




















Summary of Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| <p>Key results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase in 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 <p>Justification for support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 310 |
| | Projected ann. disb. | 3.0 | 46.5 | 85.5 | 87.0 | 88.0 | 310 |
| | 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 | Hanne Fritzen | | | | | |
| 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, Infrastructure | 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 | 35.0 |
| Coordination incl. TA and M&E | 24.0 |
| Contingency | 14.0 |
| Total | 310.0 |

Fig.1 Map of Uganda Showing NURI Districts

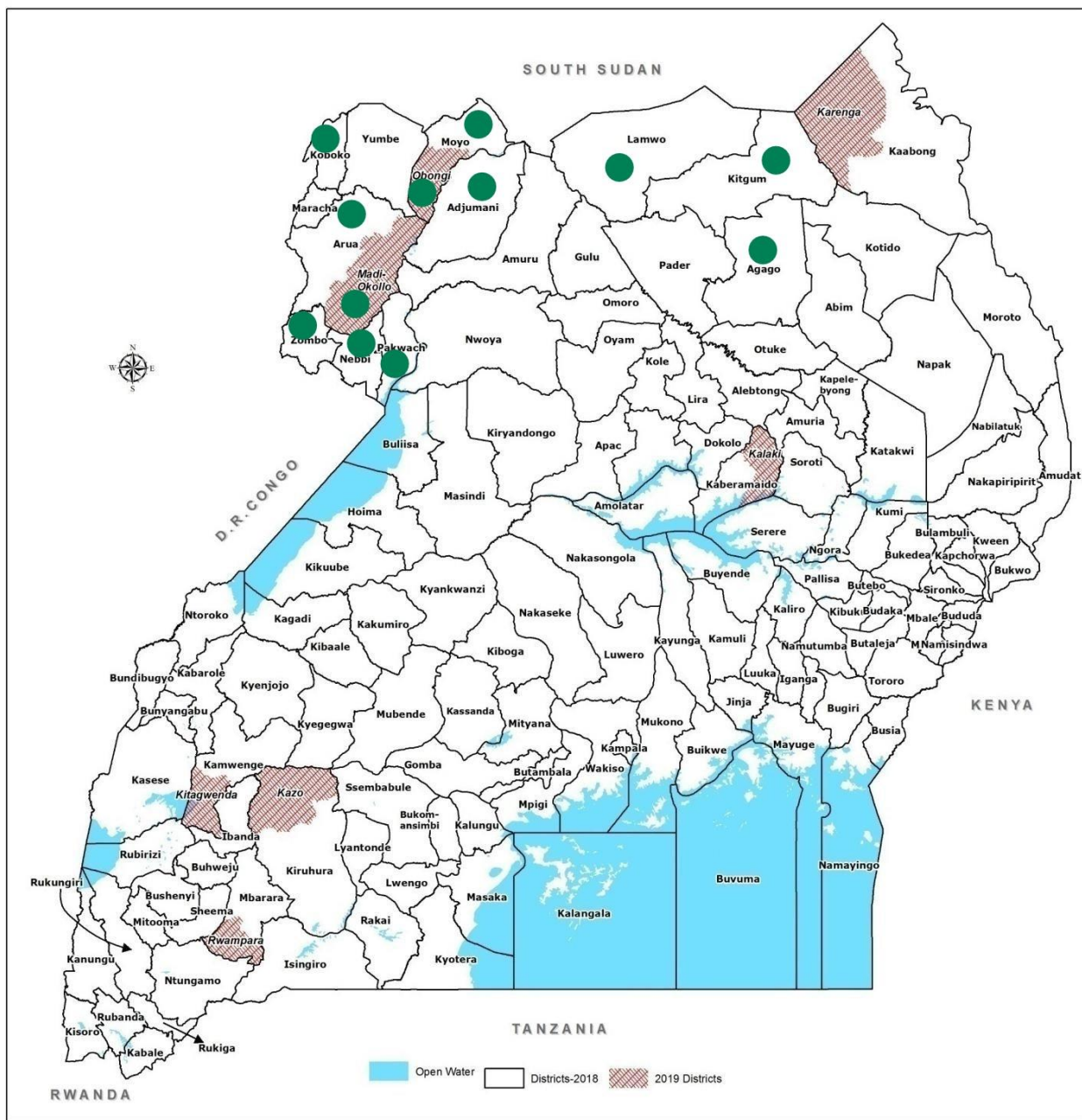


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List of Acronyms

| Abb. | Full text |
|-------------|--|
| aBi | Agricultural Business Initiative |
| AEO | Agriculture Extension Officers |
| AES | Agriculture Extension Supervisors |
| 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 |
| DEC | District Executive Council |
| DFA | District Farmers Association |
| DKK | Danish Kroner |
| DLG | District Local Government |
| DRC | Danish Refugee Council |
| DSA | Daily Subsistence Allowance |
| 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 |
| MWE | Ministry of Water and Environment |
| NARO | National Agriculture Research Organisation |
| OPM | Office of the Prime Minister |
| PICOT | Partnership in Community Transformation |
| PDP | Parish Development Plan |
| PMP | Production and Marketing Plan |
| RAU | Resilience Agricultural Unit |
| RDE | Royal Danish Embassy |
| RDNUC | Recovery and Development in Northern Uganda |
| SRHR | Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| UNFPA | United Nations Fund for Population Activities |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commission for Refugees |
| UNWMZ | Upper Nile Water Management Zone |
| VSLA | Village Savings and Loan Associations |
| WRM | Water Resource Management |
| ZARDI | Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institutes |

Executive summary

Across the world, 2020 will be remembered as the year of the pandemic. Uganda, and NURI are no exception. Although Uganda has so far escaped the worst of the pandemic, the effects of restrictions and lockdowns have been felt in every corner of the country and the economy.

NURI, living up to its name, has been resilient through this difficult period, and has not only found ways to work in safe and sensible ways, but has also been able to catch up for time lost in lockdown, and even go an extra mile to help partner organisations impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

This year is an important year in the four-year programme, a year when all Outputs; Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure and Integrated Water Resource Management, are fully up and running, and staffing and activities are at their peak. Ending the first quarter with a lockdown and field staff home on leave could have been disastrous, but instead, through decentralizing decision making to Implementing Units, working closely with District COVID-19 Task Forces, developing and implementing common-sense SOPs, the NURI team proved its resilience, built its confidence, and is moving forward in strength.

In December 2019, RDE and NURI CF signed an addendum to the NURI DED, adding Koboko District to the programme's 11 Districts, and bringing Imvepi Settlement on board. The addendum added 25 M DKK to the overall budget, split between CSA and RI. A new NGO partner, PICOT, has been brought onboard to implement CSA in Koboko, while Arua DFA has taken on CSA in Imvepi Settlement. DRC will implement the RI activities as in all other districts and settlements.

In CSA the activity level has almost doubled compared to 2019, and new staff have been brought on board and trained in a range of technical skills. COVID-19 resulted in new ways of training staff; smaller gatherings, and hand-picked trainers, mainly from NARO and the ZARDIs. What was originally a compromise to catch up lost time, avoid travel and ensure SOPs has emerged as a cost-effective and efficient model, rated highly by participants and organisers, and offers useful lessons for future training.

Under RI, approximately half the Districts and settlements started implementation of activities during the reporting period, while the other half, including Koboko and Imvepi settlement, were preparing investment plans. By the last quarter of 2020 all Districts and Settlements will be implementing infrastructure activities. Piloting of resilience design, particularly on roads, is starting and will offer a chance to explore a new, more resilient way of doing things. Traditional woodlots and tree planting have already been replaced by more diverse and adaptable Food Forests.

While WRM activities moved forward slowly for some of the period, there was significant progress in the collaboration and joint vision of the implementors – MWE/UNWMZ, and DRC. The process of translating wide-ranging Micro-catchment plans into investment plans brought the actors together and resulted in a result-orientated action plan. At the end of the period the Output is on the cusp of rolling out field activities and has robust and energetic teamwork developing, which should ensure interesting lesson learning and successful interventions.

1.0 Introduction

NURI (Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative) is one of eight development engagements under the Denmark-Uganda Country Programme 2018–2022. The Country 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.

NURI is one of three Development Engagements under UPSIDE and contributes to the objective of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The original Danish contribution to NURI for the period 2018-2022 was DKK 285 million over the five-year period, with one output area starting in 2018, and two output areas starting in 2019. DKK 35 million of the budget frame derives from the Danish Climate Change Envelope (CCE). An additional DKK 25 million were added to the NURI budget after the signing of an addendum to the Development Engagement Document, on 16 December 2019. These DKK 25 million allowed the programme to expand into one new district, Koboko, and one additional settlement, Imvepi settlement under Madi-Okollo district (now the newly-created Terego District).

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, rural infrastructure, and water resources management. 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 districts hosting refugee settlements.

Geographically the programme covers 12 districts and 7 refugee settlements in the West Nile and Acholi Sub Regions of Northern Uganda. Initially the coverage was 9 districts and 6 settlements, however in July 2019, the districts of Madi-Okollo and Obongi were gazetted and operationalised. In March 2020 an MoU was signed for the inclusion of Koboko district in the programme. The districts are now Agago, Kitgum and Lamwo in Acholi sub region and Arua, Madi-Okollo, Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Koboko, Moyo, Obongi and Adjumani in West Nile sub region. NURI works with a number of refugee settlements within these districts. The selected settlements are Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee Settlement (added in 2020) under Madi-Okollo District (now Terego), Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi District, Maaji and Mungula settlements in Adjumani District and Palabek Refugee Settlement in Lamwo District.

With the inclusion of Koboko District, a new implementing partner, PICOT, was signed up during the reporting period. NURI CF signed an MoU with PICOT for the implementation of CSA activities in the District, while RI will be managed by DRC, as in all other districts. The implementation of activities in the districts that were gazetted in July 2019 will be managed by the implementing units in the original districts; Arua District Farmers Association for Madi-Okollo, and Moyo RAU for Obongi. Satellite offices are set up in the new districts for coordination purposes. For CSA implementation in the newly added Imvepi settlement, these will be implemented by Arua DFA.

2.0 Developments in the Programme Area

Northern Uganda continues to hosting a large refugee population, which has been fairly stable through the reporting period, particularly after the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe has caused significant challenges and changes in the programme area. A general lockdown was imposed on 31 March 2020 allowing only essential sectors to operate, including health, agriculture, water and sanitation.

All development agencies, ministries, districts and lower local governments were instructed to adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and obtain permission from the relevant authorities in order to operate. NURI field activities were paused for most of April, however, with Implementing Units working with District COVID-19 Task Forces to develop and agree on operating procedures and secure permits, most operations were able to resume by May.

The performance of the economy is reported to have generally declined including revenue sources during the first half of the year to COVID-19 (MoFPED monthly economic performance monitoring report March-June 2020). By the end of the June, Government was easing some measures, however, restrictions remained on public transport led to increases in transport costs. NURI farmer households expressed concerns over high costs of production, food prices and generally difficulty in marketing their produce.

In the settlements, WFP introduced reductions in food ration during the period.

Corona virus pandemic and coping mechanisms

The introduction of the general lockdown at the end of 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 the signing of contracts with VSLA community-based trainers was suspended. NURI CF and CSA Unit management, in close collaboration with other development partners, DLG and LLG, worked on finding new ways to work within the restrictions. Implementing unit staff 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 a number of 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
- Inclusion of NURI in district and sub-county COVID task forces
- Following recommended SOPs in terms of hand hygiene, mask wearing and social distance.

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 main aspect of the collaboration was to allow NURI 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.

This arrangement, and particularly the trained volunteers, will be a potential resource if reprioritisation becomes necessary in the face of a deteriorating COVID-19 situation.

