a longitudinal study of the Cents for Seeds program's impact on the wellbeing of women and their communities. The measurement not only tracks overall progress in terms of wellbeing, but also provides a holistic, statistical profile of the current needs of the participating women. This serves Love Mercy with insights to better understand how these programs can be improved over time due to changing external factors and emerging needs.

1. Measure

To measure the impact of Love Mercy, Huber Social measures the shift in overall wellbeing and outcomes achieved for the women in Love Mercy programs and their communities.

Measurement provides a data-driven approach for Love Mercy to articulate their social impact to internal and external stakeholders.

2. Maximise

Beyond a focus on outcomes, Huber Social's approach considers the holistic needs of a person to be in the best position to fulfil their potential.

This measurement approach focuses on the lived experience of these women. Opportunities are then identified for collaborating partnerships and improved resource allocation to address the emerging priority needs within these northern Ugandan communities.

Why Wellbeing?

Measures overall progress and supports the systematic solving of social issues

Ultimately, the goal of all social impact is to put people in the best position to fulfil their potential and achieve wellbeing. It is therefore important to measure wellbeing to ensure that overall, programs are having a positive impact. To measure social impact, Huber Social measures a shift in overall wellbeing and the program outcomes that contribute to it.

Taking a wellbeing approach also provides a whole-of-life understanding of a person's needs. Instead of starting with the issue at hand, which tends to focus on the crisis end of a problem and place artificial limitations on the needs of people, strengthening wellbeing supports building a person's capability and opportunity to fulfil their potential, thus working to systematically address social issues.



**For details of how Huber Social measures wellbeing, please refer to Appendix 1.*



Cents for Seeds Social Impact Model

The Love Mercy Social Impact Model outlines how the organisation impacts those who participate in their programs. Through measuring each level of impact, Love Mercy can use a data driven approach to demonstrate what works and what is needed to maximise impact and outcomes.





Measurement Approach

In June 2022, the Cents for Seeds program measured its social impact across six parishes in three sub-counties. Of the six, three parishes had previously participated in measurement; therefore, this year's impact assessment is based off average shifts in wellbeing and program outcomes across these three sites from 2021 to 2022. It should also be noted that no graduations occurred in these groups this year, due to the drought.

A total of 1539 surveys were completed. Data was collected using self-report surveys. The survey remains largely the same since data collection first began in 2018. The surveys measure overall wellbeing using an abbreviated version of the Satisfaction with Life Scale. They also measure key program outcomes and participants' holistic needs, identified through a co-design workshop held in the first year of measurement. Surveys are predominantly in English.

Cents for Seeds staff distributed surveys during the second round of seed loan distribution. Staff collected verbal consent and provided support to women with literacy challenges, translating questions into participants' primary languages when necessary. All Cents for Seeds staff participated in refresher training on ethical data collection management. Following collection, all survey data was entered into Huber Social's online database, and all surveys securely stored on site at Cents for Seeds.



Table 1. 2022 Measurement Sites

Sub-County	Parish	# of Responses	Year in Program
Akura	Anyanga*	315	2nd year
Olilim	Angetta*	353	7th year
	Anepkide*	337	7th year
	Olilim	39	2nd year
Aloi	Alebtong	178	1st year
	Amuria	265	2nd year

**Indicates site where previous measurements have been conducted. Note that not all responses identified their sub-county or parish, so the total number of responses in the table is less than 1539.*





The Program

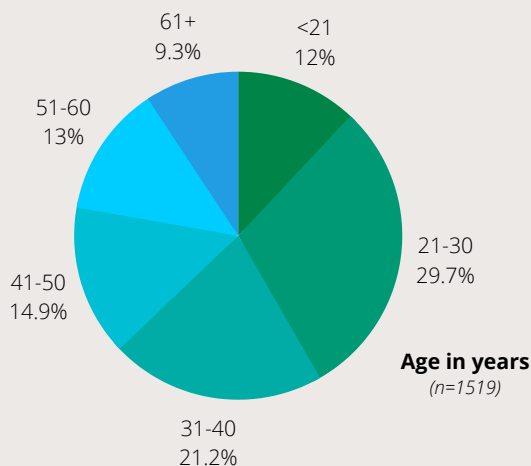
Participants

As women in Uganda are the caretakers of the family, many of those who participate in the Cents for Seeds program do so not just to generate income for themselves but to support their partners, children and communities. The data used throughout this report includes survey responses from 1539 individuals in 2022 (94% women). The demographics of this sample are as follows:

Age

The largest age group of participants sampled are between 21 and 30 years old (29.7%). Compared to 2021, there is a -9% decrease in average age of participants from 41 years old to 37 years old; average number of children has also decreased -13% from 5.4 to 4.6.

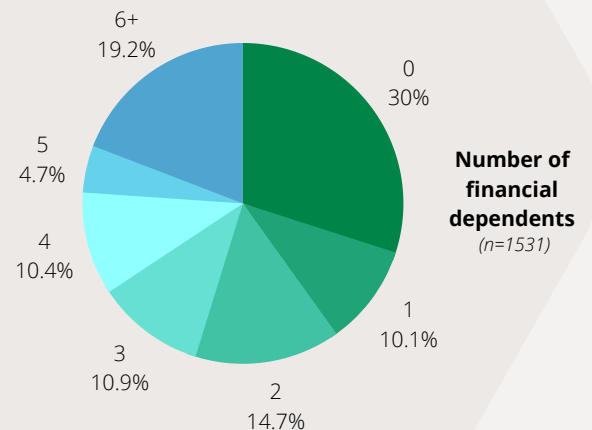
2022 Participants, by age



Financial Dependents

The average number of financial dependents has largely remained the same since last year; however, there is a larger proportion of women who have no financial dependents and those who have 6+ as compared to 2021.

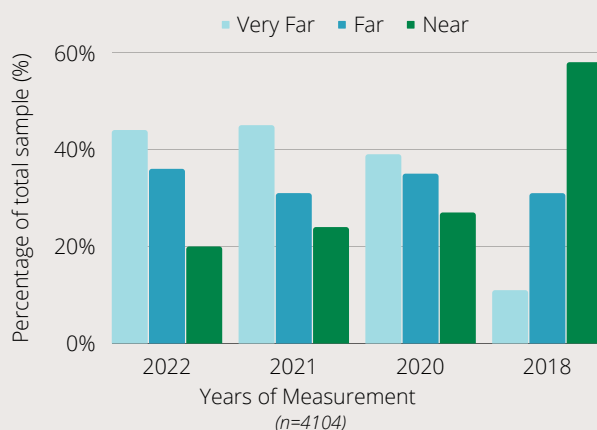
2022 Participants, by number of financial dependents



Access to Water

Close access to water has continued to decrease since 2018 (-38%). 80% of participants this year reported that access to water was far or very far away.

