Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Danida
Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative - NURI
2018-2022

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020

Prepared by NURI Coordination Function
Kampala, Uganda

February 2021

Summary of Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

Key results:

- *20% increase on average annual agricultural cash income of participating households*
- *Reduction in number of participating households reporting periods of food insecurity*
- *Increase in the number of people benefitting from supported WRM interventions*

Justification for support:

- *High levels of poverty in Northern Uganda, exacerbated by the influx of refugees*
- *Adverse effects of climate change on small-scale farmers who are dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The impact is exacerbated in Northern Uganda by the high level of poverty and the refugee influx.*
- *Support to both refugees and host communities will promote Uganda's progressive refugee policies, protect the asylum space and safeguard Uganda as a safe haven for refugees. The engagement thus, has strategic significance for Denmark.*
- *With many years of experience from Northern Uganda, including working with refugees and host communities, NURI is uniquely placed to promote enhanced resilience and equitable economic development, both through its own interventions and by sharing best practices and lessons learnt.*

File No.	2018-46856					
Country	Uganda					
Responsible Unit	2730 – Kampala					
Sector	31120, Agricultural development					
Partner	NURI Coordination Function (NURI CF)					
DKK mill.	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**Tot.**
Commitment	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	**325**
Projected ann. disb.	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	**325**
Duration	2018 – 2022					
Previous grants	DKK 150 million					
Finance Act code	06.32.01.12 Uganda					
Head of unit	Nicolaj A. Hejberg Petersen					
Desk officer	Victor Azza Vuzzi					
Financial officer	Asger Graae					

Relevant SDGs *[Maximum 5 – highlight with grey]*

No Poverty	No Hunger	Good Health, Wellbeing	Quality Education	Gender Equality	Clean Water, Sanitation
Affordable Clean Energy	Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth	Industry, Innovation, Infrast.	Reduced Inequalities	Sustainable Cities, Communities	Responsible Consumption & Production
Climate Action	Life below Water	Life on Land	Peace & Justice, strong Inst.	Partnerships for Goals	

Strategic objectives:

Enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities

Justification for choice of partner:

NURI CF has many years of experience from Northern Uganda. It is uniquely qualified to build on her achievements and share best practices and lessons. Implementing through NURI CF will reduce fiduciary risks and improve efficiency in project delivery like it did during the previous programme i.e. Recovery and Development in Northern Uganda

Summary:

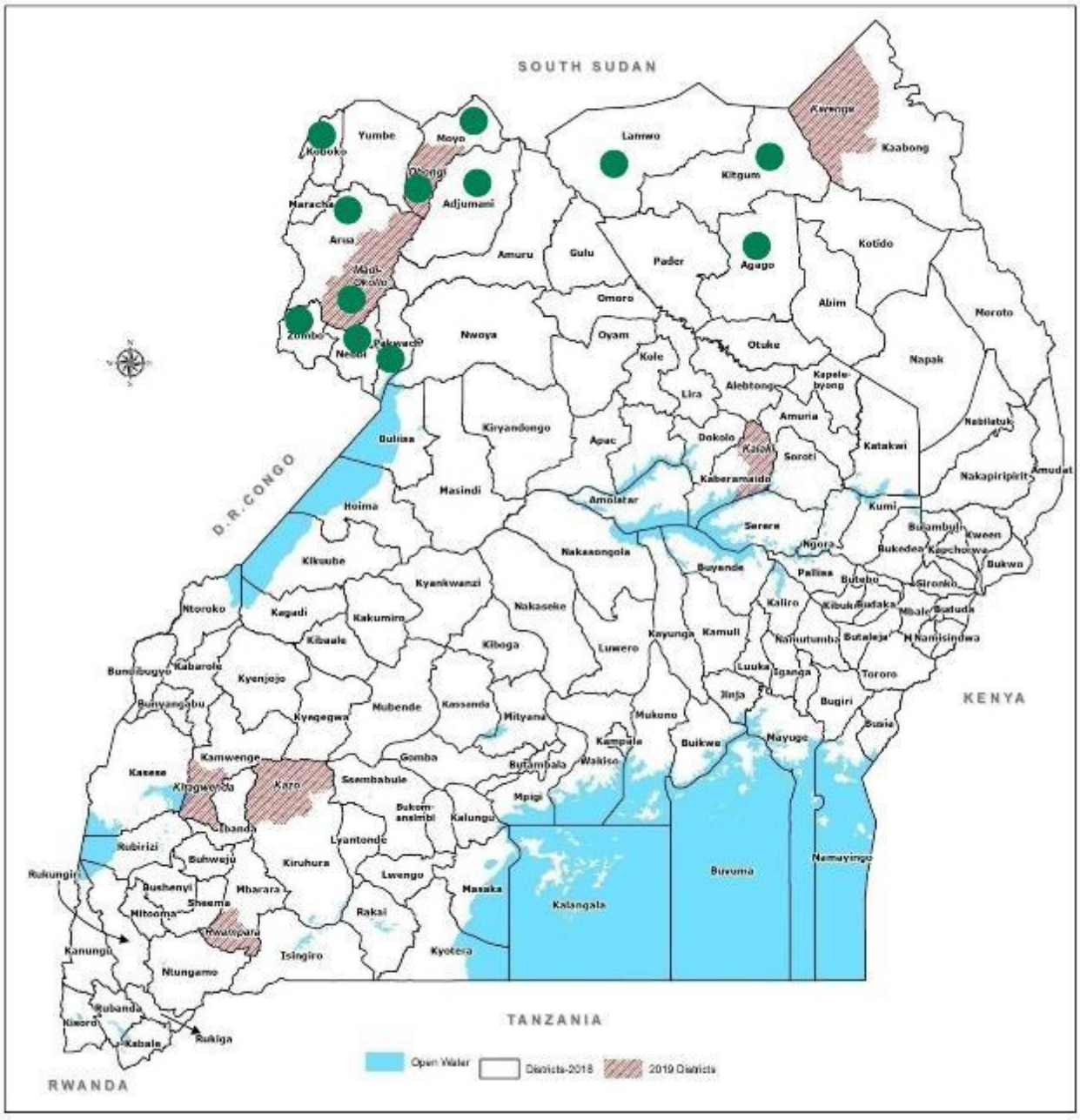
NURI will promote climate smart agriculture, agriculture-related rural infrastructure, and water resources management. It will also promote VSLA and SRHR and target refugees& host communities, women and youths to ensure equitable development and peaceful coexistence. The project will seek synergy with the other engagements under UPSIDE and coordinate with other interventions

Budget:

Output 1: *Increased agricultural output of small-scale farmers*	*116.5*
Output 2: *Agric. related rural infrastructure renovated / constructed*	*120.5*
Output 3: *Agric. related physical & natural water infrastructure constructed or made more resilient*	*50*
Coordination incl. TA and M&E	*24*
Contingency	*14*
Total	***325***

Map of Uganda Showing NURI Districts

(The names of the NURI districts are highlighted in green, new district, Terego not yet included)



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List of Acronyms

Abb.	Full text
aBi	Agricultural Business Initiative
AEO	Agriculture Extension Officers
AES	Agriculture Extension Supervisors
AFARD	Agency for Accelerated Regional Development
ASSP	Agriculture sector strategic plan
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CF	Coordination Function
CMC	Catchment Management Committee
CMP	Catchment Management Plan
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
Danida	Danish International Development Assistance
DAR	Development Assistance to Refugee Hosting Areas
DEC	District Executive Council
DFA	District Farmers Association
DINU	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda
DKK	Danish Kroner
DLG	District Local Government
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
DDEG	Discretion Development Equalisation Grant
DTPC	District Technical Planning Committee
DWRM	Directorate for Water Resource Management
FG	Farmer Group
FPO	Focal Point Officer
GoU	Government of Uganda
IMC	Implementation Monitoring Committee
IP	Implementing Partner
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NDP	National Development Plan
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PDP	Parish Development Plan

Abb.	Full text
PMP	Production and Marketing Plan
PRDP	Peace Recovery and Development Plan
PRELNOR	Project for the restoration of livelihoods in the Northern region
RALNUC	Restoration of Agricultural Livelihoods in Northern Uganda
RAU	Resilience Agricultural Unit
RBR	River bank restoration
RDE	Royal Danish Embassy
RDNUC	Recovery and Development in Northern Uganda
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
SWC	Soil and Water conservation
UGX	Ugandan Shillings
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNWMZ	Upper Nile Water Management Zone
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WRM	Water Resource Management

Executive Summary

The NURI Annual report for 2020 comes just in time for the Mid-term review of the programme, and as a result comes at the same time as reports on a number of surveys and studies. After two years of programme implementation, it is clear that NURI is a well-designed and effective programme. The scale of the programme can be seen in the fact that NURI CSA extension services reached 3,360, farmer groups across 13 districts, while 854 groups receiving VSLA and financial literacy training. 599 groups participated in Rural infrastructure activities and seven micro-catchment plans were prepared, with three at the early stages of project implementation.

The institutional and decision-making structures have allowed for an adaptive and resilient implementation model, innovations. Despite the serious challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lock-down and restrictions, NURI has delivered on all outputs. There have been some delays, but there is every indication that these will be caught up in 2021. Across the programme teams have been quick to adapt and find new ways of working, even going so far as to support other organisations during the difficult period of lock-down.

During 2020 the concept of Resilience Design has grown at the heart of the programme and has generated interest and enthusiasm across and beyond NURI. RI implementing partner DRC has brought value to NURI implementation with their expertise in this area, and local government and implementing partners across the programme, have had the benefit of world-class and ground breaking training in Resilience Design. At all levels of the programme, from that of the Embassy to staff in the field and beneficiaries, there has been enthusiastic learning and willingness to innovate and take risks.

In the area of CSA, the increasing integration of VSLA activities with production planning is an area of innovation, that is expected to boost the impact of the programme. Working with farmer groups, and individual group members to plan production along with savings and loans to finance growth and procurement of inputs is an ongoing process, which has created a high level of synergy between the two main arms of CSA activities.

COVID-19 challenges encouraged a new training model for CSA staff which has proved to be effective, efficient and highly valued by participants. Working with NARO and the various zonal research institutes, in a flexible and informal model, based on smaller, hands-on and needs based trainings CSA staff have had the opportunity to build their capacity in a number of areas. At the same time there has been increased use of internal resources, with NURI extensionists supporting each other in trainings, and staff with particular skills having the opportunity to train and support colleagues. This, along with a number of internal promotions and an increasingly well-managed staff annual appraisal model have led to a highly motivated team. Leadership training has given an extra boost to the management team and was extended to middle management and beyond, where potential was identified.

Identifying a sustainable model for supporting Animal Traction has been an on-going challenge for NURI CSA, and in 2020, progress was finally made, with a model for AT loans developed in partnership with Talanta Finace and aBi. Roll-out of the pilot will take place in 2021, but initial indications are promising.

Despite significant challenges, 2020 was marked by high levels of activity and achievement throughout the NURI programme.

1.0 Introduction

NURI (Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative) is one of eight development engagements under the Denmark-Uganda Country Programme 2018–2022. Overall, the County Programme aims to contribute to poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promoting democracy, good governance and human rights, and support Uganda's stabilising role in the region.

The Country Program is divided into two Thematic Objectives; UPSIDE (Uganda Programme for Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy) and UPGRADE (Uganda Programme for Governance, Rights, Accountability and Democracy)

NURI is the largest of the three Development Engagements under UPSIDE and contributes to the objective of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The total Danish contribution to NURI is DKK 325 million over the five-year period from 2018-2022, with one output area having started in mid-2018, and the other two at the start of 2019. DKK 35 million of the budget-frame derives from the Danish Climate Change Envelope (CCE).

The objective of NURI at outcome level is *enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and refugee-hosting communities*. NURI pursues this objective by supporting activities in climate smart agriculture (CSA), rural infrastructure (RI), and water resources management (WRM). Activities in support of agriculture focus on improving farmers knowledge on climate-smart production methods, as well as their understanding of, and ability to engage with, markets and services. Support to rural infrastructure and water resource management are in those areas that contribute to agriculture sector outcomes, particularly access to markets and improving water resource management within the landscape. Water Resource Management activities address selected micro-catchments within the Ministry of Water and Environments wider plans for Northern Ugandan watersheds.

In order to support Uganda's progressive refugee policy and the nexus between development and humanitarian action, refugees and their host communities are among the beneficiaries in those NURI implementing districts hosting refugee settlements.

Geographically the programme covers 13 districts in the West Nile and Acholi Sub Regions of Northern Uganda. The districts are Agago, Kitgum and Lamwo in Acholi sub-region and Arua, Madi-Okollo, newly created Terego district, Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, in South West-Nile, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani and Koboko in North West Nile. The selected settlements are Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Madi-Okollo District, Imvepi in Arua, Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi, Maaji 1,2 and 3 and Mungla 1 and 2 settlements in Adjumani, and Palabek Refugee Settlement in Lamwo District.

The report covers implementation of NURI activities from January 1st to December 31st 2020 and includes all activities achieved by NURI implementing partners, Resilience Agricultural Units, DLGs and Coordination Function.

2.0 Developments in the Programme Area

Uganda had its first confirmed case of COVID-19 in March 2020. This led to an immediate lockdown of the country, resulting in significant changes in the implementation methodology of both humanitarian and development programmes by all involved actors. By the end of the reporting period, Uganda was at phase 4 of the pandemic according to the Ministry of Health, with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 in nearly all districts with occasional and emerging hotspots in urban, peri-urban and boarder points. By late December 2020, the country registered 31,384 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 10,549 recoveries and a total of 238 deaths.

The programme area was largely peaceful during the year. A few cases of conflicts between the host communities and refugees in Rhino camp, Palorinya and Bidi-Bidi were seen, as well as localized cases of land-conflict, but not at a scale that significantly impacted implementation.

At the start of the NURI programme, the population living below the poverty line had reduced from 44% in 2013 to 33% in 2018, according to MoFPED figures. However, figures are likely to rise as the pandemic crippled economic activities in the first half of 2020. Lockdown measures, including a ban on public transport, suspension of weekly/monthly public markets and other small-scale business, negatively impacted the livelihoods of small-scale farmers across the country. During the 2020/2021 budget speech, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic development confirmed that the pandemic has adversely impacted the economy with many Ugandans registering declining household incomes, including loss of jobs and food insecurity.

By the end of the reporting period, the Northern region was hosting 819,332 refugees mainly from South Sudan; 764,851 in West-Nile and 54,481 in Acholi (statistics provided by UNHCR). This implies that 56.8% of Uganda's total refugee population is settled in the region. Refugee response activities were overseen by OPM and coordinated through CRRF. Other key development programmes noted in the region include DRDIP, NUSAF3, PRELNOR, DINU.

Terego District was newly gazetted in 2020 and did not affect the implementation of NURI activities as activities in the District were already planned at sub-counties level, while the sub-counties were still part of Arua District. Overall collaboration and partnerships with both the local governments and other development actors was smooth and effective for implementation of NURI activities in the region throughout the year.

2.1 Context in West-Nile

Weather

Rainfall in West-Nile was near to normal during the year, starting dry and windy with some rainfall towards the end of March, encouraging early planting. In the second quarter, April was dry and hot with rains starting in May. Rains intensified during the third and fourth quarter. Flooding was registered along

the banks of the River Nile while some crops including sesame, beans and maize were negatively affected by ongoing rainfall during harvest time. For RI activities, the weather disrupted some works on community access roads, leading to delays in completion of some CAR projects.

Economic activities

The year started well with trade in agricultural produce running smoothly across the districts. The introduction of COVID-19 restrictions including lockdown greatly affected economic activities across the region. Weekly and monthly markets, that usually attracted traders from Kampala, Mbale, Soroti, Gulu and Lira were stopped, transportation of produce to urban centres became difficult and high prices were experienced for all strategic crops. Farmers who usually take produce to market across the boarders to South Sudan and Congo were unable to do so.

COVID-19 restrictions affected demand and supply of both food and non-food items in the markets, with sharp escalation in some food prices; beans increased from 4,000 to 6,000 UGX/kg, salt from 1,000 to 5,000 UGX/kg. Other crops like cassava, maize, groundnuts and sesame also registered increase in prices. In general, farmer households (refugees and nationals) that did not produce sufficient food crops to meet their consumption faced higher costs.

Coordination and collaboration

NURI teams worked in close collaboration with the DLG, LLG and development partners in the region to overcome challenges. The assessment and selection of new national and refugee farmers groups required the involvement of DLG, LLG and other stakeholders to avoid duplication and building on good relations, this exercise was successfully implemented with the necessary support from all stakeholders. The district production and engineering departments played a key role by providing technical supervision and advise on engagement with communities and groups.

Key development agencies operating in the livelihoods sector include ZOA, Save the children, LWF, World Vision, Caritas, CEFORD, NRC, SNV, IRC, CREAM, DRC Livelihood among others. Notable UN and donor agencies working with refugees and nationals included UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, Enabel and DFID-DINU.

Refugee response

According to UNHCR reports, by end of June, a total of 529,732 registered refugees accounting for 37.2% of total refugee population in Uganda had settled in the districts of West Nile: Adjumani (15.1%), Arua/Madi-okollo/Terego (13.1%), Koboko (0.4%) and Obongi (8.6%).

Development activities were suspended for 1 month when the lock down was announced and only lifesaving activities operated. As activities resumed, relevant SOPs were implemented to avoid spread of CVID-19.

The relationship between the refugees and host communities continued to be good even during the lock down. This was evident in the hosting communities providing land for refugees to cultivate, mutual

understanding within the mixed groups, sharing of social spaces and service centres like schools, health centres and trading places.

Security

The region was peaceful during the reporting period. The lockdown and transport restriction caused problems for many households. Border crossings were restricted, however there was some refugee movement across the porous borders.

In Zombo, there was an influx of about 4,000 refugees from DRC as a result of tribal conflicts. The refugees settled in some forested parts of the districts as they waited for proper reception and settling down.

2.2 Context in Acholi sub-region

Weather

In Acholi sub-region, the rainfall during the period was normal, favouring production activities in most sub-counties. The first quarter which is normally characterised as dry and hot received some rainfall towards the end of January and continued to Mid-March. This encouraged early land preparation and planting of vegetables in lowland areas. During the second quarter, there was stable rainfall, somewhat higher than normal, and uniformly distributed across the districts. Flash floods were experienced in one sub-county in Kitgum and three in Agago, while dry spells were experienced in four sub-counties in Agago and three in Kitgum. The weather generally supported activities like land opening and sowing of crops including sunflower, soybeans and sesame. Heavy downpours damaged roads and rendered some villages inaccessible. Hailstorms were reported in the sub counties of Omiya Pacwa and Omot which destroyed over 15 acres of soybeans for NURI groups.

For RI, the second quarter was characterised by heavy rains that favoured the excavation of bio-swales and pitting holes for transplanting tree seedlings. However, there was also erosion of road works caused by flooding to the extent that some construction work was temporarily suspended.

Economic activities

As in West Nile, a good start to the year was followed by sever disruption of markets and process caused by restrictions. The first half of the year recorded declines in economic activities across the districts and boarder due to the lock down and institutionalisation of SOPs to control spread of COVID-19. However, in the last quarter of the year with more sectors of the economy opened, trading activities picked up although the scale could not be compared to the previous year.

Coordination and collaboration

NURI worked in close collaboration with DLG, LLG and development partners on the assessment and selection of farmer groups included collaboration to avoid overlaps. Some key development programmes

operating in the region in the livelihood sector include Operation Wealth creation, PRELNOR, NUSAF3, DYNAMIC by GOAL, World Vision, ADRA, AVSI and LWF.

Refugee response

Lamwo district continued to host refugees from South Sudan with a total population reported at 53,806 persons according to UNHCR. OPM and UNHCR continued to play a key role in managing and coordinating development interventions to support the refugees. During the lock down, borders were closed and no new entries officially registered between March to June 2020.

Insecurity and land issues

Threats from cattle rustlers persist in sub counties bordering Karamoja region. Insecurity and the need to secure livestock took time away from productive activities in some areas. In Agago, one death and two injuries were reported in Lira-Kato while in Kitgum four deaths occurred during the raids with a significant number of livestock lost.

Land wrangles were reported in Kitgum in the sub-counties of Mucwini and Omiya Nyima during which three lives were lost. In Lamwo, Padibe East sub-county over 100 homesteads were set on fire and families displaced. In Kitgum, six farmer groups lost their demo fields due to the clashes. In Palabek settlement, a clash between two communities broke out in the settlement and escalated to the host community resulting in the death of one refugee. Some roads and food forest sites were affected by land disputes to the extent that it was necessary to compromise on the width of some CARs. The units and DRC worked in close collaboration with the district and sub-county authorities to resolve the situation.

3.0 Implementation of Work plan and Budget

This annual report covers the implementation period January to December 2020, and includes the three outputs of the programme; Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource management. Details on activity implementation is reported in this section of the report. A summary of activity implementation against indicators is included as Annex 7.

Corona virus pandemic and coping mechanisms

The introduction of the lockdown in March affected planned NURI activities, leading to the suspension of most field activities for a period of between two to four weeks. For CSA, extension staff were sent on leave for two weeks, and signing of contracts with VSLA community-based trainers was suspended. NURI CF and CSA Unit management, in close collaboration with local governments and development partners, collaborated to find new ways to work within the restrictions. Implementing unit managers were co-opted onto District COVID task forces. A range of measures and SOPs were agreed and introduced to allow work to restart. DRC developed a business continuity plan which allowed most activities to continue.

Some of the measures agreed with COVID task forces included:

- Farmer groups divided into smaller groups for CSA trainings
- Community groups for public works divided in smaller units of 5-10 members
- Use of group leaders as a trainer of trainees' model
- Increased focus on radio as a channel for extension messages
- Following recommended SOPs in terms of hygiene and social distancing.

3.1 Output 1: Climate Smart Agriculture

The objective of this intervention is to improve the knowledge and skills of farmer households and refugees in climate smart agricultural practices which will enable them to increase and sustain their production. The reporting period covers the first and second season rains, called season A and B in NURI plans. Major activities under this output in the reporting period included:

- Farmer groups identified and trained in climate smart agriculture
- Farmers groups trained in VSLA practices
- Capacity building of IP and RAU staff
- Capacity building of DLG production unit
- Farmer groups sensitized on SRHR and GBV issues

3.1.1 Farmer Groups Identified and Trained in Climate Smart Agriculture

Under this intervention, the following activities were conducted by the implementing partners and RAU units:

1. Assessment and selection of farmer groups for support
2. Selection of strategic crops by implementing districts
3. Enterprise selection by farmer groups
4. Preparation of production and marketing plans by new national and mixed farmer groups
5. CSA training and establishment of demonstration plots
6. Support of farmer groups in collective marketing
7. Radio talk shows

Assessment and selection of farmer groups for support

Selection of farmer groups starting in 2020 was carried out. Following sensitization of sub-county leaders, interested groups were assessed following agreed criteria. In the refugee settlements, OPM, RWC 3 and 1, and LC1 were sensitized and OPM allocated zones of operation.

Assessment criteria included; groups record keeping status, leadership structure, production as a group and support received from other programmes/partners. For the refugee groups in the settlements, the factors considered included having leadership structure in place, having minimal or no support from other development partners and willingness to work in groups. A number of 2019 refugee groups that had dissolved during the year were replaced with guidance from the settlement leadership and the extension team.

The exercise was disrupted by COVID-19 lockdown period leading to a change in strategies. After the resumption of activities local community leaders were engaged by phone, desk verification of submitted lists was carried out, with on-phone confirmation from the leaders and in some cases the extension staff verified from a few individual group members. The beneficiaries that were selected in 2019 had already spread word around the communities, so awareness was high and response was overwhelming. Lower local government and settlement leaders were supportive.

In North West-Nile, staff from ARUDIFA supported PICOT, Koboko, in CSA start-up activities. In Moyo/Obongi, the total number of mixed refugee groups was not achieved because of the low population of host communities. The achievement was 113 out of 120 mixed refugee groups. The number of groups selected by district and target group category is summarised in the table below:

Table 3.1.1.0 Number of farmer groups selected for support under CSA in 2020

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obongi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
New national groups	165	195	75	75	45	300	300	105	105	0	**1,365**
Mixed groups	109	0	0	0	0	120	113	0	34	0	**355**

Women refugee gps	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	**38**
Total	**349**	**195**	**75**	**75**	**45**	**420**	**413**	**105**	**170**	**0**	**1,758**

In Agago District all groups were selected in 2019.

Selection of strategic crops by implementing districts

To promote production and marketing, NURI follows a strategic crop approach with national farmer groups and a field crop model with mixed refugee groups. North West Nile and Koboko started working with new national farmer groups in 2020 and therefore had to go through the Strategic Crop selection process. South West Nile and Acholi sub-region completed their selection exercises with the districts in 2019.

A consultation meeting was organised for all relevant stakeholders in the districts of Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani and Koboko. A wish-list was generated and each crop was assessed based on factors like suitability to climate conditions, marketability, crop resistance to pests and diseases, crop yield potential and labour requirements. Stakeholders were DLG production department, development partners and farmer group representatives. The crops selected are as follows:

Table 3.1.1.1 Strategic crops selected per district of intervention

Districts	Selected Crops
Adjumani	Maize, Soybean, Sesame
Moyo	Cassava, G/nuts, Maize, Soybean, Sunflower
Obongi	Cassava, Maize, Sesame
Koboko	Beans, Groundnuts, Cassava, Maize

Enterprise selection by farmer groups

Enterprise selection by new national farmer groups

Following selection of strategic crops at the district level, enterprise selection exercises were organised for all the new national farmer group in North West-Nile while in the other regions, the groups selected in 2020 chose from the strategic crops agreed in 2019. Farmer groups were taken through a profitability analysis of the selected enterprises prior to selection. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, contact with farmer groups was limited and therefore the exercise was completed with smaller numbers of group leaders and sometimes on radio/telephones.