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 implementing partner, Arua DFA supported UNHCR seed distribution through provision of detailed information on groups. During the process of group selection for NURI, a large number of groups are assessed, only some of which are selected. NURI provided details on non-supported groups and UNHCR provided seeds to 11 groups.

2.1 Context in West-Nile Region

Weather

In West-Nile rainfall during the first half of the year can be described as below average. The year started off 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 and stretching to end of June. The rains later intensified causing flooding in some sub-counties along River Nile. The weather pattern caused delays in land opening, whilst crops that were planted early, received insufficient rain in April. For RI activities, the weather disrupted some works on community access roads, leading to delays in completion of some CAR projects.

Economic activities

The first quarter started off well with trade in agricultural produce running smoothly across the districts. The introduction of COVID-19 restrictions including lockdown greatly affected the economic activities within the districts. 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 borders to South Sudan and Congo were unable to do so.

The impact of 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 high prices.

Coordination and collaboration

NURI teams worked in close collaboration with the DLG, LLG and development partners in the region to overcome challenges. The reporting period was one for assessment and selection of the new national and refugee farmers to participate in the programme starting in 2020. This exercise required the involvement of DLG, LLG and other stakeholders to avoid duplication. The good relationship with the relevant stakeholders enabled NURI teams to receive the needed support during the beneficiary selection exercises. The district production department and engineering department played a key role by providing technical supervision and advise on engagement with communities and farmer groups.

Some key development agencies operating in the region especially in the livelihood sector include ZOA, Save the children, Lutheran World Federation, World Vision, Caritas, CEFORD, NRC, SNV, IRC, CREAM, DRC Livelihood among others. Notable were key donor agencies such UNHCR, WFP,

UNICEF, UNFPA, Enabel, DFID-DINU working with the refugee population and nationals to foster economic development in the region.

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 four districts of Adjumani (15.1%), Arua (13.1%), Koboko (0.4%) and Obongi (8.6%). Adjumani has the biggest population amongst the four with a total population of 214,470 and Koboko with the least (5,530). The settlement, well-being and protection of the refugee population was overseen by OPM and UNHCR.

Also, the operation of the different humanitarian and development actors within the settlements was coordinated and overseen by the OPM. With the current situation of COVID-19, OPM together with other development stakeholders instituted strict measures to prevent spread of the virus. Development activities were suspended for 1 month when the lock down was announced and only lifesaving activities operated. By the end of the reporting period, major activities had resumed operation but under strict adherence to SOPs.

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. As this was during a period with a number of new COVID-19 cases this caused some concern in the hosting community.

2.2 Context in Acholi sub-region

Weather

In Acholi sub-region, the rainfall during the period can be described as above normal/average which favoured 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 encourage 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. In general, a decline in economic activities was recorded across the districts by the end of the June 2020 with trade within and cross border affected by the lock down and institutionalisation of SOPs to control spread of COVID-19.

Coordination and collaboration

NURI CF, RAUs & DRC worked in close collaboration with the DLG, LLG and development partners in the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago 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 Lutheran World Federation.

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 therefore there were no new entries officially registered between March to June 2020. There were some isolated cases because of the porous border points but these were handled by the authorities.

Insecurity and land issues

Threats from Karamojong cattle rustlers still persists in the sub counties bordering the Karamoja region. The sub-counties are Omiya Pacwa, Lapono, Adilang, Paimol and part of Wol from Agago, Orom, Namokora, Akilok in Kitgum and extending up to Madi-Opei & Agoro in Lamwo. 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 to a primary school. In Kitgum, six farmer groups lost their demo fields due to the clashes. In Palabek settlement, a clash between two tribes broke out in the settlement and escalated to the host community. This caused 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 Workplan and Budget

The extent to which planned activities for the first half of 2020 have been implemented and budget utilization is described in this report. It covers all the three intervention areas; Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource Management. Also, programme coordination activities and other special activities ran by NURI CF are included.

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, enabling them to increase and sustain their production. The reporting period covers season A and includes the first rainy season of the year. The following activities were implemented during the reporting period:

- Farmer groups identified and trained in climate smart agriculture
- Farmers identified and trained in VSLA practices
- Capacity of IP/RAU staff built
- Capacity of DLG built (Production department)
- Farmer groups sensitized on SRHR and GBV issues

3.1.1 Farmer Groups Identified and Trained in Climate Smart Agriculture

Assessment and selection of farmer groups for support

The selection exercise involved the different NURI target groups and was done for those groups starting in 2020. The selection exercise started with sensitization of sub-county leaders. This was followed by assessment and selection of interested groups at the sub-county following agreed criteria. In the refugee settlements, OPM, RWC 3 and 1, and LC1 were sensitized and provided lists of zones for operation.

The criteria for selection included level of record keeping, leadership structure, production as a group and support received from other programmes/partners. In the settlements, the refugee groups were selected based on factors like having good leadership structure in place, having minimal or no support from other development partners and willingness to work in groups. The refugee groups in the first year were continuing groups from the NURI pilot, but as some groups

had dissolved in the intervening period, a number of new groups were formed through the guidance of the settlement leadership and the extension team.

The exercise was disrupted and affected by the 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 the response was overwhelming. Lower local government and settlement leaders were generally supportive.

In Moyo/Obongi, the total number of 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 Number of farmer groups selected for support under CSA in 2020

| Target group | Arua | Koboko | Nebbi | Zombo | Pakwach | Adjumani | Moyo | Kitgum | Lamwo | Agago | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| New national groups | 165 | 195 | 75 | 75 | 45 | 300 | 300 | 105 | 105 | 0 | 1,365 |
| Mixed groups | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 113 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 355 |
| Women refugee gps | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| Total | 265 | 195 | 75 | 75 | 45 | 420 | 413 | 105 | 165 | 0 | 1,758 |

Selection of strategic crops by implementing districts

To promote production and marketing, NURI follows a strategic crop approach with the new 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 late in 2019. Consultative meetings were organised by NURI CF together with RAUs and PICOT in the districts of Moyo, Adjumani, Obongi and Koboko to finalize the strategic crop selection. Representatives from the production department, key stakeholders and farmer groups were invited to attend. A wish list was generated and each crop

was assessed based on factors like suitability with climate conditions, marketability, crop resistance to pests and diseases, crop yield potential and labour requirements. The crops selected per district is given in the table below;

Table 3.1.2 Strategic crops selected per district of intervention

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

In the settlements, farmer groups select from a list generated at the start of NURI implementation based on agro-ecological factors, quick maturity, crop acceptability and familiarity, possibility for intercropping, marketability for excess production and nutritional value. The list includes food crops, vegetables and fruit trees. The food crops are cassava, sweet potatoes, beans, maize, groundnuts, cowpeas, sorghum and pigeon peas. Vegetables included okra, eggplants, amaranth, cabbage, onions, green pepper, sukumawiki and tomatoes, but there is flexibility and, in some cases, indigenous vegetables are chosen. Fruit trees are papaya, passion fruits, mangos and citrus.

Enterprise selection by farmer groups

Enterprise selection by new nationals

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 districts, the groups selected in 2020 chose from the Strategic crops agreed in 2019. In this exercise, using training material including grain sack charts, farmer groups were taken through a profitability analysis of the selected enterprises after which they were able to make their choices. 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. The result of the selection exercise across the different districts is summarised in Annex 1

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 for refugees

In the settlements included in the CSA programme, the exercise for the groups selected in 2020 included individuals in the groups selecting food/field crops, three vegetables and three 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. Details of crops and vegetables selected by refugee groups are included as Annex 1.

Preparation of Production and Marketing Plans for new 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. Given that the programme is now working with two sets of farmer groups (2019 and 2020), there was review of 2019 plans and development of new ones for 2020 groups.

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 to prepare demonstration plots. 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 developing new plans, the groups generated baseline data including projected producers, projected acreage, yield and pricing for 2020 including setting three-year goals. The preparation process included pre-test sessions with selected farmer groups after which the process was rolled out to all the new national groups. By the end of the reporting period, collection of baseline data for all the groups was ongoing. Under reviews, the groups that started in 2019 assessed how much they were able to achieve compared to target and set targets for coming season.

Preliminary analysis of production results for 2019 indicates that the majority of farmers failed to meet their production and marketing targets for the year. This is 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 low prices due to low quality produce. Although short falls were experienced in achievement of targets, the continuing 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.

Training of farmer groups in CSA practices

Farmer groups have continued to be 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 topics covered included institutional development for new groups, climate change and its impact on agriculture, planting, marketing, demo identification and seed bed preparation, soil fertility and management and marketing of produce.

The groups continuing from 2019 and those selected in 2020 were targeted with CSA training during the reporting period. A total of 2,415 farmer groups (1,170 new national 2020, 825 new national 2019, 420 refugees) received 6 out of 10 sessions of training in CSA. The remaining sessions will be completed in Q3 and 4 of the year. All across the programme, training attendance was impacted by COVID-19 leading to lower than normal attendance. For those attending, the participation of women (70%) was higher than men (30%) and it is attributed to involvement of women at all stages of production.

The training was delivered using grain sack charts and demo plots. The training was in many cases delivered to farmers through Training of Trainers' model (TOT) in mini groups of 5-6 people due to COVID-19 pandemic regulation that are constituted by group leaders. 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.

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, input acquisition linkages and reinforcing prevention measures. During the quarter, the extension officers planned at least 25 household visit however this was reduced due to COVID-19 regulations. 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 individual household visits include flooding of some fields, pests and disease, access to improved seeds.

Establishment of Demonstration plots

During the reporting period, farmer groups, working with extension staff, identified and prepared sites for establishment of demonstrations. The factors considered were accessibility for ease of observation by both group and non-group members, fertility of the soil and safeness from stray

animals. Preparatory activities included site preparation including land opening, seed bed preparation and early planting were in some cases completed during the reporting period. The demo establishment this year though targeting season 2020B, started early (in June) because of the reliable rainfall and the need to avoid late planting. This was mainly done for Cassava, sunflower and Soybean demos. Most of the work is planned for the third quarter of the year when the rains are stable and reliable to support second season crops.

In the refugee settlement, the mixed groups obtained land from the national members in their groups. The identified sites were prepared for planting and training activities prepared for and planned for immediately after the reporting period. It should be noted that 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.

Old groups' projects

According to NURI implementation strategy, the Old farmer groups selected from DAR3/RALNUC3 program are supported in the NURI program based on their needs. This type of support is implemented in South West Nile and Acholi sub-region where the RDNUC programme was implemented. Emphasis is put on CSA elements like marketing, value addition and post-harvest handling of the enterprises they were engaged in. 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 which are engaged in substantial marketing activities building on the earlier support.*
- Tier 2: *These are functional groups, doing at least some level of bulking and other activities together.*
- Tier 3: *Groups which do not have any substantial group activities and which have progressed little based on earlier support*

The groups selected their projects within the tiers to be implemented in 2020 after approval from NURI Coordination Function. There was a mutual agreement between farmer groups and NURI programme for co-funding of 50% for the selected projects. The projects were tarpaulins, mini produce stores, big produce stores, improved seeds, grinding mills, apiary, cassava chipping machines and tree seedlings.

During the reporting period, focus was on ensuring that the farmer groups raised the 50% funding needed for the implementation of the projects. Groups were advised to open bank accounts in which the funds were to be deposited. COVID-19 restrictions delayed the fund-raising process as farmer groups could not converge regularly to assess progress. By the end of the reporting period, 57% of the groups in Acholi sub-region had realised the 50% of the funds needed for cost-sharing while in South West Nile 67% had done the same. Lamwo district had the highest number of groups that deposited their co-fund while in South West Nile, the districts of Nebbi,

Pakwach and Zombo did better than Arua. Implementation of projects is poised to take off in the third quarter with a few having started towards the end of the reporting period.