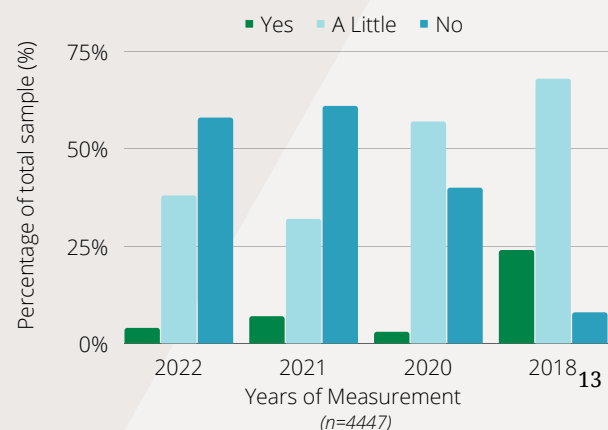
2018-2022 Participants, by access to water



Access to Food

Over half of surveyed participants reported that they have no access to food in 2022 (58%).

2018-2022 Participants, by access to food





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2022 Key Findings

1. Overall wellbeing of Cents for Seeds participants has improved since 2021

In 2022, despite the continued drought and widespread food shortages, average overall wellbeing has increased by +3% for women participating in the Cents for Seeds program. This increase suggests that the Cents for Seeds program still supports participants' overall wellbeing in light of deteriorating environmental conditions.

2. Cents for Seeds strengthens participants' perseverance, agriculture skills and courage

Compared to the previous year, participants report having greater perseverance (+26%), stronger agriculture skills (+24%) and less fear (+23%), all of which are key program outcomes for Cents for Seeds. Access to healthcare (+21%), feeling safe (+17%), and having a peaceful home (+14%) have also improved for participants since 2021.

3. Participants report having less financial management capacity

This year, participants reported that their ability to save (-6%), plan use of money (-7%), and pay back money on time (-6%) have all decreased on average since 2021. However, this is more likely due to a decrease in access to income as a result of drought-impacted crop yields and reduced VSLA activities, rather than a regression in knowledge and skill levels.

4. Access to food and water continue to decrease

Access to food and water were found to be important to wellbeing across the whole sample of participants as well as in most parishes. However, access to both have decreased significantly since 2018, and now the majority now report having no access to food and nearly half must travel over 10km to find clean water.

5. Love Mercy can support Cents for Seeds graduates by building hope

Having hope for the future was identified as having a strong relationship with wellbeing but was also one of lowest scored factors for this group, -25% lower than current program participants. To have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of its program graduates, building and sustaining hope should be a feature of both the Cents for Seeds program as well as any follow up support programs.



The Impact of Cents for Seeds

Overall wellbeing is our lighthouse measure for determining the social impact of a program.

This section explores the impact of the Cents for Seeds program in terms of changes in the overall wellbeing of its participants. It will also look at key differences in overall wellbeing among specific demographic groups.





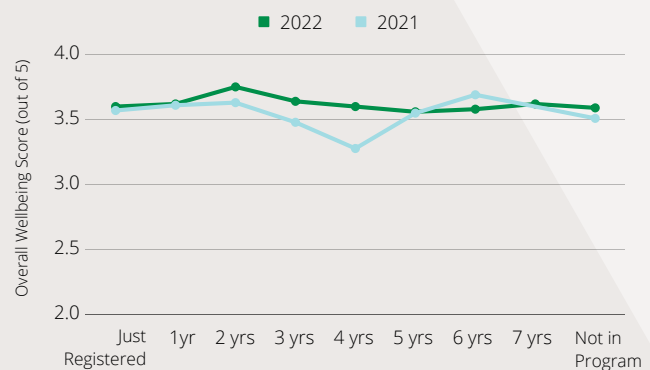
Overall Wellbeing Has Improved From 2021

Compared to 2021, **overall wellbeing has increased** for women in the Cents for Seeds program. Average overall wellbeing is 3.57 out of 5, compared to 3.42 the previous year, indicating that Cents for Seeds program participants are slightly more satisfied with the current conditions of their life.

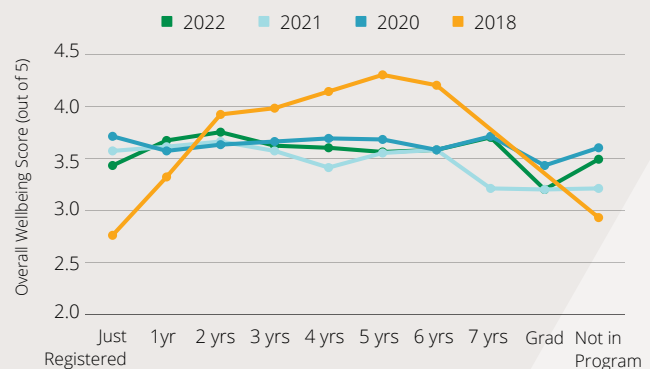
Overall wellbeing for program participants saw a dip last year, due in part to the global pandemic and drought. In 2022, despite the continued drought and widespread food shortages, average overall wellbeing has increased by 3% for women participating in the Cents for Seeds program.* This increase suggests that the Cents for Seeds program still supports participants' overall wellbeing in light of deteriorating environmental conditions.

Data collected from participants since 2018 shows that on average, wellbeing has levelled out among program years. In the past two years of measurement, it appears that overall wellbeing has begun to plateau around two years, with scores dipping slightly in years three through five. Graduates consistently have lower wellbeing than those currently enrolled in the program, a trend which has been previously identified and will be explored in greater detail in this report.

Overall Wellbeing by Years in Program, Akura and Olilim 2022 vs 2021*



Overall Wellbeing by Years in Program, 2018-2022



*Average overall wellbeing has increased by 3% ($p < 0.01$) when comparing participants from Angetta, Anepkide and Anyanga measured in 2021 and participants from those same three parishes in 2022.



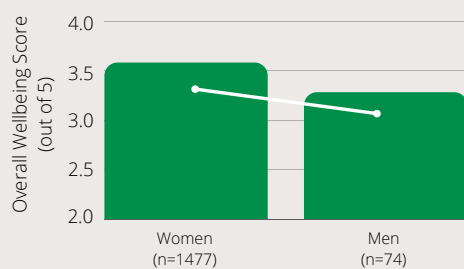
Key Demographic Differences in Overall Wellbeing

Among Cents for Seeds participants, average wellbeing was found to be significantly different across certain demographic factors.* This suggests that participants who fall into these categories are more likely to have higher or lower wellbeing than others in the program, information which may aid Cents for Seeds in better understanding the current status of their participants and which ones may be facing additional wellbeing challenges.

