

**THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS ON LIVELIHOOD
IMPROVEMENT OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE OF THE PARISH
DEVELOPMENT MODEL IN MUKONO DISTRICT**

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As per the university values of integrity and diligence, I have not received any unauthorized assistance while working on this paper. I declare that the work is authentically mine and to the best of my knowledge, it contains no traces of plagiarism or any other unethical practices. The only work used that has already been published by other persons has been purely for reference purposes.

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Date..... 8th MAY 2026.....

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APPROVAL

This research has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University candidate supervisor

Supervisor

Solomon Mwije

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Solomon Mwije', written in a cursive style.

Date: 04/05/2026

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To the Lord Jesus I give all the glory. A Special thanks to my parents who have been there for me since day one.

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ABSTRACT

This paper has discussed how social welfare programs have influenced livelihood improvement among vulnerable families with particular attention paid to the Parish Development Model (PDM) within Mukono District, Uganda. The overall aim of the research was to analyse the contribution of social welfare interventions especially PDM financial support services towards enhancing the livelihood of vulnerable households. In particular, the research aimed at investigating the impact of access to PDM financial support services on livelihood outcomes and determining the barriers that are encountered to the implementation and success of the Parish Development Model.

The research design assumed was the cross-sectional descriptive study design based on both qualitative and quantitative research. The sample size used to collect data was 80 respondents who included vulnerable households who are beneficiaries of PDM programs, program facilitators, and local government representatives. Household beneficiaries were selected through simple random sampling and key informants (program facilitators, local government officials etc.) were selected through purposive sampling. Structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were the primary sources of collecting primary data, whereas secondary sources of information included the related literature, reports, and policy documents. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to analyze quantitative data and thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative data.

The results showed that the Parish Development Model has had a positive impact on improving livelihood among the vulnerable households. According to many beneficiaries, household income, food security, savings, and capacity to initiate or increase income-generating activities had improved. The research also established that financial inclusion and economic participation at the grassroots level have been improved with the help of financial support that is available through PDM. Nonetheless, some issues that have been found to influence the performance of the program have been indicated such as delays in the release of funds, lack of accessibility to information, political interference, misappropriation of funds by some beneficiaries, and lack of monitoring mechanisms.

The paper has concluded that The Parish Development Model is a valuable social welfare program that leads to poverty alleviation and livelihood enhancement of vulnerable households in Mukono District. The effectiveness of it can, however, be improved by timely payment of funds, better awareness and information dissemination, better monitoring and accountability, and capacity building of beneficiaries.

The research suggests the enhancement of program management systems, increase in transparency and monitoring systems and offering of entrepreneurship and financial management training to beneficiaries to guarantee sustainable livelihood enhancement.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, significance, scope, justification, key term definitions, and the conceptual framework. The study investigates the effect of social welfare programs, particularly the Parish Development Model (PDM), on the livelihood improvement of vulnerable households in Mukono District.

1.1 Background of the study

Social welfare programs refer to state or community-based programs that aim at enhancing the economic and social welfare of the citizens particularly the vulnerable and low-income families. Social welfare interventions in the form of conditional cash transfer, microfinance programs and rural development programs have played vital roles throughout the world in facilitating poverty alleviation, livelihood diversification and inclusive development. The World Bank (2022) notes that more than 4 billion people globally have access to social protection systems, which enable them to deal with risks, develop resilience, and enhance household well-being.

Social welfare programs have become popular forms of poverty and inequality reduction in sub-Saharan Africa, and governments have started embracing them. With such efforts, the region is still faced with elevated poverty levels and poor livelihood prospects. According to the African Development Bank (2021), more than 40 percent of sub-Saharan African citizens live below the global poverty threshold. The Kenya National Government Affirmative Action Fund, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme in Rwanda and the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Uganda are social welfare programs designed to empower the poor households by developing them at the community level and providing financial inclusion.

Poverty eradication is one of the pillars of the National Development Plan (NDP III) in Uganda. In order to hasten rural change and inclusivity, the Government of Uganda introduced a flagship social welfare program, the Parish Development Model (PDM) in 2022. The PDM is aimed at transforming 39% of the Ugandan households in subsistence into commercial production through empowerment of service delivery and financial inclusion at parish level (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development [MoFPED], 2022). The model works on seven pillars such as production, storage, marketing, infrastructure, financial inclusion and governance. The main

beneficiaries are vulnerable households, particularly women, the youth, and individuals with disabilities.

The PDM has been facing various challenges, including lack of awareness, insufficient funding, disbursement of funds, and lack of capacity in local leaders (UBOS, 2023). In some districts such as Mukono, where poverty rates are still quite high, and livelihood insecurity is prevalent, it has not been yet established how the PDM is going to positively influence the welfare of the households. Mukono District Local Government (2023) states that the problem of low income, food insecurity, and poor access to financial services remain relevant to many vulnerable households despite the interventions of the government.

The implication of the PDM on the livelihood of vulnerable households in terms of the increment of income or the increased availability of resources or the self-reliance of the vulnerable household is vital in evaluating its overall level of performance. This research, thus, attempts to investigate the impact of the Parish Development Model on livelihood enhancement amongst vulnerable households in the Mukono District.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The Parish Development Model was presented by the Government of Uganda to be able to convert subsistence households into active participants of the money economy by offering financial, technical and institutional services at the parish level. Nevertheless, even with such massive investment and policy focus the impact of the PDM on livelihoods of needy households is still questionable.

PDM funds have been received in several parishes in Mukono District, but most of the vulnerable families in the area still live in poor conditions of low income, food insecurity, and unemployment. According to reports published by the Ministry of Local Government (2023), in certain regions, the funds have been held up, incompetently utilized, or minimally monitored, constraining the planned effect. In addition, poor financial literacy, lack of proper training and poor accountability mechanisms have also worsened the achievement of PDM objectives.

Although national and district reports show improvement in the distribution of funds, empirical data is scarce on how the program has had a real impact on the livelihoods of households, particularly in the rural and vulnerable populations. Thus, this paper attempts to examine the

impact of the Parish Development Model on the livelihoods of the vulnerable families in the Mukono District, especially in terms of income growth, resource availability, and economic empowerment.

