

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

NURI

Danida

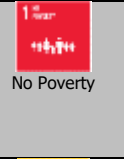
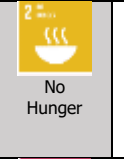









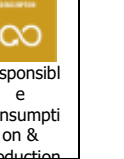
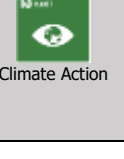
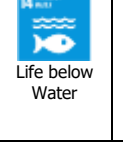



SEMI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021



**Prepared by NURI Coordination Function
Kampala, Uganda**

August 2021

Summary of Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

<p>Key results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase on average annual agricultural cash income of participating households Reduction in number of participating households reporting periods of food insecurity Increase in the number of people benefitting from supported WRM interventions <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)					
	<i>DKK mill.</i>	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	Tot
	Commitment	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	32
	Projected ann.	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	32
	Duration	2018 – 2022					
	Previous grants	DKK 150 million					
	Finance Act code	06.32.01.12 Uganda					
	Head of unit	Nicolaj A. Hejberg Petersen					
	Desk officer	Victor Azza Vuzzi					
	Financial officer	Asger Graae					
	Relevant SDGs [Maximum 5 – highlight with grey]						
							
							
							

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

Summary:

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

Budget:

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

Map of Uganda Showing NURI Districts

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

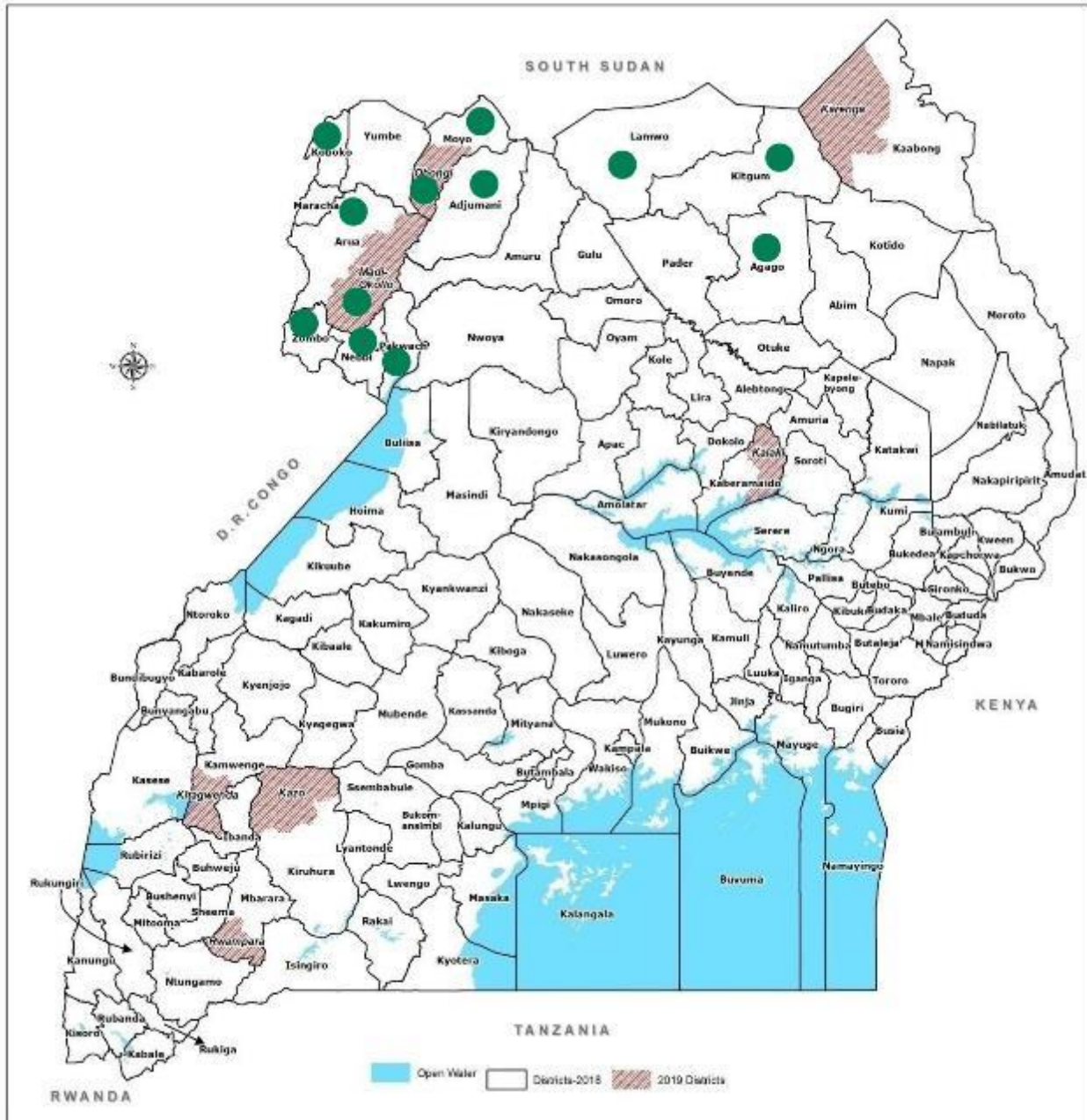


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List of Acronyms

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

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

Executive Summary

The MTR of Denmark's Country Programme in Uganda was carried out in the first quarter of 2021. The review included the NURI programme, both documentation and a field trip. The MTR found that: *'NURI, with its objective of enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of northern Uganda, is highly pertinent to what is necessary now. No other industry or set of livelihoods is more sensitive to climate outcomes than densely settled smallholder farmers in tropical areas. The need to quickly adapt is overwhelming and the components on climate smart agriculture and water resource management are major tools in the armoury in this regard. The adoption of NURI approaches by the government and other projects such as the EU-funded Development Initiative for Northern Uganda is evidence of the programmes topicality and relevance.'*

The MTR noted the efforts to develop synergies between the UPSIDE programmes, but also noted that there is no need to establish arbitrary links, which will not increase overall impact.

The first half of 2021 has been a very busy time across the NURI programme, with high levels of activity in all Outputs, despite challenges of unstable rainfall, including a late start to Season A, leading to an overlap with Season B, and continuing COVID-19 restrictions. Output 3, which has been delayed due to lengthy planning processes, is taking off with almost all plans now in place.

Climate Smart Agriculture activities are generally running well, with the Implementing Units, management and staff, well able to implement the agreed annual plans. During the period 3,270 farmer groups are receiving regular extension support on CSA, with 1,575 also supported in VSLA activities. Bringing the VSLA and the agricultural planning processes closer together as a way to strengthen not only resilience, but also financial and business literacy is in focus. All staff have been engaged in a process of reviewing TORs and performance targets, strengthening the accountability and motivation of staff.