Gender

On average, women who completed the survey were found to have 10% higher wellbeing than men.

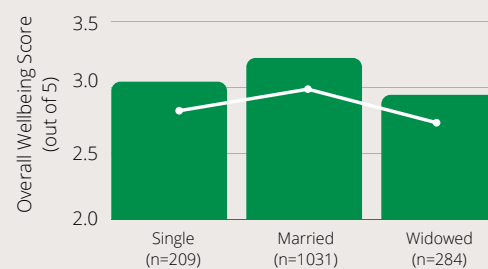
Overall Wellbeing, by Gender



Relationship Status

Respondents who are married are more likely to have higher wellbeing than those who are unmarried or widowed.

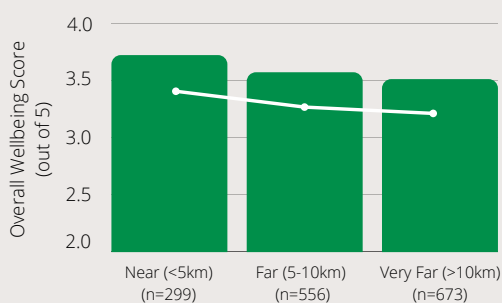
Overall Wellbeing, by Relationship Status



Access to Water

On average, the closer someone lives to a water source, the higher their wellbeing is likely to be.

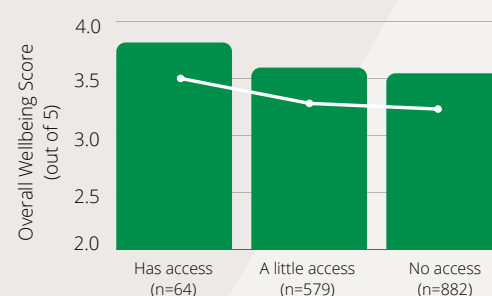
Overall Wellbeing, by Access to Water



Access to Food

Respondents who report having enough food at home for their family have higher wellbeing than those who do not have enough food.

Overall Wellbeing, by Access to Food



*All shifts reported are statistically significant ($p < 0.1$).



Key Program Outcomes Achieved

This section dives into the specific program areas where Cents for Seeds participants have made the most progress in 2022.

It should be noted that this year, changes in program impact and outcomes have been assessed by comparing this year's measurement results against those of 2021, averaged across communities which participated in measurement both years. Past reports have analysed participant results against those from women who are not in the Cents for Seeds program; however, due to the small number of surveys completed from the non-enrolled group this year, this type of analysis was not possible.



Cents for Seeds Participants Build on Key Program Outcomes

To understand the year-on-year impact of Cents for Seeds in the lives of the women who participate, Huber Social looked at the largest differences in program outcomes between participants in 2021 and 2022.*

On average, women in Cents for Seeds report having greater access to key resources, improved holistic wellness and agriculture skills, and more perseverance to withstand difficulties. It should be noted that perseverance, and physical health were areas that participants experienced the greatest negative shifts last year compared to 2020, thus demonstrating the incredible progress participants have made over the past year.^

The outcomes below represent the eight largest positive gains for women in the program, compared to 2021 results:



Resilience
+26%

Participants have a greater sense of perseverance



Daily Skills
+24%

Participants feel more confident in their ability to get the best out of their crops



Holistic Wellness
+23%

Participants feel less fearful



Access to Resources
+21%

Participants are able to access medical care nearby



Access to Resources
+17%

Participants feel more safe in their living environment



Access to Resources
+14%

Participants feel that their home is more peaceful[†]



Daily Skills
+13%

Participants feel more capable in providing financial support to their families



Holistic Wellness
+13%

Participants feel that their physical health has improved

**Data includes 588 responses from 2021 and 1,005 responses from 2022, from Anepkide, Angetta and Anyanga. All shifts reported are statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).*

^Perseverance (-44%), fear (-32%) and physical health (-31%) were the largest significant negative shifts measured on average among participants between 2020 and 2021. See the Love Mercy 2021 Social Impact Report for more details.

†Participants have reported having a more peaceful home from 2021 to 2022; however, compared to the small number of women not enrolled in Cents for Seeds who completed a survey in 2022, home safety actually decreased for program participants by -9% on average.



Participants Have Reduced Financial Capacity in 2022

Despite the many gains program participants achieved this year, Cents for Seeds communities did face some challenges as well.

Compared to 2021, Cents for Seeds participants in 2022 reported feeling less capable in their financial management skills. Specifically, they feel less confident in their ability to save money, plan for future expenses and pay back loans in a timely manner.



Daily Skills

-6%

Participants are less able to save money



Daily Skills

-7%

Participants are less able to plan their money use



Daily Skills

-6%

Participants are less able to pay back money on time

As observed by Cents for Seeds staff, these decreases may more likely be due to a decrease in access to income as a result of drought-impacted crop yields.

Logistical strains around meeting as VSLA groups were reported too due to fears of traveling longer distances during the pandemic which limited the attendees present in VSLA groups which in turn limited borrowing and saving capacities. Fear around parting with money in a rapidly inflating environment further limited capacities to deposit savings.

Given that financial planning for future money use is one of the strongest predictors of wellbeing for participants this year, a decrease in this factor presents a constraint to participants' overall wellbeing, and may be worth further investigation by Love Mercy.

**Data includes 588 responses from 2021 and 1,005 responses from 2022, from Anepkide, Angetta and Anyanga. All shifts reported are statistically significant ($p < 0.01$).*



Predictors of Wellbeing and Priority Needs

To understand where Love Mercy should focus its resources to have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of its participants, we first need to understand what matters most to Cents for Seeds participants' overall wellbeing.

This section will present the 'predictors of wellbeing' for the program as a whole, and identifying any opportunities for Love Mercy to address priority need(s) for participant wellbeing.



Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Participants

To have the greatest impact on its program participants, Love Mercy must first understand which needs are most likely to drive change in wellbeing for people taking part in Cents for Seeds.

To achieve this, Huber Social has determined which factors have the strongest positive association with high overall wellbeing. A positive change in these factors is statistically more likely to lead to an increase in overall wellbeing as compared to factors which do not have a strong association with wellbeing.

The following five factors were identified as the strongest predictors of wellbeing for 2022 Cents for Seeds participants:



Cents for Seeds participants who love themselves and have pride in who they are, who have things to hope for and care about, and who have the financial stability to plan for future expenses are more likely to have higher wellbeing as compared to participants who do not score as strongly across these factors.