1.3 General objective

To examine the effect of social welfare programs, particularly the Parish Development Model (PDM), on the livelihood improvement of vulnerable households in Mukono District.

1.4 Specific objectives

- i To examine how access to PDM financial support services influences livelihood outcomes among vulnerable households.
- ii. To identify the challenges faced by both citizens and government that affect the implementation and effectiveness of the Parish Development Model in improving livelihoods in Mukono District.

1.5 Research questions

- i) How does access to PDM financial support services influence livelihood outcomes among vulnerable households?
- ii. What challenges do both citizens and the government face that affect the implementation and effectiveness of the Parish Development Model in improving livelihoods in Mukono District?

1.6 Justification of the study

This research was timely and pertinent because it aimed to review the actual effect of the Parish Development Model in Uganda on the livelihoods of the households. The knowledge of the results of this program will give evidence-based knowledge to policymakers, development practitioners, and community leaders on how to reinforce the delivery of social welfare programs.

Academically, the research could be informative to the literature on social protection, rural development in Uganda by offering a source of information to subsequent researchers and students in the development studies and public administration disciplines. In practice, the results will be used to develop strategies by governmental agencies and NGOs that can improve the effectiveness of PDM and lead to the sustainable development of livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

1.7 Scope of the study.

1.7.1 Subject scope

This research was aimed at evaluating how the Parish Development Model has an impact on livelihood improvement. It particularly looked into the effect of PDM on income generation, accessibility to financial resources and the barriers that hinder its implementation.

1.7.2 Geographical scope

The Mukono District of the central region of Uganda was the place where the study occurred. The district is a rural and peri-urban area that Parish Development Model has been adopted. It is economically diverse and has vulnerable households that make it appropriate to this research.

1.7.3 Time scope

The research timeframe was 2022-2024, which is the first years of PDM implementation. This period enables evaluation of recent trends, the effectiveness of the program, and new difficulties in enhancing household livelihoods.

1.8 Significance of the Study.

The research will be useful in a number of ways:

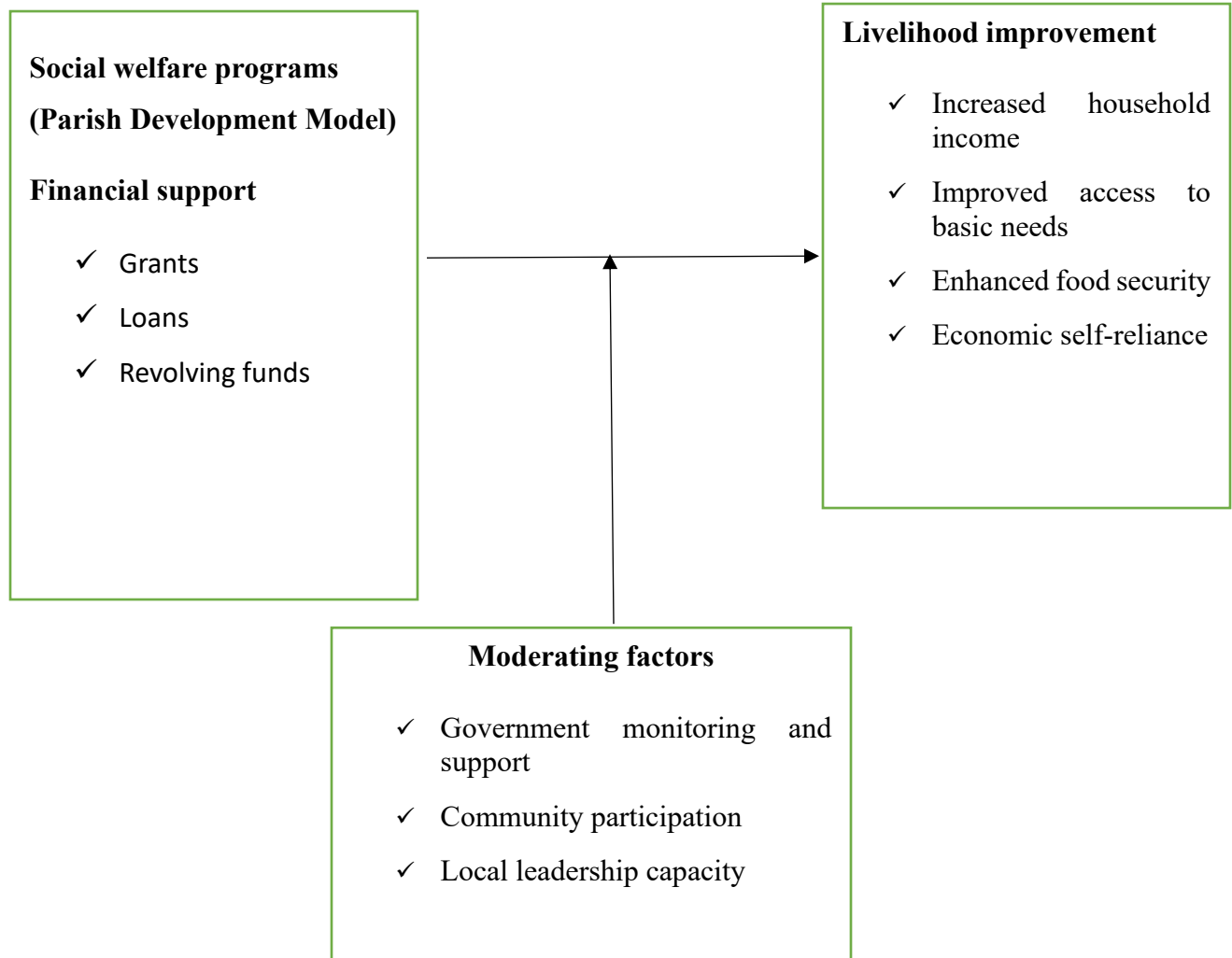
Policy formulation. The results will help the Government of Uganda and the local authorities to enhance PDM policy frameworks and the delivery of social welfare.

Development planning. It will also inform district and parish planning level planners to focus resources on effective livelihood programs.