In West-Nile sesame, soybeans and beans dominated farmers choice of enterprise in 2020 while in Acholi sub-region it is soybeans and sesame. Other enterprises were district specific like potatoes, cassava and

onions in Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo and groundnuts in Moyo. The groups that started in 2019 continued with their selected enterprises, although a few had expressed interest to change their choices. Groups were advised to stick to their choices as long they still met the criteria for their selection.

Enterprise selection by refugee groups

For the refugee groups, enterprise selection was done at group and individual level where each individual was to select 1 food/field crop, 3 vegetables and 3 fruit trees from a pre-agreed list. The refugee households preferred cassava, sweet potatoes and cow peas for field crops, quick-maturing vegetables like sukumawiki, greenpepper, okra, amaranthas and fast-growing fruit seedlings like papaya and passion fruits.

Refugee groups are supported for two seasons per year and are taken through enterprise selection process every season. The groups that started in 2019 could select new enterprises from within the list in the NURI extension manuals.

Preparation of Production and Marketing Plans for national farmer groups

As part of the NURI extension model, farmer groups prepare production and marketing plans (PMP) which are reviewed in subsequent years to gauge progress towards achievement of farmer group's own production goals. PMP is prepared by groups in the new national and mixed group category. As NURI was in the second year of implementation by the time of reporting, there were two sets of farmer groups (2019 and 2020) that were being monitored. A review of plans by 2019 groups was done while new plans were made for groups that started in 2020.

Under the COVID-19 restrictions AEOs carried out the PMP exercise by reaching out to individual farmer group members as well as to members gathered in small groups. The same approach was adopted for collecting individual planning data for the new farmer groups selected in 2020. This modality of work was effective, but lead to delays due to the extra time required. In North West Nile, the delay led to a decision to make 2020 the baseline year for PMP.

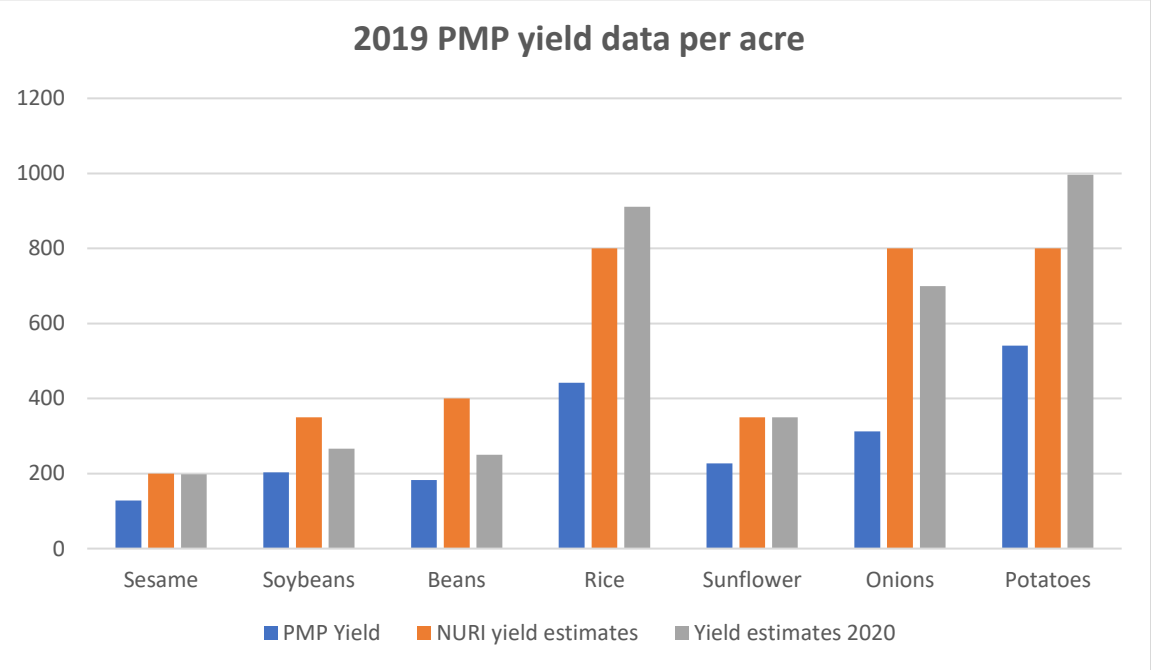
In developing new plans, the groups generated baseline data including projected number of producers, projected acreage, yield and pricing for 2020, as well as setting three-year goals for new national groups and one-year for mixed groups. The preparation process included pre-test sessions with selected farmer groups after which the process was rolled out to all the new national groups. Collection of baseline data and projections for 2020 was completed and captured in the database. By the end of the reporting period, collection of actual production data was on going for all the groups. Under reviews, the groups that started in 2019 assessed how much they were able to achieve compared to their set targets which, in turn, informed 2020 target setting.

Analysis of production results for 2019 from 825 new national farmer groups indicates that the majority of farmers failed to meet their production and marketing targets for the year. Achievement of production targets depends on land access, yield and price of the produce at marketing. Land access between the two regions South West Nile and Acholi sub region varied; in South West Nile, farmer groups could access

on average 0.5 acres except for Pakwach and some parts of Arua/Madi-Okollo while it was 1 acre in Acholi. In total, land planned for production of strategic crops in South West Nile in 2019 was 4,832 acres and the farmer groups achieved 7,427 acres. In Acholi it was 11,831 acres planned and the groups achieved 11,648. The total acreage of land planned for 2020 production doubled for both regions.

In terms of yields, all the groups achieved below the estimated yield target for farmer fields based on NURI CSA targets. This affected marketing and income data for the farmer households. Yields across the regions and strategic crop types varied, (details in the district specific reports) however overall, yields were low.

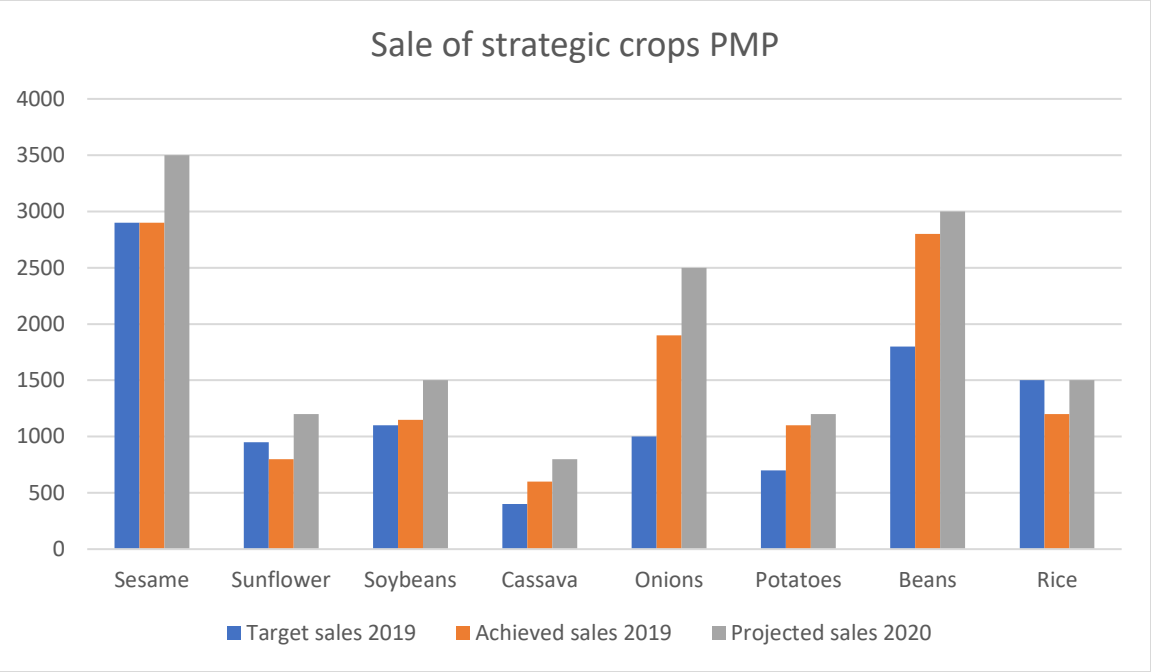
Figure 3.1.1.2 PMP yield achievement for 2019 groups



PMP Marketing achievement for 2019

The commodity prices for the strategic crops were generally above set targets with the exception of rice and sunflower. The farmer groups remarked that although, prices of commodities kept fluctuating throughout the reporting period, they were able to achieve above their set targets. Although price targets were met, low yields resulted in below target income. Figure 4.1.1.2 below provides price averages per kilo for the strategic crops cultivated in 2019 compared to price projections for 2020.

Figure 3.1.1.3 PMP price achievement for 2019 and 2020 projection



The above results are attributed to inadequate adoption of good agronomic practices, use of poor-quality seeds, excessive rain during crop growth and during harvest, causing post-harvest losses and poor-quality produce and resultant low prices. Although shortfalls were experienced in achievement of targets, the farmer groups were mobilised and encouraged to procure seeds for their individual fields. The seeds harvested from the demo fields were generally insufficient to meet the production targets for 2020. In the Acholi sub-region, farmers were able to procure sunflower (Hysun and Panna 7057), soybeans and sesame from Mukwano, Alito and Equator seeds. Some groups topped up their targets with local or farm-saved seeds.

By the time of reporting, actual data for 2020 production was not yet captured as marketing was not yet completed by the farmer groups. A comparison of the two years of engagement in the programme was therefore not possible, this will come in the next programme report. Also, data for groups that started in 2020 is still under completion.

Table 3.1.1.4 Production and Marketing Plans for 2019 Farmer groups Acholi Subregion

Strategic crop	No. Producers		Acres		Production (kgs)		Sales in Kgs		Price per kg		Income	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Sesame	3,921	3,934	6,614	6,486	1,501,452	835,212	1,134,316	407,610	3400	2600	3,856,674,400	1,059,786,000
Sunflower	2,695	2,274	3,100	3,045	1,043,065	692,280	899,067	569,019	950	800	854,113,650	455,215,200
Soybeans	2,432	1,714	1,883	1,539	514,146	312,828	414,908	240,911	1100	1100	456,398,800	265,002,100
Cassava	287	361	234	301	870,336	167,053	425,385	38,541	400	400	170,154,000	15,416,400

Table 3.1.1.5 Production and Marketing Plans for 2019 Farmer groups South West Nile

Strategic crop	No. Producers		Acres		Production (kgs)		Sales in kgs		Price per kg		Income	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Sesame	1,919	2,928	1,584	2,474	232,031	346,150	161,818	224,068	2,400	3,200	388,363,200	717,017,600
Onions	348	270	108	69	36,787	21,498	32,292	20,165	1,000	1,900	32,292,000	38,313,500
Soybeans	1,062	903	288	233	63,606	39,344	40,986	18,502	1,200	1,500	49,183,200	27,753,000
Beans	3,653	4,521	1,545	1,761	340,638	323,989	187,286	139,124	1,800	2,800	337,114,800	389,547,200
Potatoes	770	979	173	229	148,275	124,026	93,370	71,175	700	1,100	65,359,000	78,292,500
Cassava	1,045	2,732	1,092	2,627	2,141,223	4,243,794	887,886	1,892,076	400	600	355,154,400	1,135,245,600
Rice	55	46	42	34	29,110	15,050	24,850	8,330	1,500	1,200	37,275,000	9,996,000

Training in CSA practices

During the reporting period, a total of 3,362 farmer groups across the 13 districts of implementation were trained and supported in CSA technologies and practices following 10 training sessions in the CSA training manual. Training was conducted by AEOs with support from AES. The training is synchronized with the practical field activities to facilitate learning and encourage adoption. The 10 sessions are highlighted below:

1. Setting the ground/farmer institutional development
2. Climate, climate change and its impact on Agriculture and food security
3. Climate smart agriculture technologies/practices available
4. Introduction to specific crop enterprises for the group
5. Seeds, seed bed preparation, planting, intercropping and weeding
6. Major field pests and diseases of the given crops and their control
7. Soil fertility and water management
8. Post-harvest Handling
9. Business skills
10. Marketing

All the categories of groups supported under the NURI programme were trained. The modality was different for the old national groups who were trained on a case-by-case basis, with focus more on marketing and cost-shared projects. The new nationals selected in 2019 continued into their second year of training while those selected in 2020 completed their first year. The total number of groups trained as indicated above is disaggregated as 825-new nationals continuing from 2019, 1,365-new nationals selected in 2020, 755-old nationals, 402-mixed groups and 75 refugee women groups.

All across the programme, training attendance was impacted by COVID-19 leading to lower-than-normal attendance. The training was delivered using grain sack charts and demo plots. The training was in some cases delivered to farmers through Training of Trainers' model (TOT) in mini groups of 5-6 people due to COVID-19 restrictions. The TOTs would then cascade the training to other group members. The AEOs during household visits normally verified delivery of information to other members and did backstopping.

Attendance of training by female participants was higher (63%) than for males (37%) and it is attributed to involvement of women at all stages of production. The same observation was noted for the mixed groups. Comparing attendance of the different sessions, it was noted that higher number of participants was registered for sessions 4, 5 and 6. The table below provides the breakdown per district:

Table 3.1.1.6 Number of farmer groups trained in CSA practices 2020

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obongi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
New national groups-2019	165	0	75	75	60	0	0	105	105	240	**825**
New national groups 2020	165	195	75	75	45	300	300	105	105	0	**1,365**
Old national groups	200	0	80	80	50	0	0	105	100	135	**755**
Mixed groups	109	0	0	0	0	120	113	0	60	0	**402**
Women refugee groups	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**75**
Total	**714**	**195**	**230**	**230**	**155**	**420**	**413**	**315**	**310**	**375**	**3,362**

Individual farmer household visits

After delivering CSA trainings at group level in the first year of the program, in the subsequent years the transfer of knowledge and skills are cascaded to households. For continuing farmer groups, household visits by extension officers are encouraged with the aim of supporting farmer group members to review their PMPs, CSA backstopping, advisory in other enterprises diversified, SRHR integration and input acquisition linkages Extension officers planned household visit based on time available, season and issues arising. The achievement of target was 67% due to lockdown when staff were sent on leave up to end of April 2020. From the household visits, it was observed that farmers are adopting CSA practices including line planting, intercropping, creating drainage among others. Major production challenges identified during visits include flooding of some fields, pests and disease and access to improved seeds.

Establishment of Demonstration plots

CSA training in NURI is delivered through a demo-plot approach. Farmer groups, with support from extension staff, identify suitable sites which are prepared for training and demonstration of CSA practices. The factors considered in plot selection are accessibility for ease of observation by both group and non-group members, fertility of the soil and vulnerability to damage by stray animals. Demo establishment for all the farmer groups was done in the second and third quarter of the year. Monitoring was throughout the reporting period, including post-harvest handling activities. A total of 2,190 1-acre demo fields for the selected strategic crops were established for new national farmer groups that started in 2019 and 2020 in the implementation districts.

In the refugee settlement, the mixed groups accessed land from the national members in their groups. In some cases, accessing an acre for a demo plots was difficult, so in most cases the plots were sub-divided and scattered across the settlement. Many groups reported having hired land for demo planting.

Demo yield monitoring

Monitoring by extension staff indicated that yields for sesame, beans, soybeans, maize, onions, potatoes and sunflower were generally lower than estimates. It was only groundnuts in North West Nile that achieved both CSA and districts estimates. This is attributed to natural factors of weather, some pests and diseases.

Figure 1 Danish Ambassador visits FG demo field in Arua

Old Farmer Groups' projects

At the start of NURI implementation, promising farmer groups from the predecessor RDNUC program were selected for supported under NURI. Emphasis is put on CSA elements like marketing, value addition and post-harvest handling of the enterprises they were engaged in under RDNUC. The groups identified simple activities called "projects" to be supported. Because these groups were not at the same level, they were classified into 3 tiers:

- Tier 1: *Groups engaged in substantial marketing activities building on earlier support.*
- Tier 2: *Functional groups, doing at least some level of bulking and other activities together.*

- Tier 3: *Groups which have not progressed substantially since the end of support*

The groups selected projects within the tiers to be implemented in 2020 after approval from NURI Coordination Function. Co-funding was agreed at 50%, with some of the contribution made in-kind. The projects selected were tarpaulins, mini produce stores, big produce stores, improved seeds, grinding mills, apiary, cassava chipers and tree seedlings.

Groups open bank accounts to deposit funds and by the end of the year, 89% of groups in Acholi sub-region and 92% in South West Nile had the funds needed for cost. COVID-19 restrictions delayed the fund-raising process as farmer groups were not meeting regularly.

Implementation of projects started towards the end of the third quarter: tarpaulins, tree seedlings, improved seeds and a few stores were completed by the end of the reporting period, while apiary, grinding mills, cassava chipping machinery were in process of procurement. Some stores are undergoing construction currently and tarpaulins are largely delivered.

Farmer open days

In the Acholi sub region, Farmer Open Days for 2019 production cycle were conducted in all the NURI sub-counties in the first quarter of 2020. The activities were completed before the COVID-19 lock down. All groups participated and key stakeholders from the LLG & DLG together with NURI staff attended. Awards were presented to best performing groups during the event. Groups prepared exhibitions to demonstrate their learning and achievements. Groups that received the cash prizes were encouraged to put the money into group production and marketing activities.

Open days for 2020 could not be conducted due to the COVID 19 restrictions and will be planned in 2021, once restrictions on public gatherings are lifted.

Support of farmer groups in collective marketing

The objective of this activity is to enable farmer groups supported under the programme to market their strategic crops at better prices. The major activities accomplished during the year were;

1. selection and training of marketing committees
2. market information collection and dissemination to farmer groups
3. linking farmer groups to buyers and inputs supply
4. bulking and collective marketing of produce

During the reporting period, collective marketing activities were implementing in South West Nile and Acholi sub region where Marketing coordinators support collective marketing and provide relevant market information. North West Nile had started activities but training of staff on marketing has not yet been carried out. In West Nile where there are frequent and varied markets, the Market Coordinators are supported by enumerators in collecting price data. Other activities included weekly collection of price lists

and participation in radio talk shows on marketing.

A review of the roles and responsibilities of the marketing staff was carried out towards the end of the period, and changes to the methodology for providing marketing support is planned.

Selection and training of Marketing Committees

Production and marketing committees were formed for each of the new national farmer groups selected in 2020 and while those started in 2019 continued. The AEOs supported groups in selection and formulation of the committees. These committees hold the responsibility of mobilizing the groups for marketing, record keeping and providing marketing information.

Unlike in the training sessions, where women dominate, there were more males in the marketing committees compared to females. The groups reported that one of the key roles that the committee members play is looking for produce markets, a role which many women find difficult because of cultural norms and the nature of their domestic duties.

Market information collection and dissemination to farmer groups

The farmer groups were helped to monitor price trends for the strategic crops through weekly or monthly dissemination of price lists. The Marketing Coordinators worked with selected enumerators, the extension officers and marketing committees. The price lists were displayed on public notice boards within the communities, sent through SMS to farmers/leaders' phones and sometimes aired during radio talk shows. Constant price fluctuations undermine the value of regular price data.

In South West Nile as seen from figure 4.1.6 below, price increase was most noted in Q2 for commodities like beans, sesame, soybeans and maize. This was attributed to the effect of the first lockdown where public markets were close. In the subsequent months however, no significant increase was observed to the extent that the expectation for price rises due to the festive season failed to materialize. This greatly affected marketing activities as most farmers marketed their produce individually.

In Acholi sub region as seen from figure 4.1.7, produce prices in Q2 was moderate however for most of the month's prices stayed more or less stagnant. A sharp fall was registered for Soybean in the months of July and its attributed to surplus production. As an enterprise, soybean was being newly promoted in the districts of implementation. Both farmer groups supported by the programme and those without took up its production on a fairly large scale in 2019. There was large supply of soybean grains in the market leading to fall in price. For the rest of the strategic crops, no major increases were observed during the year. Prices basically stayed flat during most parts of the reporting period with insignificant rise towards the festive season.

Figure 3.1.1.7 Produce price trends for South West Nile in 2020

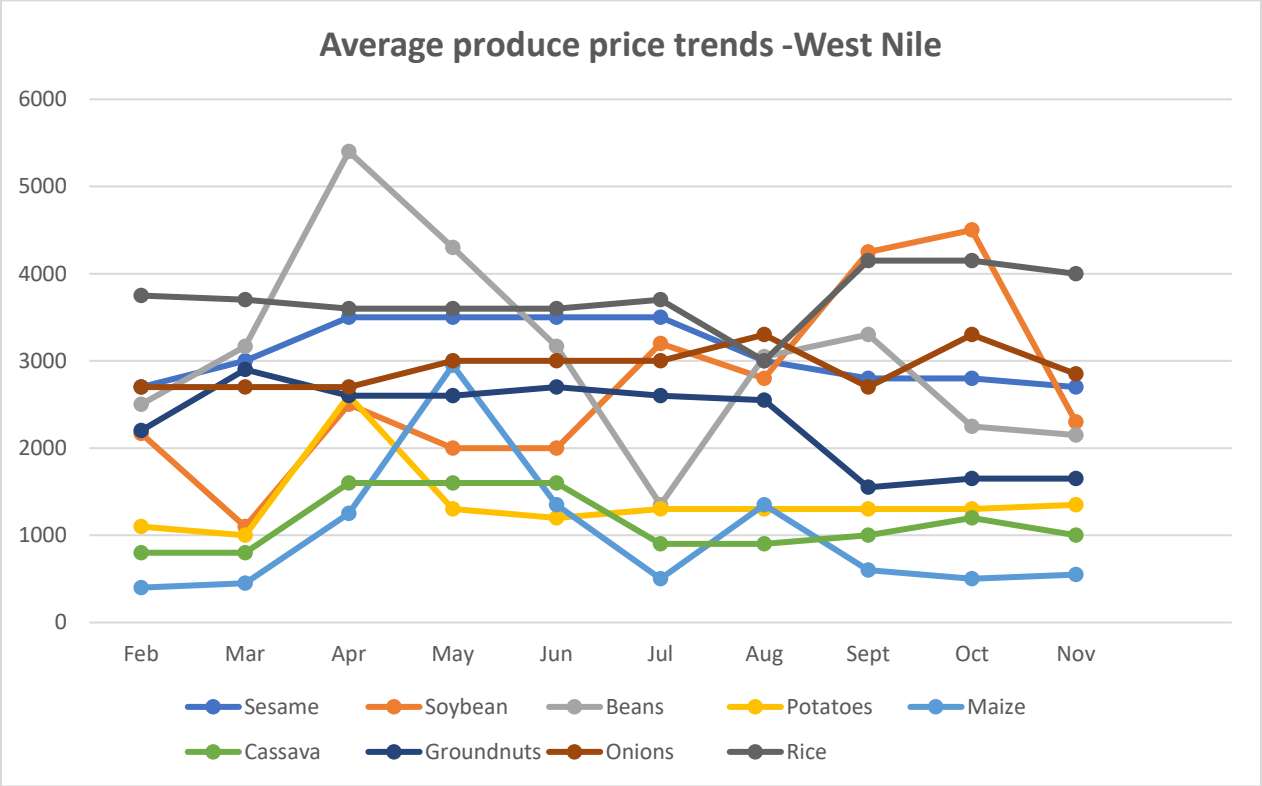
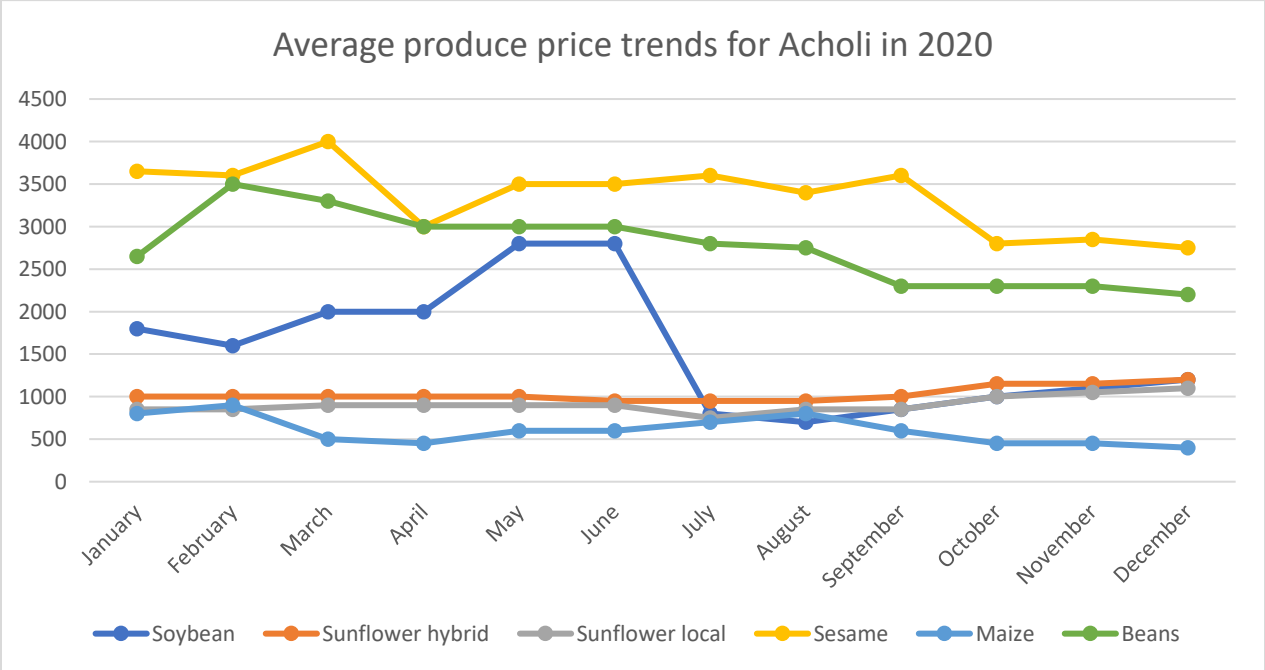


Figure 3.1.1.8 Produce price trends for Acholi sub region



Linkage of farmer groups to buyers and inputs suppliers

In order to link farmer groups to commodity buyers and producers of inputs, profiling of major players in the value chain of NURI strategic crops was done. In the Acholi sub-region, they were; Mukwano group of companies, Ngetta Tropical holdings, UOSPA, Mt. Meru for sunflower, Agago Dit maize millers, Kalongo investment, Jolah Company limited, Arise and shine maize millers, Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADCo), Erymaes enterprises and Agri Exim limited.

