

Poverty is experienced differently in every community. The Getting Ahead process begins by GA investigators defining local conditions. Then the investigations begin. Read below about the ADL approach and how you might support the GA process in Uganda.

How Getting Ahead fits in ADL Plans

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Over 80 percent of Ugandans depend on agriculture as a means of livelihood. Thus, agrarian reforms have the potential to support a large farming community to become more economically prosperous and to live a more peaceful and dignified life. ADL strives for peace through economic justice. Through Getting Ahead Program, ADL hopes to bring together rural communities to analyze their farming practices, devise the best ways of not only earning income but of maximizing profits from their produce and to better manage the agricultural resources like land and water.

For the start, ADL will hold the first mental model session with 30 farmers and 7 community leaders in Nsinde village in November 2012. The session will focus on the following:

- Introducing and giving contextual meaning to the concept of Getting Ahead. The facilitator will explain what Getting Ahead is all about and let local communities explore phrases, words or descriptions in Rutooro language that can give local meaning to the Getting Ahead Process.
- Doing a village "self-check" to gauge the extent of poverty in the community.
- Drawing a tentative village vision on how the village can improve the economic conditions of living through farming and other economic activities.

The second mental model session in November will exclusively target 20 out of school youths in Nsinde village. The session will help the youth to;

- Introduce and give contextual meaning to the concept of Getting Ahead. Share with the youth the local meaning of Getting Ahead as defined by the local community. Give the youth a chance to make an input in locally defining Getting Ahead Process.
- Do a village "self-check" to gauge the extent of poverty among the youth
- Draw a tentative vision on how the youth can improve the economic conditions of living through farming and other economic activities.

In January 2013, ADL will organize two other sessions for the farmers and the youths to further discuss the concept of Getting Ahead and to review the tentative vision and other resolutions made during the first Getting Ahead mental sessions. Further, the January meetings will enable the farmers and the youth to;

- Draw community resource maps to identify opportunities in terms of available financial institutions, community and individual resources like land, water, other NGOs,

government programs, and any other resources that the youth can use to make a step out of poverty.

- Explore the challenges they face in striving to move out of poverty and devise possible ways of overcoming these challenges.
- Design a community schedule when farmers and the youth can periodically have mental sessions to discuss issues related to farming as a business, marketing, land use and management, savings and credit and any other issues that can help the community take a step out of poverty.
- Each session will be an opportunity for farmers and the youth to review progress, document personal and community experiences as a basis for further learning, make new resolutions, share the challenges and to seek mutual support and advice.

How will ADL sustain Getting Ahead?

- Communities need to take charge of their own development process. ADL can only facilitate a process for change. ADL will not develop communities or individuals. Thus, ADL envisions training locally selected community facilitators to spearhead the "Getting Ahead Process" and to expand the concept to other villages.
- ADL plans to contextualize/localize the Getting Ahead reading materials as reference materials for the local facilitators. By localizing, the reading materials will incorporate specific and relevant development issues in the local communities.
- The local facilitators will undergo a training to help them internalize and facilitate the "Getting Ahead process" in their communities.

How you can support Getting Ahead Process in Uganda

- a) Donate to support the translation of Getting Ahead materials to suit the local context
- b) Donate to support the establishment of community coffee nursery beds
- c) Donate to support the construction of a peace and justice center
- d) Donate to support capacity building programs for Getting Ahead local facilitators
- e) Visit our website: <http://www.africandevopmentlinkage.org/>
- f) Advise us