Social work practice. The social welfare program will provide NGOs, community-based organizations, and social workers with an insight into how to better the communities participation and empowerment.

Academic contribution. The research will contribute to the academic knowledge on the impact of social welfare programs like PDM on livelihood outcomes in rural Uganda.

1.9 Conceptual Framework



Effective implementation of the Parish Development Model enhances household access to financial services, production support, and capacity-building opportunities, leading to improved income, food security, and self-reliance. However, the impact of the program is moderated by factors such as governance efficiency, community engagement, and institutional capacity.

1.10 Definition of key terms

Social welfare programs. Organized government or community initiatives aimed at improving the economic and social well-being of citizens, particularly the poor and vulnerable (UNDP, 2021).

Parish Development Model (PDM). A government-led initiative in Uganda designed to transform subsistence households into active participants in the money economy by providing financial inclusion, production, and development support at the parish level (MoFPED, 2022).

Livelihood improvement. The process of enhancing people's means of living through increased income, better access to resources, and sustainable well-being (Chambers & Conway, 1992).

Vulnerable households. Families exposed to economic, social, or environmental risks that reduce their ability to meet basic needs, including the poor, elderly, and persons with disabilities (UNICEF, 2020).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The chapter offers a literature review of the available literature on the impact of social welfare programs on livelihoods of vulnerable households with particular reference to Parish Development Model (PDM) in Mukano District. The review covers the available academic literature, theoretical insights, as well as empirical results that are applicable to the research variables. It gives literature in a way that is structured based on the research objectives, that is: analyzing the effects of access to PDM financial support services on livelihood outcomes of vulnerable households, and the challenges that face both the citizens and the government that impact on the implementation and effectiveness of the PDM in enhancing livelihoods. The final section of the chapter identifies the gaps in the literature that are being filled by this study.

2.1 Theoretical review

The Theory of Change (ToC) offers an all-encompassing framework regarding the concept of how social welfare initiatives like The Parish Development Model (PDM) bring about livelihood changes to vulnerable households. Based on ToC, development interventions are constructed according to a rational chain of activities that connects inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term effects. Within the PDM, the inputs that are part of the PDM include financial backing, extension services, training, and community mobilization which result in capacity building, access to credit, developing of enterprises and better agricultural practices. Examples of these activities yield direct results such as increased household engagement in income-generating activities, improved financial inclusion, and improved use of local resources. According to the ToC, as the accumulation of these outputs occurs, they are converted into short-term results, including higher productivity, better living conditions in households, and economic resilience of vulnerable populations.

Finally, the Theory of Change points out that sustainable livelihood improvement is achieved by the correspondence between the intended interventions and the anticipated results in a well-defined causal pathway. The organised constituents of the PDM to capital injection in form of SACCOs, market connections, and community decision-making are theorised to empower beneficiaries to

end cycles of poverty, increase self-reliance, and better their living standards in Mukono District, which is a region of vulnerable households. The ToC framework also highlights the importance of the underlying assumptions, including the competence of program implementation, engagement of the community, and sufficient monitoring systems, that have to be true to achieve the intended impact. As such, ToC does not only inform the study of the effects of social welfare programs on livelihoods but also assists in highlighting the possible gaps, risks and bottlenecks that can obstruct the complete achievement of the transformative goals of PDM.

2.2 Access to PDM financial support services influences livelihood outcomes among vulnerable households.

Availability of financial support services within the Parish Development Model (PDM) is important in changing the lives of vulnerable households by enhancing their capacity to earn income, accumulate productive assets and raise their welfare outcomes. The PDM gives households particularly the ones in the subsistence economy access to affordable credit, financial literacy training and institutionalized assistance intended to bolster their involvement in the money economy (Ministry of Local Government, 2022). Financial inclusion has been largely considered as a key enabler of livelihood development as it enables the vulnerable communities to obtain credit, savings facilities as well as capital required to conduct income generating activities. As noted by the World Bank (2020), the financial support programs that are specifically aimed at low-income households are likely to result in greater productivity, incomes, and socioeconomic resilience. On the same note, the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2021) observes that the organized financial support programs enable the vulnerable communities by giving them the required equipment to invest in agriculture, small businesses, and skills. This is in line with the ideals of the PDM where financial services are tailored to improve the household capabilities so that they are able to engage in commercial activities and improve their economic status in general.

PDM financial support services are community based projects that strive to enhance welfare by providing households with both capital and skills to come out of the rut of poverty. The programs focus on affordable credit, financial management education, and building productive businesses in parishes. According to the United Nations (2020), empowerment by financial inclusion means that the disadvantaged groups acquire the resources and the capacity to make economic decisions that

improve their well-being. The PDM offers the households revolving funds, financial literacy and advice on enterprise selection under a holistic framework that takes them out of vulnerability to sustainable livelihoods. The financial support services under PDM have a model structure which incorporates the enterprise development planning, availability of revolving funds within the parish and constant supervision by the parish committees. This scaffold support reflects the best practice in the world where financial intervention coupled with capacity building results into enhanced household productivity and income security (Kassim & Ilias, 2020).

The examples of international development programs show the strength of specific financial assistance in enhancing vulnerable communities. An example is the model of Youth Business International though young-based as it demonstrates how low-interest financing coupled with business education could facilitate the entry into productive economic activities. In Africa, micro-loans through Uwezo Fund in Kenya and Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP) in Nigeria provide micro-loans to vulnerable households, yielding objective impacts on household incomes and microenterprises. The reports by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2021) also affirm that the beneficiaries of these programs reported income gains up to 40 percent within a year, which further testifies to the direct relation between financial access and the strengthening of livelihoods. The PDM uses the same strategy by providing low-cost rotating funds to parish-based businesses to allow households in Uganda to invest in agriculture, trade, and services.

Various nations are still undertaking financial empowerment programs to bring about endemic poverty and vulnerability. The Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) program offers credit to underprivileged households in the United States, leading to greater household stability and entrepreneurship. According to the reports by the CDFI Fund (2019), more than 70 percent of households receiving support received better financial independence due to the access to credit facilities. In Asia, the Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) and microfinance programs in Bangladesh have helped millions of vulnerable families to acquire marketable skills and receive venture capital. The World Bank (2020) noted that in 2020, approximately 1.2 million households were subject to financial services supported by SEIP, of which more than 70% of the trainees have turned into gainful employment or enterprise activity.