Support of farmer groups in collective marketing

Marketing coordinators are employed in each implementing unit to support collective marketing and provide relevant market information. In part of 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 for guidance to the old farmer groups and participation in radio talk shows to prepare new national groups for marketing their strategic crops.

During the reporting period, market information was collected and disseminated in Q1. Findings from this indicates that commodity prices kept increasing especially for beans, soybeans, cassava and potatoes in West Nile while in Acholi it was sesame, sunflower and soybeans. It was not possible to collect from outside the district due to outbreak and regulations/restrictions on movement. Also, no collective marketing activities were organized since it was off season for the strategic crops and ban on public market days due to COVID-19.

The information keeps farmers updated on the prevailing market prices for NURI strategic crops and other selected crops for exploration of more market opportunities and linkages. The aspect of NURI support to collective marketing and the role of the Marketing Coordinators will be reviewed in the coming period to maximize the impact of these activities.

Hold Radio Shows

With the COVID-19 regulations and operation guidelines, radio programmes became the easiest means for outreach with CSA training and other NURI programme activities during a significant part of the reporting period. The IPs and RAUs were advised to re-model their planned talk shows to include some awareness messages about the pandemic and changes in modality for group activities. Based on the contracts signed between the implementing partners, RAUs and local radio stations, weekly talk shows were conducted and spot messages ran in both quarters. Some shows were combined with DRC to raise awareness about NURI activities more widely.

During the talk shows, guests' speakers were invited from the District COVID tasks forces to as well as the usual technical messages. The radio shows included information on NURI implementation process, roles of different stakeholders, agronomy of strategic crops selected, marketing information, group dynamics and VSLA. Six talk shows were organised in Agago, seven for the Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach, 11 for Kitgum/Lamwo, 7 for Arua, 13 for Adjumani and 8 for Moyo district.

In Kitgum and Lamwo districts, all farmer groups formed listeners clubs during the lockdown period; the clubs consisted of 5 members from each group whose responsibility was to listen to

the radio programmes and later cascade the message to the rest of the group members. Through the listening clubs in Kitgum, it was reported that 53 groups were able to get market for their produce. Lessons learnt from this experience are being shared with other units and districts.

3.1.2 National FGs, mixed & refugee groups trained in VSLA

The objective of this activity is to improve financial management of farmer households and reinforce resilience to shocks. This is achieved through savings and financial literacy training with the selected farmer groups. VSLA activities were severely impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions and the 2020 groups were not established as planned during the reporting period. However, SOPs were developed to allow activities to restart in the third quarter. The major activities during the period were:

- Assessment and selection of farmer groups for VSLA support
- Recruitment of CBTs – though contracts for new CBTs were not signed
- Conduct quarterly CBT review meetings
- Monitor group savings and loan disbursement for groups that started in 2019
- Support households in setting their saving goals

Assessment and selection of VSLA groups

In 2020, a new lot of farmer groups were to be selected for VSLA support under the NURI programme. The assessment targeted farmer groups selected for support under CSA component but not already receiving support in VSLA or previously trained in the methodology. A total of 680 farmer groups (including refugees) were selected for support in VSLA component. The overall membership from the selected groups from registration indicate more females compared to males and youth involvement overall is 28%. The method used during the assessment were mainly group discussion, questionnaire and observation. Later, data from assessment were entered in excel sheet, scored and tallied. This exercise was done in the first quarter of the year and results are summarised in the table below:

Table 3.1.3 Farmer groups selected for VSLA support per district

| | Arua | Moyo | Adjumani | Koboko | Nebbi | Pakwach | Zombo | Kitgum | Lamwo | Agago | Total |
|---------------|------|------|----------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------------|
| Farmer groups | 137 | 90 | 76 | 0 | 45 | 50 | 31 | 86 | 90 | 100 | 680 |

CBTs recruitment for 2020

NURI contracts Community Based Trainers (CBTs) to deliver the VSLA trainings as well as to mentor, supervise and collect VSLA group financial information. CBTs were recruited via widely displayed adverts, followed by short-listing and interviews. A total of 88 CBTs all across the programme to run VSLA training and monitoring of the activities with the farmer groups. (Arua 17, Kitgum/Lamwo 23, Adjumani 9, Moyo 10, Agago 12 and Nebbi/Pakwach/Zombo 17).

There were a number of CBTs whose contract was ending by the time of new recruitment, these were subjected to an appraisal process and some good CBTs were retained to continue with their work. These were CBTs who demonstrated good performances in terms of timely delivery of trainings to groups, good and timely reports and consistency with groups schedules. The signing of contracts with the CBTs was delayed through the reporting period due to the COVID-19 restrictions and will be initiated in the third quarter of the year. CBTs will be trained in VSLA and financial literacy methodology before rolling out the training to the selected groups.

Conduct quarterly CBT review meetings

Based on the field monitoring gaps identified, VSLA staff held meetings with CBTs to review implementation of activities under the COVID-19 restrictions and SOPs. Other issues addressed included data collection, data quality, reporting and safety of fund as groups were moving into the phase of action audit. From the meeting CBTs raised concerns on the ban on public transport that interrupted businesses and increased expenses for saving groups. Also, the fear of COVID-19 was making some groups plan on premature share out.

Recommendations from the meeting included CBTs prioritizing supporting groups to resume saving, each CBT to visit 30 households per week, VO to modify household visit form, CBTs to work hand in hand with AEOs to encourage farmers to use loans to fund their group projects or procurement of inputs and CBTs together with the VO and VS to encourage groups to open group account for safety of their funds.

Monitor savings and loan disbursement for groups that started in 2019

The ban on public gathering and meetings as part of COVID-19 restrictions disrupted saving activities of all the VSLA groups supported by the programme. However, from the meetings held with CBTs, VSLA teams came up with an innovative modality of saving where only the 5-member management committee of each group would sit at the saving venue to receive members' savings. The local authorities especially sub county COVID-19 task forces were informed about this approach and in turn, they allowed VSLA groups supported by NURI to resume saving late April 2020.

By the end of Q2, 95% of the VSLA groups had resumed their savings activities, however, the volume of savings reduced as a result of few members saving due to lack of income opportunities.

On average, a group saved between 80,000 UGX to 100,000 UGX per savings meeting. Although, members continued to borrow, the rate was low and there was high level of defaulted on loans, attributed to low business opportunity.

The average share value per member was 1,000 UGX, average savings per group savings ranging between 900,000 – 1,870,000 UGX and average individual savings from 59,343 UGX - 111,500 UGX. On average men saved more than women with each woman saving between 54,885 UGX - 91,345 UGX as compared to men 68,378 UGX - 111,500 UGX. The loan fund utilization rate is at 74% across the districts with women borrowing highest to fund agricultural production activities.

Table 3.1.4 Groups Savings and Borrowings

| District | Cumulative Group Savings, 2019 groups | Cumulative Group Borrowings, 2019 groups |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Kitgum | 135,033,000 | 188,208,800 |
| Lamwo | 193,106,000 | 200,983,900 |
| Agago | 131,094,000 | 173,647,000 |
| Acholi -Total | 459,233,000 | 562,839,700 |
| Arua | 132,846,000 | 240,073,400 |
| Nebbi | 66,589,500 | 104,434,700 |
| Pakwach | 97,110,000 | 211,846,800 |
| Zombo | 136,479,000 | 148,328,200 |
| S-West Nile – Total | 433,024,500 | 704,683,100 |

Savings activities for the districts of Moyo, Obongi and Adjumani had not yet started as VSLA activities only started early this year. Preparatory activities are ongoing including group selection and CBT recruitment; savings will start after CBTs begin training groups.

Procurement of VSLA kits and bicycles

VSLA CBTs are provided with a bicycle to support their movement in monitoring and training farmer groups. During the reporting period, the farmer groups selected for support starting 2020 were to be given VSLA kits comprising of assorted items while CBTs recruited were to receive bicycles. Procurement of these items was done by the RAUs and IPs following the NURI procurement guidelines in all the districts including the settlements. Distribution was planned for the third quarter after training of CBTs is completed.

Follow up on Household saving goals and plans.

To support VSLA group members in implementing household plans, CBTs conducted household visits to assess how far members had gone on achieving their goals. During the reporting period, about 65% of households were visited and it was noted that farmers visited used VSLA loans to finance their short-term goals. The short-term goals included purchase of improved seeds, hire of animal traction, purchase of livestock including oxen, pigs and goats, construction materials including iron sheets and bricks, household assets like mattresses, bicycles, motorbikes, radios, phones and for investment in and start-up of small businesses.

Some farmers started small businesses in order to increase income and achieve long term goals after share out. However, the lockdown reduced farmers effort in achieving their goals; for example, businesses from which farmers used to get money for savings and loan repayment were disrupted and led to food shortages in the households so that farmers resorted to borrowing to buy food items at the expense of investments.

3.1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

The objective of this activity is to equip staff, including newly recruited staff, with the necessary skills to implement the NURI programme. NURI CF organised a range of training sessions during the reporting period, most of the trainings were conducted in house or within the districts due to the COVID-19 restrictions. They are highlighted below:

1. Orientation and introduction to NURI: This was done in the first week of March 2020 by NURI CF staff and RDE. The objective was to introduce the newly recruited CSA staff to NURI programme, policy, regulation and operation procedures.
2. Preparation of production and marketing plans: This was organised and conducted by CF staff in close collaboration with unit and IP management. It was run for two days per location for AEOs, AES and Data Officers between 18-29/5/2020. The purpose was to equip with the skills to support farmer groups under NURI to develop realistic production and marketing plans as an important aspect of monitoring farmer group production outputs.
3. Enterprise selection: This was an inhouse training for AEOs & AESs conducted in the first quarter focussing on enterprise selection processes for farmer groups. It was facilitated by the Regional Coordinators with support from the Unit and IP management. After the training, AEOs were able to guide farmer groups on selection of the different strategic crops for up take under NURI programme especially groups that were taken on in 2020.

As well as trainings NURI CF provided mentoring and guidance to field teams, with Human Resource and Finance Department focusing on implementation guidelines, policy and procedures of operation. M&E on data collection, reporting and other results measurement plans.

3.1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production Department)

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

Implementation of activities started in the last quarter of 2019 where a consultant was procured to guide the DLG technical staff from the engineering department in developing the capacity building plans. The key activities accomplished during the reporting period are highlighted as:

1. Conducted meetings with the production departments of Arua, Obongi, Moyo, Adjumani, Kitgum, Madi-Okollo and Pakwach to identify items under retooling to generate specifications for the different procurement items.
2. Procurement processes of the different items started with technical specifications and requests for quotation for different items such as soil testing kits, modems, moisture meters, projectors, tablets, vehicles and motorcycles.

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

During the reporting period, CARE which is the implementing partner for this activity, trained RAU Agago staff and equipped them with hand-outs to help in referrals and integration of the training delivered to farmer groups where possible. The training content included concepts around gender-based violence and SRHR in relation to agriculture.

Demand for the WAY programme has risen amongst farmer groups as the stress of the lockdown led to an increase in GBV and in cases of child marriage.

3.1.6 Start-up Activities in Koboko district

Koboko District was included in the NURI programme CSA activities from the start of the year. Meetings were held with the DLG followed by the signing of the MoU between the District and the RDE on 10th February 2020. Working with the DLG potential implementing partners were identified, assessed and ranked, based on this, a local NGO, PICOT was selected as the CSA implementing partner for NURI CSA in Koboko. There was a pause in activities due to the COVID-19 lock-down, and an official launch was held at the DLG offices in May after which NURI CF focused on supporting PICOT, with strong support from the District Production department, and will back up from a team from Arua DFA.

The main activities were the selection of new national farmer groups, focusing on identification of already existing groups. formed by different government programs and development partners and based on inventories from DLG community development and production departments. PICOT profiled and assessed a total of 618 farmer groups from the 6 sub counties. Where the available information was inadequate, additional groups were mobilized for the programme through radio program and collaboration with local leaders. Assessment of groups was supported by a team of extensionist from Arua DFA, who visiting each group and carried out assessment based on a scorecard. 195 groups were selected and presented it to the sub-counties for validation and endorsement.