In West-Nile, they were; GADCo, OLAM Uganda, KAWA, Nile Agro Limited, Global international, GADIC, Dei Cooperative, Lira Rice Association. In Nebbi, WFP and large hotels bought bulked produce from farmers. The marketing coordinators gather information and keep communications with the various Commodity buyers, acting as a link between farmers and potential buyer. These meetings and linkages have helped to connect progressive farmers to reliable input sources and provided market opportunities for bulked produce. On the other hand, agro-input dealers in districts like Agago, Lamwo and some parts of West-Nile are undeveloped and unresponsive despite efforts from NURI to engage them.

Bulking/collective marketing of produce

NURI famer group members are encouraged to bulk and store their produce in order to strengthen their negotiation position with buyers and take advantage of price fluctuations. Crops most commonly bulked in West Nile were sesame, beans, potatoes and onions while in the Acholi sub-region it was sunflower, followed by soybeans and sesame. Maize and cassava were marketed to a lesser extent. The farmers groups felt that the price offered by bulk buyers was reasonable when compared to what they would have charged within their local markets or farm gate.

From South West-Nile, beans, potatoes, onions, soybeans, seame and cassava were bulked and marketed in Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo, with sesame and soybeans sold from Arua. In Acholi, sunflower, sesame, soybeans and maize were marketed collectively. Collective marketing is generally challenging as farmer households face pressing cash needs leading to frequent early, individual sale. It has been confirmed that though it is difficult for farmers to market collective, the benefit in terms of purchase price for produce is noticeable. The purchase price for Sesame, Onions, Potatoes, Beans, Soybeans, Maize and Cassava that were marketed collectively was higher than individual price charge in their local markets by 200 to 500 UGX. Potatoes was more than double, while sesame in Acholi sub-region was higher by 1,800 UGX. Commodity prices vary geographically, with sesame sold at a much higher price in Acholi compared to West-Nile although still better than price in the local markets. See table 4.1.6 and 4.1.7.

Table 3.1.1.9 Quantity of produce bulked and sold collectively in South West-Nile

S/N	Strategic crop type	Price per Kilo in local market (UGX)	Price per Kilo when bulked (UGX)	Quantity bulked & sold (Kg)	Amount earned (UGX)
1	Beans	2,000	2,800 (40% higher)	84,012	235,233,600

2	Soybeans	1,800	2,100 (17% higher)	14,710	30,891,000
3	Onions	1,600	2,500 (56% higher)	33,768	84,420,000
4	Sesame	2,800	3,000 (7% higher)	280,864	842,592,000
5	Potatoes	800	1,800 (125% higher)	58,356	105,040,800
6	Cassava	400	550 (37% higher)	37,596	20,677,800

Table 3.1.1.10 Quantity of produce bulked and sold collectively in Acholi sub-region

S/N	Strategic crop type	Price per Kilo in local market (UGX)	Price per Kilo when bulked (UGX)	Quantity bulked & sold (Kg)	Amount earned (UGX)
1	Sunflower	700	900 (29% higher)	1,151,111	1,035,999,900
2	Sesame	3,000	4,788 (60% higher)	200,144	958,289,472
3	Soybeans	1,200	1,637 (36% higher)	202,868	332,094,916
4	Maize	700	1000 (43% higher)	49,433	49,433,000

Multi-stakeholder meetings

To encourage collective marketing activities, multi-stakeholder's meetings were conducted in Acholi sub-region. Issues discussed were access to inputs, collective marketing, regulation and bye-laws and boosting production. The stakeholders agreed to strengthen their community network, build capacity of the cooperatives and government to create enabling environment for the farmers to influence the market.

Meetings were attended by district officials (District Production Officer, Principal DCO, District PRELNOR Focal Point Officer, Operation Wealth Creation Officers, Revenue Focal Point Officers, NURI focal Point officers and District Agricultural Officers), the sub-county officials (SASs, LC III chairpersons and Agric. Officers), development partners, private sector (input/output dealers), farmer representatives (Marketing committees) and NURI staff.

Market survey on preferred varieties of strategic crops

In the Acholi sub-region, a survey on market-preferred varieties of strategic crops was conducted by the marketing coordinators. This also included ascertaining availability of credible seed/inputs suppliers in the implementing districts. The outcome of the survey helped in awareness creation amongst the farmer groups as they prepared their fields for production in the second season. The results of the survey is summarised in the table below:

Table 3.1.1.11 Varietal preference of selected crops in markets in Kitgum, Gulu, Lira and Kampala

Crop	Available in the market	Market Preferred varieties
Sesame	Sesame 1, Sesame 2 & Sesame 3	Sesame 2 & Sesame 3
Soybean	Maksoy 1N; Maksoy 2N; Maksoy 3N; Maksoy 4N; Maksoy 5N Namsoy 3N	Maksoy 3N Maksoy 4N
Sunflower	DK 40-40, Sunfola, PAN 7053, PAN 7057, Other Hybrids: EASF – 2H, AGUARA 6, AGSUN 8251	Sunfola; PAN 7053; PAN 7057 AGSUN 8251
Beans	K 132; Nabe 4; Nabe 15; Nabe 16; Nabe 17; Nabe 19; 'Yellow' bean; Local small-seeded beans	K 132; 'Yellow' bean; Local small-seeded beans

3.1.2 National FGs, mixed & refugee groups trained in VSLA

The objective of this activity is to improve access to finance and financial literacy of farmer households. This is achieved through integrating financial literacy training into more traditional savings trainings for farmer groups. The major activities during the period were:

- Assessment and selection of farmer groups for VSLA support
- Recruitment and training of CBTs
- CBT training of farmer groups in VSLA methodology
- Training of VSLA staff in SAVIX (VSLA global database)
- Monitoring farmer group savings activities

Assessment and selection of farmer groups for VSLA support

VSLA activities expanded from the districts of South West Nile and Acholi sub-region to North West Nile where Adjumani, Moyo/Obongi fully rolled out activities and Koboko made preparations. Selection of groups for support in 2020 and 2021 was done during the reporting period.

For 2020 support, group selection started towards the end of Q4 of 2019 spilling into Q1 of 2020 whereas for 2021, selection exercise was done in Q4 of 2020. Farmer groups were assessed by VSLA officers with support from the extension staff. Assessment considered groups interest and the level of support from other NGOs or organisations on VSLA.

A total of 680 farmer groups were selected for 2020 from nine districts and 1,570 for 2021 from 10 districts. The districts of Madi-Okollo and Obongi are reach through the mother districts of Arua and Moyo. Group numbers are summarised below:

Table 3.1.2.1 Number of VSLA groups selected per District for support in 2020

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obongi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
Planned	190	0	70	60	50	90	90	90	90	100	**830**
Achieved	137	0	45	31	25	76	90	86	90	100	**680**

Table 3.1.2.2 Number of VSLA groups selected per District for support in 2021

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obongi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
Planned	240	80	70	60	60	280	280	90	100	100	**1,360**
Achieved	223	80	154	106	61	330	288	104	129	100	**1,575**

From the tables above, it can be observed the targets for 2020 was not achieved while in 2021 achievement was above targets. This is because the selection criteria was adjusted for 2021 groups, to allow groups already running basic VSLA activities to be supported in financial literacy, as well as refresher VSLA training.

Recruitment and training of CBTs

VSLA activities are implemented by Community Based Trainers (CBTs) hired on one-year contracts. The CBTs train, supervise, monitor and collect financial data from the farmer groups. For the farmer groups selected for support in 2020, extension of contract for old CBTs was combined with new recruitments. For 2021 groups, new recruitments of CBTs were done for all the implementing districts. The CBTs were taken through a four-day training on the VSLA methodology after which they were provided with bicycles and stationery in order to conduct training of farmer groups.

CBT training of farmer groups in VSLA methodology

Each CBT trains 6-10 farmer groups per savings cycle. The training comprises 7 modules: group formation, general assembly, VSLA concepts, leadership, constitution development, records and conflict management. Reports show an average attendance of 82% for national farmers and 70% for refugees. A total of 680 groups received training in 2020. Attendance by female group members was higher by 70% compared to the male which was 30%.
Attendance varied depending on the agricultural season, with lower attendance during periods of heavy agricultural work. In the settlements, the refugee households were involved in a number of activities by other development partners which affected their attendance.

Training of VSLA staff in SAVIX (VSLA global database)

NURI programme subscribes to the SAVIX system which is a global data management system that is used for VSLA data storage and processing. The CBTs collect financial data from the farmer groups which data is fed into the system by the VSLA staff. During the year, newly recruited staff were trained, and continuing staff were given refresher sessions. The system has worked well so far and met the reporting needs for the programme.

Monitoring farmer group savings activities

During the reporting period, monitoring of farmer group savings actvities and utilization of funds borrowed for production activities was done. VSLA savings provided financial safety nets for farmers, reducing the likelyhood of selling off productive assets during emergencies. Besides the main savings, group members save for emergencies in a 'Welfare fund'. This fund acts as an insurance for the farmers and is more easily accessable than the main savings fund.

Farmer groups that started in 2019

Farmer groups that started in 2019 in South West Nile and Acholi sub region were monitored for share out of the completed cycle of their savings activites that started in 2019. 35% of the groups supported had graduated with a total of UGX 208,757 as average take home value per individual. The delay in graduation of the 2019 groups is caused primarily by the late start and the interuption of savings activities caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

Table 3.1.2.3 Number of 2019 groups that completed their savings cycle

District	Number of groups	No of groups graduated	Amount shared out	Average take home per member
Lamwo	80	18	47,832,000	107,050
Nebbi	30	2	33,090,000	468,825
Kitgum	50	34	86,385,000	90,360
Pakwach	45	5	33,327,600	239,280
Zombo	75	13	72,021,100	185,427
Arua	68	55	-	-
Agago	70	18	87,426,300	161,601
Total	**418**	**145**	**360,082,000**	**1,252,543**

Information for Arua still being compiled at the time of reporting.

Farmer groups saving and loans monitoring 2020

The VSLA teams monitored portfolios of 2019 groups that had not graduated as well as those that started in 2020. Findings indicate that for most groups, women saved more than the men. This is attributed to women's engaging in IGA activities and their commitment to VSLA as seen in higher attendence. Youth were generally slower to start saving, but progressed to a level where, in some groups their savings were higher than for the wider group. Generally, there has been a growth in-terms of returns on savings from 6.6% in 2019 to 17.1% in 2020. This implies profits of 17.1% on savings investment.

There is a drop in fund utilization from 79% to 54% despite a growth in the members with loans outstanding from 32% to 54%. This implies a lot of money still remains in the savings boxes unutilized. Monitoring indicates this is because the 2019 groups are in the process of paying back loans in preparation for action audits. A number of members reported inadequate skills in managing income generating activities, reducing willingness to borrow.

While farmer groups capacity to borrow is low, considerable growth was registered in investment in agricultural activities. While this was 20%, it had increased to 45% in 2020.

In these comparisons it should be noted that the overall amounts in terms of savings and loans in 2020 were far higher than in 2019, as activities started late and slow in 2019, and really picked up in 2020. Details on savings, loans and utilization are included in the tables below:

Please not fund utilization in table 3.1.2.5 refers to the amount of savings being loaned out and usually rises with time as groups again confidence in handling loans.

Table 3.1.2.4 Cumulative savings for farmer groups 2020

District	Number of groups	Cumulative Savings	Cumulative savings Women	Cumulative savings men	Cumulative savings youth	Cumulative savings refugees	Average savings per member
Lamwo	89	313,971,000	190,726,000	70,935,000	14,208,000	16,795,000	112,930
Nebbi	73	143,617,000	90,304,700	53,313,300	35,466,900	N/A	67,700
Kitgum	86	241,295,000	164,655,000	75,640,000	50,574,000	N/A	73,737
Pakwach	50	189,945,500	110,945,000	79,009,500	38,220,500	N/A	290,450
Zombo	30	387,564,000	129,941,500	257,622,500	73,710,500	N/A	160,988
Arua	190	229,416,800	149,461,400	79,955,400	52,636,000	40,228,000	46,462
Agago	173	253,556,000	171,078,000	82,478,000	78,120,900	N/A	49,853
Adjumani	76	55,463,700	54,354,426	00	9,983,466	55,463,700	25,892
Moyo/Obongi	90	127,942,200	113,217,700	14,724,500	29,287,700	127,942,200	47,686
Koboko	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	**854**	**1,942,771,200,**	**1,174,683,726**	**713,678,200**	**382,207,966**	**240,428,900**	**62,384**

Table 3.1.2.5 Cumulative loans and funds utilization for farmer groups 2020

District	Number of groups	Cumulative loans	Agricultural loans	Fund utilization	Cumulative loans women	Cumulative loans youth	Cumulative loans refugee
Lamwo	89	253,590,000	121,156,000	50%	8,447,00	70,196,100	8,447,000
Nebbi	73	239,147,100	176,238,900	92%	108,861,900	45,711,000	N/A
Kitgum	86	57,096,600	59,462,600	52.4%	214,212,100	14,803,000	N/A
Pakwach	50	393,119,200	217,986,800	67.7%	228,975,800	58,485,700	N/A
Zombo	30	245,704,700	176,010,700	49%	113,145,000	64,697,300	N/A
Arua	190	373,796,000	108,614,500	59%	248,653,700	70,498,300	42,325,400
Agago	170	284,631,000	153,608,000	37%	114,925,000	59,118,000	N/A
Adjumani	76	55,918,000	14,498,000	86%	55,158,000	10,381,500	55,158,000
Moyo/Obongi	90	71,189,400	4,045,000	55%	64,425,000	9,667,000	71,189,400
Koboko	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	**854**	**1,974,192,000**	**1,029,140,000**	**61%**	**1,156,803,500**	**403,557,900**	**177,119,800**

Household planning and monitoring

Under the VSLA component, participant households are guided to develop savings investment plans by setting goals that link to their production and marketing plans. The concept is brought in during their trainings and participants have been guided to set their goals, develop saving, debt management plans and budget to be implemented at the end of a saving cycle. From the plans developed, it could be seen that most households planned to acquire improved seeds for different crops not only strategic, land for production, construction of semi-permanent houses, oxen and ox ploughs, in order to open more land and increase production, pay school fees and start up small businesses.

To ensure that group members implement the household plans developed, CBTs conducted household visits to assess progress on goal achievment. From the monitoring, it was noted that farmers had implemented their short term goals that include; purchase of improved seeds, purchase of small livestock and establishing small businesses

Linking farmer groups to MFIs

In order to increase financial deepening to secure savings and access loans with formal financial institution, VSLA groups have been linked up with financial institutions during the reporting period. In both South West Nile and Acholi sub region, groups have been linked up with Centenary Bank, Bank of Africa, Pride Micro-Finance, Kitgum Cooperative Savings and Credit societies in order to access some products that would boost their savings re-investment into agricultural production. A total 108 VSLA groups from Acholi sub region and 40 from South West Nile have sensitized by financial institution agents. Group members have started opening both group and individual accounts in order to secure their savings and access better financial support services.

In Agago district a pilot on Animal Traction Loan is being tested in collaboration with Talanta MicroFinance. For Details see Annex 1.

3.1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

The objective of this activity is to build the capacity of NURI staff to meet the objectives of the programme. Beyond this, building the capacity of extension officers who will go on to jobs in other organisations or in the government of Uganda is seen as an objective in itself.

As well as regular on-the-job training and mentoring within each of the Implementing Units, NURI CF organised a number of specialised trainings for staff, including representatives from DLGs where relevant. Major trainings carried out during the reporting period are highlighted below:

1. Orientation and induction of newly recruited extension staff for 2020: this conducted during the first quarter of the year. The objective was to introduce the newly recruited staff on NURI programme policy guidelines including financial management, procurement, HR and technical related issues.

2. Training on VSLA methodology: VSLA staff were trained on the methodology used in NURI. Additionally, the VSLA staff conducted seminars for the rest of the extension teams to create

awareness about the methodology throughout the team. CSA staff have in some cases synchronised their CSA training sessions with VSLA meeting days, boosting attendance.

3. Training on preparation of Production and Marketing Plan (PMP): The notion to implement a strategic crop approach in the programme was to enable participating farmer groups to have a market driven production. For this reason, each group is expected to develop their production and marketing plans to guide their production while receiving support under the programme. All the Unit Coordinators, CSA Coordinators, AES and AEOs that were newly recruited were trained on preparation of PMP for groups selected in 2020. The training was both theoretical and practical and teams conducted pre-tests before rolling out the exercise.

4. Training on SAVIX: The training was conducted by the NURI VSLA Coordinator for all the VSLA staff and RAU Unit/CSA Coordinators. The aim of the training was to equip the staff with the skills and knowledge on the usability of the system.

5. Training on Climate Smart Agriculture: NURI CF organised and conducted CSA training for all the newly recruited staff for 2020. The training was organised in close collaboration with NARO-ZARDI with the objective of imparting knowledge and skills on CSA technologies. Concepts on climate change and its impact on production and good agricultural practices were key topics handled during the training. Similarly, training on vegetable and fruit tree production was handled for extension staff working with refugee groups in the selected settlements of operation. All the CSA Coordinators, RAU Coordinators, AES and AEOs participated in the training. A separate training report was prepared by the team of consultants and a summary is attached as Annex 5.

6. Training on Sexual Right and Health Right (SRHR): CARE International under the UNFPAs WAY programme conducted training of the extension staff recruited in 2020 in SRHR. The aim of the training was to enable staff make relevant referrals where SRHR cases have been reported to the extensionists in the field. All the CSA staff in Acholi sub-region and North West Nile were trained.

7. Training on NURI M&E Framework: The training was conducted for all the extension staff with the objective of building the capacities of the newly recruited staff on M&E reporting while emphasizing their core M&E roles in NURI CSA. The training was conducted for two days in each location during the 4 quarter of the year.

8. Training on Post-harvest handling: This is one of the 10 sessions that is to be delivered to the farmer groups. NURI CF organised four days training for all the extension staff recruited in 2020, facilitated by a team of consultants from NARO. The core objective was to equip the staff with knowledge on PHH practices that would in turn be imparted on to the farmer groups.

9. A small groups of CSA officers participated in DRC training on Resilience Design. The participants will develop a training curriculum to roll-out their learning to the wider CSA groups. A report is attached as Annex 4

3.1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production Department)

The objective of this activity is to build the implementation capacity of the District production departments in all NURI districts, to ensure that development activities which are important for rural livelihoods are implemented in an effective and efficient manner.

The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; one of skills/career development and the other re-tooling. The skills/career development plans were approved however later put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. The courses approved for implementation are given below:

Career courses:

1. MSC in Agriculture Extension Education (01 participant)
2. Masters of Science in Entomology and Parasitology (01 participant)
3. Post Graduate Diplomas in Agriculture Risk Management and Finance (4 participants)
4. Post Graduate Diplomas Project Monitoring and Evaluation (04 participants)

Skills/short courses:

1. Artificial insemination (20 participants)
2. Management of plant clinics (11 participants)

Re-tooling encompasses procurement of tools and equipment to aid service delivery within the district. Consideration was given to new districts that did not benefit under RDNUC. These are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo and Koboko. CF managed the procurements. The items procured in 2020 were 17 laptops, 10 desktops, 2 projectors, 11 GPS units, 11 soil testing kits, and 9 moisture meters.

3.1.5 Sensitize farmer groups on SRHR & GBV issues (UNFPA WAY programme)

Care International implements this output, financed through a DANIDA grant to UNFPA. CARE conducted trainings of CSA staff in SRHR & GBV in the first half of the year. The aim was to build the capacity of staff to raise awareness, and make referrals to services related to SGBV and SRHR in the areas of support. All the CSA staff in Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, Arua, Moyo/Obongi and Adjumani were trained. Other NURI districts are not included under the WAY programme.

Farmer group chairpersons in the district of Agago were sensitized by CARE International staff on family planning methods and the referral point to access SRHR related services. CSA staff played a role in mobilizing the group leaders. High gender-based violence, maternal health, and early child marriages were the key issues encountered in all the sub counties. 97 referrals were made to health facilities and CDO's office at sub counties

3.2 Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

The objective of this output is to improve agricultural related infrastructure using a labour-intensive approach. This is expected to facilitate and support increased agricultural production and marketing

through improved access to local retail and bulk markets. It further creates temporary off-farm employment through cash-for-work modality.

Danish Refugee Council is contracted to implement the output, and started implementation in the second half of 2019. Activities were implemented under the following outputs:

- Prepare infrastructure investment plans for approval
- Implement approved infrastructure projects

3.2.1 Prioritized Infrastructure Investment Plans Approved

The following activities were accomplished:

- Held district, sub-county and settlement inception meetings
- Formation of Parish Development Committees (PDCs),
- Revalidation of parish development plans
- Selection and prioritization of projects at the sub county level
- Technical screening and costing of prioritized projects

District Inception Meetings

With DRC and NURI CF as the lead, inception meetings were held in Koboko, Zombo, Pakwach, Obongi and Moyo. The objective was to inform stakeholders about NURI Programme and clarify stakeholders' roles and responsibilities. In attendance were DLG political and technical wing (RDC, CAO, LCV Chairman, DPO, DAO, DEO, DFO, DWO, DE, DCO, DEO, CDOs), the LLG representatives (District councillors from the various sub counties, Sub County chiefs, LC III Chairpersons from all sub counties), development Partners (UNHCR, CARE, OPM, WFP, DCA), DRC, PICOT, AFARD and Resilience Agricultural units (RAU). A total of 281 participants attended meetings across the five districts as summarised in tableXX:

Table 3.2.1.1 Number of participants at District Inception Meetings

S/No	District	Male	Female	Total
1	Zombo	52	13	65
2	Pakwach	27	12	39
3	Obongi	43	10	53
4	Moyo	48	20	68
5	Koboko	47	9	56
	Total	**217**	**64**	**281**

During the meeting, some key observations that would facilitate the implementation process were made. The stakeholders were asked to pay attention to the issues brought forward, they are highlighted below:

- The beneficiary selection criteria should be made known to the community. The stakeholders were advised to share project information widely to enable smooth implementation and monitoring of the project activities.
- The CAOs to exercise their supervisory roles over the NURI focal point Officers (FPO) appointed for accountability.
- The project should demonstrate value for money.
- NURI should install visibility sign posts at all projects sites to avoid other partners from claiming their efforts
- Routine monitoring of the program should be done to track its progress and success
- NURI to avail stakeholders with exit plan for sustainability purposes
- NURI should share plans with districts for integration in district plans
- Refugees should be encouraged to take an active role in implementation
- Close engagement of district technical teams in verification of procurement for items like tools and seedlings and timely payment of casual workers for cash for work

Sub-County Sensitization Meetings

After completion of sensitization meetings at district level, the same activity was cascaded to the sub-counties. All the sub-counties of the five districts were included and Lamwo and Agago, where sub-country meetings were not completed in the 2019, were also included. Meetings were held in 50 sub-counties with 2,115 (M= 1,575, F= 490) participants attending. Participants included LC III Chairpersons and councillors, Senior Assistant Secretaries (SAS), Community Development Officers, Parish Chiefs, LC II, and youth representatives.

Table 3.2.1.2 Participants attending Sub County Sensitization Meetings

S/No	District	Number of sub counties covered	Males	Females	Total
1	Agago	13	244	101	345
2	Lamwo	7	361	84	445
3	Obongi	4	169	45	214
4	Moyo	5	306	52	358
5	Pakwach	5	57	34	91
6	Zombo	11	265	131	396
7	Koboko	6	173	43	216
	Total	**50**	**1,575**	**490**	**2,115**

Observations and reactions from the meetings are highlighted below:

- Clear sustainability strategy should be devised especially for community access roads citing some of unmaintained roads of DAR 3.
- Improvements be done on culvert installation and supply of murram
- Close monitoring of the project activities by Lower Local Government leaders and technocrats should be prioritized and the frequency be increased not restricting them quarterly monitoring visits.

Formation of Parish Development Committees (PDCs)

To ensure effectiveness and consistency in the planning process using the bottom-up approach, DRC supported establishment and/or reconstitution of Parish Development Committees (PDCs) in NURI targeted districts. In 2020, the districts targeted were Agago, Lamwo, Koboko, Pakwach, Moyo and Obongi. In Zombo district, the activity was delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown and insecurity in the district from mid-February. The PDCs were responsible for revalidation of the Parish development plans and participated in prioritization and selection of projects at sub county level.