These initiatives are an example of how specific financial assistance can eliminate obstacles to economic inclusion a similar effect to the expected results of the PDM in Uganda.

In Europe, success can also be seen in a form of organized financial inclusion i.e. the European Union (ESF) Social Fund which grants and offers microloans to the vulnerable groups. According to the European Commission (2019), a decrease in the household vulnerability and unemployment by up to 18% was reported in countries that increased community-level financial services. Latin America is also performing well. As an example, the ProJoven program in Peru combined financial assistance with livelihood education, which increased the household income of beneficiaries by 30 percent (Inter-American Development Bank, 2019). The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in India is aimed at improving household incomes through increased access to credit, strengthening savings groups, and facilitating microenterprises. According to McKinsey Global Institute (2018) reports, households exposed to NRLM financial programs have seen their earnings grow by 40%. The examples of these countries throughout the world reflect the underlying rationale of the Parish Development Model, which supports the notion that the availability of financial support services is a powerful predictor of livelihood enhancement.

2.3 The challenges faced by both citizens and government that affect the implementation and effectiveness of the Parish Development Model in improving livelihoods in Mukono District.

The Parish Development Model (PDM) implementation process in Mukono District is associated with several structural and functional issues that affect its ability to change the livelihoods. The PDM, which aims at bringing households out of the subsistence sector into the money economy, depends much on the involvement of citizens, the efficiency of the institutions and good governance systems. Nevertheless, most of the vulnerable households continue to fail to use PDM services because of low awareness, poor financial literacy, and low capacity to open or join Parish Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs). The Ministry of Finance (2022) states that a high percentage of target beneficiaries do not have the skills to create viable enterprise plans and manage funds or navigate digital data systems like EFRIS, which influences the adoption and successful utilization of PDM resources. These limitations on citizens undermine the empowerment desire of the model since households are not well prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that come with government support. Moreover, the lack of access to the inputs of

production, a lack of entrepreneurship knowledge, and the distrust towards the government programs decrease the willingness of citizens to actively participate in PDM activities, diminishing the projected results of livelihood.

On the part of the government, there are a number of institutional inefficiencies that stand on the way to successful implementation. Lack of technical capacity at parish level is a long-standing problem whereby the community development officers, parish chiefs, and the extension workers are usually overwhelmed by the large number of beneficiaries who need their services. According to a report by the Office of the Prime Minister (2023), delays in disbursement of funds, lack of proper checks on beneficiaries, and lack of proper monitoring systems have contributed to the slow pace of the PDM implementation in many districts including Mukana. Moreover, political interference and policy communication inconsistencies have resulted in confusion among the implementers and beneficiaries undermining the credibility of the program. Issues like poor data management infrastructure, lack of access to extension services and lack of accountability structures, also limit the efforts by the government in ensuring that the program is delivered to the targeted households. Similar to other large-scale community programs in Africa (World Bank, 2020), poor coordination among local government units tends to lead to overlapping of roles, slow decision-making, and misallocation of resources variables that are equally relevant to the effectiveness of the PDM in Mukono District.

Even though the government is committed, infrastructure-related limitations are also a hindrance to the smooth operation of the program. The rural areas in the Mukono District are impacted by poor road networks that affect the accessibility of the extension workers to the households, and the lack of digital technologies diminish the pace of collecting and verifying the beneficiary data. The same issues have been documented in community development initiatives in such countries as Kenya and Nigeria, where insufficient technological preparedness hindered the execution (ILO, 2021). All these infrastructural pressures coupled with lack of training on frontline workers restrict the government to be able to offer timely assistance to PDM SACCOs. There are also no powerful tools of monitoring and evaluation that would help track progress or block misuse of funds. Finally, the low institutional structure impedes the ability of the model to achieve the expected livelihoods improvement results.

Socio-cultural perceptions at the community level also add to the implementation problems. There are also a few households that are opposed to becoming members of SACCOs because of the fear of getting into debt, poor management of group savings, or poor experiences with former government programs. The results of the research on the community empowerment efforts, including the ProJoven program in Peru (Inter-American Development Bank, 2019), indicate that the lack of trust and fear of failure of the program are the major barriers to the involvement of communities, which is also applicable to the PDM context. The fact that there is a low involvement of the youth and women who are prime movers of household production further compromises the inclusivity of the model. Gender disparities, low literacy levels, and exposure to financial management practices are a hindrance in Mukono District with many households at risk failing to fully participate in the planning and use of PDM resources.

On a national level, the competing priorities and budgetary flexibility also influence the consistency of the funding of PDM activities in other districts. Difficulties in mobilizing and maintaining sufficient funding have been noted as the biggest obstacles to the success of similar livelihood improvement initiatives across the globe (European Commission, 2019). These limitations give rise to postponements in the delivery of enterprise funds, weaknesses in the allocation of staff, and lack of consistency in following up on the developments of the enterprise. Moreover, the bureaucratic procedures used in the local government systems make decisions slow and hence add to the inefficiency in the program delivery. Finally, the net impact of the citizen-level obstacles, limitations on government capacity, infrastructural deficiencies, and socio-cultural constraints is a critical problem that reduces the possibility of the PDM to reach its targeted objective of enhancing the livelihoods of households in Mukono District.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter has described the different methods that have been applied in the study to analyze the impact of social welfare programs on living standards of the vulnerable households, and specifically the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Mukano District. The research design, study area, the study population, the determination of the sample size, sampling methods, data collection methods, data collection instruments, data analysis procedures and ethical considerations were all included in the methodology.

3.2 Research design

The research design was a descriptive cross-sectional study that adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods. It was in this manner that it was possible to explore the special input of the social welfare programs especially the PDM to livelihood enhancement among the vulnerable households. Mixed-method was used, which involved the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative element has offered a detailed account of the experiences, perceptions, and challenges of the participants in relation to their accessibility to PDM support services (Creswell and Creswell, 2017), whereas the quantitative methods have been used to conduct the demographic analysis and measure the impact of the household livelihoods of the participants due to the involvement of PDM financial support.