The important process of strategic crop selection was carried out parallel to group selection. This included planning with the District Production Department, compiling lists of commonly grown crops and their production requirements and marketability. Gross margin analysis and fact sheets were prepared for each crop and used to informed debates and choice of crops from among the initial 'wish-lists'. Consultative meetings were held with farmers, technocrats, politicians and representatives of the private sector in each sub county. Strategic crops selected in Koboko in order of priority are Beans, Groundnuts, Cassava and Maize.

Following farmer groups and strategic crop selection, each farmer group selected the strategic crop they will focus on in the training and demonstration activities. This enterprise selection was conducted through visits to the groups, with the support of a team from Arua DFA. Farmer groups were presented with factsheets of the strategic crops including gross margin analysis.

Recruitment of CSA staff by PICOT, supported by NURI CF, was carried out in June and followed by a two-day Induction and Orientation training organized by NURI CF. This training enhanced the understanding of the partner on expected deliverables, procedures and processes in programme, finance, human resource and administration.

3.2 Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

The objective of this intervention is to improve the 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.

3.2.1 Prioritized Infrastructure Investment Plans Approved

District Inception Meetings

DRC organised inception meetings with stakeholders in the districts of Zombo, Pakwach, Obongi, Moyo and Koboko to create awareness about NURI RI activities within the district, the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the implementation of planned activities. The stakeholders were from District Local Governments (LC 5, CAO, RDC, District Production officers, District Environment Officer, District Fisheries officer, District Water Officer, District Planner, District Engineering team), Sub county staff (LC 3 chairpersons, SAS, CDO, Councillors), development agency representatives (UNHCR, CARE,) OPM, NURI-Coordination Function, NURI Focal Point Officer, NURI focal engineer, media houses, NURI CSA partners and DRC staff,

During the meetings, stakeholders raised issues that would affect implementation process. These included beneficiary selection processes, roles and responsibilities of the different parties in the construction work (including reporting), other wider stakeholder engagement platforms, engagement of refugees outside the settlement, compensation issues, conflict management means, visibility of completed works, integration into the district plans, exit plans including maintenance of projects. These were clarified and DRC was ready to roll out project works in the districts.

The number of participants who attended the meetings varied from 39 in Pakwach to 68 in Moyo, with an average of 56 per meeting.

Sub County Sensitization Meetings

This was conducted similar to the district sensitization meetings in all the sub-counties in the districts of Agago, Lamwo, Obongi, Moyo, Pakwach, Zombo and Koboko. The purpose was to inform the LLG leadership about NURI RI activities. The participants included Sub county chiefs, LC III chairpersons, Parish Chiefs and youth representatives and religious leaders, women, elders, RWCs, Community Development Officers and Parish Development Committees (PDCs) representatives.

Pertinent issues that would affect implementation in the different sub-counties and settlements were raised including roles of the different stakeholders, payment modalities, beneficiary selection processes, among others. These were clarified and DRC was set to roll out construction works.

Table 3.2.1: Participants who attended Sub County Sensitisation Meetings

| S/No | District | No. of sub counties covered | Males | Females | Total |
|------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 | Agago | 13 | 244 | 101 | 345 |
| 2 | Lamwo | 7 | 361 | 84 | 445 |
| 3 | Obongi | 4 | 241 | 65 | 306 |
| 4 | Moyo | 5 | 306 | 52 | 358 |
| 5 | Pakwach | 5 | 74 | 17 | 91 |
| 6 | Zombo | 11 | 226 | 78 | 304 |
| 7 | Koboko | 6 | 171 | 37 | 208 |
| | Total | 51 | 1,623 | 434 | 2,057 |

Formation of Parish Development Committees (PDCs)

PDC members are community members selected to lead the parish development planning process. Their key role is to engage the community members and come up with plans and revalidate parish development plans for implementation at the parish level. The committee has representatives from the following categories; elders, youths (male & female), veterans, retired civil servants, women representatives, persons with disability, councillors and local council 1 chairpersons. This process was conducted in Pakwach, Agago and Lamwo in coordination with the district planning units, and in support of the DLGs. Most districts were not able to reconstitute PDC members because of the outbreak of COVID-19. In Zombo because of insecurity the activity couldn't be done.

Table 3.2.2 Parish Development Committees formed in Pakwach, Agago and Lamwo

| S/No | Sub county | No of Parishes | PDC Members registered | | |
|------|------------|----------------|------------------------|--------|-------|
| | | | Male | Female | Total |
| 1 | Pakwach | 25 | 373 | 252 | 625 |
| 2 | Agago | 29 | 516 | 76 | 593 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 3 | Lamwo | 14 | 100 | 38 | 138 |
| | Total | 68 | 989 | 366 | 816 |

Revalidation of Parish Development Plans

To facilitate bottom up planning projects are selected from parish plans developed through a process established by GoU. During the reporting period, parish revalidation planning meetings were conducted in all sub-counties of Agago, Lamwo, Pakwach, Zombo and Moyo. A total of 162 PDPs were updated in 35 sub-counties. The number of participants at meetings were restricted due to COVID-19 restrictions. DRC provide support through provision of stationary, printing of plans and technical support.

Table 3.2.3. Sub-counties and Parishes with updated development plans

| SN | District | Number of Sub Counties with Updated Plans | Number of parishes with updated PDPs |
|----|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Agago | 7 | 33 |
| 2 | Lamwo | 4 | 14 |
| 3 | Pakwach | 5 | 25 |
| 4 | Zombo | 11 | 52 |
| 5 | Moyo | 5 | 23 |
| 6 | Obongi | 3 | 15 |
| | Total | 35 | 162 |

Prioritization and selection of projects at Sub County level

DRC facilitated projects prioritization process in Pakwach, Zombo, Obongi, Moyo, Lamwo and Agago districts. This activity was carried out by both the sub county technical staff and political teams and DRC staff. The Sub County Technical Planning committee identified and selected key priorities from the various Parish prioritization and scoring sheets. Prioritized activities included; road infrastructures, agriculture production, education, health and water resource. These were ranked based on community needs, consolidated and submitted by the parish chiefs to the Sub County Community Development Officer.

From the sub counties, DRC with the support of the Sub county TPC identified Sub-county priorities in line with NURI outputs. The focus is agricultural related infrastructure which can be done using a labour-based approach and includes community access roads (CARs), functional markets (Grade C and D), water ponds, spring protection, and establishment of food forests on public land. This process informed screening for feasibility and viability under NURI.

Screening and Costing prioritised projects

DRC, together with the District technical staff (Forestry, Engineering Officers, Water Offices and Commercial Officers) and sub-county technical staff (CDO and SAS) completed technical screening of projects in the districts of Agago, Obongi and Moyo. The purpose of conducting technical screening of identified projects, was to ascertain if identified projects were viable for implementation within NURI project scope of works.

Screening in Lamwo, Pakwach and Zombo was still ongoing during the reporting period. The technical teams were guided by the selected projects from the revalidated Parish Development Plans (PDPs). In Moyo the draft Investment plan is ready and being reviewed by DRC project engineer. In other districts preparation of BoQs was ongoing. The DRC engineering team is preparing investment plans for 2020 season B projects for the following districts: Agago, Lamwo, Pakwach, Zombo, Obongi and Moyo. The Investment Plans will be presented to the District Technical Planning Committees (DTPCs) in early August for approval.

3.2.3 Approved Infrastructure Projects Implemented

Formation of Community Groups for implementation of public works

Together with local authorities, DRC identified local community groups that were willing to participate in rural infrastructure projects. The community groups also commit themselves to future maintenance of created assets. The following criteria was used during mobilization and formation of community groups: - members should be within walking distance to the project site, 50% of the participants female, 60% of the participants young people between 18 to 28 years and groups in refugee settlements should have 50% host community and 50% refugees.

Formation and training of PMCs

Project management committees are selected group members who are trained on the technical aspects of the selected infrastructure projects. Their role after training is to supervise the construction work, manage the work registers in preparation for payment and provide regular reports about progress of implementation. During the reporting period, PMCs were formed in the districts of Arua, Nebbi, Adjumani, Lamwo and Kitgum and were trained for two days by the district technical staff from Forestry & Natural resources, Engineering & construction, Production, community development office and public health. A similar process was conducted in the settlements of Rhino camp and Palabek in Lamwo. For each group, 4 members are selected

consisting of 2 females and 2 males. In total 1,121 (572M and 549F) PMC members were trained in four districts and two refugee settlements: Arua, Kitgum, Nebbi, Adjumani, Rhino camp and Palabek respectively.

The sub counties of Omugo and Odupi conducted the selection and formation process but training was not done. The training is planned for the Q3 and will be conducted by the District Engineer and Water Officer of Terego District to implement 14 RI projects for Season B. 12 groups implementing food forest since Season A were not trained due to COVID-19 restrictions. Since DRC got the SOP for the business continuity approved by Arua COVID-19 task force, they will be trained together with 14 PMCs for season B. The trainings will be attended by Lower local government leaders, 02 OPM / 02 RWC III and 01 UNHCR representative.

Procurement and Distribution of Tools and Materials.

Due to the lockdown the district of Kitgum, Adjumani, Nebbi and Lamwo did not receive all the tools for implementation of RI projects as planned. Following the easing of the lockdown the vendors delivered the following tools: hoes, spades, peak axes, sledge hammers, wheel barrows, ditch templates and cumber and crow bars. Additionally, seedlings for establishment of food forests were supplied to Arua, Nebbi, Adjumani, Kitgum, Palabek and Rhino camp. The seedlings are for establishment of food forests for both season A and B 2020. The seedling varieties received included; Teak, Shear nut tree, Afzelia, Mvule, and Neem (canopy), Tamarind, Tangerine, Pawpaw, Bananas, and Guava (Fruit seedlings) and Sesbania sesban, Aloe vera, Hibiscus, and Ginger (Shrubs).

Group Formation for Nationals

Table 3.2.4: Group formation statistics of participants for Nationals

| S/no | Sub County | No of Groups | Participants | | Youths 18 - 28 years | | Other 29yrs - Above | | Total |
|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| 1 | Arua | 86 | 1056 | 1254 | 702 | 819 | 354 | 435 | 2310 |
| 2 | Nebbi | 52 | 713 | 847 | 445 | 525 | 274 | 316 | 1560 |
| 3 | Adjumani | 40 | 540 | 645 | 307 | 337 | 233 | 308 | 1185 |
| 4 | Kitgum | 36 | 509 | 571 | 338 | 301 | 233 | 208 | 1080 |
| | Total | 214 | 2,818 | 3,317 | 1,792 | 1,982 | 1,094 | 1,267 | 6,135 |

Group formation analysis:

Youth participation across the districts was 3,774 persons, 61.5% of the total number of cash for work participants. The gender composition was female 3,317 (54%) and male 2,818 (46%) of the total participants.

Group Formation in Refugee Settlements

Table 3.2.5: Group formation statistics of participants in Refugee Settlements

| Sub County | 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 | |
| Rhino | 66 | 967 | 968 | 387 | 373 | 123 | 108 | 459 | 485 | 1935 |
| Palabek | 28 | 368 | 472 | 138 | 181 | 74 | 96 | 153 | 198 | 840 |
| Total | 94 | 1,335 | 1,440 | 525 | 554 | 197 | 204 | 612 | 683 | 2775 |

Group formation analysis:

In the two refugee settlements, young people 18 to 28 years were 1,480 (53.3%) of the total number of cash for work participants. The gender composition was female 1,440 (51.8 %) and male 1,335 (48.2%) of the total participants.