Each PDC consist of 20 - 25 members with nine executives. The Local Council (LCII) is the chairperson and the Parish chief is the secretary. There are representatives from the following categories: Elders, Youths both male/female, veterans, retired civil servants, women representatives, persons with disability, councillors and Local Council (LC I) Chairpersons. This activity was conducted in coordination with the District Planning units.

Committee members were inducted on local government planning process, selection, and prioritization of projects in line with NURI Rural Infrastructure intervention, with focused on labour-based approaches. In total, 4,315 (M=3,217, F=1,098) community members were registered as PDC members. The District Planners conducted this exercise with support from DRC. The breakdown of committee members across the districts is provided in the table below:

Table 3.2.1.3 Number of Parishes with formed or reconstituted PDCs

S/No	Sub county	No of Parishes	PDC Members registered		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Lamwo	30	354	123	477
2	Agago	62	1,155	219	1,374
3	Moyo	23	401	147	548
4	Pakwach	25	373	252	625
5	Koboko	41	721	304	1,025
6	Obongi	15	213	53	265
Total		**176**	**3,217**	**1,098**	**4,315**

Revalidation of Parish Development Plans

Revalidation of parish development plans (PDPs) was carried out in seven districts with the objective of targeting community needs and priorities in NURI RI activities. A total of 250 PDPs were revalidated through organising meetings at sub-county or parish levels. A total of 176 meetings were held in 50 sub-counties. The activity was conducted during the time of partial lock down and SOPs had to be observed. The ideal practice is for all the 25 members of the PDC to carry out revalidation of the PDPs however due to COVID-19 pandemic the SOPs allowed gatherings of only 5 to 10 people. Therefore, meetings

were held with 5-9 members of the Parish Development Committees. The Parish Chiefs, CDOs and DRC staff facilitated the process.

Overall, this was a bottom-up planning process, where projects or needs were generated from village priorities. The planning process follows guidelines of the National Planning Authority (NPA) with focus on community engagement and accountability. DRC provided support to review, update or develop the parish development plans. Support included stationery and printing of village proposal sheets for the sub-county community development officers and parish chiefs to come up with parish development plans for each parish. The table below provides the statistics of sub-counties and parishes with updated plans.

Table 3.2.1.4 Number of parishes with updated Parish Development Plans

SN	District	Number of Sub counties	Number of Parishes in the Sub counties	Number of parishes with updated parish development plans
1	Koboko	6	41	41
2	Zombo	11	56	54
3	Pakwach	5	25	25
4	Lamwo	7	30	30
5	Agago	13	62	62
6	Moyo	5	23	23
7	Obongi	3	15	15
	Total	**50**	**252**	**250**

Prioritization and selection of projects at sub-county level

With support and guidance of parish chiefs and sub-county community development officers, DRC facilitated project prioritization process in 50-sub counties in the districts of Lamwo, Koboko, Pakwach, Zombo, Agago, Moyo and Obongi. The exercise was done using pairwise scoring sheets for all the needs of the communities. Normally the community needs are diverse including projects like education, health and water supply which are beyond the NURI mandate. Prioritization exercises are done to align the community needs to NURIs scope of work with focus on agricultural related infrastructure projects implemented using labour-based approach. Such projects included community access roads (CARs), functional markets (Grade C), water ponds, spring protection and establishment of food forests in institutions.

Screening and Costing of Prioritized Projects

After prioritization, screening exercises are conducted to viable projects amongst those identified. All the projects prioritized were screened by DRC with support from the district and sub-county technical staff. The staff are; District engineers, Production officers, and Forestry officers, Water Officers, Environment Officers and Commercial Officers. The projects were costed and BoQs produced and investment plans developed for season 2020 B and 2021. These were prepared and presented for approval to DTPCs and DEC members.

Preparation and approval of Investment Plans for Season B 2020 and 2021

During the reporting period, Investment Plans were prepared for season B, 2020 (July-December) for the following districts and settlements, Pakwach, Zombo, Koboko, Moyo, Obongi, Lamwo, Agago and Imvepi. Additionally, Investment Plans were prepared for all NURI targeted districts for season A and B 2021. The projects and budgets are allocated to the sub-counties in the district according to the population. Implementation of the plans is in two seasons as follows: Season A projects are implemented from January to June and season B from July to December.

The definition of a project varies for the various interventions as follows:
1 km of a community access road = 1 project
2 acres of food forest = 1 project
1 water pond = 1 project
1 market = 1 project

In total, 239 projects were approved for implementation in season B 2020. The breakdown is provided in the table below:

Table 3.2.1.5 Approved Projects for Season B 2020

District	Project Types and Number					Total
	CAR	Market	Food Forest	Springs	Water Ponds	
Zombo	7			13		**20**
Pakwach	19				2	**21**
Moyo	24					**24**
Lamwo	13	1		1	3	**18**
Agago	35			7	3	**45**
Obongi	72					**72**
Terego (Imvepi)	15				1	**16**
Koboko	19			3	1	**23**
Total	**204**	**1**	**0**	**24**	**10**	**239**

Approval of projects for implementation in 2021 was done by the DTPCs during 2020. A total of 630.2 projects were approved. The breakdown is provided in table 6 below:

Table 3.2.1.6. Approved Projects for season A and B 2021

S/No	District	Project Types and Number					Total
		CAR	Market	Food Forest	Springs	Water Ponds	
1	Koboko	24	2	26	8	6	66
2	Zombo	14	0	13	8	0	35
3	Pakwach	11	0	14	1	2	28
4	Moyo	13	0	13	10	0	36
5	Lamwo	43.7	1	25	0	1	71
6	Agago	42	1	24	3	4	74
7	Obongi	32	0	25	1	0	58
8	Nebbi	4	0	3	2	0	9

9	Kitgum	20	0	5	0	1	26
10	Arua	17	0	17	13	0	47
11	Madi-Okollo	6	0	21	1	0	28
12	Terego	38	0	23	10	2	73
13	Adjumani	31	0	13	0	0	44
	Total	**295.7**	**4**	**222**	**57**	**16**	**594.7**

3.2.2 Approved Infrastructure Projects Implemented

The following activities were carried out under this output:

- Site dialogue meetings
- Formation of community groups
- Selection and training of Project Management Committees (PMCs)
- Procured and distributed tools for project activities
- Construction of infrastructures
- Selection and training of masons for culvert installation
- Installation of culverts on community access roads
- Scarification and compaction of community access roads (CAR) and maintenance activities on food forests.

Site Dialogue Meetings

Previously site dialogue meetings were conducted after formation of community groups and PMC selection and training. DRC realized that this approach was not working and was causing delays and losses to the projects due to land conflicts. Site dialogue meetings are therefore done for all projects as soon as the Investment Plans are approved by the DTPCs.

DRC with support from local authorities, carried out community dialogue meetings in all project sites. The purpose of the meetings was to address conflicts that could arise over land matters relating to the implementation of projects. Stakeholders attending included parish chiefs, Local Council I, II and III chairpersons, opinion leaders, refugee welfare councils (RWCs) and settlement commandants. Full information about the infrastructure works and safe access to the project site was agreed upon. The issues discussed included land disputes, demarcation of boundaries for project land, community approval of the projects, handling bottlenecks on projects, cash payment rate, workdays, type and nature of the public works and cash payment modalities. The meeting minutes were prepared and signed by the local authorities and shared with stakeholders. In some projects, voluntary land donation agreements were signed between the property owners and the sub county authorities.

This process increased awareness on the project in the local communities, reduced conflicts and encouraged full community participation.

Formation of Community Groups

DRC, working with local authorities, supported the identification and formation of 599 community groups for participation in construction or renovation of rural infrastructure projects. These groups will also commit to future maintenance of created assets. Groups included 16,980 (M=8,272, F=8,663) host community participants. The criteria that were used during mobilization and formation of community groups are that members should live within walking distance to the project site, 50% female, 60% young people between 18 to 28 years. In refugee settlements groups should have 50% host community and 50% refugees.

From the total number of participants registered, 51% are female and 49% male. For the youth who are between 18-28 years, 60% was recorded. The youth target was not achieved in Koboko and Adjumani because other programmes were targeting the same age group. The breakdown of participant numbers in the host community is provided in table 7 and 8 below:

Table 3.2.2.1 Cash for work community groups and participants season A and B 2020, nationals.

S/No	District	No of Groups	Total Participants			Youths 18 to 28 Years			
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	%
1	Nebbi	71	942	1,098	2,040	594	689	1,283	63
2	Koboko	23	312	333	645	194	189	383	59
3	Zombo	19	181	194	375	141	117	258	69
4	Arua	185	2,456	2,674	5,130	1577	1685	3,262	64
5	Obongi	18	238	302	540	158	208	366	68
6	Lamwo	18	266	259	525	168	146	314	60
7	Kitgum	43	631	614	1,290	362	406	768	60
8	Agago	45	631	614	1,245	376	371	747	60
9	Pakwach	19	283	287	570	169	175	344	60
10	Moyo	24	339	351	690	221	201	422	61
11	Adjumani	72	1,073	1,042	2,115	593	552	1,145	54
12	Rhino camp	62	920	895	1,815	454	519	973	54
	Total	**599**	**8,272**	**8,663**	**16,980**	**5,007**	**5,258**	**10,265**	**60**

In the settlements, mixed group approach was used where both nationals and refugees registered for infrastructure works in the same group. For the groups that were formed in five settlements, a total of 1883 participants were registered where by 1,439 nationals and 813 refugees. 52% of these participants were female, 48% male and 61% youth. See details provided in table 8 below:

Table 3.2.2.2 Cash for Work Participants in refugee settlements 2020 A and B

Settlement	No. of groups	Participants host and refugees		National Youths 18 – 28 years		Refugee Youth 18 – 28 years		Adults 29 year – Above		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Palorinya	49	717	753	264	262	176	188	242	336	1470

Rhino camp	26	384	336	175	172	68	41	139	125	720
Imvepi	17	255	255	123	124	24	25	107	107	510
Adjumani	4	82	53	0	0	76	45	6	8	135
Palabek	28	368	472	138	181	74	96	0	0	840
Total	**124**	**1,806**	**1,869**	**700**	**739**	**418**	**395**	**494**	**576**	**3,675**

Selection and training of Project Management Committees (PMCs) for season A and B, 2020

For every selected project, a project management committee is established. The committee comprises four executive positions; Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Selection criterion include consideration of gender and special groups including youth.

During the reporting period, DRC with support from DLG and LLG, trained a total of 2,859 (M= 1,464, F= 1,395 (49%)) PMC members. The training aimed to build capacity to manage construction of infrastructure projects in the communities. The trainers included the following district technical staff: Engineering and construction department, Water department, Forestry department, Community Development Office and Public Health.

The roles and responsibilities of the PMC are: receive and handle tools for public works and materials, organize and supervise work, maintain attendance registers, support cash payments, keep custody of tools during work and handover to the project user committees (PUCs) for maintenance of created assets and keep custody of Covid-19 mitigation items like soap and hand washing stations.

See the below table for details.

Table 3.2.2.3 Number of Project Management Committees (PMC) trained.

S/No	District/Settlement	Male	Female	Total
1	Koboko	46	46	92
2	Moyo	45	51	96
3	Obongi	128	132	260
4	Zombo	26	26	52
5	Pakwach	38	38	76
6	Lamwo	95	89	184
7	Agago	90	90	180
8	Rhino camp	201	151	352
9	Kitgum	86	85	171
10	Adjumani	152	152	304
11	Arua	381	359	740
12	Imvepi	34	34	68
13	Nebbi	142	142	284
	Total	**1,464**	**1,395**	**2,859**

Procurement and distribution of tools and materials

Tools and materials were procured and distributed to community groups for implementation of projects. Tools include hoes, spades, wheel barrows, bonding rods, measuring tapes, strings, buckets, craw bars, hammers and first aid kits. Various seedlings were provided for food forests including: Teak, Afzelia, Mvule, and Neem (canopy), Tamarind, Tangerine, Pawpaw, Bananas, and Guava (Fruit seedlings) and Sesbania, Aloe vera, Hibiscus, and Ginger (Shrubs).

DRC staff demonstrate construction of infrastructure for group members along Gbubu to Logunu CAR

Status of Infrastructure Activities Implementation

During the reporting period the following rural infrastructure projects were implemented: community access roads, protected springs, water ponds, markets grade C and D and food forests. The food forests had maintenance period for six months with 10 paid days. The breakdown for projects planned and completed is provided in the table below:

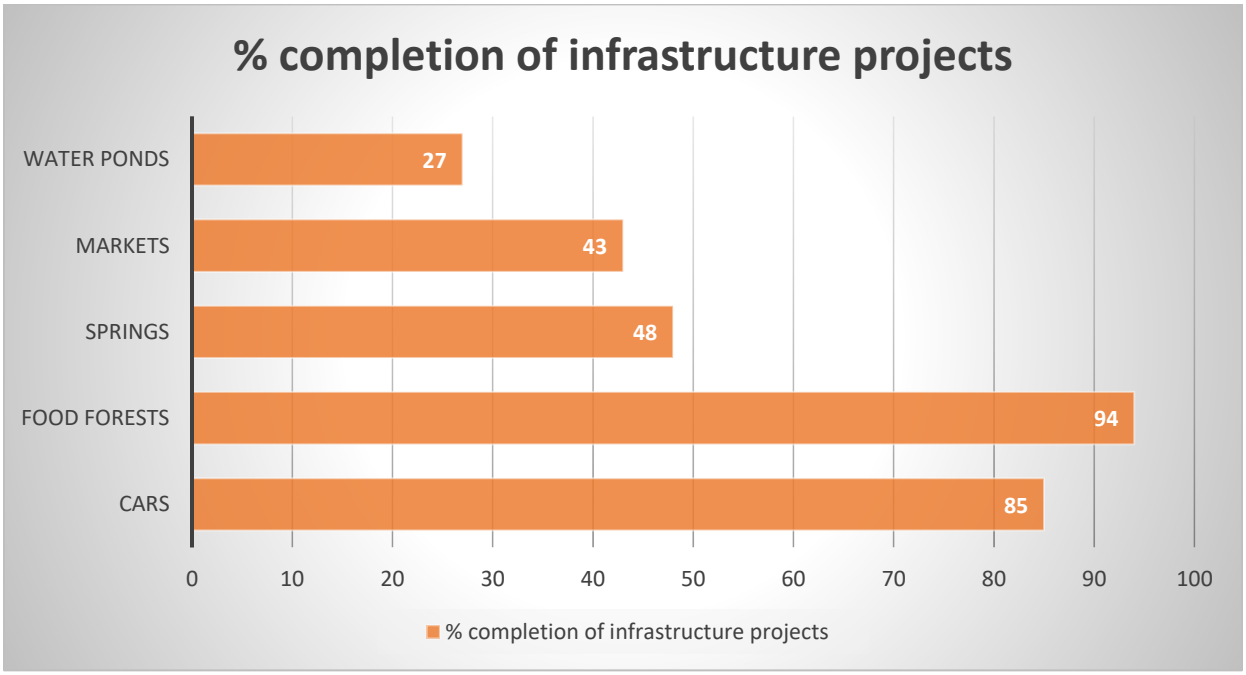
Table 7. Status of infrastructure projects implemented in 2020

District/ Camp	Infrastructure Projects Implemented											
	CAR		Market		Food Forest		Springs		Water Ponds			
	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Planned	Done	Total Planned	Total Done
Arua	66	59	4	3	43	37	22	22	1	0	136	121
Madi Okollo	17	11	0	0	32	32	4	5	1	0	54	48
Rhino Camp	56	56	0	0	25	23	7	2	0	0	88	81
Imvepi	15	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	13
Nebbi	27	17	1	0	35	34	6	0	2	2	71	53
Koboko	19	19	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	23	19
Adjumani	50	48	0	0	27	26	2	2	0	0	79	76
Palabek	18	18	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	28	28
Lamwo	13	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	18	3

Kitgum	18	18	1	0	23	21	0	0	1	0	43	39
Pakwach	17	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	19	10
Moyo	24	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24
Zombo	6	6	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	19	6
Agago	34	34	0	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	44	34
Obongi	72	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	50
Total	**452**	**384**	**7**	**3**	**195**	**183**	**65**	**31**	**15**	**4**	**734**	**605**

As seen from the table above CARs and food forests have had a higher completion rate compared to the other project types. The water ponds have specifically been affected by water logging causing delays in construction work. The number of completed projects varies from the total number of groups, because roads where cash-for-work has ended are not counted as complete until the culverts are in place.

The figure below shows completion rate for planned infrastructure projects across the different project types.



A total of UGX. 1,954,600,000 was paid to 18,803 participants for construction work completed during the reporting period. The table below provides a summary;

Table 3.2.2.5. Payments to Beneficiaries in 2020

S/No	District/Settlement	Number of Participants			Amount Paid
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Arua	2,276	2,479	4,755	680,400,000
2	Rhino Camp	1,203	1,130	2,333	282,600,000
3	Nebbi	696	834	1,530	183,600,000
4	Adjumani	1,095	1,155	2,250	280,800,000

5	Kitgum	873	927	1,800	180,000,000
6	Koboko	271	299	570	68,400,000
7	Zombo	181	194	375	21,600,000
8	Imvepi	170	220	390	46,800,000
9	Lamwo	472	488	960	136,440,000
10	Agago	518	532	1,050	126,000,000
11	Moyo	354	366	720	84,400,000
12	Pakwach	283	287	570	0
13	Obongi	714	786	1,500	180,000,000
Total		**9,106**	**9,697**	**18,803**	**1,954,600,000**

Construction of Structures on completed projects

Local masons were recruited in all the districts that began implementation of projects in January 2020 for installation of culverts. The masons were trained by the district technical staff. In total, 186 culverts out of 566 planned were installed on community access roads. The culvert installation is still ongoing. The low achievement was caused by challenges in the delivery of local materials by vendors.

Selection and Training of Project User Committees (PUC)

DRC facilitated selection and training of PUC for community access roads, protected springs and water ponds. PUCs are selected by the community around a particular project with 854 (M=527, F=327) community members selected. PUCs were formed with 9 members per project based on agreed selection criteria.

PUCs were not formed for food forests because they will be handed over to the respective institutions to carry out maintenance activities. Markets do not have PUCs because the hosting sub-county will tender the markets to individuals or firms to manage them.

The PUCs were trained by both DRC and District staff to take on operation and maintenance of the created CARs and springs. The onsite trainings were well attended by PUCs and sub-county staff were present to witness the training and handing over of working tools to the PUCs.

Mobilization and formation of PUCs for maintenance of completed assets was ongoing in the districts and settlements of Arua, Kitgum, Koboko, Adjumani, Rhino camp and Palabek. While Nebbi, Zombo, Lamwo, Pakwach, Moyo, Obongi and Agago districts will mobilize, form and train PUCs in January/February 2021. The tools that were used for implementation of infrastructure projects will be handed over to the PUCs for carrying out maintenance of created assets.

The responsibilities of the PUCs include:

- Mobilising community members to carry out periodic maintenance of created assets.
- Leading the process of formulating by-laws and submission for approval by local council.

- Mobilising resources for maintenance of the created assets.
- Reporting to the local authorities any problem relating to the assets.
- Be accountable to the local authorities and the community.
- Prepare maintenance work plans.
- Encourage attendance of community members for maintenance of created assets.
- Be accountable to the community members for the resources mobilised for asset maintenance

Table 3.2.2.6 Number of Project User Committees formed and trained in 2020

S/No	District/Settlement	Male	Female	Total
1	Arua	310	158	468
3	Palabek	42	30	72
4	Rhino camp	256	176	432
5	Kitgum	69	48	117
6	Adjumani	48	14	62
8	Koboko	112	59	171
	Total	**527**	**327**	**854**

Local Radio Communication

Each NURI Implementing Unit working with the DRC office in the district/districts covered organises sharing of RI information and CSA extension messages via local FM radio, to reach as wide an audience as possible. Contracts are signed with local language radio stations, and weekly talk shows and spot messages to reinforce NURI CSA messages are conducted. The following radio stations run the shows:

- Radio Maria, Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo (Tuesday 8.30 - 9.15 pm)
- Luo FM, Pader (Thursdays, 7:15 – 8:00 pm)
- Mighty Fire, Kitgum (6:00pm – 7:00pm)
- Radio Pacis, Arua (9:00am – 10:00am)
- Aulogo Media Services and Radio Amani, Adjumani (Tuesday from 8:30pm to 9:30pm)

The messages included programme implementation process, the roles of different stakeholders, agronomy of strategic crops, marketing information (markets and price information), group dynamics and VSLA information.
The major topics of the talk shows focusing on RI were on; Overview of NURI/Implementation approach, Preparation of Investment plans, community group formation, construction & rehabilitation process of RI projects, supervision of public works, monitoring and quality assurance, roles of different stakeholders

under NURI, cash payment modality and maintenance of infrastructure. Listeners called in to the radio program to provide feedback on the topics of discussion. This enriched the listeners and the groups on the importance of the created infrastructures in the communities. 38 talk shows were conducted in Agago, 52 in Kitgum/Lamwo, 18 in Arua and 27 for Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach districts and 44 in Adjumani and 48 in Moyo. Radio shows alternated between RI and CSA.

3.2.3 DLG Capacity (engineering department) built

The objective of this activity is to build the implementation capacity of the DLG engineering department to ensure that rural infrastructure activities that support agricultural development within the districts are in an effective and efficient manner.

The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; skills/career development and re-tooling. The skills/career development plans were approved, but not implemented due to COVID-19 restrictions. Courses approved for implementation are:

1. Master of science in Construction Management (6 participants)
2. Masters of Science in Water Engineering (1 participant)
3. PGD in Monitoring and Evaluation (1 participant)
4. PGD in Construction Project Management (6 participants)

Skills/short courses:

5. AUtoCAD Civil 3D roads and highway design (12 participants)
6. Labour-based road construction (5 participants)
7. Maintenance and low-cost road sealing and retooling

The re-tooling model encompasses procurement of tools and equipment that will aid service delivery within the supported unit. Note that consideration was given to the newer districts that did not benefit under RDNUC. They are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo and Koboko. Arua was added onto the list because they had a surplus budget from the career/skills plan. CF under the procurement policy ran adverts for the supply and delivery of the specified items to the districts of the support. The items procured by year end were: 12 laptops, 2 desktops, 2 projectors, 11 GPS, 2 pedestrian rollers and a water-testing kit. A large number of procurements are on-going.

3.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management

This intervention aims to improve the enabling environment for smallholder farming by increasing water availability, reducing the impact of climate change and extreme weather events, and countering environmental degradation, leading to improved yields and decreased incidents of crop failure. The planning and monitoring is done by Upper Nile Water Management Zone under Ministry of Water and environment with Danish Refugee Council carrying out implementation of planned infrastructure. The activities are implemented under the following outputs:

- WRM micro catchment plans developed
- Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

3.3.1 Develop micro-catchment plans

Under this output, the following activities were implemented during the reporting period:

- Selection of micro-catchments
- Micro-catchment verification and familiarisation
- Preparation of micro catchment management plans
- Preparation of NRM guidelines/bye laws
- Capacity building/training of beneficiary communities in IWRM approaches

Selection of micro-catchment plans

For the identification and selection of micro catchments for project implementation, selection criteria were developed and used to guide selection of micro catchments for inclusion in NURI.

Criteria developed for micro-catchment selection:

- Geographical area should be Water deficient, or predicted to become so, and/or environmentally degraded
- Micro catchment must be within NURI area of operation
- Micro catchments should include refugee settlements

While 3 micro-catchments were selected in year one, four additional micro catchments were selected in the second year.

The four new micro catchments selected were: Ogwapoke micro catchment in Kitgum district, Nyivura micro catchment in Adjumani district, Iboa micro catchment, cutting across Moyo and Obongi districts and Abongo micro catchment in Packwach district.

Micro-catchment verification and familiarization

The UNWMZ teams undertook field reconnaissance visits to the newly selected micro catchments in order to verify, familiarize and appraise themselves with the selected project areas. These field activities provided preliminary baseline information on the water and related resources issues in the micro catchments. The overall objective of the field visits was to develop a more informed picture of the broader context in which the project will operate, analyze socio-economic issues, water and other related resources issues and identify and map some key stakeholders/partners in the selected micro-Catchments with specific focus to:

1) Describing the current state and condition of people and ecosystems in the project area
2) Identifying the status and conditions of water and other related resources (wetlands, forests landscapes) in the selected micro-catchments
3) Determining and describing the pressures being exerted on the environment and other related resources by human activities and the underlying forces driving the pressures.
4) Identifying key stakeholders, including key institutions/organizations working on or involved with the selected issues in these micro catchments

To achieve the study objectives, different approaches were applied, including; consultative meetings with key stakeholders using sets of guiding questionnaires for the numerous sub counties and parishes and resource mapping among others; and use of GPS & ArcGIS tools and software to produce delineated base maps.