3.3 Study area

The research was carried out in the Mukono District in areas where the Parish Development Model was under implementation. Mukono District was chosen because it has the active PDM initiatives to enhance livelihoods by providing financial assistance, social welfare intervention, and

community development programs. The socio-economic barriers of the district, in combination with the concentration of PDM on vulnerable households was a special situation to study the effectiveness of social welfare programs on improving livelihoods.

3.4 Data sources

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used in the study. Primary data was gathered directly through the involvement of participants to PDM programs and secondary data was gathered through the existing literature, reports and records to give the background information and to facilitate the analysis.

3.5 Study population

The target population consisted of vulnerable households that received PDM financial and social support services, governmental officials, and PDM facilitators of the program. This heterogeneous group was able to offer a variety of insights on the practice, problems, and impacts of PDM on livelihood outcomes.

3.6 Sample size

The researchers involved about 80 people such as PDM program beneficiaries, local government representatives and facilitators of the program. The determination of an appropriate sample size to give adequate representation of the target population was done using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table.

Table 3.1: Population and sample size breakdown

Respondents	Population	Sample Size	Sampling Method
Vulnerable Households (PDM Beneficiaries)	70	60	Simple Random Sampling
Program Facilitators	10	10	Purposive Sampling
Local Government Representatives	10	10	Purposive Sampling

Total	90	80	
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3.7 Sampling methods and processes.

The sampling method used was purposive and simple random. Key informants including PDM program facilitators and local government officials were identified based on their experience and involvement through purposive sampling. Vulnerable households were selected with simple random sampling to enable every household to have an equal likelihood of participating in the study.

3.8 Data collection methods

Structured questionnaires to PDM beneficiaries and interview guides to key informants, such as program facilitators and representatives of local governments, were used to gather primary data. These approaches captured the experiences, perceptions and insights of the participants towards the impact of PDM financial support on livelihoods. The secondary data included the existing literature, reports, and policy documents as well as academic publications as the background information to support the primary data.

3.9 Data collection instruments

3.9.1 Questionnaires

Data were collected using structured questionnaires on vulnerable households receiving PDM support. The questionnaires were designed with open-ended questions that gave an opportunity to respond freely with detailed qualitative answers as well as closed-ended questions to gather quantitative data of livelihood outcomes.

3.9.2 Interviews

The program facilitators and representatives of the local governments were interviewed semi-structurally to provide the researcher with an understanding of how the program was implemented, the challenges, and perceived changes in livelihoods of households.

3.10 Quality control

The pretest of the research instruments was done prior to the actual data collection to guarantee their quality. Any inconsistencies or ambiguities that were found during the pretesting process were rectified. The research team was trained so as to be consistent during data collection and recording. The data were cross-checked to ensure completeness and accuracy and triangulation was used to check the findings of various sources.

3.11 Ethical considerations

The ethical standards followed in the study were as follows:

The respondents received full information about the purpose of the study, and the study was conducted with their consent. This was voluntary and one could pull out at any point without penalty.

The privacy was ensured, as the personal identifiers were eliminated and the data were safely stored.

Researchers did not interfere with the local cultural norms and values but respected them in their participation with the participants.

3.12 Data analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage and cross tabulation) were applied to the quantitative data to summarize demographic data, and livelihood outcomes.

Thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative data to determine patterns, themes, and understanding of how PDM financial support affected household livelihoods and problems encountered in the implementation of the program.

3.13 Limitations of the study

The research was faced by possible limitations:

Purposive sampling created biasness in the process of sampling key informants, influencing the variety of opinions.

Household self-reported data were subjective and hence, there was a possibility of social desirability bias.

The time and resource constraints were limiting the scope and sample size, which influenced the generalizability of the findings.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter includes presentation, discussion and interpretation of findings of the study titled “The Effect of Social Welfare Programs on Livelihood Improvement of Vulnerable Households: A Case of the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Mukono District.” The chapter seeks to provide evidence on how the Parish Development Model can enhance livelihoods of vulnerable households. The analysis combines both quantitative and qualitative data generated from the study. Quantitative data emanates from structured questionnaires that were administered to PDM beneficiaries under the Parish Development Model. In addition, qualitative data were collected through key informant interviews conducted with PDM coordinators, parish chiefs and key officials from relevant local government who are responsible for PDM implementation.

The presentation of findings follows the research objectives. The chapter on findings is divided into several key sections such as response rate, demographic characteristics of respondents, access to PDM financial support services, livelihood status of beneficiaries and challenges facing the Parish Development Model. Both quantitative findings are presented using frequencies, percentages, means and medians and qualitative findings to provide a deeper understanding of the data gathered. The chapter combines analytical and practical insights to examine the contribution of the Parish Development Model to improving livelihoods of vulnerable households in the Mukono District of Uganda.

4.1 Response rate

The study targeted 80 respondents who were beneficiaries of the Parish Development Model in Mukono District. All the questionnaires distributed to the respondents were successfully completed and returned.

Table 4.1: Response rate

Questionnaires Distributed	Questionnaires Returned	Response Rate
80	80	100%

The study therefore obtained a response rate of 100 percent, which is considered highly satisfactory in the conduct of research in the social sciences. A high response rate is important in the credibility, reliability, and validity of the study's findings because it reduces the chances of non-response bias. The high response rate is an indication that the respondents were willing to participate in the study and had enough knowledge or experience about the PDM program.

4.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents

The demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study provided useful information in understanding the context in which the effects of the social welfare programs can be seen. The demographic information obtained in the study included the gender of the respondents, their respective age groups, their marital status, their educational level, the size of their households, and their main economic activity.

Understanding the characteristics of the respondents is important because the livelihood activities of households can be affected by the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the members.

4.2.1 Gender of respondents

Table 4.2: Gender distribution

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	32	40%
Female	48	60%
Total	80	100%

The findings indicate that 60 percent of the respondents were females, while 40 percent were males. This shows that the majority of the population participating in the Parish Development

Model program were women. This gives a clear indication that the Parish Development Model program has a high number of women beneficiaries.