For Rural Infrastructure, the major area of focus is the speed and quality of implementation. There are a huge number of projects ongoing. Of the 1,336 projects approved since inception completion rate is 49%, with the remainder ongoing. The challenge of maintaining quality while also reaching targets within the deadlines is being addressed by DRC and NURI CF management. Ensuring that resilience design is implemented correctly, across all projects is also an area of focus, with lessons being learnt in this new area of technical expertise.

On WRM, the tasks of the MWE are almost complete, with the focus now less on planning and more on supervision and monitoring. Implementation plans for seven of the eight planned micro-catchments are approved and planning and implementation of the plans are on-going. DRC is responsible for the implementation of the projects within micro-catchments and linked to water resources – a new area for the NURI programme. There is much work and much learning ahead.

Overall, the programme is on course to achieve targets, however the next 6 months of 2021 will be critical, particularly on WRM, where activity implementation is still taking off. The teams, tools and systems are now well established, and if momentum can be maintained, NURI is on track to have significant impact within the 13 Districts of Northern Uganda. During the remainder of 2021, and the first half of 2022, extensive adoption and impact surveys are planned, which will give a detailed picture of the success of the programme in achieving Outcome targets.

1.0 Introduction

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

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

NURI is the largest of the three Development Engagements under UPSIDE and contributes to the objective of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The total Danish contribution to NURI is DKK 325 million over the five-year period from 2018-2022, with one output area having started in mid-2018, and the other two at the start of 2019. DKK 50 million of the budget-frame derives from the Danish Climate Change Envelope (CCE).

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

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

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

The report covers implementation of NURI activities from 1/1/2021 to 30/6/2021 and includes all activities achieved by NURI implementing partners, Resilience Agricultural Units, DLGs and Coordination Function.

2.0 Developments in the Programme Area

Northern Uganda was largely peaceful during the reporting period allowing development activities to run normally. In the refugee hosting districts, isolated cases of theft were reported within the settlements however the authorities addressed the situation. In the Acholi sub-region, cases of land conflict were reported in Kitgum district in the sub counties of Layamo and Mucwini. This disrupted training for two farmer groups. Cattle theft was also reported in sub counties bordering the Karamoja region in both Agago and Kitgum Districts. The DLG and LLG authorities addressed issues as they arose.

In February 2021, Uganda held elections at presidential, parliamentary, district, city council and lower local government levels. Campaign activities started in the last quarter of 2020 and rolled into the first quarter of 2021. This happened at a time when the country was dealing with COVID 19 pandemic. The election was eventually completed and newly elected leaders assumed office in the second quarter. A second wave of COVID 19 set in after swearing in of the elected leaders, leading to a 42-day lockdown starting on the 19th of June. Measures introduced included a ban on public transport and most public markets. By the end of reporting period, there were 92,724 confirmed cases of COVID 19 in the country, 12,974 active cases, 77,171 recoveries and 2,579 mortalities according to Ministry of Health's database.

The COVID 19 pandemic and related restrictions have led to a generally weakening of the economy and inflation increased from 1.9% to 2.0% (MoFPED, June 30th 2021). Many farmer households in the region reported declining household incomes, food insecurity and loss of employment opportunities.