The findings indicate that the micro catchments are host to a variety of traditional livelihood systems that depend on water and related resources. The key findings from the field reconnaissance indicate:

1. Visible degradation and overexploitation of wetlands, all of which are under human activities such as crops cultivation and settlement
2. Encroachment of river buffer zones in the micro catchments
3. Encroachment of major river banks that recharge the main rivers
4. Increased level of practicing traditional rain fed agriculture in entire micro catchment is attributed to limited knowledge on conservation or climate smart agriculture.
5. Widespread deforestation especially in refugee host districts as a result of refugee needs for fuelwood, and building materials derived from the forested landscapes

<u>Preparation of micro catchment management plans</u>

I. The three mCMPs for Yelulu, Ora and Nyarwodho micro catchments have been completed and implementation of activities is ongoing
II. The second batch of four new micro catchments are complete and approved, although one stakeholder verification workshop remains to be held, after postponement in December

At the time of reporting, some micro-catchments were still having management plan preparation on going, see the figure shown below:

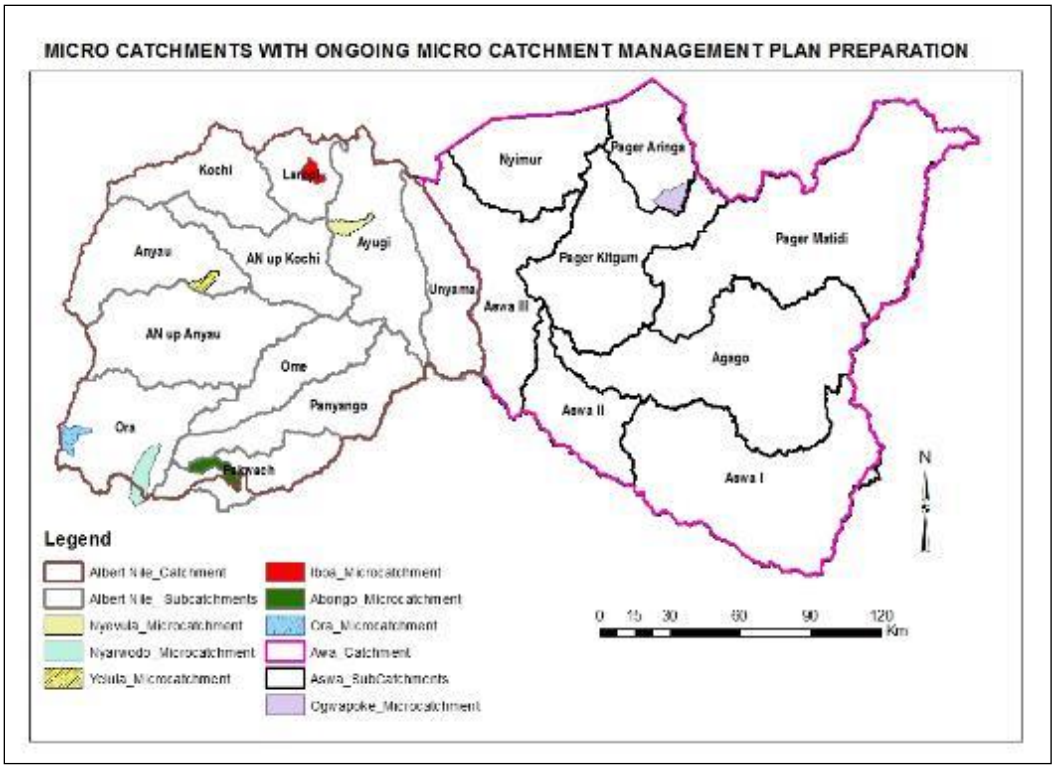


Fig. 1 Micro-catchment preparation plans locations

Preparation of NRM guidelines/bye laws

For the first three micro-catchments Yelulu, Ora and Nyarwodho, NRM by-laws/guidelines for the mCMPs have been developed. The respective sub-counties have given their approval and now waiting for approval of the relevant DLGs. Procurement of consultants to prepare by-laws for the 4 new micro-catchments is on-going. The exercise is expected to commence in January 2021.

Capacity building/training of beneficiary communities in IWRM

Project implementation committees (PIC) were formed for each project formulated from the proposed intervention plans. UNWMZ conducted training for beneficiary communities and PIC committees in IWRM approaches at micro-catchment and sub-county level. A total of 25 sessions were conducted for the first three micro-catchments; 4 for each of the first three micro-catchments and 4 for each of the 4 plans. For the 4 new micro-catchments, 15 sessions were successfully conducted.

These trainings targeted the local communities in the micro catchments and was basically geared towards introducing the communities to the basic principles and practices of IWRM and sustainable management and utilization/exploitation of natural environmental resources such as land, water, wetlands and forests.

3.3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

The implementation of activities prioritized from the micro-catchment plans is implemented by DRC and follows similar procedures to those for output 2, except in so far as the types of infrastructure are different. DRC works in close collaboration with UNWMZ.

Having received 3 Micro-Catchment Management Plans (mCMPs) in March 2020 namely; Yelulu, Nyarwodho and Ora, DRC started the task of identifying implementable projects. The projects were then screened, costed and included in investment plans for implementation.

The different projects under WRM are defined as;
1 valley tank = 1 project
1 irrigation system = 1 project
02 acres of food forest = 1 project
1 spring connected with a water pond = 1 project

The following activities were accomplished from the micro-catchment plans received by DRC during the reporting period:

1. Yelulu Micro catchment

A total of 50 projects were prepared and approved by the joint Terego and Madi Okollo District Technical Planning Committees (DTPCs) to be implemented in Uriama, Odupi and Rigbo sub-counties in 2020. The implementation of these projects was divided into seasons A and B. 08 projects were allocated to season B of 2020 and the rest to season A of 2021.

Table 3.3.2.1 Summary of Yelulu infrastructure projects approved

Sub County	Valley Tank	Small Scale Irrigation System	Protected Springs and water pond	Food Forests	SWC	RBS	Total
Uriama	1	1	2	11	1	0	16
Odupi	1	1	0	22	0	1	25
Rigbo	0	0	0	8	0	1	9
Total	**2**	**2**	**2**	**41**	**1**	**2**	**50**

SWC – soil and water conservation
RBR – River bank restoration

2. Nyarwodho Micro catchment

A total of 52 projects were prepared and approved by the Nebbi District Technical Planning Committee (DTPC) to be implemented in the sub-counties of Erussi, Ndhew, Nebbi Rural and Nebbi Town Council in 2020. The implementation of these projects was divided into seasons A and B. 10 projects were planned to be implemented in season B of 2020 and the rest to season A of 2021. The projects are: 02 valley tanks, 02 irrigation systems, 64 acres of food forest, 07 Springs with 02 connected water ponds, 02 RBR and 09 SWC. See table 2 below for breakdown:

Table 3.3.2.2 Summary of Nyarwodho infrastructure projects approved

Sub County	Valley Tank	Small Scale Irrigation System	Protected Springs and water pond	Food Forests	SWC	RBR	Total
Erussi	0	0	5	5	4	1	15
Ndhew	0	0	1	9	0	0	10
Nebbi Rural	1	1	1	5	3	0	11
Nebbi Town council	1	1		11	0	1	14
Total	**2**	**2**	**7**	**30**	**7**	**2**	**50**

3. Ora Micro catchment

A total of 17 projects were prepared and approved by Zombo District Technical Planning Committee (DTPC) to be implemented in the sub-counties of Zeu and Akaa in 2020. The implementation of these projects was also divided into seasons A and B. 11 projects are to be implemented in season B of 2020 and the rest to season A of 2021. The projects are: 6.6 acres of food forest, 11 Springs with 05 connected to water ponds and 04 RBR.

Table 3.3.2.3 Summary of Ora infrastructure projects approved

Sub County	Valley Tank	Small Scale Irrigation System	Protected Springs and water pond	Food Forests	SWC	RBR	Total
Zeu	0	0	4	1	0	3	8
Akaa	0	0	7	1	0	1	9
Total	**0**	**0**	**11**	**2**	**0**	**4**	**17**

Screening exercise in Ora Micro catchment was halted due to COVID-19, only part of the two named sub counties were screened. Comprehensive technical screening is planned to resume in January 2021.

Community Groups Formation

A total of 34 community groups have been formed in 9 sub-counties from the implantation of activities in the districts. The process was participatory and guided by group formation criteria such as: Members within walking distance to the project site with 50% of the participants being women. 50% of the group members to be refugees and 50% nationals for refugee hosting areas, household should send only one person to the group. A community member with a formal job (e.g teacher) to be excluded to give priority to people without formal income. The total number of participants were 585 (M=293 F=292).

Table 3.3.2.4 Details of participants per micro catchment

Micro catchment	No of Groups	Total Participants		
		Male	Female	**Total**
Yelulu	9	105	105	**210**
Nyarwodho	9	68	67	**135**
Ora	16	120	120	**240**
Total		**293**	**292**	**585**

Project Management Committees (PMCs) formed and trained

Similar to the infrastructure projects, PMCs were formulated and trained for the projects in the approved micro-catchment plans. PMCs are members of the group with specific tasks and comprise of chairperson, treasurer, secretary and a member. A total of 136 (M=68 F=68) PMC executives were selected by group members taking into consideration gender and special groups like the youth representation. The PMC consists of 2 males and 2 female members of each group.

The members received a two days training on basic technical, leadership and first aid skills, to build capacity of the PMCs to oversee the construction work. The training was conducted by District Technical Staff from Water, agriculture, Forestry and Natural resources, Engineering and Construction, Community Development and Public health departments. Key areas addressed include: preparation of detailed workplans for projects, organization and supervision of work, maintenance of attendance register, provision of basic first aid, supporting the payment of cash to participants, safety of tools and maintenance at the end of project.

Table 3.3.2.5 Project Management Committees (PMC) Members Formed and Trained

Micro Catchment	Male	Female	Total
Yelulu	32	32	**64**
Nyarwodho	18	18	**36**
Ora	18	18	**36**
Total	**68**	**68**	**136**

4. Procurement and distribution of tools

Assorted tools and materials were procured and distributed to 34 community groups participating in implementation of WRM projects. These included hand hoes, spades, slashers, Pangas, pick axes, axes, strings, measuring tapes, claw harmers, spirit level, wheel barrows, rakes, nails, barbed wires, first aid kits, jerrycans, drinking cups, hand washing facilities and soap.

5. Status of WRM Projects Implementation

34 groups were formed to implement 31 ongoing projects.

Table 3.3.2.6 Shows the number and categories of projects implemented.

Micro catchment	Projects (No of Projects are in Bracket)	Status
Yelulu	Springs (2) and ponds (2)	Completed
	Valley tanks (2)	Work on 1 is in progress
Nyarwodho	Valley tank (1)	Pending technical assessments
	Spring protection (7) water pond (1)	Protection on-going
Ora	Spring protection (11) water pond (5)	Protection on-going

6. DLG Capacity (Engineering and Water department)

A training on Resilience design for Landscape and Water under Water Resource Management was conducted in Nebbi district for two weeks starting from November 23rd to 6th December 2020. It involved 24 DRC Staff, 08 District staff from Kitgum, Moyo, Adjumani, Zombo, Nebbi, Terego, Pakwach and Obongi Local Governments. This was aimed at building capacity of the DRC implementation staff and DLG technical staff. The training covered; theoretical knowledge on resilience design, application of the concept to Water Resource Management to protect the roads and develop roadside agroecosystems utilizing the rainwater and nutrient resources flowing to and from a road.
DLG/LLG Monitoring and supervision: DTPC, DEC, LLGs; Terego district technical staff participated in assessment, screening and costing of the WRM projects. District Engineers have been actively involved in all operations of WRM including supervision. A DEC monitoring was also organized.

7. Site Dialogue Meetings

DRC conducted 31 community site dialogue meetings in the 09 Sub counties where activities are being implemented. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure that all stakeholders have full information about the infrastructure works and safe access to the project site. This process increased awareness amongst local communities and enabled them to participate in the implementation of the projects.

3.4 Output 0: Programme Coordination

NURI CF is responsible for coordination of programme activities, and provides technical back-stopping especially on Output 1. CF has a team of 10 technical staff and six drivers. Of the technical staff, six are based in Kampala and four in regional offices in Arua, Moyo and Kitgum. CF works in close collaboration with RDE and coordinators/managers of the implementing units and partners and DLG technical staff. For analysis of NURI institutional set-up, see Annex 2.

NURI CF carries out a number of supporting roles as well as coordination. The major activities are:

- Coordination and Synergy
- Inception Activities
- Financial Management Activities
- Procurement Activities
- Human Resource Management
- M&E Activities

3.4.1 Synergy and Coordination

A number of activities are implemented jointly and bring the various Output teams together in activity implementation. This includes local radio shows, where details are included under the Output 2, 3.2.2. DLG and LLG monitoring activities are also combined across Outputs, with monitoring visits covering all NURI activities. Details are included under M&E 3.4.5. Also RDE monitoring visits, and the annual IMC, both reported in detail under the M&E section involve joint planning and implementation by the Outputs.

Field Coordination Meetings.

NURI Coordination function organized monthly meetings with the Ips at regional level to review implementation of program activities and to address any challenges affecting program implementation in the various districts.

During 2020 NURI-CF also started organized NURI-CF+ meetings with all the Ips so share up-dates and specifically discuss issues relating to synergy across the programme. During 2020 CF+ meetings were organised in Arua and Adjumani where issues on synergies on NURI outputs was discussed as well as an opportunity to network and brainstorm on innovations and ideas across the programme.

Resilience Design

The concept of Resilience Design, currently being introduced and rolled out in RI and WRM activities offers exciting opportunities for synergy across the Outputs. CSA staff attended a training on RD organised by DRC, and focused on aspects that link to agricultural production. The trainees were selected so as to have a pool of trainers to roll out the RD concepts to the CSA Units in 2021. A report on the training is included in Annex 4

WRM Study Tour

During July 2020, a joint team, including representatives from all Outputs undertook a study tour to Eastern Uganda to look at WRM activities, including opportunities for synergy. The visit supported the teams understanding, knowledge and skills on making soil and water resources resilient through soil and water conservation techniques and Irrigation systems but also to enhanced collaboration and understanding between the various implementing arms of NURI through joint learning and relationship building and supported NURI efforts to carry out ground-breaking pilots and implementation models in resilience design, through synergy between the three outputs, CSA, RI and WRM, potentially having impact well beyond the programme.

3.4.2 Inception Activities

Koboko district and Imvepi settlement were brought on board at the beginning of 2020 and inception activities were implemented during the first quarter. This included assessment of potential implementing partner for CSA in the district, signing of agreements, orientation and sensitization of DLG, recruitment of CSA staff, planning activities with DRC. PICOT was identified towards as a suitable partner for CSA implementation in Koboko the end of 2019 and CF supported them in all inception activities including staff recruitment. For Imvepi, Arua DFA is the implementing partner. Being a long-term NURI partner, inception activities were minimal.

3.4.3 Financial management activities

NURI CF is responsible for financial monitoring of implementing partners. The finance team reviews financial reporting from the implementing partners and checks that agreed procedures are followed. The finance team worked in close collaboration with the coordinators and accountants of each implementing partner and unit. During the reporting period, the activities accomplished are described below:

Budget Utilization monitoring

The programme percentage of budget utilization for the FY 2020 is 60% as per the performance monitoring reports. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, some procurements and activities were put on hold or deferred to a later period. Such activities were; procurement of tarpaulins, farmer open days and team building events. Considerable cost savings resulted from a change in format for trainings and meetings, to online meetings, smaller groups, with less staff traveling and using in-house resources rather than eternal trainers/or and consultants.

Some administration costs increased since COVID-19 SOPs were followed, for example procurement of sanitary items such as masks and sanitizers. There was more travel by CF staff as they moved to each unit for trainings, rather than gathering larger groups.

Financial support Activities

In January 2020, the NURI Coordination Function hosted the RDE for a Financial Monitoring visit, issues discussed included the need to review NURI Accounts manuals. The review of the manuals was contracted out during December 2020 and is ongoing.

CF supported the implementing Units in the 2020 budget review leading to an approved revised budget of 29.07.2020

To build capacity of partners on financial reporting, Aclaim Africa was contracted to improve Quick Books Online (QBO), the financial package used by NURI. This included training of relevant staff. Accountants attended a 3 training, including procurement and the use of QBO. Some planned trainings were cancelled by Aclaim because of fears of COVID-19.

During the year, a new implementing partner, PICOT, was brought on board and CF provided relevant financial management support. Other implemented partners were supported on needs basis with some visits by CF finance team, though limited by COVID-19 restrictions.

Audit

KPMG auditors were contracted to audit the FY2019 financial statements for the CF, CSA Implementing Units and DRC. This exercise faced some delays prior to start up. As a measure to limit COVID 19 risk, documents were scanned and sent to the auditors. Thereafter an exit meeting was virtually held between the Auditors and the audited units to discuss the findings. It was started in the last quarter of the year and signing of final audits reports is on-going.

3.4.2 Procurement activities

Procurement activities within the programme are divided between those handled centrally at CF and those decentralized to implementing partners and units. NURI CF procurements are managed by the finance department. Decentralizing procurement speeds up processes, which is particularly important for agro-inputs that are bound by agricultural seasons.

Internet installation for Resilience Agricultural units, Arua DFA and CF office in Arua were successfully procured by CF. Security services for NURI offices were harmonized and procurement centralized based on an assessment of security by RDE in 2019. This was finalized in 2020 and is now operational for all the RAUs and CF office.

RDE supported NURI CF in the procurement of vehicles, motorcycles and tarpaulins by international tender. Some delays were experienced due to COVID 19 restriction, however by the end of the reporting period, delivery to implementing partners and farmer groups were complete. While agro-inputs and items for office running were procured by the units, they received support from CF on a range of other goods and services were procured by the units, including motorcycle repairs through a pre-qualified service provider, printing of training manuals, repair of office equipment including laptops, leasing copiers and riding gears for staff.

DRC received eight Toyota Hilux Pickups, a Nissan Pickup for Koboko and a Land cruiser Hardtop for Arua and 41 Honda XL motorcycles for RI and WRM operations. The vehicles were allocated to all the field offices one vehicle per office, and motorcycles were allocated to all field offices.

Construction of Life shelter at Rhino Camp settlement

During the FY2020, Life Shelter Limited was contracted to construct accommodation facilities at the Rhino Camp settlement to ease on the accommodation challenge that was faced by the Arua DFA Staff based at the Rhino camp. This construction, including a number of modifications, was accomplished and the shelters are now in use.

Managing procurement of service providers for planned trainings

As a measure to control the spread of the COVID 19 units were guided to restrict trainings and meetings to hotels and venues able to ensure the implementation of SOPs, including social distancing. This led to a reduction in competition, as in smaller towns there are few venues with large training halls.

District Capacity Building procurements

Under this activity, each district supported came up with an approved plan for their procurement and training. Due to challenges in developing clear and standardized specifications, in September 2020 NURI CF organised a workshop with the DLG technical teams, led by the CAOs, to harmonise the specifications. Procurement process have faced a number of delays, including a number of issues related to COVID-19 restrictions, and are ongoing by the end of the period.

3.4.4 Human resources – Recruitment and development

NURI CF's HR function supports CSA units in effectively and efficiently managing human resources, and attracting and developing talent. In 2020 HR contributed to programme achievement through the activities highlighted below:

Recruitment and on-boarding process of CSA workforce 2020

New and replacement staff were hired as per the programme recruitment plan, with increased on-line applications and review of TORs. HR focused on ensuring quality, consistency and transparency in the hiring process programme wide. CSA workforce recruitments ran smoothly and resulted in the hiring of technically competent candidates in line with recruitment objects.

HEADCOUNT –NURI CSA Workforce Unit by Unit 2020

W/F Category							
	AEO	**AES**	**VS**	**VO**	**MC**	**CSAC**	**CD**
Unit							

Lamwo	24	3	0	1	0	0	0		
Kitgum	14	2	1	1	1	0	1	**Key**	
Agago	16	2	1	1	1	0	1	**AEO:**	Agricultural Extension Officer
Moyo	30	3	0	1	0	0	1	**AES:**	Agricultural Extension Officer
DFA-Arua	57	7	1	3	1	1	1	**VS:**	VSLA Supervisor
AFARD	27	4	1	3	1	1	1	**VO:**	VSLA Officer
Adjumani	30	3	0	1	0	0	0	**MC:**	Marketing Coordinator
PICOT	13	1		0	0	1	0	**CSAC:**	CSA Coordinator
Ttl Head count	**211**	**25**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**6**	**CD**:	Coordinator

**Data Exclude non-CSA workforce*

Upon completion of recruitment processes, NURI CF planned and implemented decentralized onboarding of new hires in the regions. Three successful on boarding engagements were carried out, with high-level participation from NURI CF.

Capacity Development and Virtual learning strategy.

COVID-19 negatively impacted both internal and external NURI Programme staff capacity development initiatives in 2020. The most affected were DFC trainings in Denmark with no participants able to travel after February.

For 2020, the Programme implemented a virtual leadership Training based on identification of needs and appropriate selection of participants from both Senior Level Managers (SLT) as well as Middle Level Management (MLM) programme wide. A total of 26 participants attended a 2 months modular online Leadership Effectiveness Course facilitated by International Consultants – Infinity Leadership via Zoom technology. The Objective to was improve programme management and leadership capabilities and soft skills.

Performance Management and Reviews 2020.

2020 focus was on streamlining the performance evaluation process programme wide as well as enhancing capacity for the use of the system for performance management through briefings, refreshers and automation of appraisals for CSA staff. NURI CF human resource coordinator produced and shared reports on overall performance ratings for all 361 Output 1 staff. The results informed Rewards and Recognition (Covid-19 Performance Bonus) and workforce reshaping for 2021 programme wide.

Summary of Performance Reviews Outcome 2020 Programme wide

Performance Review Outcomes 2020 by Rating Category					
Performance Definition	**Out standing**	**More than Satisfactory**	**Satisfactory**	**Less than Satisfactory**	**Un satisfactory**
Rating	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
N=345	n=13	n=124	n=196	n=7	n=0
Percentage	**3.77%**	**35.94%**	**56.81%**	**2.03%**	**0%**

Outcomes of employee performance reviews 2020 revealed potential areas for improvements to align better our performance review system with programme requirements. One of the main elements highlighted, was promoting the use of work plans, as they linked technical skills of CSA staff to specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound tasks /outputs. Also, weakness in conducting effective PR conversations were observed. This was evident with the seemingly uniform Performance Ratings provided by supervisors.

360 Degree Leadership Evaluation

A 360degree Leadership Evaluation was carried out in 2020. The entire NURI Senior Leadership Team participated in the evaluation. The results from the Evaluation will inform development of the 2021 Leadership Development plan.

In the new financial year 2021, the focus of human resource function will be on consolidating efficiency in HR processes and procedures programme wide. This will include promoting virtual learning strategies to take advantage of new learning opportunities. To maximize use of virtual learning technologies has been recommended for this purpose after experience with Infinity Leadership Online training. The plan is to promote the virtual learning strategy as media to deliver all DFC trainings affected by Covid-19. Leverage the 360-degree leadership evaluation 2020 and develop a targeted Leadership Development plan, a Rewards and Recognition framework, Team Building as well a new Leadership Management Programme for Women professionals is high on agenda 2021.

Human Resources – DRC Outputs 2 and 3

The administrative structure for DRC-NURI includes local headquarters based in Arua, with 3 staff: Project Manager, Project Engineer and Water Engineer. Three Regional Offices in Arua, Kiitgum and Adjumani, each with Project Manager/Project Support, Finance Officer, Supply Chain Officer and Shelter and Infrastructure Officer (engineer).

S/No	Office	Staff Category	Male	Female	Total	Comments

1	Kampala	Key staf	1	1	2	Finance and Admin Coordinator Supply Chain Officer
		Implementation	1	0	1	MEAL Coordinator
2	Arua Local H/Q	Key staff	3	0	3	Project Manager, Project Engineer, Water Engineer
1	Kitgum Regional Office	Key staff	4	0	4	
		Implementation	7	6	13	
2	Lamwo	Implementation	6	1	7	
3	Agago	Implementation	5	3	8	
4	Moyo	Implementation	5	2	7	
5	Obongi	Implementation	6	1	7	
6	Adjumani Regional Office	Key staff	3	1	4	
		Implementation	11	4	15	
7	Arua Regional Office	Key staff	2	1	3	
		Implementation	10	2	12	
8	Rhino / Imvepi	Implementation	6	2	8	
9	Koboko	Implementation	5	2	7	
10	Nebbi/Pakwach	Implementation	7	2	9	
11	Zombo	Implementation	5	2	7	
	Total		**87**	**30**	**117**	

Capacity Building Activities

DRC country office and Regional office organized training on Resilience design for Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource Management in Nebbi district in February and November/ December 2020 respectively. The training was carried out by Warren Brush a consultant on Resilience design approach and DRC Regional staff, Natalie Topa the Resilience and Livelihoods Coordinator based in Nairobi DRC office. The objective of the training was to build capacity of DRC- NURI project staff and the district local governments implementing NURI project. A total of 90 participants attended the training; 50 under RI and 40 WRM.

The DRC and district engineers trained the local masons on technical aspects of culvert installation. The training was organized and undertaken by DRC and facilitated by the district engineers. This was aimed at preparing DRC staff and the masons to do quality work, improve their knowledge and skills.

3.4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The function of monitoring and evaluation in NURI is guided by the NURI log-frame and theory of change. The result areas are clearly defined and in line with UPSIDE results framework in the programme document and DED. The objective is to measure progress towards achievement of component objectives and outcomes, enhance learning and accountability. During the reporting period, NURI CF M&E function was supported by consultants, relevant stakeholders and Implementing partners and unit's staff and management.

DEC and Lower Local government (LLG) field monitoring

DEC and LLG monitoring visits are planned each quarter, to allow DLGs/LLGs to monitor NURI progress. Visits were organised by IPs and NURI-CF working with District Focal Point Officers (FPOs) and activities of all Outputs are visited. Visits were mainly conducted in the third and fourth quarter, once activities were fully established in the field. The DLGs (DPO, DAO, LC 5 chairpersons) normally select specific sub-counties to go to whereas the LLG (LC 3 chairpersons, Senior Assistant secretaries, Secretary for production and Agricultural officers) monitor all the sub-counties.