This could be attributed to the fact that women play a crucial role in the economic activities and poverty alleviation in the country. Women take up the responsibility of economic activities in the households and the communities. They take care of the households by engaging in economic activities such as the production of food and the conduct of business. As a result, the Parish Development Model program, which aims to provide social welfare to the people in the country, might have targeted the women as the main beneficiaries in order to promote economic development in the country.

Additionally, the fact that the majority of the population participating in the Parish Development Model program were women might also indicate that the program has the power to economically empower the women in the country. This would be a crucial step in the poverty reduction strategy in the country.

4.2.2 Age distribution of respondents

Table 4.3: Age distribution

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
18–25	12	15%
26–35	30	37.5%
36–45	20	25%
46–55	10	12.5%
56+	8	10%
Total	80	100%

The results show that the majority of the respondents, 37.5%, were between 26 and 35 years of age, followed by 25% who were between 36 and 45 years of age. Those who were between 18 and 25 years were 15%, while 12.5% were between 46 and 55 years, and 10% were more than 56 years.

The results show that most of the beneficiaries were within an economically active age group, which is normally characterized by high levels of economic productivity and income-generating activities. This is an indication that most of the Parish Development Model beneficiaries are able to utilize financial resources for economic activities such as farming, trade, and business.

The inclusion of young people in the list of beneficiaries is an indication that the Parish Development Model is contributing to youth involvement in economic development, which is critical for addressing unemployment and promoting economic development in rural areas.

4.2.3 Marital status of respondents

Table 4.4: Marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	20	25%
Married	40	50%
Widowed	12	15%
Divorced	8	10%
Total	80	100%

The findings show that the majority of the respondents were married, representing 50 percent of the total number of respondents. Also, 25 percent of the respondents were single. Besides that, 15 percent were widowed, while 10 percent were divorced.

The large number of married individuals shows that the majority of the beneficiaries have family obligations or dependents, which makes the Parish Development Model more significant in providing livelihood support programs.

The findings show that the Parish Development Model is significant in providing support to the livelihood of the families in the community, especially those with more economic obligations.

4.2.4 Education level of respondents

Table 4.5: Education level

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	10	12.5%
Primary	26	32.5%
Secondary	30	37.5%
Tertiary	14	17.5%
Total	80	100%

The findings show that the majority of the respondents have secondary education, followed by primary education. This shows that the majority of the respondents have at least basic educational skills, which could enable them to comprehend economic activities through the support of the PDM program. Moreover, the findings show that only 17.5 percent of the respondents have access to tertiary education, while 12.5 percent have no formal education.

This shows that the majority of the respondents have limited capacity to access higher educational skills, which could enable them to use complex business skills. This shows the need for capacity-building programs within the framework of the PDM program to enable the beneficiaries to effectively use the financial support.

4.2.5 Household size

Table 4.6: Household size

Household Size	Frequency	Percentage
1-3	16	20%
4-6	36	45%
7 and above	28	35%
Total	80	100%

The results indicate that while 45 percent of the respondents had large household sizes of 4-6 members, 35 percent had even larger household sizes of seven members or more. Only 20 percent of the sample had small household sizes of 1-3 members.

The results imply that most of the beneficiary families have large family sizes, which increases the demand for household requirements such as food, education, and health. Large family sizes could mean increased pressure on families, hence the need for social interventions like the Parish Development Model.

Therefore, the program could be instrumental in ensuring economic stability at the household level, hence raising the standard of living for families with large numbers of dependents.

4.2.6 Main economic activity

Table 4.7: Main economic activity

Activity	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	36	45%
Trade	24	30%
Casual labor	12	15%
Other	8	10%
Total	80	100%

This shows that the majority of the population in the district were engaged in farming (45%), followed by trade (30%). Casual jobs were next at 15 percent, while other activities made up 10 percent.

This shows that the livelihood of the most vulnerable households in the district is dependent on agriculture and small-scale business activities. These are the most viable economic activities for support through social welfare programs like the Parish Development Model, which seeks to provide financial resources for the purpose of stimulating economic production in the country. This is because these activities are likely to enhance productivity among the population in the district.

4.3 Access to parish development model financial support services

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with several statements related to access to financial services under the Parish Development Model using a five-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

Table 4.8: Access to PDM Financial Services

Statement	Mean Score
I am aware of the Parish Development Model program	4.3
My household accessed PDM financial support	4.1
The process of accessing PDM funds was clear	3.9
PDM funds were adequate for my livelihood activity	3.6
PDM funds were disbursed in a timely manner	3.5

The results show that the respondents strongly agreed that they were aware of the Parish Development Model program (mean = 4.3). This indicates that the awareness campaigns carried out by the government agencies and the local authorities were relatively successful in creating public awareness about the program.

The respondents agreed that they had access to financial support from the PDM program (mean = 4.1), which indicates the success of the program in reaching vulnerable households in the district.

However, the relatively moderate mean scores for the adequacy of funds (3.6) and the timeliness of the disbursement of funds (3.5) indicate the challenges faced by the respondents in accessing financial support from the program. These challenges may affect the success of the livelihood activities implemented by the respondents.

4.4 Livelihood Outcomes of PDM Beneficiaries

The study further sought to evaluate the extent to which the Parish Development Model program has improved the livelihood outcomes of the respondents.

Table 4.9: Livelihood Outcomes

Statement	Mean Score
Household income increased due to PDM	4.2
PDM improved food security	4.1
Started or expanded income-generating activity	4.0
Household savings improved	3.8
PDM improved household standard of living	4.2

The results show that the Parish Development Model has had a positive influence on the livelihoods of the respondents.

The results show that income levels in households have increased due to PDM support (mean = 4.2). This is an indication that financial resources provided to households through PDM support have enabled households to engage in economic activities.

Similarly, the Parish Development Model has improved the food security of households (mean = 4.1). This can be explained by increased production from agricultural activities, as well as increased purchasing power for households.

In addition, respondents agreed that PDM support has enabled them to start income-generating activities (mean = 4.0). This is an indication that PDM support has enabled households to engage in economic activities.

Finally, there is an improvement in the savings levels of households (mean = 3.8). This is an indication that households are gradually getting financially stable.