Status of Rural Infrastructure Projects Implementation

The following districts are implementing infrastructure projects: Arua, Kitgum, Lamwo, Adjumani, Nebbi and Rhino camp refugee settlement.

Arua District

Arua has a total number of 123 community groups working in season 2020 A as detailed below;

- 39 Community Access Roads (CARs).
- 69 Food forest projects.
- 3 market improvement
- 12 spring protection

Construction of 38.5km of CAR (11 road links) for season A has been ongoing by 39 community groups in the sub counties of Ajia, Ogoko, Vurra, Pajulu, Manibe, Katrini, Rhino camp and Oluko. 36.5km of these CAR has been completed with formation and shaping, the remaining 2km is at grubbing and Excavation to Level (ETL). Construction of structures on CARs will start in the next quarter.

69 community groups have been working on 193.13 acres of land for food forests (*This reduced from 203.3 acres previously reported because food forest from Rhino Camp was mistakenly added to Arua*) and all the 193.13 acres of land for food forest for season A and B was prepared, seedlings are being delivered for planting in various locations and planting is ongoing where seedlings have been delivered.

During the reporting period, DRC procured 98,328 assorted seedlings (Afzelia, Tamarindus, Mahogany, Teak, Gmelina, Neem, Guava, Lemon, Mango, Oranges, Mvule, Giant Lira, Malian Arboria, Shea nut, Jack fruit) for both Season A&B food forests. 735 rolls of barbed wire for fencing were also procured. 71,328 seedlings have been delivered and we are now waiting for delivery of 27,000 seedlings including 174,410 seedlings of kei-apple intended for fencing. The delivered seedlings are currently being planted.

There are three market improvement projects that will be implemented by 3 groups in Sub counties of Vurra, Pajulu and Oluko; Procurement of contractors for structural works on Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine for markets is completed and contractor have started construction of the VIP's. The pending work on markets is fencing for which materials are being procured.

12 groups are working on spring protection in the sub counties of Vurra, Pajulu, Katrini, Oluko and Manibe. All the spring sites have been cleared and prepared for structural works are to begin. The contractors have signed contracts awaiting site hand over so that works can start.

Kitgum District

Total number of 36 groups are implementing 36 projects implemented in Season A 2020 in Kitgum District, these projects comprise of:

- 13 Community Access Roads.
- 23 Food forests projects

Construction of 12.9km of Community access roads involving 13 groups have been ongoing in the 03 Sub counties; 3km in Amida (Opette P/S through Amida Seed Secondary School), 5.4km in Mucwini (Mugila- Atimkikoma) and 4.5km in Layamo (Tumatoo-Loborom). The activities that have already been accomplished include; Bush clearing, stump removal and excavation to level and alignment. The activities ongoing are ditching and cumber formation. Out of 12.9km road link, 6.5km has been formed; (2km in Layamo, 3km in Mucwini and 1.5km in Amida). 6.4km under ditching.

56 acres, were identified for food forest planting in 09 Sub counties in Kitgum District. Two projects, (05 acres) in Omiya-anyima had land dispute issues, no activities have commenced on it. An alternative land was provided after a site dialogue meeting was conducted, unfortunately the land identified have been planted with crops. The stakeholders and community have agreed upon harvest of the planted crops, the land will be handed over for the food forest activities. The

activities completed before transplanting the seedlings includes; Chop and drop, excavation of bio-swales, planting of poles for fencing, pitting and excavation of smiling bums.

40,500 out of 42,000 seedlings varieties were received in two consignments and are being transplanted in the 51 acres of food forest in the 08 Sub Counties of Amida, Layamo, Akwang, Kitgum Matidi, Mucwini, Lagoro, Namukora and Orom. These seedlings are of varies canopy layers for season A 2020 projects. A total of 1450 seedlings was not received for Omiya – anyima due to land issue. These will be delivered in season A of 2021 when the land allocated will be available.

Palabek Refugee Settlement (Lamwo District)

Palabek Refugee Settlement has total of 18 projects in Season A 2020 with currently ongoing works.

- 8 Community Access Roads (CARs).
- 10 Food forest projects.

Construction of 8.7km of Community access roads involving 08 groups have been ongoing in the in Palabek Ogili sub counties; 6 km (Apyetta Central-Apyetta North), 1.5km (Zone 1, Block 4 to Paluda HC III) and 1 km in (Akwo central to Zone 5B Block 5) all in Palabek ogili. The activities that have already been accomplished include; Bush clearing, stump removal and excavation to level and alignment. The on-going activities are Ditching and cumber formation.

Activities for food forest is being implemented in 23 acres of land by 10 groups in 02 Sub counties of Palabek Ogili and Gem in Lamwo District. The activities are progressing well with the following tasks completed; Chop and drop, excavation of bio-swales, planting of poles for fencing, pitting and excavation of smiling bums in all the 23 acres of food forests. The groups are waiting for fencing materials and seedlings to plant.

Adjumani District

Adjumani has total of 40 projects, 36 in Season A 2020 with currently ongoing works.

- 26 Community Access Roads (CARs).
- 13 Food forest projects.
- 1 spring protection

Construction of 23km of Community access roads involving 23 groups have been completed in the sub-counties of: Arinyapi Sub County 9km, Dzaipi S/C 8km, Ukusijoni S/C 4km and Adropi S/C 5km.

Activities for 13 food forest projects are at various stages of completion across all 4 sub-counties. In Arinyapi Sub County 4, Dzaipi S/C 3, Ukusijoni S/C 2 and Adropi S/C 4 projects, with preparation and fencing completed in most cases.

In Ukusijoni, a spring protection project is ongoing.

Nebbi District

Nebbi district has total of 52 infrastructure projects under implementation in season A 2020 (17CAR, 28 food forest season A and 07 food forest season B)

- 17 Community Access Roads (CARs).
- 35 Food forest projects.

Construction of 17.8 km of community access roads involving 17 groups has been completed in the road links of Pajagoro B to Alal Cope centre 7.3km in Parombo sub county, Obat to Jupagilo P/s 3.3km in Akworo sub county and Lura to Aringa 7.2km in Kucwiny sub county. The 17 groups each was paid UGX 3,600,000 totalling UGX 61,200,000. Reassessment on the roads was done by DRC engineers in preparation of culvert installation

Land preparation involving digging of contours, bioswales, pitting is completed in 23 public institutions in Nebbi district where 34 food forest projects covering 79 acres of land will be established. Fencing and planting was on going at the time of reporting.

Rhino camp Refugee Settlement

Total number of groups implementing RI projects is 74 (2,175 members) that have a total of 43,500 workdays.

- 46 Community Access Roads (CARs).
- 25 Food forest projects.
- 3 spring protection

27 community groups are working on 27km of CARs in Rigbo Sub county; bush clearing, excavation to level, ditching and shaping of the road has been completed. Compaction of 5.4km out of 27km has been compacted using pedestrian roller.

19 community groups work on 19km of CARs in Uriama Sub county have completed bush clearing, excavation to level, ditching and shaping the road. Compaction of the CARs links has not commenced.

25 community groups working on 75 acres of food forests in 04 Sub counties of Rhino Camp settlement have completed bush clearing, pitting and resilience designs. Distribution of food forest seedlings and fencing materials is ongoing in all the food forest sites.

3 community groups working on the 03 protected springs in Uriama Sub county have completed public works activities. Procurement of contractors for technical construction works is ongoing.

Cash Payments

Cash payments were carried out by Post Bank Uganda (PBU) to community groups who had completed their construction work in Arua and Nebbi districts. A total of 1,380 participants were paid UGX 165,600,000. The breakdown was as follows: In Arua district a total of 29 community groups with 870 participants (M=388, F=482) that finished working on community access roads projects were paid UGX 104,400,000 in the sub counties of Rhino Camp, Katrini, Manibe, Dadamu, Pajulu, Ajia, Ogoko and Vurra. In Nebbi, 17 community groups with a total number of 510 members were paid UGX 61,200,000=. They worked on the 03 community access road links of Pajagoro B – Alala cope centre 7.3km in Parombo sub county, Obat – Jupagilo P/S 3.3km in Akworo sub county and Lura – Aringa CAR in Kucwiny sub county.

Construction of structures (Re-assessment of structures):

Lamwo district carried out reassessment of structures in order to ensure quality and address additional bottlenecks identified during implementation of rural infrastructure activities. DRC re-assessed all 18 projects for 2020A. All 3 community access road lines; the Appyetta Central – Apyetta North (6.2km), Akworo central to Zone 5B Block 5A (1km), and Zone 1 Block 4 to Paluda HCIII (1.5km) were reassessed. The screening of these projects was conducted in November – December 2019. However, due to the rainfall pattern some parts were re-assessed and findings indicated that additional four 600mm culvert points and one vented drift needed to be added. This additional material and works have been costed and included in the investment plan.

Other activities under RI

DLG/ LLG Activities (Monitoring and supervision by: DTPC, DEC, LLGs, OPM/RWCs)

The second quarter monitoring and supervision visits were conducted by District Executive Committee (DEC) in Lamwo, Kitgum and Arua districts. In Lamwo the DEC successfully visited CAR and food forest projects in Palabek Refugee Settlement. The teams commended progress of work and urged DRC to compact the CAR's timely. The DEC team included the District LC V Chairman with his Executives, and the technical team, comprising of CAO, FPO, District Engineer and District Natural Resource Officer. The committee interacted with both the participants and their PMCs leader as well as some local communities not involved in cash for works activities.

In Kitgum Coordination Function in conjunction with NURI Focal Person organized and facilitated DEC monitoring visits for the 2nd Quarter. The DEC team included the District LC V with his Executives, and the technical team, comprising of CAO, FPO, District Engineer and District Natural Resource Officer. The team visited 05 project sites, 02 food forests gardens and 03 Community Access Roads in the Sub Counties of Mucwini, Amida and Layamo. The committee were led by NURI District Focal Officer. The committee interacted with both the participants and their PMCs leader as well as some local communities not involved in cash for works activities. The monitoring

reports will be shared, and lesson learnt will be incorporated to improve the next project implementation phases.

DRC facilitated the District Forest Officers and the District road engineers to provide technical guidance on food forest establishment and the community access roads, labour-based work respectively. On spot demonstrations were done to participants and some other technical backstopping for DRC engineering teams.

Site Dialogue Meetings

Site dialogue meetings were carried out for projects that had issues with land in Adjumani, Arua, Nebbi and Kitgum. The meeting was chaired by SAS of the respective sub counties, parish chiefs, LC 3 chairpersons and PMC members. Some of the issues raised during site meetings by the beneficiaries included payment modality, inadequacy of tools such as hoes and spades, low daily payment rate compared to other projects, size and boundaries of the land provided by the communities. Most of these conflicts were over CAR and food forest projects.

Field Coordination Meetings

DRC staff attended District task force meetings on a weekly basis to acquire information on the situation of pandemic in and around the district borders.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the monthly inter-Agency coordination meeting in Palabek refugee settlement was held only once during the reporting period in the month of May. The meeting aimed to encourage resumption of activities following the suspension. At district level, the programme worked with the office of LC V, CAO, planning Unit, Engineering, Production, Health and OPM/UNHCR at settlement.

Challenges identified through these meetings included deforestation, deteriorating infrastructure within the settlements, limited farm land, lack of seeds and tools to support Persons of Concern (PoCs). Where challenges fall within NURI intervention area DRC is contributing to them.

Recruitment of Staff

During the reporting period staff were recruited mostly for Koboko office which was being set up. The Team Leader Shelter and Infrastructure, Office Cleaner and two engineering assistants reported to Koboko office. Additionally-Lamwo Office recruited one staff, Shelter and Infrastructure Assistant-Engineering, who will be supporting technical supervision and monitoring of activities in Lamwo. Obongi and Agago also received one engineering assistant each.