The monitoring focused on the implementation of RI, CSA, VSLA and marketing and included the identification of implementation gaps and opportunities to benefit farmer groups. The general feedback is that the program is running well. A key challenge was the poor condition of roads. Recommendations included increasing outreach to more groups, include animal traction activities and provide seeds for larger block gardens rather than demonstrations. Detailed monitoring reports are prepared by the district focal point officers and shared with NURI Regional Coordinators. This process enhanced collaboration with the DLG and helped in conflict resolution in some project sites.

For Output 2 and 3 the district technical staff including District Engineer, District Water Officer and District Commercial Officer participated in technical screening and costing of the 2020 and 2021 RI projects. Their involvement in the preparation of investment plans, approval and supervision of project activities enhanced ownership, quality assurance and sustainability of the projects.

Field Monitoring Visits

1. The Ambassador, Deputy Ambassador of Denmark and RDE Desk Officer visited acticities at various times during the year, including participation in IMC meeting.
2. NURI Coordination Function (CF) made regular monitoring visits to all districts, and carried out monitoring of all Outputs and activities as well as meetings with DLGs and other stakeholders.
3. DRC country director visited project implementing districts at the start of 2020. The visit included interaction with key stakeholders of the districts.

Baseline studies for North West Nile (Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi and Koboko)

Baseline studies were in July for Adjumani, Moyo and Obongi, and in November for Koboko, providing a base against which to measure progress and impact of NURI activities. The methodology used mixed

methods of data collection (household interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews) and targeted sampled groups from the different category of groups supported by the programme.

Data collection was done by enumerators recruited by the programme. Recruits were given a one-week training on the tools for data collection and research methods. The training was conducted by M&E coordinator with support from other CF staff. Raw data was entered using epi-data and analysis was done using SPSS. Data entry and analysis was carried out by a consultant.

CSA adoption study for farmer groups that started in 2019

The adoption study will inform whether farmers are applying the different CSA practices promoted by the programme. It provides a basis for assessing CSA training and make comparisons with farmer practice. The purpose of the study was to determine the level of learning and adoption of CSA practices by NURI groups and identify factors influencing adoption.

The exercise was conducted between 28/9/2020 to 6/11/2020 in Acholi sub-region and South West Nile. The study target farmer groups that started in 2019 and were in their second year of participation. Data was collected using a combination of methods but majorly interviews and field verification. Focussed group discussions were done to understand factors influencing adoption. Data entry and analysis was completed in December 2020 and report writing is at the final stages.

Old groups and Animal traction study

This objective of the study was to assess the value added through supporting graduated groups for a further period, as well as to better understand the impact of animal activities under RDNUC, and build on the model based on the post-project success factors identified. The study targeted the 'old national groups' and the exercise ran alongside the adoption study using the same methods but different tools. Data entry and analysis was completed and report writing is at the final stages. Results of the study will inform future plans and activities, including the development of sustainable animal traction support models.

CSA staff training on M&E in NURI programme

The CSA staff play a key role of collection of production data using production and marketing plan forms. This is to enable reporting on production levels for the strategic and field crops being supported with the farmer groups. During Q4, the staff were trained on data collection methods, tools, practices and other M&E practices. Also, stakeholder engagement, communication of M&E findings and team work were incorporated in the training schedule. This improved to a great extent data management practices in the units and IPs.

Updates on CSA data collection tools and methodologies

The extension staff perform a key function of production data collection. This includes acreage, yield and marketing data for the farmer groups supported by the programme. All these require tools and templates to ensure uniformity. With support from the technical staff from NURI CF and IPs management, the PMP

form, demo monitoring form and special activity log sheets were developed to guide data collection. The tools have been incorporated in the CSA training manual.

CSA staff training on preparation of production and marketing plans:

Extension staff support farmer groups to development three-year production goals using the PMP format. The PMP is used to gather production data. A training was conducted for the officers recruited in 2020 on PMP and the team cascaded the learnings to the farmer groups. Emphasis was on aligning the outcome of the tool to the overall results framework, data collection methodology and extracting reports from the tool. This was done in the second and third quarter of 2020 for all the regions except Koboko that was pushed to the first quarter of 2021.

Monitoring data entry into the CSA database

Data Officers were recruited attached to RAU Kitgum/Lamwo handling Acholi sub region and AFARD handling South West Nile. Their role is capturing all the PMP data into the CSA database. This was monitored throughout the reporting period. Farmer groups that started in 2019 have a completed one cycle of the PMP, have revised their targets and continuing with 2020 production monitoring. The lot that started in 2020 have made their plans or projections of production and their baseline data was captured into the database.

Programme reporting (quarterly, semi-annual and annual)

Through support from CF staff, all the IP and RAU management staff were taken through the reporting requirements for the NURI programme. Reporting formats were shared and refresher meetings were conducted in the respective units to enable the staff understand the reporting requirements. During the reporting period, IPs and RAUs prepared quarterly progress reports and annual report for 2020. These are to be reviewed and quality assured by NURI CF after which the reports are shared with the relevant stake holders in the implementing districts.

Implementation Committee Meetings (West Nile and Acholi sub-region)

The implementation monitoring committee meets annually to review implementation progress and visit filed activities. The 2019 IMC meeting was the NURI Launch. In 2020, CF split the meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions; one in West Nile from 21-22/9/2020 and another in Kitgum from 24-25/9/2020.

The meeting was attended by the RDE, Line Ministry representatives, DLG technical and political leaders, IP management, RAU management and CF technical staff. Status updates were presented by the different stakeholders and a field excursion was made to enable stakeholders follow up field activities to CSA and RI activities. The minutes have been prepared and shared with the respective IMC members. Recommendations and actions are included under Chapter 8, section 8.2.

4.0 Progress against Outputs and Outcome Targets

NURI aims to increase the agricultural output of small-scale farmers including refugees and hosts. Agriculturally-related rural infrastructure will be renovated and constructed using a labour-intensive approach and agriculturally related physical and natural water infrastructure will be constructed and made more resilient to climate change. All this will contribute to enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities.

The assessment of progress against output and outcome indicators was planned for year 2 of implementation as defined in the M&E manual however this has been pushed to year III. An adoption study was conducted to follow up delivery of CSA training but also would respond to some outcome indicators. Considerable progress has been made at activity level that contributes toward the achievement of targets. A summary of progress against activity indicators is included as Annex 7.

4.0 NURI Impact: Resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities enhanced.

Achievement of Programme Outcome indicators

Outcome indicator 1: Increase in average annual agricultural cash income of participating HHs (segregated by age, gender of HH head and refugee status)

Monitoring survey against baseline will be conducted in Q1 of 2022, results shall therefore be reported at that time.

Outcome indicator 2: Reduction in number of participating HHs reporting periods of food insecurity (segregated by age, gender of HH head and refugee status)

Monitoring survey against baseline will be conducted in Q1 of 2022.

Outcome indicator 3: Total number of people benefiting from supported WRM interventions

The construction work under WRM had not yet started during the time of reporting as catchment plans were approved in Q3 and Q4 of 2020. Community groups have been formed and only the very first construction activities were start in 2020.

4.1 Output 1: Climate Smart Agriculture - Increased agricultural output of small-scale farmers

Output indicator 1: Cumulative % of participating HHs adopting additional CSA practices

An adoption study was conducted in South West Nile and Acholi sub-region in Q2 and 3 of 2020 to ascertain the extent of uptake of the CSA technologies provided to farmer groups through training and

demo site establishment. The assessment done on 6 out of 8 sessions conducted for farmer groups that started in 2019 comparing practices before and after joining NURI. Overall, findings indicate good progress in adoption of technologies with a few examples highlighted below;

Use of improved seeds: Before implementation of CSA training, only 3.2% of the farmer groups used improved seeds however 70% of the farmer groups reported using improved seeds for the strategic crops.

Planting of seed: Before training, only 16% used recommended planting techniques, majority planted in lines. After training, 68% planted their crops in lines and followed the timing, spacing and field alignment. Results were however lower for sesame compared to the large seeded crops.

Pest & Disease control: 56% of the respondents reported to have experienced cases of pest and diseases on their field and applied the technologies delivered during the CSA training.

Post-Harvest Handling: 75% of respondents reported application of PHH practices during and after harvest of their crops. Most of the respondents reported that they needed to add value to their produce in order to attract good prices during sale

Output indicator 2: Cumulative % increase in average yields per acre for strategic crops for participating HHs

Average yield for strategic crops in 2019 varied from crop to crop with some showing increase compared to baseline while others did not. Increase in yields was registered for sesame by 45%, sunflower by 32% and rice by 33% compared to baseline. A decline was registered for the other crop types and is explained by poor crop management practices and unfavourable weather.

Table Average yield for strategic crops in 2019

Strategic crop name	Research yield estimate per acre (kg)	Average yield West-Nile (kg)	Average yield Acholi (kg)	Average yield per acre at baseline (kg)	Average yield per acre NURI gps 2019 in kg
Sesame	250	176	142	156	285
Beans	700	279	139	264	248
Soybeans	400	262	154	231	223
Sunflower	600	0	240	249	368
Rice	700	533	220	504	752
Potatoes	3000	747	-	-	962
Cassava	4000	2,982	2,395	2,901	2044
Onions	1200	929	2,400	1,052	638

Output indicator 3: Cumulative % of the quantity of strategic crops harvest that is sold

Results shall be provided after completion of entry of production and marketing data for 2020. Also, further assessment will be made when the monitoring survey is conducted in Q1 of 2022.

4.2 Output 2: Rural Infrastructure – Agriculturally related rural infrastructure renovated and/or constructed using labour intensive approach

Output indicator 1: Average cumulative % of projects in the district investment plans completed (segregated by refugee settlement area or not)

Implementation for approved projects in the investment plans is on-going with some completion activities extended to 2021 due to the contextual issues in 2020. To date, the completion rates stand at 27% for water ponds, 43% markets, 48% springs, 94% food forests and 85% community access roads.

Output indicator 2: Cumulative number of beneficiaries that report a reduction in time and/or cost in transporting goods to a market place (segregated by refugee settlement area or not)

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for 2021/ 2022.

Output indicator 3: % of HHs reporting satisfaction with the completed infrastructure projects

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for 2021/2022

4.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management – Climate change resilience in target areas improved through WRM

Output indicator 1: Cumulative number of micro-catchment plans implemented

Implementation of approved micro-catchment plans, however for the approved plans, community groups have been formed and actual construction work will start in Q1 of 2021.

Output indicator 2: Number of agriculturally-related physical and natural water infrastructure constructed or rehabilitated (adjusted as CCE supporting indicator)

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for 2021/2022

Output indicator 3: Community/user management agreements developed and implemented

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for 2021/2022

Output indicator 4: % of HHs aware off and understanding by-laws related to completed projects

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for 2021/2022

5.0 Status on Risks and Assumptions

The COVID pandemic emerged as a major and unforeseen threat to NURI implementation in 2020 and the on-going pandemic remains a threat, with the roll out of vaccination likely to take some time. In general assumptions held, and risks were successfully mitigated. The results of the Adoption study, as well as other studies and an assessment of NURI Extension Methodology, allow for some confidence in updating the status on risks and assumptions.

Emerging issues are: flooding, especially along the Nile, was at a level during 2020 well beyond NURI capacity to mitigate, as well as widespread water logging, and demand for improved inputs which NURI has generated is in some cases not being met by the market.

Details on risks and assumption identified in the DED, and emerging, are updated in the below tables:

Status on Risk factors:

Risk factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk assessment and response	Update at December 2020
Programmatic risks				
Creation of aid dependency by supporting small-scale farmers to access subsidized low-cost inputs.	Likely	Major	NURI's strategy is to provide inputs only to those farmer groups that fulfil certain conditions, like co-financing and preparation of a business plan. Also, subsidized inputs will constitute a small proportion of the total intervention.	This risk has not materialized. The importance of levelling expectations from the start, is a lesson learnt from earlier programmes. Production and Marketing plans, supported by VSLA Saving with a Purpose activities ensure NURI farmers have a plan which includes access to finance for inputs.
Land conflicts due to unclear land ownership and increasing pressure on land and/or land-grabbing by powerful entities or individuals.	Likely	Major	Land conflicts may be exacerbated by the NURI success. Mitigation through ensuring land ownership is clearly defined and recorded and through inclusive planning processes, locally driven implementation and strengthening of local communities.	Land conflicts are managed on a case-by-case basis, for example by relocating demonstration plots or compromising on the width of CARs. Land disputes are more common in Acholi but reducing over time. All cases are solved with engagement of LLG authorities.

Poor sustainability of constructed or renovated infrastructure due to insufficient maintenance.	Likely	Major	NURI will strengthen learning from cases where mobilization of local communities for maintenance has been successful, and continuously explore and share information on best practice.	DRC has built in mitigation based on earlier experience. Implementation of Resilience Design potentially reduces the need for road maintenance and creates incentives for farmers to maintain drainage structures as agriculture benefits from water soaking into the soil.
Adverse climatic events, such as floods or droughts	Likely	Major	While mitigation of this risk is somewhat outside the scope of NURI, adaptation to the risk is a key rationale for NURI's interventions concerning climate smart agriculture and water resources management, and climate considerations will also be integrated in infrastructure renovation and construction.	CSA measures are implemented and resilience design is implemented for RI. These mitigating measures will somewhat lessen the risk. There have been cases of flooding where drainage trenches have been introduced with advice from NURI extensionists. Flooding and waterlogging has been a significant challenge in 2020 and more effort in resilience design and capacity development are needed.
Women will not actually get empowered due to deep-rooted cultural practices and norms.	Likely	Major	NURI's strengthened focus on female empowerment is in itself a recognition of such deep-rooted cultural practices and norms. While changing norms in a few years might not be possible, an attempt will be made. Training in financial literacy and family planning are seen as key opportunities.	In collaboration with the WAY programme a guide for strengthening SRHR and gender in CSA training has been developed for use of extension staff. In CSA the high numbers and engagement of women, ensures women's participation in leadership
Local communities become disgruntled due to disagreement with the selection of beneficiaries and projects.	Likely	Minor	NURI will emphasize transparency and inclusion in decision-making processes. Stakeholders are sensitized before project selection and distribution of resources is done in a transparent way.	This has not materialized perhaps because of the strong efforts on clarifying selection procedures and involvement of local governments
Interventions by other DPs offer more lucrative	Likely	Minor	NURI will coordinate with other DPs to avoid geographical overlap and	There have been groups dropping out and staff leaving for other posts, but not to a level

support for beneficiaries and better salaries for staff			"competition" for beneficiaries, and to coordinate general remuneration levels for both community participation and project staff.	where it impacts on outcomes. NURIs focus on capacity building vs inputs is widely understood and respected. In Acholi some staff lost to DINU.
Institutional risks				
Corruption or misuse of funds among NURI implementing partners (also programmatic risk)	Likely	Major	Mitigation through implementation modalities based on experience. Lessons learned on safeguards under RDNUC are incorporated in the Management and Accounts Manuals.	Financial and procurement guidelines and monitoring are implemented. Whistle blower reports are thoroughly investigated.
Self-implementation by NURI CF leads to lack of sustainability and excessive management burdens.	Unlikely	Major	This risk will be mitigated by building on previous positive effects of self-implementation: Many local staff have been trained and equipped with skills they can apply in different contexts, and efficiency has been high due to decreased fiduciary risks and no politicisation of activities.	In NURI CSA sustainability is achieved through building human capacity within the IPs, DLGs and the community. NURI extension and VSLA staff are recognised for their capacity and, from past experience, go on to jobs in public, NGO and private sector, taking with them the technical and management skills imparted by NURI. Excessive management burdens have been addressed from the start with addition of a FMA, Human resources coordinator, VSLA coordinator, and a regional coordinator for Noth West Nile.by adjustments to staffing, and including the introduction of a National Programme Coordinator, and CSA Coordinators in some units.
Limited engagement of local governments, as they do not implement.	Unlikely	Minor	As NURI will rely on the active engagement of DLGs, it is designed to ensure full alignment to their structures and procedures. Furthermore, capacity building is integrated in all NURI interventions.	DLGs and LLG are enthusiastically engaged in NURI. Being involved in selection of beneficiaries, strategic crops, infrastructure projects and activities as well as in monitoring, and in attending and occasionally facilitating trainings, DLGs and LLGs are generally highly involved in implementation.

				Feedback at the annual IMC meetings reinforces this impression as does the CSA Extension Methodology study.
Emerging Risks 2020				
Conflict between Districts where new districts have been split off from NURI districts	Likely	Medium	Managed by a transparent splitting of resources between the sub-divided districts and by engaging with the new districts. NURI will follow the lead of GoU and not engage in any political debate.	After the formation of Obongi from Moyo District there was some unrest and some groups were unwilling to work with any partner until they are acknowledged as falling under Moyo District. NURI temporarily suspended work in the affected sub-county, however the leaders of the two districts caried out a joint dialogue and all activities have restarted. No other conflicts reported.
COVID-19 lock-downs and restrictions hinder work and raise fear of outsiders in the communities	Likely	Medium	Emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has already had major impact on Uganda and on all economic and development activities. NURI works with District COVIID taskforces.	Working with District COVID-19 task forces, developing and following SOPs and taking sensible precautions allowed NURI to continue work from the early stages of the pandemic to date.
Emerging Risks 2021				
Access to quality inputs in remote sub-counties and settlements			Access to quality inputs remains a problem despite some improvement for farmers closer to urban settlements. For refugees, access to vegetable seeds, training in own propagation of seeds will be further strengthened.	Although access to inputs is increasing as the market responds to demand, there are still cases where demanded inputs such as improved varieties, are not available. Kitgum reports increased number of agro-input businesses, with limited cases of outreach. Strengthening group members knowledge on own propagation of seed needs to continue.

Status on Assumptions

No.	Assumption / Risk	Status
KA CSA	Farmer groups will be open to learning climate smart agricultural methods and will adopt and apply the techniques on their farms	Farmer groups have been selected based on interest and commitment.
KA CSA	Farmer groups will be willing to participate and cost-share some types of support such as produce stores	Old National Groups contributed significantly through cost-sharing for projects focused on marketing, although their ability to do so reduced markedly during the COVID-19 lock-down leading to delays. Despite this, in Lamwo District, for example, 90 out of 100 old groups cost-shared for projects.
KA CSA	Refugees will have access to sufficient land for production activities	Access to land for refugees varies considerably across the settlements. In general access to land has not hindered group activities.
KA RI	Participating communities will be willing and able to contribute to physical investments through labour and maintenance of infrastructure	Groups are actively participating in activity implementation. It is will take time to assess participation in maintenance activities.
KA RI	Climatic conditions are favourable for construction works	Heavy and persistent rains are problematic in terms of flooding and erosion of road works. Resilience design is being introduced as mitigation.
KA RI	Local contractors are available and able to meet quality standards	Indications are positive. In early 2021 an assessment will be carried out
KA WRM	UNWMZ is able to establish collaboration and agreements	Lower-level collaboration still needs to be strengthened but is successful at district level.
KA WRM	Stakeholders are able to identify suitable micro-catchments	All micro-catchment has been identified.
KA WRM	Participating communities are willing and able to contribute to physical investments	Based on experience from RI, there is every reason to believe this assumption will hold, however access to land for common good activities remains a challenge.

KA CSA= Key Assumption for Climate Smart Agriculture, KA RI = Key Assumption for Rural Infrastructure, KA WRM= Key Assumption Water Resource Management

6.0 Reporting on Expenditure

The total budget for the NURI engagement is DKK 325 million over a period of five years 2018-2022. The Danish commitment is made in Danish Kroner (DKK).

For WRM, the budget of DKK 50 million derives from the Climate Change Envelope, disbursements of which are centrally coordinated by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen. Disbursement budgets for that output therefore have to be coordinated with the relevant unit in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The budget for Coordination activities is DKK 24 million and for contingencies DKK 14 million. CSA activities have a budget of DKK 116.5 million DKK and RI activities DKK 120.5 million.

The DKK 14 million for contingencies can be used to cover unforeseen expenses for planned activities (budget margin for extraordinary price increases, money exchange losses, unforeseen expenses etc.). According to the "Guidelines for Programmes & Projects January 2018", contingencies can only be used within the same development engagement without limits.

Table 6.0: Overall budget for NURI for the period 2018-2022 (DKK millions)

Output	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	%
Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	-	16	35	36	29.5	116.5	35.9
Rural Infrastructure (RI)	-	16	36	37	31.5	120.5	37.1
Water Resources Management (WRM)	3	8.5	8.5	15.5	14.5	50	15.4
Coordination incl. TA and M&E	-	6	6	6	6	24	7.3
Contingency	-	-	-	-	14	14	4.3
Total	**3**	**46.5**	**85.5**	**87**	**88**	**325**	**100**

For each partner, under each output, annual work plans and budgets were prepared based on a budget frame provided by the RDE through NURI CF. The annual budget was prepared through a consultative process between implementing units and CF. Details on the budgeting process are included in the Management Manual, under section 8, Financial Management and Procurement, 8.1 Budget and budget approval.

NURI Fund utilization for 2020

In 2020, a total budget of UGX 77 billion was approved, UGX 57 billion was disbursed, and of that UGX 46 billion was expended. Funds utilization rate was 60% for the year. See table below for details:

Table 6.1: NURI BUDGET UTILIZATION FOR 2020

NURI CONSOLIDATED REPORT Budget vs Actuals				
January to December 2020				
	Jan - Dec 2020	Jan - Dec 2020		
Intervention	Disbursed Funds	Actual Expenditure	Approved Budget	% Budget Absorption
Coordination Incl TA and M&E	**3,254,392,000**	**5,067,727,033**	**3,254,392,000**	**156%**
0. Coordination, TA and M&E		5,067,727,033	3,254,392,000	156%
Climate Smart Agriculture	**20,380,489,079**	**23,358,964,689**	**36,117,320,000**	65%
0. Coordination Function Kampala		853,121,755	1,092,764,000	78%
1.1.1. Assess and select strategic crops and beneficiary farmer groups, or where no groups exist		258,211,923	323,104,000	80%
1.1.2. Prepare plans with the selected farmer groups depending on their situation and needs		60,608,000	114,873,000	53%
1.1.3. Train in Climate smart agricultural practices, including soil and water management.		4,914,380,063	7,433,749,000	66%
1.1.4. Train in and support collective marketing.		3,937,678,128	8,106,186,000	49%
1.1.5. Continuously assess farming systems and climate smart agricultural practices		0	100,000,000	0%
1.2. Train target farmer groups in financial literacy, especially through formation and support of		577,458,492	1,180,445,000	49%
1.3. Provide capacity building and operational support to the implementing partner		11,917,165,351	15,038,465,000	79%
1.4. Provide capacity building and operational support to Production Departments		840,340,977	2,727,734,000	31%
Rural Infrastructure by DRC & CF	**32,406,811,000**	16,113,424,454	36,674,771,000	44%
2.3. DLG capacity building		7,491,589,268	9,442,543,000	79%
2.0. Service contract fee		1,711,729,203	4,267,960,000	40%
2.1. Prepare Infrastructure Investment Plans for approval		282,030,459	1,333,087,000	21%
2.2. Implement approved infrastructure projects		6,483,776,024	13,956,493,000	46%
3.2. Agriculturally-related water infrastructure		144,299,500	7,674,688,000	2%
Water Resources Management by MWE & CF	**1,411,493,688**	1,421,329,819	1,113,415,000	128%
3.1. UNWMZ office capacity-building		1,413,299,819	1,013,415,000	139%
3.3. Consultancies Short term TA		8,030,000	100,000,000	8%
TOTAL	57,453,185,767	45,961,445,995	77,159,898,000	60%

Summary per Implementing Partner:

NURI Coordination Function				
Disbursement, Expenditure & Budget per Implementing Unit				
January to December 2020				
	Disbursed Funds	**Actual Expenditure**	**Approved Budget**	**% of Budget**
NURI Coordination Function	7,647,878,443	11,403,743,884	18,115,080,000	63.0%
AFARD	3,338,842,389	3,389,510,175	3,054,393,000	111.0%
RAU Agago	1,714,624,146	1,463,941,508	2,554,183,000	57.3%
RAU Adjumani	2,611,048,548	2,439,974,189	3,244,804,000	75.2%
Arua DFA	4,087,819,750	4,116,018,657	4,199,413,000	98.0%
RAU Moyo	2,858,124,503	2,662,242,151	4,938,847,000	53.9%
RAU Kitgum	2,542,115,470	2,399,613,600	4,405,131,000	54.5%
PICOT	694,227,830	674,437,998	719,661,000	93.7%
DRC	30,647,011,000	15,998,664,014	34,914,971,000	45.8%
WRM	1,311,493,688	1,413,299,819	1,013,415,000	139.5%
TOTAL	57,453,185,767	45,961,445,995	77,159,898,000	59.6%

7.0 Challenges and lessons

Expansion of activities in North West Nile

The North West Nile Districts of Moyo and Adjumani, which had not been included in the predecessor, RALNUC programme, started later than other districts in 2019, and focused on establishing implementing units with a small extension team working only with Women Refugee groups. 2020 saw a 4-fold increase in staffing and farmer group engagement, including mixed refugee groups and new nationals.

Koboko and Imvepi settlement were launched during the first quarter of the year, however planned activities were disrupted and disorganised by the COVID-19 lock-down and restrictions. The lock-down restrictions happened when crucial activities had planned including farmer group selection, strategic crop selection, procurement and other planning activities. The restriction would delay activity roll out and disrupt the farmer groups agricultural calendar if inputs were not delivered on time. Once the lockdown was lifted and SOPs agreed with District COVID-19 Task Forces NURI CF mobilized extra support including experienced staff of older districts, particularly Arua and Agago. While compromises were made and a few training activities pushed to Q1 of 2021, all activities with the newly selected groups were carried out successfully by year end.