Overall, it is clear from the results that the high mean for improving the standard of living in households (4.2) is an indication that PDM is contributing significantly to poverty reduction among poor households in Mukono District.

4.5 Challenges affecting PDM implementation

Despite the positive outcomes associated with PDM, there were several challenges
Challenges affecting PDM implementation

Despite the positive outcomes associated with the Parish Development Model, respondents identified several challenges that affect its implementation and effectiveness.

Table 4.10: Challenges Affecting PDM Implementation

Challenge	Mean Score
Limited information affects access	4.1
Delays in fund disbursement affect livelihoods	4.4
Political interference affects effectiveness	3.9
Some beneficiaries misuse funds	3.8
Monitoring and follow-up is inadequate	3.7

The findings show that the delay in the disbursement of funds (Mean = 4.4) is the greatest challenge faced by the program. The delay in the disbursement of funds might affect the economic activities of the program.

The respondents were also of the view that the lack of information (Mean = 4.1) is one of the greatest challenges faced by the program. The lack of information might imply that the program is not well understood by the households.

Other challenges associated with the program include political interference, the abuse of the program funds by the beneficiaries, and the lack of monitoring of the program.

4.6 Qualitative insights from key informant interviews

Qualitative information obtained from key informant interviews provided more insights into the Parish Development Model program.

Positive impacts of PDM

Key informants pointed out that through the program, several vulnerable households were able to start income-generating activities such as farming, poultry, piggery, and small-scale retailing businesses.

A parish chief said,

“Many households who were relying on casual employment were able to start income-generating activities through PDM. The activities have helped them improve their income levels.”

A local government official said,

“The PDM has contributed to financial inclusion since households can access financial support even if they had never accessed such support before.”

The views of key informants show how PDM has contributed to financial inclusion, economic activities, and improved livelihoods for households.

****Implementation Challenges****

Despite the positive achievements of PDM, key informants pointed out several challenges facing the PDM program.

A PDM coordinator said,

“At times, there is a delay in the release of funds to the households. The delay affects the activities households had planned to start with the funds.”

A local government official said,

“Since we lack enough resources, monitoring is still poor. As a result, it is difficult to monitor how households are using the funds provided to them.”

Conclusion of the chapter

This chapter discussed and analyzed the empirical findings on the impact of the Parish Development Model on livelihood improvement for vulnerable households in Mukono District.

The findings have indicated that the Parish Development Model program has contributed to income generation for households, improved food security, enhanced entrepreneurship activities, and improved living standards for households.

Despite these positive contributions, there are challenges affecting the Parish Development Model program, including delayed disbursement of funds, lack of information, political interference, misuse of funds, and poor monitoring mechanisms.

All these challenges need to be addressed so that the Parish Development Model program can achieve its objective.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter will outline the summary of the key findings, discussion of the findings in relation to the existing literature, conclusions drawn from the study, and the recommended ways to enhance the effectiveness of social welfare programs. The study was based on the impact of social welfare programs on the improvement of livelihoods in vulnerable households, with a focus on the Parish Development Model in Mukono District.

The discussion of the findings will be based on the connection of the empirical findings in Chapter Four to the existing literature on poverty reduction, financial inclusion, and livelihood improvement through social **welfare programs**.

5.1 Summary of the findings

The study examined the role of the Parish Development Model in improving the livelihoods of vulnerable households in Mukono District. The major findings were organized according to the study objectives.

5.1.1 Access to parish development model financial services

The findings showed that the majority of the respondents were aware of the Parish Development Model program. Also, the majority of the households had already accessed financial support under the program. This shows that the program has been successful in reaching vulnerable households in the country.

However, the study showed that the respondents had a moderate level of satisfaction with the adequacy of the funds provided under the program. Also, the study showed that the respondents were moderately satisfied with the timeliness of the fund disbursement under the program. This shows that although the program is successful in providing financial support to the vulnerable

households in the country, there is still more work to be done in terms of the adequacy of the support provided under the program.

5.1.2 Livelihood outcomes of PDM beneficiaries

The study also established that the Parish Development Model has had a positive impact on the livelihoods of the target households. This was based on the information obtained from the respondents, where they indicated improvements in income levels, food security, and the ability to start or expand income-generating activities.

On the other hand, the study established that the program has had a positive impact on the savings and standards of living of the target households. This shows the importance of the Parish Development Model in enhancing the economic stability of households.

5.1.3 Challenges affecting implementation of the PDM

Despite the success of the program in terms of its impacts, the study has identified some challenges facing the implementation of the program. Some of the challenges include:

The delay in the disbursement of funds, lack of information regarding the program, political interference, misuse of funds by some of the beneficiaries, and lack of monitoring.

These challenges were identified as major constraints to the success of the Parish Development Model.

5.2 Discussion of findings

This section discusses the study findings in relation to existing literature and theoretical perspectives on social welfare programs and livelihood improvement.

5.2.1 Access to PDM financial services and livelihood improvement

The findings indicated that the respondents were aware of the Parish Development Model and had access to financial support. This shows that the government's initiatives to raise awareness and access the program have been somewhat effective.

This is in line with the argument by the World Bank (2020) that the expansion of financial access to poor and vulnerable households remains a crucial strategy in poverty reduction and livelihood enhancement. This is because financial inclusion would allow poor and vulnerable households to invest in productive activities and thus enhance economic stability.

This argument is also in line with the study by Karlan and Morduch (2010) that financial access to poor and vulnerable households would enable them to invest in agriculture and other economic activities. This would enhance the income levels of poor households.

However, the study also showed that the challenges relating to the sufficiency and timeliness of financial support persist. These findings are in line with the study by Banerjee and Duflo (2011) that poverty alleviation initiatives face operational challenges such as the delayed provision of financial support.

5.2.2 Impact of PDM on household income and economic activities

The study revealed that the Parish Development Model has contributed to an improvement in income levels and has enhanced income-generating activities such as farming, business, and trade.

The findings are consistent with the Sustainable Livelihood Framework proposed by Chambers and Conway (1992), which emphasizes that access to financial capital is essential for households to invest in income-generating activities to improve their livelihood assets and income-generating capabilities.