It should be noted that hope was also identified as predictors of wellbeing in 2021, and self-love has consistently been identified as a predictor of wellbeing since 2020. These trends suggest that self-love in particular is important to the wellbeing of all program participants, regardless of program location or stage.

**Indicates a factor that was identified as a predictor of wellbeing in 2021. For more information about predictors of wellbeing, see the Report appendix.*



Access to Water and Food Are Priority Needs

A priority need is a factor that has been identified through statistical analysis as a predictor of wellbeing (see previous page), but which scored low among Cents for Seeds participants. Predictors of wellbeing are those factors that, when improved upon, will have the greatest effect on overall wellbeing. Therefore, priority needs offer the strongest opportunities to have a positive impact in the lives of Cents for Seeds participants.

Access to food and water were both identified as having a significant relationship with overall wellbeing; the better access to either, the higher wellbeing a participant is likely to be. However, since 2018 average access to both of these resources has significantly decreased, regardless of program status, and now the majority of participants have no access to either.*



Access to Water

-29%

Compared to 2018,
participants on average
have less access to water



Access to Food

-32%

Compared to 2018,
participants on average
have less access to food

When comparing the same measurement sites in 2022 and 2021, access to both have decreased on average by -4%.[^] This does not come as a surprise, given the historical droughts, reduced harvests, and limited financial capacity which collectively can reduce access to these resources. However, it is still worth highlighting, as these factors are both linked to overall wellbeing for Cents for Seeds participants.

It should be noted that since 2018, program participants have experienced a smaller decrease in access to food, but a greater decrease in access to water relative to women who are not enrolled in Cents for Seeds.[†] This suggests that as a result of program participation, women in Cents for Seeds have greater resilience to challenges of food insecurity, but their water needs may in turn be greater than those of women who are not in the program.

In addition to their existing partnership with Wells for Good, Cents for Seeds may wish to consider opportunities for sustainable water and food solutions that can withstand the ongoing and future challenges that climate change presents to these communities.

**In 2022, 58% of participants reported not having enough food at home for their family, and 48% reported having to walk very far to get water.*

[^]Data includes 588 responses from 2021 and 1,005 responses from 2022, from Anepkide, Angetta and Anyanga. All shifts reported are statistically significant ($p < 0.1$).

[†]From 2018 to 2022, access to food decreased by -30% for program participants and -34% for non-participants; access to water decreased by -28% for program participants and -20% for non-participants ($p < 0.1$).



Participants' Strengths and Challenges

Strengths and challenges offer an opportunity to celebrate achievements of Cents for Seeds participants and understand in which areas they are facing the greatest difficulties.

Strengths

Of the 30 factors measured, Cents for Seeds participants reported feeling strongest across factors related to their access to services and structures and holistic wellness. **The following represent the three highest-scoring factors where Cents for Seeds participants feel the most confident in their current conditions:**



Safe Worship

4.70

out of 5

On average, participants feel that they are free to worship how they wish to



Purpose

4.56

out of 5

Participants believe that their life is important



Self-Love

4.52

out of 5

Participants like who they are

Challenges

As previously identified, access to water, including clean water for drinking, is a priority need for Cents for Seeds participants overall. While access to medical care and physical health were two of the lowest-scored factors this year, both have significantly improved from last year (as seen on page 20), indicating that progress is still being made across these key program outcomes.



Access to Resources

2.35

out of 5

Participants do not feel that they have access to medical care where they live



Access to Resources

2.78

out of 5

Participants do not have enough access to clean drinking water



Physical Health

3.03

out of 5

Participants do not feel that they are in the best physical health



Community Wellbeing

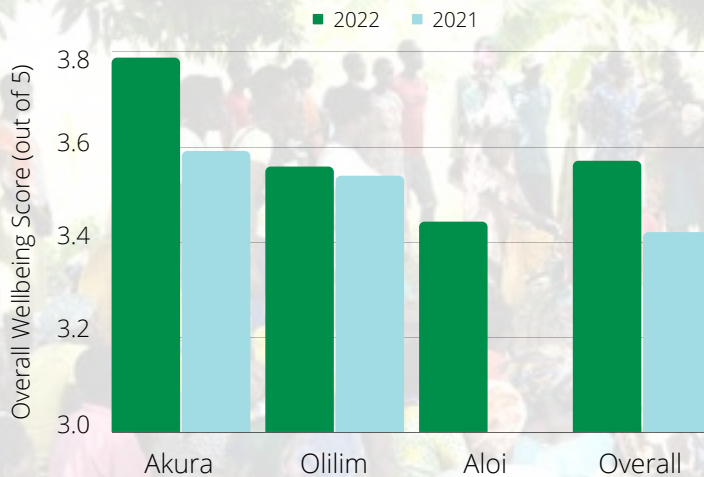
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Wellbeing of the Community

To see the unique impact of Cents for Seeds at the community level, the following pages present the overall wellbeing, highest program outcomes and predictors of wellbeing for each subcounty.

2022 Overall Wellbeing, by sub-county



Of the three sub-counties included in the 2022 measurement, Akura was found to have the highest overall wellbeing on average, and also the largest shift from 2021 (+6%).

Aloï had the lowest wellbeing on average, and is slightly lower than the average overall wellbeing of all sites measured in 2022 (-4%). This suggests that there may be underserved wellbeing needs in this community, as compared to Akura and Olilim.

The following pages present a more detailed view of overall wellbeing, performance across key outcomes, and priority needs for each community.



The Participants of Akura

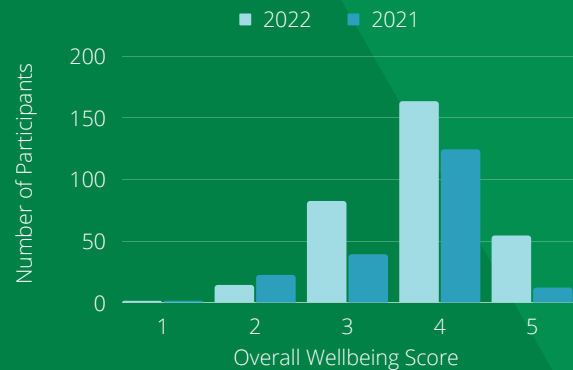
Impact

Average Wellbeing

3.79

Average overall wellbeing has increased by 6% since 2021 in Akura, indicating that Cents for Seeds is having a positive impact on participants in this community.

