

**Saving and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCOs) Services and Income Poverty
Reduction Among Members
A Case of Gulu District, Uganda**

By

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With almost half of the world's six billion people living on less than two dollars a day, reduction of income poverty has grown to be the largest obstacle facing human society. As a result, the worldwide campaign against income poverty has gained traction, with a number of development actors proposing the application of diverse tools to reduce income poverty. Nevertheless, a growing consensus is being reached by numerous actors that the cooperative enterprise is among the rare types of institution that can address every aspect of poverty. This study therefore examined the contribution of SACCOs services to income poverty reduction among members. The specific objectives of the study were to determine; how regular small saving deposits accepted by SACCOs, how credit services provided by SACCOs, if advisory services provided by SACCOs and how training services provided by SACCOs contribute to reduced income poverty among members in Gulu District. The study used resource-based theory of entrepreneurship and neoclassical growth theory such as Harrod-Dommar and Robert Solow. The study employed a cross-section research design using both qualitative and quantitative methods (questionnaire, KIIs, document reviews) of data collection. Cluster and simple random sampling were used to select a sample of 150 SACCOs members from Acak ki Kuc and Ada pi Anyim SACCOs in Gulu District. The study used descriptive analysis, one sample t-test, paired t-test and multiple linear regression models. Results from the one sample t-test showed that members agreed that savings and credit services contribute to income poverty reduction among members. However, they disagreed on training and advisory services having a contribution to income poverty reduction among members. The findings also indicated a positive relationship between savings accepted by SACCOs and credit provided by SACCOs and income poverty reduction among members. The study shows there was no contribution of advisory and training services offered by SACCOs on income poverty reduction among members. The study concludes that saving and credit have a significant impact on income poverty reduction implying members used their savings and credit to invest in productive activities. The study recommends SACCOs to initiate other credit like school fees, insurance, house, land among others. Government should support SACCOs with IT infrastructures and train members how to use it. Members should be champions in the community to motivate those who have not joined the SACCOs to join. The study recommends use of quasi experimental design with a bigger scope and sample size.