In line with this, Ellis (2000) argues that the diversification of livelihood activities through financial support programs is an essential factor in reducing vulnerability and promoting economic stability among rural households.

The ability of the beneficiaries to engage in business activities is also in line with the argument by Yunus (2007) that financial support programs for vulnerable communities can promote entrepreneurship and self-employment, which are critical for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

5.2.3 Improvement in food security and household welfare

The study also found that the Parish Development Model has contributed to the enhancement of food security and household welfare among the beneficiaries.

These findings are in line with those of Devereux & Sabates-Wheeler (2004), who assert that social protection initiatives play a crucial role in improving food security among poor and vulnerable households.

Further, the Food and Agriculture Organization (2019) asserts that rural development initiatives aimed at improving access to finance for agricultural production can improve food availability and household nutrition.

The enhancement of savings among the beneficiaries also indicates that the Parish Development Model contributes to improving the financial resilience of poor and vulnerable households, which is an essential aspect of sustainable livelihoods.

5.2.4 Challenges affecting implementation of the Parish Development Model

The study found some challenges facing the implementation of the Parish Development Model, including the delay in the disbursement of funds, lack of information, political interference, misuse of funds, and poor monitoring.

These challenges have also been supported by Todaro & Smith (2015), who assert that issues of poor governance and inefficiency in institutions have the potential to influence the effectiveness of poverty reduction strategies in developing countries.

Additionally, Barrientos (2013) asserts that in order for social welfare programs to achieve the intended purpose, there is a need for institutional structures, transparency, and monitoring.

The aspect of political interference in the implementation of the Parish Development Model has also been supported by Hickey (2012), who noted that sometimes the implementation of social welfare programs can be affected by political dynamics.

5.3 Conclusion

The study concludes that the Parish Development Model is an important tool in improving the livelihoods of vulnerable households in Mukono District.

The study has shown that the Parish Development Model has contributed to increased household income, improved food security, increased income-generating activities, and improved standards of living among the beneficiaries. This implies that the Parish Development Model is an important tool in improving poverty reduction, financial inclusion, and development in the country.

Despite the importance of the Parish Development Model, its effectiveness has been affected by various challenges in its implementation. Some of the challenges include delayed disbursement of funds, lack of access to information, political interference, misuse of funds, and lack of monitoring.

The challenges facing the implementation of the Parish Development Model have to be addressed in order to improve its effectiveness and transparency.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

Improve the timely disbursement of funds. Government authorities and implementing agencies shall improve financial management and administrative processes to ensure the timely disbursement of PDM funds to the beneficiaries.

Increase awareness and information dissemination. Local governments shall intensify information dissemination to ensure that all eligible households in the parish are aware of the procedures and requirements to benefit from the Parish Development Model.

Strengthen the monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Government institutions shall improve the mechanisms to ensure the effective utilization of funds by the beneficiaries for the intended livelihood activities.

Provide capacity building and entrepreneurship training. Beneficiaries shall be equipped with the necessary skills in financial management and entrepreneurship to effectively utilize the financial support provided by the program.

Reduce political interference in the implementation of the program. The implementation of the Parish Development Model shall be guided by transparent and objective criteria to ensure fairness and accountability in the distribution of resources.

5.5 Areas for Further Research

Future research should be conducted to examine the effects of the Parish Development Model in the reduction of poverty in Uganda in the long term. Additional research can be done to examine the role of the monitoring system in the improvement of governance in the enhancement of the sustainability of social welfare programs.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

(For Vulnerable Household PDM Beneficiaries)

This questionnaire is designed to collect information for an academic study titled *‘‘The Effect of Social Welfare Programs on Livelihood Improvement of Vulnerable Households: A Case of the Parish Development Model in Mukono District.’’

The information you provide will be used strictly for academic purposes and treated with utmost confidentiality. There are no right or wrong answers. Kindly respond honestly by ticking (✓) or filling in where appropriate.

Section A: Demographic characteristics of respondents

No.	Item	Response Options
1	Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Age group	18–25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26–35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36–45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46–55 <input type="checkbox"/> 56+ <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Marital status	Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Education level	No formal education <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Household size	1–3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4–6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 and above <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Main economic activity	Farming <input type="checkbox"/> Trade <input type="checkbox"/> Casual labor <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

Section B: Access to PDM Financial Support Services

Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
7	I am aware of the Parish Development Model program					
8	My household accessed PDM financial support					
9	The process of accessing PDM funds was clear					
10	The PDM funds were adequate for my livelihood activity					
11	PDM funds were disbursed in a timely manner					

Section C: Livelihood Outcomes of PDM Beneficiaries

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
12	My household income has increased due to PDM support					
13	PDM support has improved my food security					
14	I have expanded or started an income-generating activity					
15	My household savings have improved					

16	Overall, PDM has improved my household's standard of living					
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Section D: Challenges Affecting PDM Implementation

No.	Statement	1	2	3	4	5
17	Limited information affects access to PDM services					
18	Delays in fund disbursement affect livelihoods					
19	Political interference affects PDM effectiveness					
20	Some beneficiaries misuse PDM funds					
21	Monitoring and follow-up by officials is inadequate					

INTERVIEW GUIDE

(For Key Informants: PDM Coordinators, Parish Chiefs, Local Government Officials)

This interview guide is intended to collect in-depth information for an academic study on the effect of the Parish Development Model on livelihood improvement among vulnerable households in Mukono District. The discussion will focus on program implementation, effectiveness, and challenges. Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for academic purposes.

Interview Guide Questions

No.	Interview Question
1	What is your role in the implementation of the Parish Development Model?
2	How are vulnerable households identified and selected for PDM support?
3	In your view, how has PDM financial support affected household livelihoods in this parish/district?
4	What types of livelihood activities are mainly supported under PDM?
5	What challenges do beneficiaries face when accessing PDM financial services?
6	What challenges does the government face in implementing PDM effectively?
7	How adequate are monitoring and accountability mechanisms under PDM?
8	What measures are in place to ensure proper utilization of PDM funds?
9	What recommendations would you give to improve the effectiveness of PDM in livelihood improvement?