Office establishment

One additional field office was opened in Koboko district in June. Four staff were recruited during the reporting period. The SGA guards were also deployed at the field office. Furniture, desktops and other assets were delivered to the field office.

Logistical Support (Motor Vehicle and Motor Cycles)

Eight Honda motorcycles were procured and delivered for Koboko and Imvepi field offices. Additionally, the Honda mechanic carried out servicing bikes for Adjumani, Zombo, Nebbi and Moyo.

Radio talk shows on NURI Project

DRC staff took part in Radio Talk shows in Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Arua, Agago and Kitgum. The main discussions were on Rural Infrastructure Implementation and activity updates and community engagement under the NURI RI component. Technical progress was presented according to projects and complaints were addressed. Topics covered include; stages of project implementation (all projects), project duration for each project, expected outcome of the projects, roles of stake holders, working in groups and group dynamics, roles of Project Management Committees, managing surface run off (rain water) on roads and food forests and SOP for working amidst the COVID-19 pandemic (community awareness).

A wide range of issues were discussed including providing information on the progress of the project, handling land conflicts, plans for community dialogue meetings, educating the communities about the importance of the project, rain water harvest in gardens/opening of mitre drains along the roads. The district task force was also supported with airtime to address the issue of COVID-19 pandemic especially by Adjumani office.

3.2.3 DLG Capacity (engineering department) built

Implementation of activities under DLG capacity started in the last quarter of 2019 where a consultant was procured to guide the DLG technical staff from the engineering department in developing the capacity building plans. The key activities accomplished during the reporting period are highlighted as:

1. Conducted meetings with the engineering departments of Arua, Obongi, Moyo, Adjumani, Kitgum, Madi-Okollo and Pakwach to identify items under retooling to generate specifications for the different procurement items.
2. Procurement processes of the different items started with requests for quotation for different items such as pedestrian rollers water testing kits, projectors, tablets and mechanical tools.

3.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management

This intervention is expected 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, which will lead to improved yields and decreased incidents of crop failure. The implementation is done by Upper Nile Water Management Zone under Ministry of Water and environment (planning and monitoring) together with Danish Refugee Council (infrastructure).

The activities under this intervention started in July 2018 and the report covers a one-year period of implementation.

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, a selection criteria was developed and consequently applied to guide the selection of priority micro catchments for plan development. This selection criteria was formulated following the guiding principles of project implementation with regard to the identification of project beneficiary areas as well as other considerations as proposed by DWRM/UNWMZ.

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 Pakwach 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 culminated in the acquisition of 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 played a pivotal role in the realization of the desired outcomes. These included; 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

Challenges in the micro catchments are natural as well as man-made, including prolonged dry spell, increasing temperature and deforestation, river bank erosion, expanding water needs of a growing population which for the refugee hosting districts is exacerbated by the refugee influx.

Preparation of micro catchment management plans

- I. The three mCMPs for Yelulu, Ora and Nyarwodho micro catchments have been completed and have been submitted by the Consultants for the Ministry’s approval
- II. The procurement of Consultants to prepare mCMPs in the four new micro catchments is nearing conclusion. The evaluation of the bidders’ proposals has been completed and only awaiting the approval of the evaluation report and recommendation for contract award by the Contracts Committee.
- III. Preliminary studies and baseline assessments are currently being undertaken in the four new micro catchments to build a comprehensive water and natural resources knowledge base to facilitate the rapid preparation of the mCMPs in these micro catchments

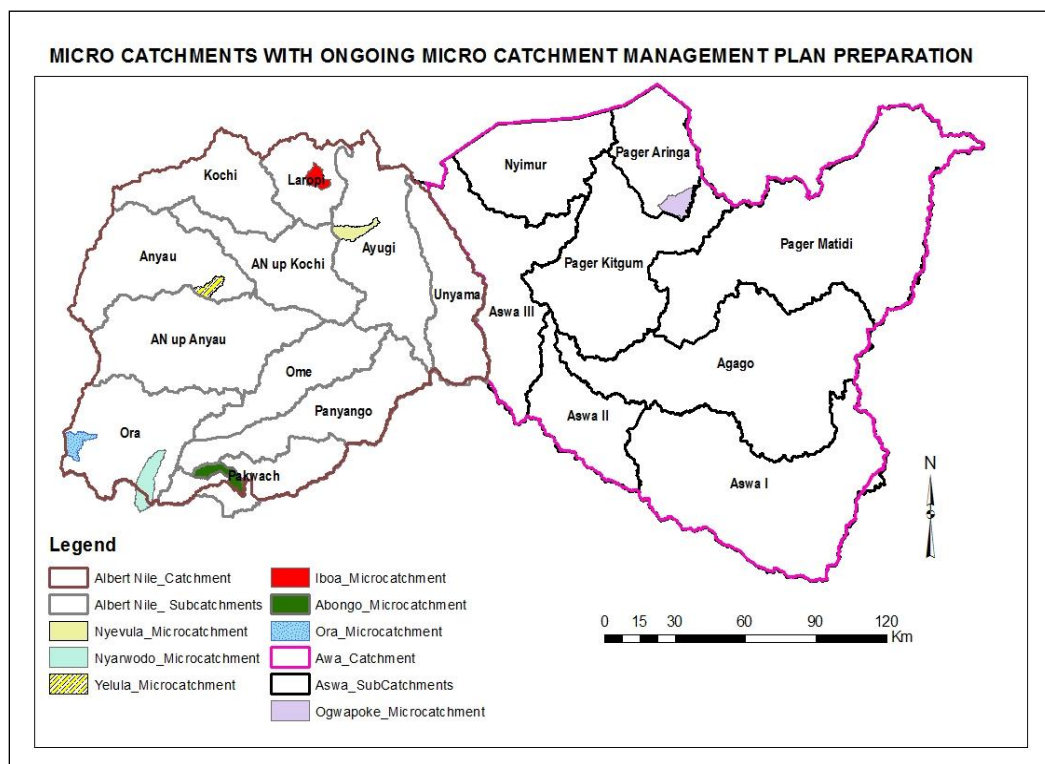


Fig. 1 Micro-catchment preparation plans locations

Preparation of NRM guidelines/bye laws

A consultant has been procured to spearhead preparation of the natural resources’ management guidelines/bye-laws in the three micro catchments of Yelulu, Ora and Nyarwodho and the draft

contract for the same is only awaiting approval of the Contracts Committee.

Capacity building/training of beneficiary communities in IWRM

A total of six trainings or capacity building sessions (2 per micro catchment) have been conducted so far by the UNWMZ in the three micro catchments that were undergoing mCMP preparation. 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 Physical and natural water infrastructure constructed or renovated

Following the phased project implementation approach, implementation of activities are planned to commence in the second year of the project after the development of the first of micro-catchment management plans. The process of developing activity plans based on the micro-catchment plans is currently on-going.

3.4 Output 0: Programme Coordination

NURI CF has provided coordination and technical back-stopping for the implementation of NURI activities during the reporting period. CF has a team of 10 technical staff and 6 drivers. 6 of the technical staff are based in Kampala and 4 in the regional offices in Arua, Moyo and Kitgum. CF is also involved in a number of supporting activities besides the coordination roles. During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented:

3.4.1 Inception Activities

Inception activities for the entire NURI programme, including the signing of MoUs and the launching of NURI activities are covered in the NURI Inception Report.

During the reporting period new activities were launched in Koboko and Imvepi. The signing of MoUs and launching activities are covered 3.1.6.

3.4.2 Procurement activities

During the reporting period the use of NURI procurement guidelines continued its consolidation and NURI continues to improve its adaptation of the core principles. A revision of the guidelines has been initiated together with RDE. Review of procurement plans for RAUs and IPs was carried out in the first quarter of the year. It involved alignment, and clarifying division of procurement processes between the IPs/ RAUs and the CF.

Among the many procurement activities conducted during the reporting period, notable procurements are listed below:

- Procurement of Irish potato seeds of 1-3 cm Rwangume Variety 654 bags for the farmer groups from the implementing unit of AFARD
- Procurement of a central Security guard system across all the implementing units of the NURI programme. The security system has ensured that programme assets are safe guarded, with one day-guard, two nightguards a panic button and a clocking system
- Procurement of 70 laptops and training on how to maintain the laptops was carried out for the staff of the NURI programme, this has improved on report writing.
- Procurement of office chairs for the Coordination Function offices of Arua. This has improved on the working conditions of the staff.
- Major motorcycle repairs were carried out across the implementing units, facilitating field movement of extension staff.
- 11 Motor Vehicles for implementing units were procured, these are one for Arua DFA, one for AFARD, and nine for DRC to help ease movement and coordination in implementing the programme activities.

- Two motorcycles for road testing were procured from two different suppliers and a road test successfully conducted between Arua and Rhino camp as part of the process of evaluating a larger motorcycle procurement process.
- Over 100 riding suits were procured for the protection of extension staff.
- Procured resource persons/knowledge partners from NARO/ZARDIs to conduct CSA training in Q3.
- Continued maintenance of NURI's standing lists.
- Continued support to units' procurement activities.

3.4.3 Financial management activities

During the reporting period NURI CF continued the revision of the programme manual in collaboration with RDE. Other notable activities included:

- Financial monitoring visits: It is a requirement of the Danish authorities that regular financial monitoring visits are implemented. The COVID-19 situation has temporarily halted this activity. However, the RDE paid a monitoring visit to the CF in Kampala at the beginning of the year. The report is still to be shared with NURI.
- Due to the increased working-from-home, physical signatures on paper documents have to a great extent been substituted by e-mail communication archived together with the financial records. These procedures will be incorporated in the revision of the manuals for formal approval by RDE.
- Within this period, NURI CF entered into a contract with Aclaim Africa for a continued improvement of NURI's use of the accounting package QuickBooksOnline (QBO) and training of staff. Aclaim Africa carried out the first training for the accountants however further trainings were put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Improved internet was installed at most IU offices. The period also included preparations for installation of solar power and of heavy-duty photocopiers at the IPs.
- CF supported the implementing units in the 2020 budget review.
- Finance and administration staff have supported provision of logistics for the various training session that took place during the period of reporting

3.4.4 Human resources – Recruitment and development

Total staffing under the NURI programme, by the end of the reporting period is as follows:

NURI CF: 16 staff

Output 1: CSA – 338 IP and RAU staff

Output 2 and 3: DRC – 16 key staff, approximately 100 field staff

Output 3: UNWMZ – 1 FPO, 5 attached staff

Recruitment activities under Output 1

- Under Output 1, the CSA staff, particularly extension staff increased substantially during the reporting period. The team in 2019 consisted of 242 staff, and had increased to 338 by the end of the reporting period. An increase of nearly 40%.
- In addition, a group of 14 enumerators were employed for data collection for the North West Nile Baseline Survey 2020.
- Recruitment of all CSA staff was carried out by Implementing Units with technical support and backstopping by DLGs and NURI CF. Unplanned recruitment for the new Implementing Unit in Koboko District, and for the expansion of Arua DFA to cover Imvepi Settlement was strongly supported by NURI CF, and executed under difficult circumstances, with the COVID-19 restrictions in place and considerable time pressure.
- The creation of the position of CSA Coordinator for ARUDIFA, AFARD and PICOT included development of TORs and support for recruitment. There is a review taking place to establish if the CSA coordinator position needs to be permanently established for Kitgum/Lamwo RAU as the Coordinator's contract was not extended.
- The recruitment, selection and onboarding of new hires to implement CSA interventions was completed in April 2020. The table below shows the breakdown of CSA workforce recruited for respective implementing Units 2020.

