

Over 7,600 households benefit from sh10b nutrition project

KAMPALA

By Jeff Andrew Lule

A total of 7,690 households from four districts have benefited from a household nutrition project, which was introduced to address issues of malnutrition in the country.

The four-year sh10b project, which ends in June, is funded by the Japan Social Development Fund with support from the World Bank and implemented by BRAC, a non-governmental organisation and the Government.

Presenting the preliminary outcomes of the project at the national stakeholders meeting to review the impact of the

project in Kampala, the BRAC research co-ordinator, Robert Mpiira, said the project had transformed smallholder farmers in terms of food production, choice of crops, nutrition and health.

The project is being piloted in Kyotera, Kalungu, Sheema and Ibanda districts.

Under the project, they provided fortified foods (nutrient-rich foods), especially micro-nutrients through greens, pumpkins, carrots, iron rich beans (to alleviate anaemia deficiency) and orange sweet potatoes which are rich in vitamin A.

The project focused mainly on mothers and children under five as the most vulnerable

group.

They trained smallholder farmers in better methods of agriculture and gave them smartphones to report any outbreak of strange diseases.

Stephen Biribonwa, the principal officer of food security at the agriculture ministry, said they intended to roll out the project to other parts of the country.

The World Bank agricultural specialist, Aira Maria Htemas, commended the approach as the only way to end the problem in the county.

The Japanese Ambassador to Uganda, Kazuaki Kameda, said there was need to emphasise innovative farming like what BRAC is doing.