

## SERIOUS CEREAL BUSINESS

The emergency cereal banking intervention by SCiUG aimed at bringing affordable cereals to communities in dire need in order to stabilize grain price and avail grains for feeding children. Especially, during the food-insecure period the Karimojong children are likely to fall prey to malnourishment. This project tries to catch these problems by providing farmer groups with cereal banks containing sorghum and maize, which they can sell to the community.

### **Lopotuk subcounty:**

It takes three to open the blue magical box; the chair, the treasurer, and the secretary. But once present, “business” can begin. The box contains a budgeting book, collected money or profit, and a telephone list with the numbers of different providers. Although the box is being administered by a small group of people, the yields come to the benefit of all in communities.



~ The cereal banking Group of Natapar Kocuc with its treasurer, chair, secretary, and shareholders ~

Among the beneficiaries is a mother of three children Lucia Lochoro. Normally she had to walk to the town of Moroto to get her food supplies at higher prices. The cereal banking project enables her to take advantage from the local supply of cereals in different ways.

*“The hours that I do not spend on walking; I can spend in the household with my children or working in the garden.”*

*~ Lucia Lochoro ~*



*~ Mother Lucia Lochoro buying cereals at the cereal bank. ~*

The idea behind the cereal banking is quite simple, and effective. Any member of the community can participate by putting a deposit into the cereal banks. During the low season seeds are bought for a low price, the community stores the seeds for when the food-insecure times comes. Prices rise, but a bit as compared to the normal price that has to be paid during this time. Any member of the community can address the cereal banks for support. The shareholder's deposit is being earned back as well as

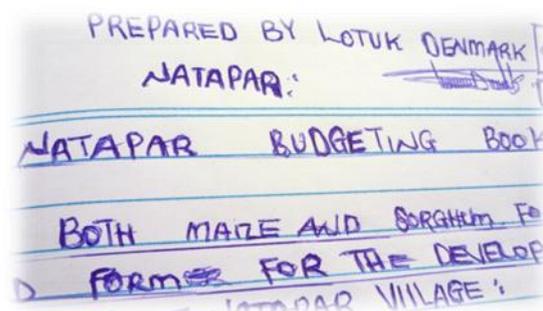
a small profit which is tendered to the shareholder once in a while.

*“The cereal banking project opened our minds. This is the way to survive.”*

*~ Lokeris Dongein, shareholder ~*

Although the new business skills in combination with the small profit the participants make, are two great assets. The project prime aim is to respond to the health and nutritional needs of children.

The drought is characterized by severe food shortages and malnutrition, with children particularly affected and are at risk. A lack of access to appropriate medical diagnosis and treatment further worsens the situation. The cereal banking project increase the availability and affordability of food stock. Enabling mothers to provide their children with the right quantities and quality of food during the food-insecure period.



*~ The budgeting book to monitor the income, expenses, and deposits for the shareholders.~*