Table 3.4.1 CSA workforce recruitment 2020

| | KITG | AGAGO | ADJU | MOYO | DFA | AFARD | PICOT | |
|---|----------------------|-------|------|------|-----|-------|-------|--------------|
| Position | | | | | | | | Total |
| AEO | 14 | x | 30 | 30 | 24 | 13 | 13 | 124 |
| AES | 2 | x | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| V0 | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | x | 6 |
| CSACo | X | x | x | x | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| DO | 1 | x | x | x | X | X | 1 | 2 |
| | Overall total | | | | | | | 147 |
| <i>* AFARD & DFA ACSA Position: filled through internal promotion</i> | | | | | | | | |

Staff Induction and Orientation

- All 147 new hires under NURI CSA programme underwent robust mandatory induction and orientation training in March 2020, and July 2020 for Koboko and Imvepi.

Administrative HR Infrastructure

- HR administration infrastructure focused on updating the HR database and Policy compliance engagements across implementing Units.

Performance Management and Probationary Reviews

- In collaboration with Implementing Units, Coordination Function was able to conduct in house Performance management awareness engagements for Supervisors and Coordinators on NURI Performance Management System focusing on performance management cycle, performance agreements, self-evaluation and appraisal Tools in preparation for the Annual Performance Reviews 2020 due November.

Learning and Development

pandemic impacted negatively on the learning and development component. A number of courses were cancelled or postponed where CF had identified staff to attend capacity building courses in Denmark in partnership with DFC during the period.

Employee Relations activity (Grievances, disciplinaries and turn over)

Turn over registered was relatively low during the period. This is an area of focus including making use of exit interviews. Coaching and mentorship engagements with Implementing Unit leadership on the subject are ongoing.

HR activities under Outputs 2 and Output 3

DRC is responsible for all HR activities relating to of staff for Output 2 and Output 3, Activity 2. Recruitment is covered under Other Activities under Rural Infrastructure. MWE is responsible for staff of Output 3, Activity 1.

3.4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring activities for the reporting period have focused on following up adherence to established systems, data templates and reporting formats.

- NURI CF compiled the 2019 programme report and shared with the relevant stakeholders. A
- Implementing partners and RAU management staff were guided on progress reporting for including aligning with the reporting formats provided by NURI CF
- Conducted a training for newly recruited extension staff on preparation of production and marketing plans for farmer groups selected in 2020. The production and marketing plans formed the basis for the establishment of CSA database
- Planned the North West Nile baseline study in Q2, this included participation in the recruitment of enumerators and team leaders for the exercise. Data collection was done in Q3.
- Monitored data entry into the CSA database. Delays were experienced during the lockdown as some changes required on-site activation.

4.0 Progress against Outputs and Outcome Targets

NURI aims to increase the agricultural output of small-scale farmers, including refugees and hosts, through training and extension activities. At the same time 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.

No major survey has yet been carried out to measure progress against outputs and outcomes, but baseline studies have been done, as a basis for measuring progress. The first major survey is planned for the third and fourth quarter of this year. Meanwhile there has been progress at activity level that will clearly contribute toward the achievement of targets.

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

Main activity 1.1 Identify and train target farmers groups

- Assessed and selected 1,365 new national groups and 451 refugee groups for support under NURI programme
- Supported the selection of strategic crops by the different implementing districts. The crops included sesame, soybean, beans, sunflower, onions, rice, cassava, groundnuts, potatoes
- Facilitated national farmers and refugee groups in selection of group enterprises from the enterprise/crop list
- Facilitated new national groups to develop production and marketing plans for the strategic crops selected
- Planned and conducted specialised trainings for extension staff on CSA
- Conducted 4 out of 10 sessions for the farmer groups selected in 2020 and continuing groups from 2019
- Facilitated all the selected and continuing farmer groups to establish demo plots for the strategic crops.

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 (includes new national and refugee groups)
- Recruited a total of 88 CBTs from all the districts of implementation to run VSLA training with the exception of Koboko
- Monitored savings activities for all the 393 farmer groups that started in 2019
- Procured VSLA kits for all the farmer groups including refugees that were selected for VSLA support under the programme.

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

Main Activity 2.1 Prepare infrastructure investment plans

- Conducted district inception and sub-county sensitization meetings about rural infrastructure activities in the districts of Agago, Lamwo, Obongi, Moyo, Pakwach and Koboko
- Formulated parish development plans in the districts of Agago, Lamwo, Obongi, Moyo and Pakwach
- Revalidated parish development plans for all the sub counties in the districts of Obongi, Moyo, Pakwach, Zombo and Agago
- Completed formation of 308 community groups (214 nationals, 94 refugees) to participate in the construction of selected projects in the districts Arua, Nebbi, Adjumani, Kitgum
- Completed prioritization and selection of projects at sub county level in the districts of Pakwach, Zombo, Obongi, Moyo, Lamwo and Agago
- Conducted screening and costing of prioritised projects in Agago, Obongi and Moyo.

Main Activity 2.2 Approved infrastructure projects implemented

- Completed formation and training of PMCs in the districts of Arua, Nebbi, Adjumani, Lamwo and Kitgum, Rhino camp settlement
- Procured and distributed tools for infrastructure works in the Kitgum, Adjumani and Nebbi
- Rolled out construction work in the districts of Arua, Nebbi, Adjumani, Kitgum, Rhino camp and Palabek settlement
- Completed payment for 1,380 participants in the districts of Arua and Nebbi

4.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management – Agriculturally-related physical and natural infrastructure constructed or made more climate resilient

Main Activity 3.1 Develop WRM micro-catchment plans

- Selected four new micro-catchments for implementation through field visits and discussions with communities around the micro-catchments
- Introduced the project to beneficiary districts, with sensitization of relevant stakeholders at district level.
- Prepared micro-catchment management plans for the selected micro catchments
- Prepared NRM guidelines/bye laws
- Trained beneficiary communities in IWRM approaches

5.0 Status on Risks and Assumptions

5.1 Assumptions

No large-scale assessment of progress has been made to date, but activity progress gives a good indication of the likelihood of which assumptions will hold.

Table 5.1.1 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. Low cost technologies are likely to be widely adopted |
| KA CSA | Farmer groups will be willing to participate and cost-share some types of support such as produce stores | Old National groups have shown high willingness to cost-share for projects, although their ability to do so reduced markedly after the COVID-19 lock-down and disruption of economic activities |
| 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 too early 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 piloted as a mitigating option. |
| KA RI | Local contractors are available and able to meet quality standards | Indications are positive. By year end contractors will be working widely and quality can be assessed. |
| 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 but one 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. |

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

5.2 Risk Monitoring

Table 5.2.1 Risk monitoring 2020

| Risk factor | Likelihood | Impact | Risk assessment and response | Update at June 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. Old National Groups are contributing to cost-sharing at 50% rate. For general inputs the risk remains more likely for refugee communities where there are a number of support programmes. |
| 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 are ubiquitous in Uganda and the risk may be exacerbated by the success of this engagement. Mitigation through ensuring land ownership is clearly defined and recorded in the micro-catchment plans and through inclusive planning processes, locally driven implementation and strengthening of local communities. | There have been minor land conflicts, but these have been managed successfully on a case by case basis, for example where demonstration sites have had to be relocated or compromises on the width of CARs. There are on-going land disputes especially in Acholi. All cases are reported to the 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. | The IP for RI has experience in this area, and have proposals for strengthening maintenance activities and building on documented successes. It is early to assess |
| 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 | CSA measures are being introduced across the programme, and resilience design is piloted under rural infrastructure. These mitigating |

| Risk factor | Likelihood | Impact | Risk assessment and response | Update at June 2020 |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---|--|
| | | | climate smart agriculture and water resources management, and climate considerations will also be integrated in infrastructure renovation and construction. | measures will somewhat lessen the risk. There have been cases of flooding where drainage trenches have been introduced with advice from NURI extensionists. |
| 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 these completely 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. | As part of SRHR activities CARE is hiring a consultant to assess gender aspects of NURI CSA activities. The outcome of this consultancy will be useful in strengthening the response to this risk. has delayed this consultancy. |
| 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 be sensitized before project selection and distribution of resources is done in a transparent way. | As there are no major hand-outs in NURI this risk is minimal. The relatively high cost-sharing level of 50/50 for old groups helps avoid this risk. |
| Interventions by other DPs offer more lucrative support for beneficiaries and better salaries for staff | Likely | Minor | NURI will coordinate with other DPs to avoid geographical overlap and "competition" for beneficiaries, and to coordinate general remuneration levels for both community participation and project staff. | This risk is more apparent in the settlements, but because NURI's long-term is quite different from most other projects, there is little competition. |
| Institutional risks | | | | |
| Corruption or misuse of funds among NURI | Likely | Major | Mitigation through implementation modalities based on experience. Lessons learned on safeguards under | Financial and procurement guidelines and monitoring are implemented. |

| Risk factor | Likelihood | Impact | Risk assessment and response | Update at June 2020 |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---|--|
| implementing partners (also programmatic risk) | | | RDNUC are incorporated in the Management and Accounts Manuals. | |
| 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. | Some adjustments to management have been made, including the introduction of a National Programme Coordinator, and CSA Coordinators in some units, addressing emerging gaps. |
| 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 will be integrated in all NURI interventions. | DLGs and LLG are enthusiastic about the start of NURI. Being involved in selection of beneficiaries and activities as well as in monitoring DLGs and LLGs are generally highly involved in NURI implementation |
| Emerging Risks | | | | |
| 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. | Groups in a sub-country in Obongi district are unwilling to work with any partner until they are acknowledged as falling under Moyo District. NURI has suspended work in the affected sub-county and will review next year |
| 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. | Working with District COVID-19 task forces, developing and following SOPs and taking sensible precautions has allowed NURI to work through the early stages of the pandemic. |

6.0 Reporting on Expenditure at Output Level

The total budget for the NURI engagement is DKK 310 million over a period of five years 2018-2022. The Danish commitment is made in Danish Kroner (DKK).

For WRM, the budget of DKK 35 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. The remaining 237 million is split between CSA and RI activities.

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.). These contingency funds will be considered during the up-coming Mid-term review of the programme. The contingency funds may be used before 2022.

Table 6.0.1: 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 | 37.6 |
| Rural Infrastructure (RI) | - | 16 | 36 | 37 | 31.5 | 120.5 | 38.9 |
| Water Resources Management (WRM) | 3 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8 | 7 | 35 | 11.3 |
| Coordination incl. TA and M&E | - | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 7.7 |
| Contingency | - | - | - | - | 14 | 14 | 4.5 |
| Total | 3 | 46.5 | 85.5 | 87 | 88 | 310 | 100 |

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

NURI Fund utilization for 2020

For the first two quarters of 2020, a total budget of 36,274,338,000 UGX was approved by RDE; 25,901,346,351 UGX was disbursed and 12,309,527,772 utilised (48% utilized). 34% of the Q1/Q2-budget was spent during those two quarters.