Overall Wellbeing Spread, Akura



Program Outcomes

The following shifts represent the outcomes where Akura participants have made the greatest progress since 2021:

Resilience

+36%

Participants have stronger perseverance

Access to Resources

+28%

Participants have more peaceful homes

Mental Wellness

+28%

Participants feel less afraid

Resilience

+25%

Participants are more determined

Resilience

+24%

Participants are able to adapt more easily

Mental Wellness

+24%

Participants feel a greater sense of pride in their achievements

Access to Resources

+24%

Participants have greater access to medical care

Daily Skills

+23%

Participants feel more confident in their farming skills

Predictors of Wellbeing

Respect, community belonging and hope were identified as factors which have a significant association with wellbeing for participants in Akura. Higher scores across these factors are more likely to accompany stronger overall wellbeing.

Respect

Community
Belonging

Hope

Priority Needs

Coping skills was identified as a predictor of wellbeing for Akura participants. However, it was also one of the lowest scored factors, and saw a -14% decrease compared to 2021. By strengthening coping skills, Cents for Seeds will be more likely to have a positive impact on overall wellbeing in Akura.

Coping Skills



The Participants of Olilim

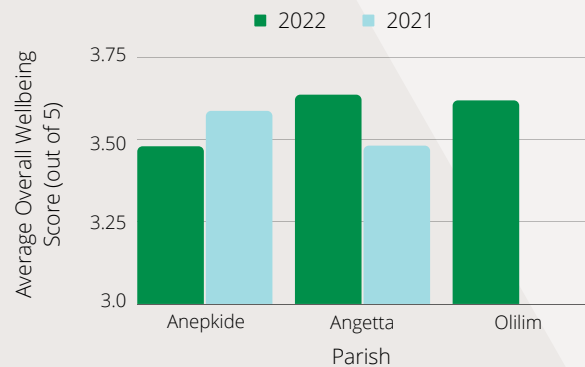
Impact

Average Wellbeing

3.56

Overall wellbeing increased by 4% in Angetta; there was no significant change in Anepkide. This was the first year of measurement in Olilim parish.

Average Overall Wellbeing, Olilim



Program Outcomes

To understand how participants of Olilim benefit from Cents for Seeds, program outcomes were assessed against 2021 outcomes scores.* The following shifts represent the outcomes where Olilim participants are performing the strongest in 2022 as compared to last year:

Mental Wellness

+38%

Participants have less things to be afraid of

Access to Resources

+29%

Participants feel safer where they live

Resilience

+26%

Participants have stronger perseverance

Daily Skills

+25%

Participants feel more confident in their farming skills

Resilience

+25%

Participants are able to adapt more easily

Physical Wellness

+22%

Participants report improved physical health

Access to Resources

+19%

Participants have greater access to medical care

Access to Resources

+17%

Participants feel more capable of financially supporting their families

Predictors of Wellbeing

Having passions and interests, being adaptable and liking oneself were identified as factors which have a significant association with wellbeing for participants in Olilim. Passion was also identified as a predictor of wellbeing in 2021, but saw a -14% decline this year.

Priority Needs

Ability to withstand difficulties was identified as a predictor of wellbeing for Olilim participants. While was also one of the lowest scored factors, and can therefore be considered a priority need, perseverance increased by 26% compared to 2021, indicating that this need is successfully being addressed.

Passion

Adaptability

Self-love

Perseverance

*Changes in program outcomes were assessed comparing average results in Anepkide and Angetta from 2021 (n=390) and 2022 (n=690); Olilim results (n=39) were excluded given that the parish was not included in 2021 measurement. Impact and predictors of wellbeing analysis include all parishes (n=729). All shifts reported are statistically significant (p<0.01).



The Participants of Aloï

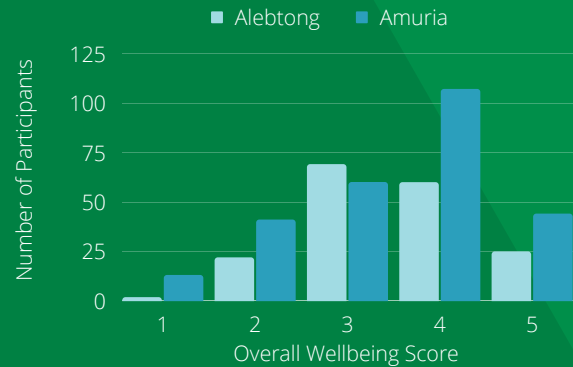
Impact

Average Wellbeing

3.44

There was no significant difference in average overall wellbeing between the two parishes of Aloï; however, wellbeing scores are slightly skewed to the left in Amuria compared to a more even distribution in Alebtong.

Average Overall Wellbeing, Aloï



Participant Strengths

High scores across the following four factors indicate areas where participants in Aloï have the greatest confidence:

Spiritual Freedom

4.75

Participants are able to worship as they wish

Connection to Land

4.63

Participants feel connected to their land

Income

4.62

Participants believe they can support their children

Relationship Skills

4.54

Participants are able to make friends easily

Challenges Faced

Challenges faced by participants in Aloï are represented in the following four factors, which received the lowest average scores:

Access to Resources

2.30

Participants have low access to medical care

Access to Drinking Water

2.90

Participants have low access to clean water

Physical Wellness

3.08

Participants have poor physical health

Mental Wellness

3.23

Participants are somewhat fearful

Predictors of Wellbeing

Self-love, being able to plan for future expenses, pride in oneself, having hope for the future and being able to make friends easily were all identified as factors which have a significant, positive relationship with overall wellbeing for participants in Aloï. While no priority needs were identified at this time, Cents for Seeds should ensure that its programming continues to serve these five needs so as to have the greatest impact on wellbeing.


Self-love

Financial
Planning

Pride

Hope

Relationship
Skills



"I am so grateful for all the benefits that I have gotten from Cents for Seeds. As long as our community stands firm, the project shall continue long after graduation."

Harriet, 35 years old (not pictured). When she first returned to her home from the displacement camps, life was a struggle. She was only able to grow a few cups of crops to sell, not nearly enough to support her family of 6 children. After her first year in Cents for Seeds, Harriet went from struggling to produce a few cups of crops, to growing three 100kg sacks. She's been able to use the income from her crops to pay for school fees for her children and further training for herself.



Cents for Seeds Graduates

This section will explore the current wellbeing status and key wellbeing needs of Cents for Seeds graduates, as well as this group's strengths and challenges.

The findings from this section can inform Love Mercy's strategy for supporting graduate communities as they transition to economic independence.