Continuity of activities under COVID-19 restrictions

A lockdown and a range of restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda was announced in March 2020, causing delays in the implementation of planned activities. For CSA activities the lockdown came at a time when critical CSA activities were planned including assessment and selection of farmer groups, enterprise selection for groups selected in 2020 and CSA training. Land identification for demonstration plots was ongoing as was procurement of inputs for demonstrations. The ban on public gatherings, transport restrictions affected all these activities. When field activities resumed, NURI CF and IP/RAU management had to re-plan some critical activities and give priority to the most critical ones, particularly those relating to field activities and thus to weather seasonality.

Rural infrastructure activities were also affected, but SOPs and a work methodology making use of small groups was quickly developed. Planning activities in some districts were significantly delayed as these required larger meetings. Through it all, DRC managed to implement all the activities from their 2020 workplan.

WRM activities were severely affected as UNWMZ was closed for some time, and planned community meetings to launch micro-catchment assessment activities in 4 new micro-catchments were delayed.

NURI CF worked with partners and District Task Forces to overcome the various challenges and fears and were able to restart activities by May, including developing SOPs for the various activity

types, and changing the format of trainings and meetings, taking some on-line, and breaking others into smaller groups.

Weather challenges, severe flooding in 2020

Although reported as above average to normal, excessive rains in Q4 caused flooding and displacement of some farmer households. The Nile River rose significantly causing flooding of homesteads, fields and areas initially designated for NURI demonstrations. All the sub-counties along the River Nile belt in the districts of Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi, Arua, Madi-Okollo and Pakwach registered cases of flooding. In Acholi sub-region excessive rains during reproductive and maturity period of crops led to poor performances of some demo and farmer fields. Many households were not prepared for such weather as they were used to short but intensive rains in the second season. It is the reason as to why most farmers preferred intensive cultivation in the second season, growing short-term varies like sesame, soybeans, beans, sun flower. In a few areas invasion by hippopotamuses was a threat, as wildlife was displaced by flooding.

Attendance of sessions 7 and 8 of CSA training was affected because households that were displaced by floods relocated to stay with relatives in far off places. The performance of sesame and beans was affected due to excessive rains during reproduction and maturity. Cases of excessive leaf growth, diseases, rotting during drying and low yields were recorded. The CSA staff re-emphasized soil and water conservation technologies to the households affected to drain off excess water on farm.

It was also noted that, such challenges provide a great avenue for developing synergies within the three outputs of the NURI programme. The resilience design training could be rolled out to all CSA staff so that they can cascade it to the farmer groups.

Mobilization of funds by old groups for projects under co-funding

In working with the old farmer groups, a co-funding modality was agreed upon and fund mobilization by participating groups was on-going during the reporting period. NURI CF took time to develop the modality for planning and guidelines on how to handle the funds. As expected, it has taken time for groups to identify activities and to mobilize funds. This has been further complicated by the slowdown of economic activity caused by the COVID-19 restrictions. Progress was made during the reporting period and implementation of projects has progressed. Performance on fund mobilization by groups has varied across the project types with those groups selecting stored and tarpaulins showing higher levels of motivation. It has been positive to see that groups are willing and able to mobilize funds for cost-sharing, but also a reminder that strong community engagement and sufficient time are required for such activities to succeed.

External Training Modalities

The COVID-19 restrictions were a real challenge to planned trainings under Output 1, and it was necessary to find a pragmatic solution. Splitting trainings into smaller groups, carrying out trainings in-office or close to home and making use of individual known trainers, especially from

NARO and the ZARDIs was the solution that was found to work. This proved to be very successful, cost efficient and highly rated by trainees and NURI managers alike and will be the preferred method for training in the future.

Land access for Mixed refugee groups

NURI engagement with Mixed refugee/national groups requires that national groups members are willing to provide land for group activities, but also has the objective of increasing refugee group members' access to land more generally through the closer relationship with the host community. This outcome is easier to achieve where there is sufficient arable land and where there is a balance between the numbers of refugees and hosts. In Palorinya, the refugee population is higher that the host population making it difficult to achieve the target of farmer groups in the mixed category. While the target was achieved in 2020, it may be a challenge in 2021. In Adjumani the low total numbers of refugees and host in the selected settlements are also a challenge and further settlements have been selected and approved for inclusion in 2021.

Inputs subsidy (seeds)

The farmer groups have had a challenge with cassava and soybean seeds that were supplied for demo fields in 2020. On planting, the yields were not matching with results from the germination tests implying possible seed adulteration. Procurement of all inputs are normally done under the procurement guidelines of the programme while the suppliers have met the procurement conditions stipulated in the tenders. It has proved difficult to hold suppliers accountable after observations are made when planting of seeds has already been done. There is therefore a challenge of ascertaining genuine inputs supplied to farmer groups for seed multiplication as the germination tests alone have not provided a safeguard against fake inputs.

Procurement policy and guidelines for NURI amidst COVID-19 regulations

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the execution of some procurement guidelines was difficult and delayed programme work. For consultancy services, some firms suspended travel of their staff to offer services up country due to travel restrictions. The implementation of a phased method of opening the economy due to lock-down, was mainstreamed in most firms. Training costs increased to include transportation of consultants, COVID-19 SOP equipment and other safety measures.

For office and input supplies, some suppliers could not take part in bidding processes due to fear of getting stock on time. Delivery of items centrally procured by CF was difficult and delayed activities in the field.

8.0 Implementation of Decisions and recommendations

The current annual report will be an important input into the Mid-term review re have been no new reviews or appraisals since the launch of the programme, however the recommendations of the NURI reappraisal carried out in October 2018 have been implemented during the reporting period.

8.1 Recommendations from NURI Reappraisal, 25 October 2018

Programme/ Project Document

Recommendation

Prepare a comprehensive Project Document, integrating WRM and including a Logical Framework and a clear and graphically illustrated Theory of Change

Follow-up / Implementation

The NURI Programme documents have been redrafted and approved, integrating WRM, logical frame-work and an elaborate Theory of Change

SRHR activity implementation

Recommendation

In support for promoting gender equality and working on SRHR, ensure that the implementing partner employs field staff with a social affairs background and gender skills

Follow-up / Implementation

The role of NURI extension staff is to support linkages between communities and SRHR and GBV activities that are supported and strengthened through the WAY component. They have been trained accordingly with some follow-up training. Collaboration with other Outputs under the WAY are still lacking and the light field presence of other partners hinders real progress.

8.2 Recommendations from IMC 2020

During the 2020 IMC meeting a number of recommendations were made by various participants including the RDE. Many recommendations related to specific sites, or were related to lack of clarity. Recommendations with wider relevance are listed below, as well as actions taken.

Recommendation	Action taken
NURI CF guide AEOs to widen the scope of their advisory services to include other enterprises and farmers in the immediate vicinity of the selected farmers whenever there is obvious need to do so, and it is practicable and makes sense	In the role of AEOs, as recently reviewed, in the third year of working with national groups, there is opportunity to train on other enterprises, outside the chosen strategic enterprise, and time for more household visits.

NURI CF and RAUs/IPs train the AEOs on the requirements for seed production, and tweak the CSA training manual to address the issues observed and promote the appropriate application of the general principles of CSA as well as seed production requirements. Liaise with the MAAIF, which has the technical expertise for producing quality declared seeds.	NURI CF shall consult Abizardi / DAOs to build capacity of the AEOs on seed production and also provide relevant materials /manuals in line with applicable seed multiplication regulations
NURI CF and IPs/RAUs explore the possibility of exchange visit for cross learning as some of the IPs/RAUs have registered progress in addressing some of the identified challenges.	Learning opportunities are included in annual staff team-building programmes. NURI CF to explore options including budget implications and develop guidelines. IUs to suggest relevant learning sites.
NURI CF is planning a training for the Marketing Coordinators/Officers and a review of their role. The issue of farmers' produce marketing should be discussed during that training, which should come up with solution(s) to the problem. NURI CF will organize the training, while the NURI implementing partners (IPs) and Resilience Agricultural Units (RAUs) should implement the proposed solution(s).	NURI has undertaken an inhouse of the marketing function in NURI, and moved to mainstream marketing, phasing out marketing coordinators and placing responsibility and capacity for marketing activities with the entire CSA team, with coordinators leading. Ongoing sensitizations of farming community on the dynamics of marketing to level their expectation of high prices. Consultant to carry out training is being sourced jointly with the IPs/Units. AEOs TORs reviewed.
NURI CF and RAU Kitgum-Lamwo document and share the experience and lessons learnt on the high level of savings in Lamwo District with other implementing partners/units of NURI and the DLGs. NURI CF should develop and provide the template/format for the documentation.	Success stories are included in the information material developed by consultants hired by RDE. NURI CF will plan how to distribute and share these materials. VSLA Coordinator will do further follow-up.
NURI CF and the RAUs document NURI's experience and lessons learnt with cost sharing and share these with all relevant actors e.g. other NURI supported farmer groups, DLGs, MWE, etc.	Included in the assessment of Old Groups
CSA implementing partners/units involve the Engineering Department in guiding the farmer groups during the planning and construction of their stores. They should also advise the group members to construct their store in location where they can	Ramps have been put in place and groups selected the sites themselves. As a synergy DRC engineer helped to supervised the stores and in future the DLG engineers shall be consulted.

guarantee the security of their produce. Critically the IPs/RAUs should ensure that the store plan is approved by the District Engineer to avoid future inconveniences. The CSA IP/RAUs should train the FGs in O&M of the stores, and ensure that all the necessary/appropriate safety precautions are in place/adhered to.	
Rural Infrastructure	
Given that land issues can be complicated and protracted, the NDO recommends that NURI CF, implementing units & participating Local Governments take extra measures moving forward.	This is being done e.g., site dialogue meetings in all the proposed sites, encouraging landowners and the LLG to sign the Land Voluntary donation form before works commence.
NURI CF and DRC take cognisance of the requirements to liaise with utility authorities as they implement projects in Arua City. This recommendation is relevant to and should equally apply to all urban areas in the NURI participating districts.	DRC met with the city planner and city engineer and they agreed that DRC can continue up to June 2021. But should always involve them in all steps. DRC intends to implement all the projects in sub counties affiliated to the city before June, 2021
NURI CF and DRC always involve the DLG in all stages of the project cycle, i.e. from identification, design/specification, approval, implementation, monitoring and supervision, and ensure that all infrastructure projects conform to the sector norms, guidelines and standards of the relevant line ministries. DLGs should follow procedure on takeover and upgrading of CARs to district roads, and S/County LGs should include CAR in their planning process as advised by a participant.	For water, all the analysis is done before work commence. DRC utilized the water testing kits procured under DCB and tested all the springs across all districts of NURI. DRC is working closely with DLGs on specifications in a bid to comply with the ministry guidelines. DRC/NURI CF need to intensively engage the DTPCs and LLG authority to take over the management of the roads. All projects completion approved by the district engineers before payment effected to consultants to avoid performance gaps.
DRC include protective wears (PPEs and other critical field gears) in their procurement plan, while the DLGs should include the same in their District Local Government Capacity Building Plan. NURI CF should guide DRC and DLG accordingly.	DLGs should include expensive equipment e.g laser levels, dumpy levels in their DCB procurement plans. Gumboots and other cheap items can be procured by DRC
Cross-cutting	
Supply of poor-quality inputs is a very important issue that should be addressed	More engagement of the vendors on quality parameters. Pre-bid meetings where the

by NURI CF and implementing partners for CSA and RI.	bidders are taken through requirement/ specifications.
DRC should involve the agriculture extensions officers, CDOs and LCs right from project planning and through implementation. In conducting community dialogue meetings with a view to educating the land owners and other members of the community on the benefits of the mitre drains and bio swales before commencement of each project.	Joint radio talk shows, joint site dialogue meetings and combine program for joint sensitizations already drawn to start in Feb, 2021. Both CSA & RI staff shall move together to accomplish these activities
WRM	
MWE/UNWMZ prepares and shares quarterly progress reports with NURI CF, the RDE and other relevant stakeholders. MWE should organize Project Steering Committee to give an update on the output and approve the DRC work plan for WRM. DRC should prepare and submit to NURI CF her work plan for Output 3 for review before the next PSC meeting.	MWE/UNWMZ is trying to plan a Steering Committee meeting. DRC has submitted the work plan to CF
Programme Monitoring and reporting	
NURI has some results to show, which NURI Coordination Function (NURI CF) should report on during the MTR, due early next year.	Adoption study as well as other studies and assessments are being prepared
NURI IPs and RAUs as well as the DLGs report on the prevalence, severity and location of the challenges they encounter so that the "duty bearers "can have a sense of their scale and significance and respond accordingly.	DRC identified all the projects halted due to land conflicts and only found 2.2% affected which is Insignificant. Measures are now in place to avoid other eventualities
NURI CF should document and share the success stories from Danida's interventions in Northern Uganda.	Information materials prepared by RDE consultants is being shared

Annex 1: Animal Traction Loan Product Collaboration

NURI ENGAGEMENT WITH TALANTA MICROFINANCE FOR ANIMAL TRACTION

Prepared by Marie Ediu, VSLA Coordinator, NURI CF

Within the economic development focus of the programme, NURI recognises the importance of other development partners in boosting production and productivity as well as financial deepening. NURI focuses on up-stream value chain activities having mainly to do with primary production as well as market linkages, including linkage to formal financial institutions. It is upon this that NURI CF engaged with Talanta Microfinance Ltd.

Background of Talanta Microfinance Ltd

Talanta Finance Limited is a financial institution registered under the laws of Uganda in 2006, and specializing in offering affordable financial services to farmers in Northern Uganda, with headquarters in Gulu City. Their vision is to improve lives of the poor farming communities by enabling them fight poverty in a sustainable manner and the mission is to be the best provider of affordable and reliable financial services, train, create networks and mentor clients through business partnerships.

Talanta serves more than 4000 clients and are looking to achieve a new phase of accelerated growth driven in part by leveraging on new ICT tools to deepen and broaden their reach through branchless services. They have been in partnership with, aBi, USAID and Partners Worldwide that has enabled them provide animal traction loans to farmers. The animal traction loan was first introduced with donor assistance in 2008, under which, Talanta provided "Interest Free" loans that procured 300 oxen and 100 ox ploughs for farmers with a loan recovery rate of 94%. Thereafter, Talanta redefined the product to include interest of 1.5% per month, proof of access to land (at least 5acres), deposit of 30 % of the cost of the product, security/collateral of over 130% of loan or alternatively a cash deposit equal to six months' instalments of the loan, loan period of 24 months and a grace period of four months that made it sustainable as a loan product within their system.

Justification of the animal traction engagement

In traditional agricultural societies, where the main focus of agriculture is non-mechanized subsistence production, the introduction of animal traction can vastly increase both production and productivity by allowing farm families to open more land, and reducing drudgery involved in planting and weeding. Distribution and rural trade are also assisted through animal-powered transport. A strategic approach to animal traction can be an important and viable technology for rural development as an integral component of rural development and mechanization strategies. Animals assist in eliminating poverty, reducing labor demands and creation of wealth, making animal traction particularly important for food security in smallholder farming systems.

In Northern Uganda, animal power is not affordable or accessible to many small holder farmers who lack collateral to secure loans from the banks. Theoretically, linkages with the private sector, development partners and financial institutions can help to facilitate such access, however small-scale farmers have poor linkage to the financial sector and are considered as high-risk clients with financial institutions putting high demands in terms of security to access the loans.

Among the NURI participating farmers, the situation is not any different with most of them using manual labor to plough, weed and transport their produce from the fields to homes and market with limited access to financial institutions. Access to animal traction provides the most appropriate and viable option to open up land which quickens production activities and maintains soil fertility hence increased production and productivity. In the previous programs (DAR/RALNUC) animal traction was implemented through provision of oxen, ox-ploughs and other accessories as grants. This model used Community Based Trainers (CBTs) paid by the program to train the farmer groups in running the scheme as well as training ox-handlers and oxen. A recommendation was given during the first appraisal of the NURI programme in 2018 to implement animal traction activities but using a more sustainable approach. The approach should enable beneficiary contribution rather than 100% grants model. NURI CF carried out a situation analysis and agreed to run a pilot scheme with sustainability and beneficiary contribution in mind.

Purpose of the engagement with Talanta Microfinance Ltd
The purpose of this engagement is to pilot a sustainable animal traction model that is affordable to the NURI participating farmers.

Objectives

- To provide farmers with affordable animal traction loans that will increase production and productivity.

Attributes of the animal traction product.

In the NURI engagement the product was redefined further to include; Mandatory beneficiary training on animal care, veterinary kit (Key Drugs and Equipment), Product life Insurance for the animals, Increased range of implements (Ox-cart and Planter) and Elimination of the cash security requirement based on a loan guarantee with aBi. The loan product will have the following attributes;

- The total cost of this will be 2,080,000 UGX per set of ox-plough and two bulls.
- An interest rate of 1.5% per month for a period of 24 months.
- Grace period of 4 months before they start paying their monthly instalment.
- Monthly installment of 99,008 Ugx for a period of 20 months.
- A commitment and willingness initial deposit of 30% of the loan amount before disbursement.

Implementation Plan
The model will be piloted with 50 farmer groups from RAU Agago in both the first and second season of 2021 before its rolled out to the other units. Before Talanta conducts sensitization, AEOs create awareness about the animal traction loans to generate interest from the groups.

The initiative will be implemented in collaboration with Talanta, RAU Agago, aBi and NURI CF with each entity having specific roles to play.

Role of Talanta Microfinance Ltd

- Conduct sensitization meeting with the farmers on the attributes of the loan product.
- Solicit applications and conduct loan appraisals for the interested farmer groups.
- Procure and train the animals before handing over to the farmers.
- Provide farmers with a pair of oxen and ox plough as a loan
- Monitor the loan repayments and carryout loan recoveries in case of defaults.
- Provide the farmers with veterinary kits at the time of hand over of the animals
- Train farmers on animal care.
- Liaise with an insurance provider to secure insurance policy for the farmers.

Role of aBi

- To support the 50% security requirement through guarantee.
- To conduct due diligence for Talanta Microfinance Ltd to ensure they are able to offer loans to NURI farmers starting with the first season of 2021 for a period of 2 years.
- To monitor the guarantee money offered to Talanta Microfinance Ltd.

Role of NURI CF

- Ensure selection of well-established and successful farmer groups
- Offer extension services to increase production and productivity, reducing default risk.
- Engage with Talanta Microfinance Ltd to document the progress and success of the animal traction.

Current status

Currently, Talanta and RAU Agago are running a series of activities to ensure that farmers are knowledgeable about the animal traction product and can have access to information.

- To kick start the activities, Talanta Microfinance and RAU Agago has conducted sensitization meetings with 8 out of 34 groups identified so far. Its observed that the farmers are ready to apply for the loans and make the required commitment.
- In order to serve the farmers better, currently Talanta is establishing a contact office and has recruited a staff who will be based in Agago and will be responsible for receiving applications and conducting loan appraisals with the farmers.
- Due to the high demand and readiness of the farmers to take on the loans, Talanta is translating the product leaflet into luo.
- Talanta has started receiving application from the interested farmer groups with the hope that the animals will be available by the third week of March for distribution to the farmers who applied.

Annex 2: Institutional Arrangements

Prepared by NURI CF – Recommendations in Italics

The institutional arrangements of the NURI programme are unusual in that the programme Coordination Function directly manages a number of implementing units under CSA. Here follows an analysis of what is working well as experienced by the NURI CF.

Kampala Office

NURI CF office in Kampala is well functioning, in a modern centrally positioned building. Sharing facilities with aBi gives some advantages in sharing of assets – meeting rooms, vehicles etc. There are also, theoretically opportunities for synergy but these have in reality been few. It is an expensive office and individual offices are often empty because of the frequent travel and some working from home. The offices houses: PMA, FMA, M&E coordinator, Finance and Admin Officer, Finance and Admin Asst. and HR Coordinator.

It was originally envisaged that the HR Coordinator would be based in Arua, but this has not been implemented, as the HR role has been supporting the PMA and FAO on a number of issues, and it has been most practical to maintain the office in Kampala. Also, a Supervising Engineer was planned for, but as implementation progressed, it was assessed by NURI management in consultation with RDE that occasional consultancy inputs would deliver the required quality assurance more effectively.

NURI CF adds real value to the programme as a strong technical unit that strengthens and smooths the relationship between Danida and the implementing partners. There might be a case for moving HQ to Arua, however, this should be weighed against the benefits of the proximity to the RDE and DRC HQ as well as aBi and other development partners and Government Ministries.

Arua Office

NURI CF Arua Office houses the NPC and VSLA coordinator. It is important in giving NURI CF a clear and visible presence in Arua City. It is frequently used by other CF staff when they are in the field, and has meeting facilities which allow for all CF staff to quickly and efficiently organize meetings and small trainings when working in the North. It is also useful as an occasional store for materials delivered from Kampala, for onwards distribution.

Moyo Office/ Kitgum Office

- NURI CF Moyo office houses the Regional Coordinator within the premises of the Moyo/Obongi RAU, and allows the RC to be close to activity implementation.
- NURI CF Kitgum office houses the Regional Coordinator within the premises of the Kitgum/Lamwo RAU, and allows the RC to be close to activity implementation.

There are advantages and disadvantages to housing the RCs within a RAU. It is important that Coordinators, who are accounting officers for the Units, have the freedom to manage their units without undue interference. At the same time, the close proximity offers opportunities for mentoring of coordinators by the RCs.

Output 1 CSA Implementing Units

In NURI there are a number of partners and units in CSA implementation with some continuing from RDNUC, while others are new, mainly in new districts of the program. Each Unit has its own unique characteristics, depending on the level of support from the District, the size of the unit, the number of Districts and settlements covered, the experience and leadership characteristics of the Coordinators, etc. The justification for the establishment of Resilience Agricultural Units is the dearth of local NGOs with capacity to implement a programme the size of NURI. However, the positive experience of working with PICOT in Koboko, demonstrates that NGOs, even if they do not have experience with the type of activities implemented by NURI, can quickly and efficiently be supported to take up the role. The example of PICOT should be considered, but keeping in mind that Koboko DLG is unusually supportive and has not only the capacity to backstop PICOT on CSA activities, but is also motivated to do so. Roll out in Koboko has been less challenging than with the RAUs in Adjumani and Moyo/ Obongi for various reasons – including the relative scale of activities. *There may be justification for a renewed look at available, local NGOs, and also whether some NGOs can cover several districts.*

Output 2 RI, DRC

Implementation of Output 2 is generally running smoothly, and the advantages of having an INGO as implementing partner are clear. The technical capacity within DRC, particularly on Resilience design has been a bonus for the NURI programme. The demands on management time from NURI CF are far lower with a single INGO. The field management team work together extremely well, also with NURI CF team, and the DLGs and are enthusiastic, experienced and highly invested in the success of NURI. While DRC, like many INGOs have a number of control systems from HQ, and can at times be bureaucratic, they have been sufficiently flexible to allow the talent in the field team to flourish.

Output 3 WRM, UNWMZ and DRC

The difficulties experienced in organizing steering committee meetings for this output were predictable, as the high-level participants are rarely available. However, the Steering Committee and the MWE in general, have proved flexible and practical, and have not caused undue delays, once activity implementation started.

UNWMZ NURI team have proved resourceful in this Output and have brought technical knowledge, experience, innovation and ideas. There is a useful level of collaboration and support between NURI CF, UNWMZ and the DRC team. There is great enthusiasm from all sides around resilience design, and the level of progress is a result of willingness on all sides to take risks and embrace new ideas.

The combination of RDE, UNWMZ, DRC and NURI CF could have created challenges in terms of the different back-grounds coming into NURI and cultures of the organizations, but has instead been 'disruptive' in the modern, positive sense of the word. A study tour organized in 2020 brought the various actors together and played a useful role in building trust and a sense of a shared goal.

Annex 3: Collaborations under COVID-19

World Food Programme

Following the COVID-19 crisis and a period where NURI activities were brought to a standstill because of movement restrictions, NURI CF had discussions with WFP on collaboration in support of COVID-19 interventions. The objective was to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions and regulations on refugees and host communities and to minimize the risk of infection and spread on the communities and those serving them.

The collaboration allowed NURI extension staff, not able to work because of movement restrictions, to volunteer to support WFP activities in food distribution. Over 80 staff volunteered and underwent COVID-19 training by Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). Further training by WFP prepared NURI volunteers for specific tasks in support of WFP activities. The volunteers were paid and equipped by NURI. As described by WFP 'Equipped with motorbikes and a detailed knowledge of the refugee settlements, these volunteers—trained in turn in COVID-19 prevention by UVRI — will be an invaluable asset in keeping the people WFP serves fed, informed and safe amidst the pandemic'.

Further, NURI and RDE agreed to allow WFP use of NURI CF vehicles and drivers not deployed because of movement restrictions. WFP paid for fuel while NURI provided the vehicles and covered insurance, and drivers' salary and health insurance.

UNHCR

NURI CSA teams carried out extra activities in support of refugee and host access to seeds provided as a COVID-19 mitigation measure by UNHCR.