Table 6.0.2: NURI BUDGET UTILIZATION FOR 2019

| NURI CONSOLIDATED REPORT | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Budget vs. Actuals UGX | | | | |
| Jan - Jun 2020 | | | | |
| Intervention | Disbursed Funds | Actual Expenditure | Approved Budget | % of Budget |
| Coordination Incl TA and M&E | 1,384,196,000 | 1,153,333,436 | 1,384,196,000 | 83% |
| 0.Coordination, TA and M&E | 1,384,196,000 | 1,153,333,436 | 1,384,196,000 | 83% |
| Climate Smart Agriculture | 14,145,765,514 | 7,128,897,818 | 18,876,274,000 | 38% |
| 0. Coordination Function Kampala | | 274,802,756 | 604,662,000 | 45% |
| 1.1.1. Assess and select strategic crops and beneficiary farmer groups | | 127,768,223 | 190,017,000 | 67% |
| 1.1.2. Prepare plans with the selected farmer groups depending on situation and needs | | 42,480,500 | 77,390,000 | 55% |
| 1.1.3. Train in Climate smart agricultural, including soil and water management. | | 1,579,930,614 | 5,203,707,000 | 30% |
| 1.1.4. Train in and support collective marketing. | | 110,168,240 | 3,240,517,000 | 3% |
| 1.1.5. Continuously assess farming systems and climate smart agricultural practices | | 0 | 50,000,000 | 0% |
| 1.2. Train target farmer groups in financial literacy, especially through VSLA | | 198,336,880 | 799,725,000 | 25% |
| 1.3. Provide capacity building and operational support to the implementing partner | | 4,793,822,615 | 6,897,450,000 | 70% |
| 1.4. Provide capacity building and operational support to the Production Departments | | 1,587,990 | 1,812,806,000 | 0% |
| Rural Infrastructure by DRC & CF | 9,009,891,149 | 3,565,192,275 | 11,139,879,000 | 32% |
| 2.3. DLG capacity building (CF) | | 0 | 879,900,000 | 0% |
| 2.0. Service contract fee (DRC) | | 0 | 2,133,980,000 | 0% |
| 2.1. Prepare Infrastructure Investment Plans for approval (DRC) | | 166,777,452 | 320,659,000 | 52% |
| 2.2. Implement approved infrastructure projects (DRC) | | 729,500,345 | 4,342,477,000 | 17% |
| 2.3. DLG capacity building (DRC) | | 2,668,914,478 | 3,462,863,000 | 77% |
| Water Resources Management by MWE & CF | 1,361,493,688 | 462,104,243 | 4,900,759,000 | 9% |
| 3.3. Consultancies, Short Term TA (CF) | | 0 | 50,000,000 | 0% |
| 3.1. UNWMZ office capacity-building (MWE) | 1,311,493,688 | 462,104,243 | 1,013,415,000 | 46% |
| 3.2. Agriculturally/-related water infrastructure (DRC) | | 0 | 3,837,344,000 | 0% |
| TOTAL | 25,901,346,351 | 12,309,527,772 | 36,301,108,000 | 34% |

Notes

1. Low budget utilization caused mainly by COVID-19 restrictions leading to slow implementation and the postponing of some activities, with some procurements affected, impact on gatherings and transport.
2. DRC service contract expenses are not yet included and expenditure for DRC under output 3 has not yet commenced.
3. Disbursements to NURI CF are arrived at after deducting disbursements to implementing units
4. Expenditure for WRM is arrived at by deducting the expenditure reported in the 2019 Annual report from the MWE financial report for the period ending June 2020.
5. NURI CF - CSA disbursement assumes as the balance on disbursement after deducting the budget for coordination, TA, M&E, RI and WRM
6. RDEs direct payment of overhead expenses is included in intervention 0; Coordination, TA and M&E.

Share of overhead paid by RDE

Under intervention 0, a number of payments are made directly by RDE. These are not reflected in the above table, which focuses on payments made by NURI CF. In the period direct payments by RDE amounted to DKK 1,609,381 or UGX 863,368,531. If this expenditure is taken into account the budget expenditure rate increases from 83% under intervention 0, to 146%. It should be noted that intervention 0 contains activities closely related to implementation of especially intervention 1, which is why isolated financial years may experience over-expenditure under intervention 0.

| Intervention | Actual Expenditure | Approved Budget | % of Budget |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 0.Coordination, TA and M&E | 2,016,701,967 | 1,384,196,000 | 146% |

The total Jan - Jun 2020 expenditure rate for NURI increases from 34% to 36%:

| | Actual Expenditure | Approved Budget | % of Budget |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Total expenditure | 13,172,896,303 | 36,274,338,000 | 36% |

Table 6.0.3: Summary per Implementing partner/RAU

| NURI Coordination Function | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Disbursement, Expenditure & Budget per Implementing Unit | | | | |
| January to June 2020 | | | | |
| | Disbursed Funds | Actual Expenditure | Approved Budget | % of Budget |
| NURI Coordination Function | 3,712,893,563 | 2,082,207,665 | 8,662,380,000 | 24% |
| Arua DFA | 2,412,772,511 | 1,711,287,250 | 2,426,328,000 | 71% |
| AFARD | 1,950,001,795 | 1,476,489,212 | 1,574,426,000 | 94% |
| RAU Moyo | 2,456,385,092 | 745,512,903 | 2,535,186,000 | 29% |
| RAU Adjumani | 2,014,737,507 | 584,240,314 | 2,203,800,000 | 27% |
| RAU Kitgum | 2,117,253,000 | 987,906,774 | 2,117,253,000 | 47% |
| RAU Agago | 1,714,624,146 | 674,618,736 | 1,670,998,000 | 40% |
| PICOT | 81,193,900 | 19,968,400 | 0 | |
| DRC | 8,129,991,149 | 3,565,192,275 | 14,097,321,000 | 25% |
| WRM | 1,311,493,688 | 462,104,243 | 1,013,416,000 | 46% |
| TOTAL | 25,901,346,351 | 12,309,527,772 | 36,301,108,000 | 34% |

Note: PICOT, which joined the programme during the reporting period, had its budget approved as a lump sum for the entire period and was therefore not included in the budget breakdown for the report period. Budget details will be available in the next report.

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. At the same time Koboko District and Imvepi settlement were launched, with recruitments, planning and trainings all implemented in the reporting period. All this activity was disrupted and disorganised by the COVID-19 lock-down and restrictions.

In Koboko the activities included budgeting, group assessment and selection, sensitization of DLGs & LLGs, selection of strategic crops and general orientation of newly recruited staff. 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 some compromises were necessary, all activities were carried out and extension staff are working with the newly established groups.

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.

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.

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 started. 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 C-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 than 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 it may be necessary to include further settlements in 2021.

Land Conflicts

Land conflicts occur occasionally in both CSA and RI, particularly in Acholi sub-region, at times affecting selection of demonstration plots and stalling rural infrastructure projects. In most cases negotiation with the local authorities/leaders leads to solutions, but in occasionally it is necessary to change the demonstration plot site or compromise on the width of roads. This has affected timely completion of some projects.

8.0 Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations

There have been no new appraisals or studies since the launch of the NURI programme. Recommendations of the NURI reappraisal carried out in October 2018 were implemented during the first year of the programme.

In the up-coming period, NURI CF will be working with the RDE to prepare for the Mid-term review (MTR), which will take place in early 2021, having been delayed from the second half of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A PAP has been developed for the MTR including an Adoption Survey of the districts covered in the original baseline, an assessment of Resilience Design pilots under output 2 and a number of smaller studies.

Annex 1

Table A1.1 Strategic Crops selected per District by New Farmer Groups for 2020

| Strategic crop | Arua | Adjumani | Moyo | Obongi | Koboko | Nebbi | Zombo | Pakwach | Kitgum | Lamwo | Agago | Total |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Cassava | 27 | 0 | 50 | 45 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 215 |
| Sesame | 50 | 171 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 16 | 26 | 346 |
| Soybean | 42 | 126 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 62 | 110 | 461 |
| Beans | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 121 |
| Sunflower | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 92 | 108 |
| Rice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maize | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| Groundnuts | 0 | 0 | 116 | 0 | 104 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 220 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| Onions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| Total Gps | 165 | 300 | 194 | 106 | 195 | 75 | 74 | 45 | 105 | 105 | 240 | 1,604 |

The breakdown of the different enterprises selected by refugee groups per settlement below:

Table A1.2 Crops selected by Refugee Groups in Palabek Settlement

| | Field Crop | Mixed Groups | Refugee Women | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Cassava | 1 | | 1 |
| 2 | Sweet Potato | | 20 | 20 |
| 3 | Maize | 9 | | 9 |
| 4 | Beans | 7 | | 7 |
| 5 | Cow Pea | | 12 | 12 |
| 6 | Ground nut | 2 | | 2 |
| 7 | Sesame | 24 | | 24 |
| | Vegetable | | | |
| 1 | Onions | | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Tomatoes | | 4 | 4 |
| 3 | Egg plant | | 5 | 5 |
| 4 | Sukuma Wiki | | 7 | 7 |
| 5 | Okra | | 1 | 1 |

All groups were continuing from the NURI pilot in 2018, and therefore had already received fruit trees.

Table A1.3 Crops Selected by Refugee Groups in Rhino-Camp settlement

| | Field Crop | Mixed Groups, Pilot Youth groups | Refugee Women | Total |
|----|--------------|--|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Cassava | 50 | 65 | 115 |
| 2 | Sweet Potato | 2 | 65 | 63 |
| 3 | Maize | 77 | | 77 |
| 4 | Beans | 1 | | 1 |
| 5 | Cow Pea | 3 | 53 | 56 |
| 6 | Ground nut | 106 | | 106 |
| 7 | Pigeon Pea | 5 | | 5 |
| 8 | Sesame | 1 | | 1 |
| 9 | Sorghun | 1 | | 1 |
| | Vegetable | | | |
| 1 | Onions | | 46 | 46 |
| 2 | Tomatoes | | 54 | 54 |
| 3 | Egg plant | | 43 | 43 |
| 4 | Sukuma Wiki | | 53 | 53 |
| 5 | Okra | | 46 | 46 |
| 6 | Amaranthus | 1 | 36 | 37 |
| 7 | Cabbage | 1 | 28 | 29 |
| 8 | Green Pepper | | 2 | 2 |
| 9 | Entula | 1 | 22 | 23 |
| 10 | Nakati | 1 | 30 | 31 |
| 11 | Jute Mallow | 1 | 28 | 29 |
| | Fruit | | | |
| 1 | Mango | | 34 | 34 |
| 2 | Citrus | | 35 | 35 |
| 3 | Pawpaw | | 37 | 37 |
| 4 | Passion | | 29 | 29 |

The few continuing youth groups from the NURI pilot are included with mixed groups.

Table A1.4 Crops selected by Refugee Groups in Palorinya Settlement

| | Field Crop | Mixed Groups | Refugee Women | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Cassava | | 25 | 25 |
| 2 | Sweet Potato | | 95 | 95 |
| 3 | Maize | 1 | | 1 |
| 4 | Beans | | | |
| 5 | Cow Pea | | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | Ground nut | 71 | | 71 |
| 7 | Pigeon Pea | | | |
| 8 | Sesame | 41 | 72 | 113 |
| | Vegetable | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|--|-----|-----|
| 1 | Onions | | 116 | 116 |
| 2 | Tomatoes | | 75 | 75 |
| 3 | Egg plant | | 2 | 2 |
| 4 | Sukuma Wiki | | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Cabbage | | 32 | 32 |
| 6 | Green Pepper | | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | Nakati | | 2 | 2 |
| | Fruit | | | |
| 1 | Mango | | 21 | 21 |
| 2 | Citrus | | 19 | 19 |
| 3 | Pawpaw | | 113 | 113 |
| 4 | Passion | | 87 | 87 |

Table A1.4 Crops Selected by Refugee Groups in Maaji/Mungla Settlements

| | Field Crop | Mixed Groups | Refugee Women | Total |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Cassava | 34 | | 34 |
| 2 | Sweet Potato | | 120 | 120 |
| 3 | Maize | 83 | | 83 |
| 4 | Beans | 77 | | 77 |
| 5 | Cow Pea | | 120 | 120 |
| 6 | Ground nut | 42 | | 42 |
| 7 | Pigeon Pea | 2 | | 2 |
| 8 | Sesame | 1 | | 1 |
| | Vegetable | | | |
| 1 | Onions | | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Tomatoes | | 20 | 20 |
| 3 | Egg plant | | 37 | 37 |
| 4 | Sukuma Wiki | | 53 | 53 |
| 5 | Okra | | 59 | 59 |
| 6 | Amaranthus | | 22 | 22 |
| 7 | Cabbage | | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | Green Pepper | | 3 | 3 |
| | Fruit | | | |
| 1 | Mango | | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Citrus | | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Pawpaw | | 120 | 120 |
| 4 | Passion | | 120 | 120 |