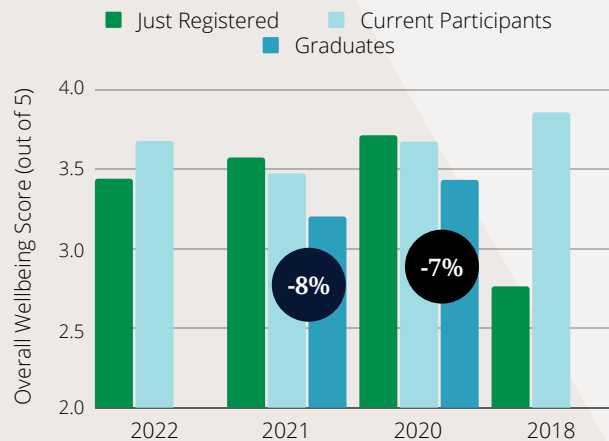


The Impact of Cents for Seeds for Program Graduates

While no communities were graduated in 2022, the overall wellbeing of graduates from the Cents for Seeds program has historically been lower than that of current program attendees. In 2020, wellbeing of graduates was -7% lower than that of ongoing participants; in 2021, this difference increased to -8%.

This suggests that there are key needs which are not being sufficiently addressed among program participants at the time of graduation.

Overall Wellbeing, by Time in Program



Predictors of Wellbeing

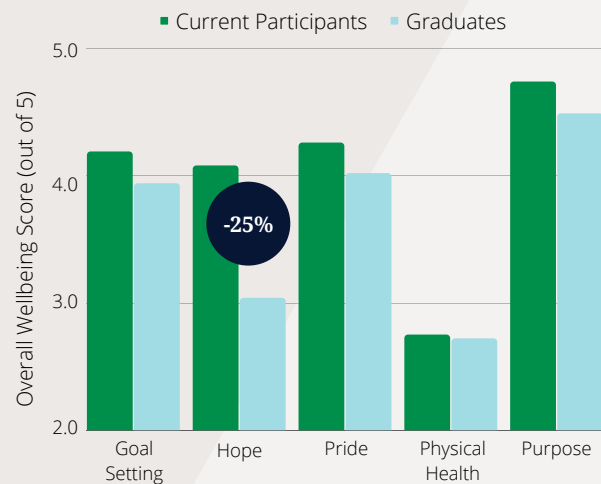
To understand how Cents for Seeds can better prepare and support their graduates to transition out of the program, Huber Social has identified the following five factors as the strongest predictors of wellbeing specifically for Cents for Seeds graduates:



While graduates share some wellbeing needs with current program participants, such as pride and hope, things like goal setting and having a sense of purpose are uniquely important to graduate wellbeing. However, graduates scored lower than current program participants across most predictors of wellbeing, most notably reporting that they feel -25% less hopeful, which can explain in part the lower wellbeing seen among graduates.

Cents for Seeds may wish to consider how it can incorporate these needs into their program delivery, particularly as communities progress through the program and prepare for graduation.

Average Scores Across Graduates' Predictors of Wellbeing, 2021





How Cents For Seeds Can Support Graduates

Hope for the future has been identified as predictor of wellbeing for Cents for Seeds graduates. However, graduates report having significantly less hope than current program participants, and it was one of the lowest scored factors of all measured, indicating that this is a priority need for women who are exiting the Cents for Seeds program.

To better understand how Cents for Seeds can have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of their program graduates, statistical analysis was used to identify which factors measured are most critical to a strong sense of hope for this group of participants.

Results demonstrate that goal-setting, agriculture skills, and determination have the strongest relationship with hope. If graduates are making progress towards achieving self-defined goals, are confident in their cultivation and crop management skills, and feel determined, then they are more likely to have a greater sense of hope for themselves and their future.



Goal-Setting

3.94

out of 5

Setting and tracking goals



Agriculture Skills

3.52

out of 5

Feel confident in their farming skills



Determination

3.79

out of 5

Being determined

All three factors scored in the middle 30% of scores, indicating that while they are not the factors that graduates are struggling with the most, there is still room for growth across each one.

All three factors are also predictors of wellbeing, suggesting that by supporting graduates across these areas, Cents for Seeds can not only help them to feel more hopeful, but will also be directly addressing their graduates' wellbeing needs.



Graduates' Strengths and Challenges

Strengths and challenges offer an opportunity to celebrate achievements of Cents for Seeds graduates and understand in which areas they are facing the greatest difficulties.

Strengths

Of the 30 factors measured, Cents for Seeds graduates reported feeling strongest across factors related to their holistic wellness and access to resources. **The following represent the three highest-scoring factors where Cents for Seeds graduates feel the most confident in their current conditions:**



Self-Love

4.71

out of 5

Graduates like who they are



Connection to Land

4.59

out of 5

Graduates feel connected to their land



Safe Worship

4.58

out of 5

On average, graduates feel that they are free to worship how they wish to

Challenges

Similar to current participants, the **greatest challenges faced by graduates are availability of medical care nearby, access to clean drinking water and physical health.**



Access to Resources

2.30

out of 5

Graduates do not feel that they have access to medical care where they live



Access to Resources

2.90

out of 5

Graduates do not have enough access to clean drinking water



Physical Health

3.08

out of 5

Graduates do not feel that they are in the best physical health

Graduates note: It was recently learned that in past years, some participants who wished to leave without returning their seed loans were 'graduated' from Cents for Seeds, despite only being a few years into the program. Cents for Seeds is working to identify which parishes were affected by this to correct any reporting errors across their databases, but recognises that the future graduate results may diverge from previous reports due to the variation of experiences had by women who 'graduated' early as opposed to those who benefitted from the full Cents for Seeds program.



What's Next

- Leveraging Data to Create Change 37
- Get Involved 38
- Get in Touch 39



Applying the Findings

This year's measurement have revealed the power of self-sustaining income generating activities within the context of a protracted environmental and humanitarian crisis. Despite the agriculture and economic implications of continued droughts, women in the Cents for Seeds program continue to strengthen their resilience and belief in their ability to support their families through these difficult times.

Despite these strengthened capacities, there are key wellbeing needs which are not being addressed. In particular, access to water and food have been identified as priority needs for many communities in the program. While these resources are largely dependent on environmental conditions, Cents for Seeds may wish to explore partnerships to improve access within current climate context, such as what was done to create the Well Worth It project.

Understanding the wellbeing needs of program graduates so as to better support communities as they leave Cents for Seeds was recognised as a desired outcome of this year's report. Data analysis this year has identified opportunities for Cents for Seeds to improve its support for program graduates, namely through building and supporting their sense of hope for the future. Graduates reported having significantly less hope than current participants in both 2021 (-25%) and 2020 (-13%), indicating a potential trend among this group. If Cents for Seeds can instil and nurture participants' sense of hope for their future - independent of the program - then Love Mercy is more likely to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of its program graduates.