- In Palabek Settlement, Kitgum/Lamwo Resilience Agriculture Unit (RAU) supported UNHCR in seed distribution to NURI mixed (refugee/host) groups. The RAU received 10,180 kgs of maize seeds, which were distributed to all of the 34 refugee mixed groups currently working with NURI.
- For NURI supported settlements in Adjumani, the RAU received 5,100 Kgs of maize seeds from UNHCR. The seeds were distributed to 2,040 women refugee households from NURI groups. Households were selected by NURI extension staff based on their interest in receiving seeds and their ability to access land for maize cultivation from the adjacent host communities.
- Moyo/Obongi RAU has supported UNHCR in seed distribution in a variety of ways, including providing information on groups currently supported, enabling UNHCR to focus groups not supported by other programmes, as well as assisting in the actual.
- In Rhino Camp Settlement, NURI CSA IP, Arua DFA supported seed distribution through provision of detailed information on groups assessed under NURI. NURI provided details on non-supported groups and UNHCR provided seeds to 11 such groups.

Annex 4: Resilience Design Training for CSA staff

Resilience designs for water and landscape Training Report

23rd Nov. – 5th Dec. 2020

Prepared by ARUDIFA AES, Joel Bayo

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized a training on resilience designs for water and landscape in Nebbi aimed at equipping the participants from rural infrastructural and climate-smart agriculture components of the NURI programme. The aim was to equip participants with knowledge and skills to enhance sustainable water and land use at a smallholder farming context. The training embodies core topics as permaculture, rainfall planting (harvesting), resilience design structures (bioswales, dams and smile berms), food forest, and sustainable agroecology management. The sessions were comprehensively designed to be practical in nature with continuous involvement and participation of the community of Atego Sub county, Nebbi District. The resilience designs and structures (dams, perma-gardens, bioswales and food forests) were established in tandem with the priorities of the said community of Atego Sub county.

Training participants

The participants included staffs of DRC working in the rural infrastructure output and selected AES' from the IPs and RAUs across the CSA output. Also, in attendance were the district local government staff constituting of district water engineers and environment officers in the NURI implementation districts and participants from MWE who are stakeholder in WRM – output. In total, there were five CSA participants who are expected to cascade this training to the rest of their colleagues in their respective units.

Key learnings relevant to Climate-Smart Agriculture – Output 1

The key learnings of the training included; community resilience through permaculture, natural resource mapping to identify the key resource opportunities (agroecology management), construction of bioswales (fanyachini and fanyaju) using the recommended tools and techniques, ceasing the opportunity of road runoff by creating water diversions (bioswales) for the benefit of the cropping lands, rain harvesting and food forest establishment using smile berms.

Recommendations what is applicable to CSA

- Integration of the learnings from the training into the CSA training especially establishing fanyachini and fanyaju using recommended standards to incorporate the 5S' (Slow, Spread, Sink, Save and Serve) water in the demonstration field.
- Introduction of the perm-garden concept in the women refugee farmer groups for sustainable vegetable production all year round.
- Conducting a deliberate training on construction and use of tools (A-frame) for establishment of bioswales and perma-gardens.
- The CSA participants shall train their colleagues in their respective units on resilience designs for water and landscape.

Conclusion

The resilience design for water and landscape training is relevant and when implemented would address some gaps that have been sounded by the CSA staff about soil and water conservation. Therefore, in the future it would be noteworthy to consider the integration of the concepts of resilience designs for water and landscape in soil and water conservation or CSA trainings that will be organized.

Fig 1. Process of establishment of double dug garden for vegetable production in the perma-garden

Fig 2a. Trellised bioswale

Fig2b. Food forest in the perma-garden

Annex 5: CSA Training for NURI Staff

Prepared by Francis Otim, Regional Coordinator, Acholi Region, NURI CF

The technical knowledge of NURI extension staff is key in ensuring the achievement of Output 1 objectives. In the implementation of CSA, extension services are provided to farmer groups, on specific crop enterprises and good agricultural practice in general, by Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs). AEOs together with their supervisors in the CSA Implementing Units (AES, CSA Coordinators, Unit Coordinators and/or Managers) are regularly trained and offered refresher training to ensure they have the technical knowledge to support farmer groups.

In 2020, due to disappointing experience with procurement of training consultants, coupled with the difficulties of large trainings due to COVID-19 restrictions, trainers were outsourced from mainly NARO institutes, (NaSARRI – Serere, NaCRRI – Namulonge, ZARDIs Ngetta and Abi) and Moyo DLG. These were selected based on their speciality in specific commodities at research stations and work place. NARO is the Agricultural Research institution of the Government of Uganda and has a pool of experts in a range of commodities.

None technical areas of the training such as extension approaches, effective communication and how to conduct a training were handled by NURI Coordination Function staff and Implementing Unit staff, based on the knowledge and experience of various staff. The trainings were organized by NURI Coordination Function.

Training Objectives

a) To equip extension officers with knowledge and skills on climate smart agricultural practices of selected crop enterprises i.e., field, fruit and vegetable crop enterprises, using a mix of classroom and practical hands-on training methodologies
b) To equip extension officers with knowledge of various extension methods and approaches used in extension service delivery.

Training Organization and Participants

The trainings were clustered based on; crops for each unit, location of the implementing unit, number of staff and type farmer groups targeted, year the staff joined the program and observance of guidelines on COVID-19 in place. In most cases, where same crop was appearing in different units, the same trainers were used so that same message was passed to the extension staff. These trainings were held from June to August 2020 and duration varied from 3 – 4 days depending on the content to be covered which was informed by the group types the staff were handling. In total 210 staff were trained of which 65 were female. The staff were trained at unit level while in some cases staff were drawn from more than one unit at designated venue as outlined below:

Phase 1:

- Moyo: 30/6/2020 - 3/7/2020 – RAU Moyo / Obongi staff handling national and mixed refugee groups - Palorinya
- Adjumani: 30/6/2020 - 3/7/2020 – RAU Adjumani staff handling national and mixed refugee groups
- Arua: 6/7/2020 - 9/7/2020 – Arua DFA and AFARD new staff handling national groups

- Kitgum: 7/7/2020 - 10/7/2020 – RAUs Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago new staff handling national groups and mixed refugee groups - Palabek settlement

Phase 2:

- Arua: 4/8/2020 - 6/87/2020 – Arua DFA staff handling both mixed and women refugee groups in Rhino Camp and Imvepi settlements
- Koboko: 4/8/2020 - 6/87/2020 – PICOT staff handling national groups
- Adjumani: 11/8/2020 - 13/8/2020 – RAUs Adjumani, Moyo and Lamwo staff handling women refugee groups in Adjumani, Palorinya and Palabek settlements

Training Methodology and content

Presentations and discussions, experience sharing and practicals were used during the training. The trainers used power point presentations and encouraged sharing of ideas or experiences to aid learning. The theoretical part covered; good agricultural practices for field and root/tuber crop production, vegetable and fruit production, seed multiplication, CSA and other new technologies, pests and diseases and their management. In addition, climate change and its impacts and CSA concepts were discussed. There were sessions on effective communication in extension work, how to conduct training sessions, and data gathering any other issues in extension service delivery. Praticals were done to enhance hands-on learning, and covered variety identification, planting, and pest and disease identification. For vegetables, nursery beds were practically demonstrated from setting, planting including soil and water management practices. Demonstration plots were established and/or identified for field practice and observation.

Challenges

- Limited time allocated to cover certain crops especially vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant and green pepper
- Sessions on soil and water management structures useful in vegetable production were insufficiently
- The practical sessions for vegetable production, pest and disease identification and management were insufficiently covered
- COVID-19 pandemic guidelines which restricted in terms of gatherings affected free interactions.

Recommendations.

- Follow up training to backstop extension staff on some sessions particularly on production of vegetables. This was partly done, covering Palabek, Adjumani and Palorinya refugee settlements staff for 2 days each unit
- Allocate adequate time for practical sessions especially on pest and disease identification and management.
- Need to train extension staff more on practical session specifically on soil and water management including optimum land use systems. This will be covered by the roll-out of resilience design training

Conclusion.

Trainings were well received by participants (based on post-training evaluations), with the NARO consultants demonstrating a high degree of knowledge and applied good facilitation skills. Other areas of concern will be handled by the program with continuous backstopping and refresher trainings, as well as training of new staff.

Annex 6: Resilience Design Approach in NURI

Prepared by DRC NURI Team

The aim of Resilience Design is to reduce soil erosion, build healthy soils that can retain water and regenerate local biodiversity for long-term resilience of the physical landscape so that natural resources are replenished and not degraded. By utilizing this approach, long-term surface water retention and sub-grade water storage within the landscape are more viable, which ultimately supports the long-term health of local ecosystems, thus improving an ecosystem's ability to provide food, fodder, fiber, fuel and fertility for communities. Characteristic of DRC's resilience design approach is systems-based thinking that considers good governance of resources, social cohesion, infrastructure and facilitation of local market systems, as well as a healthy and vital local ecology that is resilient to shocks and stresses. By consolidating and integrating resilience design interventions, the overall impact of each project is optimized by leveraging opportunities of infrastructure improvements to aid in healing landscapes and buffering communities and markets from climate and weather extremes.

DRC's Resilience Design Approach incorporates land restoration, permaculture, agroecology and agroforestry principles to respond to ecological degradation and extreme hydrological behavior within sub-catchment zones, micro-watersheds and the ecology of areas where rural infrastructure and water resource management projects are implemented.

Finally, it should be noted that, in addition to the hands-on training community members receive during their participation in each project, DRC's intensive resilience design trainings include participation by government representatives as well as representatives from the Climate Smart Agriculture component of NURI. To date, 20 government engineers, 1 representative from the Ministry of Water and Environment's Upper Nile Water Management Zone, and 5 Climate Smart Agriculture staff members have been trained in resilience design techniques and DRC plans to continue to involve government and other influential national stakeholders in the program as a means to spread practical knowledge and awareness of the benefits of applying resilience design principles.

While ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning activities undertaken through the NURI program seek to understand the longer-term impact of resilience design principles on community attitudes and practices, recent observations from DRC's demonstration site in Nebbi district suggest a strong appreciation for resilience design principles by many within the community. As an example, multiple farmers, whose lands were part of the demonstration site, have reported the benefits of introducing bioswales which have resulted in greater and healthier yields from their crops. Beyond agricultural yields, community members around the Nebbi demonstration site have also reported how the integration of resilience design has helped to recharge a local borehole that was previously abandoned due to low yields. In yet another example, the introduction of a pond within the Nebbi demonstration site has created new opportunities for fish farming as well as brickmaking resulting from the new and reliable water source. Through the remainder of the NURI project, DRC will continue to promote community learning through the use of demonstration sites, by sharing the practical experiences of community members and by hosting open houses, exchange events and learning opportunities as a means to encourage ongoing community uptake

and application of resilience design principles beyond projects directly implemented through the NURI program.

The below table provides concrete examples as to the difference in costs as well as difference in the key components and outcomes between the conventional and resilience design approaches. The graphics following illustrate examples of the integration of resilience design into NURI projects. It should be noted that, while the total number of projects is proposed to decrease by 300 overall, the change in total days allocated for cash-for-work activities will only reduce from 1,080,000 to 1,048,000 days – a reduction of 32,000 working days in total. This is a result of the additional working days required for applying resilience design principles to community access road and food forest projects.

Comparison of Traditional Projects Versus Incorporating Resilience Design Principles

Community Access Roads:	
Conventional Approach	**Resilience Design Approach**
Labor and Time: 30 community members engaged for 20 days. **Average Cost:** 19,064,742 UGX **Components:** 1. 1 km of road leading to one or more social service center. 2. Mitre drains (off-shoot drains). **Outcomes:** 1. Access by communities to social service centers is improved.	**Labor and Time:** 30 community members engaged for 25 days. **Average Cost:** 24,311,890 UGX **Components:** 1. 1 km of road leading to one or more social service center. 2. Road-water harvesting. 3. Bioswales. 4. Ponds. 5. Infiltration pits / silt traps. 6. Check dams. 7. Tree and grass planting. **Outcomes:** 1. Access by communities to social service centers is improved. 2. Reduced long-term road maintenance requirements resulting from improved management of water runoff. 3. Improved soil hydration and agricultural productivity resulting from water management (bioswales, ponds, infiltration pits, check dams and tree and grass planting). 4. Reduced impact of extreme weather events, such as droughts, as a result of improved soil hydration from water management (bioswales, ponds, infiltration pits, check dams and tree and grass planting).

	5. Reduced environmental degradation, such as soil erosion, as a result of water management (bioswales, ponds, infiltration pits, check dams and tree and grass planting).

Woodlot Versus Food Forest	
Conventional Approach	**Resilience Design Approach**
Labor and Time: 30 community members engaged for 20 days plus 10 days maintenance. **Average Cost:** 11,923,650 UGX **Components:** 1. Monoculture tree planting. **Outcomes:** 1. Revenue from timber. 2. Wind break. 3. Carbon sequestration.	**Labor and Time:** 30 community members engaged for 22 days plus 10 days maintenance. **Average Cost:** 12,127,690 UGX **Components:** 1. Multi-species indigenous tree planting, representative of species that can provide fiber, food, fodder and which fix nitrogen and have medicinal uses. Planted in water harvesting methods and patterns for long term survival rate. Maximum 10% timber trees in any Food Forest. 2. Bioswales on contour. 3. Infiltration pits / silt traps. 4. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration 5. Smile berms **Outcomes:** 1. Enhanced management of water resources including recharge of ground water systems. 2. Reduced impact of extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, as a result of improved deep soil hydration from water management. 3. Minimized soil erosion. 4. Increased survival rates of trees. 5. More stable crop yields through regenerative land management and design.

SPRING/BOREHOLE/GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

DESIGNING TO PUT MORE WATER IN TO THE SYSTEM THAN WE ARE TAKING OUT

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DDG DANISH DEMINING GROUP

CREATING A "SPONGE VILLAGE" IN ATEGO, UGANDA

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF FILL-N-SPILL WATER STORAGE AND INFILTRATION SYSTEMS STABILIZED BY TREE SYSTEMS AND VEGETATION

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL DDG DANISH DEMINING GROUP

Annex 7: Achievement of Activity indicators and targets

Output 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture

Main activity 1.1 Identify and train target farmers groups

- Assessed and selected 1,758 farmer groups for support in 2020, 1,365 new national groups and 393 refugee groups for support under NURI programme, as per target.
- Supported the selection of strategic crops in North West Nile covering the districts of Koboko, Moyo, Obongi and Adjumani. The crops included sesame, soybean, beans, groundnuts, maize and cassava.
- Trained 3,362 farmer groups in CSA practices; 825 new national groups that started in 2019, 1,365 new nationals that started in 2020, 755 old nationals, 402 mixed groups and 75 refugee women groups, fully achieving targets, except for Imvepi settlement which was brought on board in 2020, and where 6 groups were delayed until 2021.
- Established 2,592 demo plots for new national groups and mixed groups as per target.
- Facilitated national farmers and refugee groups in selection of group enterprises from the enterprise/strategic crop list
- Facilitated new national groups selected in 2019 to review their PMPs and groups selected in 2020 to develop new production and marketing plans for the strategic crops selected
- Planned and conducted specialised trainings for extension staff on CSA and related topics

Main Activity 1.2 VSLA training of Farmer Groups including refugees

- Assessed and selected a total of 680 farmer groups to be supported and trained in VSLA in 2020 (includes new national and refugee groups) and another 1,575 groups selected in Q4 for support in 2021. The figures for 2020 were below target by 150 groups, but these are included in the 2021 figure. There has been some increase in VSLA staff during 2020 and 2021, above that planned, as the workload was found to be excessive.
- Facilitated the recruitment of CBTs to train farmer groups selected for support in 2020 based on the number and geographic location of groups.
- Trained 854 farmer groups in VSLA methodology during 2020, including some groups carried forward from 2019. There was some drop out of groups, especially in refugee settlements due to movement by refugees.
- Monitored savings and loans for farmer groups under support and guided them in household planning

Main Activity 1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

All the CSA staff received specialised training on job related roles including CSA, PHH, M&E, VSLA, Procurement, HR & Financial management.

Main Activity 1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production department)

- Plans were developed and approved. Initiated procurement of tools and equipment with some items delivered including laptops and computers.
- Training and short courses were approved however could not be implemented due to COVID 19 restrictions. These have been deferred to 2021.

Main Activity 1.5 Sensitize farmer groups to SRHR & GBV issues

CSA staff from Acholi sub-region, North West Nile, excluding Koboko, and South West Nile excluding Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach were trained by CARE on SRHR. Detailed report about this intervention area is to be made by CARE-the implementing partner for the WAY programme.

Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

Main Activity 2.1 Prepare infrastructure investment plans

- ✓ Revalidated parish development plans for 7 districts of implementation. This covered a total of 50 sub-counties from across the 7 districts.
- ✓ Infrastructure investment plans were prepared and approved for 2020 B projects for implementation in 8 districts. 85% of the projects selected for construction work were community access roads (CARs).
- ✓ Infrastructure investment plans for 2021 A and B seasons were also prepared during the reporting period

Main Activity 2.2 Approved investment projects implemented

- ✓ Formed a total of 723 community groups (including for refugees) with 20,655 participants. 51% are female and 60% youth.
- ✓ Payment was made for all the work days in the implementation of the approved projects
- ✓ 59.4% of infrastructure projects have been completed. Completion rate for food forests and community access roads is much higher than for the other project types.

Output 3: Water Resource Management

Main Activity 3.1 Develop WRM micro-catchment plans

- ✓ Developed 7 out of 8 planned micro-catchment plans, 6 of which had been approved by stakeholders by December 2020.
- ✓ Completed formulation of by-laws for 03 micro-catchments pending approval by the DLG

Main Activity 3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

- ✓ Formed 34 community groups for implementation of approved projects from 3 micro-catchment plans approved
- ✓ Formed and trained PMCs for implementation of the approved projects

Annex 8: Youth Participation in NURI

Under the NURI programme, an important target group across all the activities are the youth, who face high unemployment and less access to land than adults. The cohort targeted are those from 18 to 28 years of age, based on experience from the NURI pilot conducted in 2018. Under CSA, the youths have been encouraged to participate in the farmer and VSLA groups and have done so with some enthusiasm, despite the perception that youth find the non-farm segments of the agricultural value chain such as processing, storage and marketing more attractive and rewarding. Under rural infrastructure, a deliberate effort has been made for youths to join or form infrastructure groups in the communities. Since programme roll-out, this objective has been consistently pursued and good results registered.

Throughout the programme, results are gender disaggregated. Female participation is high, though less so in decision making structures.

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

According to the Rural infrastructure output, the plan is to support about 1500 community groups with infrastructure projects including community access roads, market places, wells and springs, food forests using a labour-intensive approach, giving communities temporary employment. Participation of the youth as well as gender equity is promoted in all activities.

One of the indicators under Rural Infrastructure is % of participants in infrastructure works that are youth (18-28 years). DRC reports on achievement of this indicator since public works were rolled out towards the last quarter of 2019, with most activity in 2020.

Results from the monitoring reports show that 60% of the rural infrastructure participants for nationals in season A and B of 2020 when construction work started were youths. From the 60%, 49% were male youth and 51% female. In terms of gender representation, 51% of the total participants were female and 49% male. In the formation of PMCs and PUCs, community groups were advised to give equal chances between the female and male participants. For PMCs, 49% were female and 51% male while in the PUCs 62% are males and 38% female.

Table 8. Youth participation in cash for work community groups season A and B 2020, nationals.

	District	No of Groups	Total Participants			Youths 18 to 28 Years			
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	%
1	Nebbi	71	942	1,098	2,040	594	689	1,283	63
2	Koboko	23	312	333	645	194	189	383	59
3	Zombo	19	181	194	375	141	117	258	69

4	Arua	185	2,456	2,674	5,130	1577	1685	3,262	64
5	Obongi	18	238	302	540	158	208	366	68
6	Lamwo	18	266	259	525	168	146	314	60
7	Kitgum	43	631	614	1,290	362	406	768	60
8	Agago	45	631	614	1,245	376	371	747	60
9	Pakwach	19	283	287	570	169	175	344	60
10	Moyo	24	339	351	690	221	201	422	61
11	Adjumani	72	1,073	1,042	2,115	593	552	1,145	54
12	Rhino camp	62	920	895	1,815	454	519	973	54
	Total	**599**	**8,272**	**8,663**	**16,980**	**5,007**	**5,258**	**10,265**	**60**

In the five refugee settlements, 61% of the participants were youth between 18-28 years. Note that the groups in the settlement, including the youth, comprised of both nationals and refugee. 51% of the total participants were female and 49 males. Details are provided in table 2 below.

Table 9. Youth participation in Cash for Work Participants in refugee settlements season A and B 2020

Settlement	No. of groups	Participants host and refugees		National Youths		Refugee Youth		Adults +29 year –		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Palorinya	49	717	753	264	262	176	188	242	336	1470
Rhino camp	26	384	336	175	172	68	41	139	125	720
Imvepi	17	255	255	123	124	24	25	107	107	510
Adjumani	4	82	53	0	0	76	45	6	8	135
Palabek	28	368	472	138	181	74	96	0	0	840
Total	**124**	**1,806**	**1,869**	**700**	**739**	**418**	**395**	**494**	**576**	**3,675**

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Under CSA, the programme is currently working with 3,362 farmer groups across 12 districts disaggregated as 2,190 new national farmer groups, 755 old nationals and 479 refugee groups (mixed and pure refugees). These groups have been selected in two phases, a first lot in 2019 and a second lot in 2020. The CSA database has been capturing data for production and marketing plans for all the farmer groups. Data cycle for 2019 is completed while for 2020 lot is ongoing. The youths have been encouraged to join the CSA groups and participate in CSA training, establishment of demos and prepare production and marketing plans.

Currently, there are 58,066 producers captured by the database from 8 districts of implementation (Agago, Lamwo, Kitgum, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Arua and Madi-Okollo). 28% of the total number of producers are youth (61% female youth and 31% male). Agago and Arua district registered the highest percentages of youth participation in CSA activities with 30% and 31% respectively. The statistics is slighter higher in Acholi sub-region compared to West Nile. From the 28%, 61% are female youth and male 39%. PMP provides an indication of land access, yields for strategic crops and income from sale of the strategic crops. Total acreage of land cultivated by 58,066 producers was 18,882 acre, 7467 acres for South West Nile and 11,415 for Acholi sub-region and 27% was cultivated by the youth.

Support to farmer groups in VSLA activities

As earlier mentioned, the youth have been encouraged to participate through joining CSA and VSLA groups. Under VSLA, the youths constitute 26% of the total number of VSLA participants supported by NURI.

Table 1: Youth participation in VSLA activities under NURI programme

District	Number of Members	No of youth			% of youth in the groups
		Male	Female	Total	
Adjumani	2,115	25	574	599	28%
Arua	5,418	599	1,231	1,830	34%
Zombo	2,779	111	154	265	10%
Agago	5,211	454	827	1,281	25%
Nebbi	2,120	155	164	319	15%
Pakwach	2,119	98	104	202	10%
Lamwo	4,961	511	969	1,480	30%
Kitgum	3,357	409	884	1,293	39%
Moyo/Obongi	2,683	209	367	576	21%
Total	**30,763**	**2,571**	**5,274**	**7,845**	**26%**

VSLA saving activities were rolled right from 2019 when implementation of NURI activities started in the different districts. With support from the CBTs recruited in the different districts, farmer groups that started in 2019 were trained on VSLA methodology and completed a cycle of savings. Similarly, those that started in 2020 are continuing with their training and savings activities. Since programme roll out in 2019, a total UGX 2bn has been saved cumulatively with the youth contributing 25% as shown in the table2 below.

Table 2: Youth cumulative savings value under VSLA

District	Value of savings this cycle	Cumulative value savings-Youth	% of youth savings
Adjumani	80,573,100	17,201,500	21%
Arua	327,314,200	78,243,000	24%
Zombo	230,316,500	68,393,500	30%
Agago	296,703,500	89,915,500	30%
Nebbi	151,655,700	36,494,000	24%
Pakwach	204,110,500	46,136,500	23%
Lamwo	346,493,400	89,354,000	26%
Kitgum	241,295,000	49,494,500	21%
Moyo/Obongi	174,637,300	36,728,600	21%
Total	**2,053,099,200**	**511,961,100**	**25%**

In terms of borrowing of loans, 22% of UGX 2.5bn was borrowed by youth. One of the indictors from the NURI M&E framework is % of loans borrowed that is used for agricultural purpose. Results show that out of 987m value of agricultural loans, 29% of this was borrowed by the youth for agricultural purpose. This means that the youth participating in VSLA activities are actively engaged agricultural activities. See table below for details.

Table 3: Cumulative % borrowing of loans by youth participating in VSLA

District	Cumulative value of loans	Cumulative value of loans- Youth	Cumulative value of loans agric	Cumulative value agric loans- Youth	% of Youth loans	% of Youth agric loans
Adjumani	75,792,900	20,369,000	20,430,900	5,040,300	27%	25%
Arua	604,020,200	115,943,400	153,156,300	33,569,820	19%	22%
Zombo	249,247,400	83,826,750	166,761,500	64,898,250	34%	39%
Agago	332,100,500	99,003,500	164,332,448	58,507,500	30%	36%
Nebbi	229,303,210	40,797,550	106,003,200	32,167,300	18%	30%
Pakwach	371,618,900	55,147,900	193,806,808	46,053,500	15%	24%
Lamwo	329,272,007	78,245,600	122,495,014	27,924,507	24%	23%
Kitgum	299,729,300	61,998,000	59,462,600	14,803,000	21%	25%
Moyo/Obongi	80,041,700	4,470,000	1,550,000	40,000	6%	3%
Total	**2,571,126,117**	**559,801,700**	**987,998,770**	**283,004,177**	**22%**	**29%**