Future Measurement Considerations

In 2022, none of the factors measured were found to have a strong statistical relationship



with overall wellbeing.* This suggests that there may be factors which are important to wellbeing but outside of the current surveys' scope. Cents for Seeds and Huber Social may wish to review and revise the impact thesis to ensure that all key factors are included in measurement.

To ensure the accurate and ethical collection and entry of data, it is recommended that next year's measurement activities are supported by a Huber Social consultant in person. While this has not been possible in the past two years due to pandemic-related limitations, having a consultant available can offer further guidance during data collection activities and help to minimise risks of errors in data entry.

*For more information about wellbeing-factor relationships and correlation strength, see Report Appendix 3.



The Gift that Keeps on Giving

DONATE

Instead of just giving money and hoping it has the impact the organisation pledges, by donating to Love Mercy you can track the difference your dollar makes to the lives of communities in Uganda.

This series of annual Social Impact Reports tracks the progress of Love Mercy to contribute to the wellbeing of all the people they work with, providing the evidence that your resources are directed to have the greatest impact.

Details of how you can contribute can be found at:
www.lovemercyfoundation.org



Get in **Touch**



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Report Appendices

1. Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework
2. Data Transparency Page
3. Predictors of Wellbeing & Significance Tables



1. Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement

To be able to fulfil their potential and achieve wellbeing, each individual needs to have the capability and the opportunity to do so. Everyone has different needs within these categories depending on their context.

When it comes to measuring the social impact of a service, Huber Social measures the change (shift) the service creates in terms of wellbeing and the specific programs outcomes achieved to create this. Results are then consolidated at a sector, community and global level.

Longitudinal measurement monitors effectiveness of programs to meet these needs; ensuring resources are directed to have the greatest impact. The vision is a wellbeing measurement system that delivers us the whole picture, to put each of us in the best position to achieve wellbeing and leave no one behind.

The goal for each of us is the same; wellbeing. The part that differs are our individual needs.

The Huber Social Wellbeing Measurement Framework

IMPACT

Wellbeing

To be in the best position to fulfil your potential and live a life of value. The overall goal for all services working with people.

OUTCOMES

Through building Capability

Resilience
Life skills
Wellness - mental,
physical and spiritual

OUTCOMES

and providing Opportunity

Resources
Self development
Societal structures
Relationships



2. Data Transparency Page

To ensure the integrity of findings always, Huber Social includes a Transparency Page for every project. This ensures both the rigour of evidence and rigour of analysis is clear for each project, across every stage of the data lifecycle.

DATA LIFECYCLE	1. Design	2. Data Collection	3. Cleaning	4. Analysis	5. Reporting
Phase	Questions on the Treatment of the Data			Points allocated	Yes or No
Design	SAMPLE	Everyone in the program included in the measurement	2	-	
		OR Survey sample population designed to be representative of group	1	Y	
		Confidence in the sample: 95% Confidence Level, 5% Margin of Error (10% Margin of Error for data at village level)	N/A	N/A	
	BASELINE	Control group (independent of the intervention)	3	-	
		Group baseline measured (pre -intervention)	2	-	
		Baseline inferred from time in program (e.g. 1 vs. 3 years)	1	Y	
EXCLUSIONS	Details of people specifically excluded from the measurement: <i>Measurement was conducted at three locations. Women in the program outside of these locations were excluded. Distance and other practical reasons may have prohibited women within those villages from attending the measurement.</i>	N/A	N/A		
Data Collection	DISTRIBUTION	Online surveys			
		OR hardcopy surveys		Y	
		Data collection supervised by Huber Social consultant	1	-	
		Translation or guidance provided		Y	
		Details on translation or guidance if provided: <i>Verbal translation of English questions into Swahili by a consistent lead translator. Staff received virtual training on ethical data collection methods from Huber Social prior to beginning measurement activities</i>	N/A	N/A	
	DATA SOURCES	Data Mining of other sources	1	-	
		Data included from previous years/measurements	1	Y	
Cleaning	CLEANING	Partial responses removed or no partial responses	1	Y	
		Details of any responses removed: <i>Responses removed if missing wellbeing data or <50% outcomes data. Quality assurance check performed found 95% on data entered.</i>	N/A	N/A	
Analysis	SHIFT MEASUREMENT	Calculated on time in program		Y	
		Calculated on group average	1	Y	
		Calculated based on individual scores	2	-	
	TEST APPLIED	Basic analysis		Y	
		Statistical Correlation Test	2	Y	
		Multiple Regression or Lasso Regression Test	3	Y	
	Details on statistical analysis: <i>Multivariate linear regression and linear mixed models.</i>	N/A	N/A		
Reporting	REPORTING	Client published Outcomes Report (prove)	1	-	
		Client received Social Performance Report (improve)	2	-	
		Client published full Social Impact Report	3	Y	
RIGUOUR SCORE: LOW: 1-9; MED 10-14; HIGH 15-19				13	MED



3. Predictors of Wellbeing

To inform the Love Mercy in how best to support the wellbeing of the women who participate in Cents for Seeds, correlation analysis is used to identify which factors measured have a significant relationship with participants' overall wellbeing; these are known as predictors of wellbeing.

The predictors of wellbeing can be found listed in the following tables in order of statistical strength. The stronger the relationship between an outcome and overall wellbeing, the more confidence there is that a change in the outcome will correspond with a change in wellbeing.

Relationship strength is based on both the statistical significance (p-value) and beta coefficient value (r). All predictors listed are statistically significant to $p < 0.001$ (unless otherwise noted), meaning there is 99% confidence that the relationship identified between the predictive outcome and wellbeing is true, rather than produced due to sampling error or chance. The beta coefficient (r) describes how closely each outcome and wellbeing are likely to move together in relation to each other.

For the purposes of this study, a strong relationship between an outcome and overall wellbeing is defined as any outcome with a beta coefficient value greater than 0.7; a moderate relationship is between 0.699 and 0.4; a weak relationship less than 0.4. Even though a relationship may be weak, there is still a significant association between the outcome and overall wellbeing.

The following pages present all predictors of wellbeing that have a significant relationship with overall wellbeing, for the Cents for Seeds program as a whole as well as for each sub-county which participated in measurement this year and program graduates.





4. Significance Tables

Table 1. All Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Program Participants

Indicator	R	Strength of Relationship	Score	Outcome
Goal-setting	0.292	Weak	4.16	Daily Skills
Hope	0.285	Weak	3.86	Holistic Wellness
Pride	0.273	Weak	4.40	Holistic Wellness
Physical health	0.249	Weak	3.03	Holistic Wellness
Purpose	0.232	Weak	4.56	Holistic Wellness
Enjoyment	0.228	Weak	3.83	Holistic Wellness
Adaptability	0.224	Weak	3.45	Resilience
Perseverance	0.222	Weak	3.36	Resilience
Able to support children	0.215	Weak	4.25	Daily Skills
Self-love	0.212	Weak	4.52	Holistic Wellness
Agriculture skills	0.205	Weak	4.14	Daily Skills
Financial planning	0.177	Weak	4.35	Daily Skills
Provide financially	0.165	Weak	3.26	Daily Skills
Determination	0.13	Weak	4.19	Resilience
Clean drinking water	0.119	Weak	2.78	Access to Resources
Lack of fear	0.119	Weak	3.09	Holistic Wellness



4. Significance Tables

Table 2. All Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Program Participants - Akura

Indicator	R	Strength of Relationship	Score	Outcome
Coping skills	0.37	Weak	3.06	Resilience
Respect	0.331	Weak	4.45	Systems and Structures
Connection to community	0.315	Weak	4.52	Holistic Wellness
Hope	0.312	Weak	3.90	Holistic Wellness
Pride	0.292	Weak	4.37	Holistic Wellness
Determination	0.248	Weak	4.23	Resilience
Self-love	0.247	Weak	4.72	Holistic Wellness
Agency at home	0.243	Weak	4.50	Systems and Structures
Financial planning	0.232	Weak	4.51	Daily Skills
Able to support children	0.225	Weak	4.19	Daily Skills
Safe home	0.224	Weak	3.54	Access to Resources
Financial savings	0.215	Weak	4.37	Daily Skills
Purpose	0.202	Weak	4.70	Holistic Wellness
Financial management	0.202	Weak	4.21	Daily Skills
Connection to land	0.201	Weak	4.69	Access to Resources
Passions	0.19	Weak	4.30	Holistic Wellness
Safe community	0.181	Weak	3.67	Systems and Structures
Enjoyment	0.169	Weak	3.59	Holistic Wellness
Problem-solving	0.161	Weak	3.42	Resilience
Freedom of worship	0.159	Weak	4.81	Systems and Structures
Goal setting	0.147	Weak	4.19	Daily Skills
Adaptability	0.144	Weak	3.73	Resilience
Relationship skills	0.126	Weak	4.46	Daily Skills
Lack of fear	0.112	Weak	3.01	Holistic Wellness
Perseverance	0.098	Weak	3.34	Resilience
Clean drinking water	-0.132	Weak	2.46	Access to Resources



4. Significance Tables

Table 3. All Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Program Participants - Olilim

Indicator	R	Strength of Relationship	Score	Outcome
Self-love	0.298	Weak	4.47	Holistic Wellness
Financial planning	0.263	Weak	4.21	Daily Skills
Pride	0.239	Weak	4.44	Holistic Wellness
Hope	0.232	Weak	3.89	Holistic Wellness
Relationship skills	0.22	Weak	4.37	Daily Skills
Financial saving	0.204	Weak	4.26	Daily Skills
Purpose	0.18	Weak	4.55	Holistic Wellness
Respect	0.173	Weak	3.93	Systems and Structures
Passions	0.158	Weak	4.11	Holistic Wellness
Able to support children	0.157	Weak	4.06	Daily Skills
Coping skills	0.155	Weak	3.52	Resilience
Agency at home	0.155	Weak	3.90	Systems and Structures
Goal-setting	0.155	Weak	4.00	Daily Skills
Enjoyment	0.147	Weak	3.95	Holistic Wellness
Financial planning	0.144	Weak	3.96	Daily Skills
Connection to community	0.144	Weak	4.01	Holistic Wellness
Freedom of worship	0.123	Weak	4.65	Systems and Structures
Problem-solving	0.123	Weak	3.30	Resilience
Agriculture skills	0.108	Weak	4.00	Daily Skills
Connection to land	0.107	Weak	4.35	Access to Resources
Determination	0.095	Weak	4.08	Resilience
Safe home	0.084	Weak	3.33	Access to Resources
Physical health	0.08	Weak	3.09	Holistic Wellness
Adaptability	0.074	Weak	3.14	Resilience



4. Significance Tables

Table 4. All Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Program Participants - Aloï

Indicator	R	Strength of Relationship	Score	Outcome
Passions	0.341	Weak	4.14	Holistic Wellness
Adaptability	0.286	Weak	3.91	Resilience
Self-love	0.279	Weak	4.47	Holistic Wellness
Perseverance	0.247	Weak	3.99	Resilience
Hope	0.226	Weak	3.78	Holistic Wellness
Safe community	0.217	Weak	3.45	Systems and Structures
Determination	0.192	Weak	4.40	Resilience
Purpose	0.184	Weak	4.53	Holistic Wellness
Pride	0.182	Weak	4.37	Holistic Wellness
Problem-solving	0.182	Weak	3.82	Resilience
Financial planning	0.175	Weak	4.45	Daily Skills
Agency at home	0.148	Weak	4.17	Systems and Structures
Connection to community	0.143	Weak	4.29	Holistic Wellness
Relationship skills	0.14	Weak	4.54	Daily Skills
Safe home	0.132	Weak	3.57	Access to Resources
Agriculture skills	0.131	Weak	4.45	Daily Skills
Physical health	0.106	Weak	3.08	Holistic Wellness
Provide financially	0.081	Weak	3.34	Daily Skills
Access to medical care	-0.157	Weak	2.30	Access to Resources



4. Significance Tables

Table 5. All Predictors of Wellbeing for Cents for Seeds Program Graduates

Indicator	R	Strength of Relationship	Score	Outcome
Goal-setting	0.292	Weak	3.94	Daily Skills
Hope	0.285	Weak	3.04	Holistic Wellness
Pride	0.273	Weak	4.02	Holistic Wellness
Physical health	0.249	Weak	2.72	Holistic Wellness
Purpose	0.232	Weak	4.49	Holistic Wellness
Enjoyment	0.228	Weak	3.93	Holistic Wellness
Adaptability	0.224	Weak	3.24	Resilience
Perseverance	0.222	Weak	2.61	Resilience
Able to support children	0.215	Weak	4.02	Daily Skills
Self-love	0.212	Weak	4.71	Holistic Wellness
Agriculture skills	0.205	Weak	3.52	Daily Skills
Financial planning	0.177	Weak	4.49	Daily Skills
Provide financially	0.165	Weak	3.40	Daily Skills
Determination	0.13	Weak	3.79	Resilience
Lack of fear	0.119	Weak	1.92	Holistic Wellness
Clean drinking water	0.119	Weak	3.81	Access to Resources



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