Northern Uganda is hosting 53.3% of the total refugee population in Uganda according to UNHCR reports. By the end of the reporting period, there were 797,312 refugees mainly from South Sudan; 740,198 in West-Nile and 57,114 in Acholi (UNHCR). Refugee response activities are overseen by OPM and coordinated through CRRF. Other key development programmes in the region handling similar livelihoods activities are DRDIP, NUSAF3, PRELNOR and DINU. There was good coordination and collaboration across the different programmes, particularly at District level.

Some new local government administrative units were created after the elections. This led to an increase in the number of sub-counties and parishes in the districts of Pakwach, Zombo, Kitgum, Agago, Lamwo, Arua and Koboko. Arua municipality was granted city status and the district headquarters was moved to Vura sub county.

2.1 Context in West-Nile

Weather

The weather pattern was uneven across the 10 districts of operation in South and North West Nile with some receiving adequate rainfall and others insufficient during the first half of the year. The first quarter was generally dry and dusty and farmers could only carry out post-harvest handling and marketing activities. During the second quarter, the districts of Moyo, Obongi, Koboko, Nebbi and Zombo received moderate rainfall between April and early May, allowed land preparation activities for Season A and early planting of some crops like beans, maize, onions, potatoes and cassava. The pattern changed towards

the last weeks of May to the end of June, where a prolonged dry spell was recorded across all the districts, with temperatures ranging from 28°C to 35°C. This presented unfavorable conditions for the performance of crops that were planted early such as maize (Longe 5), beans (Narobean 1) and cassava. The dry spell on the other hand provided favorable conditions for infestation of pests like fall army worm and variegated grasshoppers which affected maize crops in the districts of Adjumani and Koboko. It is anticipated that season A crop yields will be affected and that there will be delayed establishment of demo fields for season B across the region.

For rural infrastructure activities, some delays were recorded in procurement of local materials for culvert installation. This pushed the activities of spot gravelling, back-filling of culvert spots and compaction for season B CARs in two sub-counties in Pakwach district to Q2 which was affected by the heavy rains received in the months of April and early May. Some parts of the roads were cut off and it was impossible for trucks to move to ferry excavated marram to project sites. The dry spell that followed led to the drying up of some seedlings in food forests. However, there was a significant progress achieved in opening of new community access roads (CAR) across the region during to the dry spell.

Economic activities

Trade in agricultural commodities included maize, sesame, soybean, beans, groundnuts, potatoes, onions, rice and cassava. In the first quarter, trade attracted buyers from as far off as Mbale, Gulu, Luwero, Kampala, South Sudan and Congo. A slight increase in commodity prices was registered with farmers profiting from Season B 2020 harvest.

During the last month of the second quarter, trading activities reduced with the introduction of COVID 19 lockdown. Trade was especially impacted by the ban on public transport and markets and some farmer and refugee households reported food insufficiency.

Other economic activities that farmer households and community groups participating in to supplement their incomes included brick making, sand mining, quarrying, brewing alcohol, sale of poles and thatching grass, harvest and sale of fruits like mangoes, lemon and tangerine.

Coordination and collaboration

The implementation of NURI programme activities is done in close collaboration and coordination with stakeholders and development partners in the region. During the reporting period NURI teams worked closely with OPM, UNHCR and the DLGs on refugee matters, while on general development activities they worked with other development partners like CARE, ZOA, Save the Children, PALM Consults, Lutheran World Federation, Mercy Corps, DRC Livelihood, Welt Hunger Hilfe, CEFORD, CREAM, RICE, NRC, SNV and IRC. The DLGs supported implementation with both refugees and nationals in the region. Key coordination activities included joint field monitoring visits, attending sector specific coordination meetings and COVID 19 task force meetings. Overall, good coordination and collaboration amongst stakeholders fostered a good working relationship hence achievement of planned activities.

Refugee response

By 30th June 2021, West Nile region was hosting 797,312 refugees from South Sudan and Congo according to UNHCR reports. This means that 53.3% of Uganda's total refugee population is settled in 6 districts in West Nile; Adjumani (15.4%), Madi-Okollo and Terego (13.1%), Obongi (8.4%), Koboko (0.4%) and 16% in Yumbe. Development activities were run normally during the first quarter of the year however towards the end of the second quarter, activities were impacted by the lockdown with only essential activities carried out under strict adherence to SOPs.

Politics and Security

Implementation of programme activities went on peacefully with no significant cases of insecurity registered across the districts and settlements. Some isolated cases of robbery by unknown gunmen were reported in Palorinya settlement that caused nine VSLA groups to halt savings activities. The situation is being handled by the district and settlement authorities.

The political campaigns that were rolled out towards the end of 2020 overlapped into the first quarter of the year. Programme participants were actively engaged in the campaign meetings and later elections. Although in some cases group activities had to be rescheduled, implementation staff accomplished activities as planned. The newly elected leaders were well received by the communities and some sensitization activities for newly elected leaders were conducted towards the end of the second quarter.

In the settlements, the second quarter marked the last term of office for Refugee Welfare Committees (Refugee leaders) across the refugee hosting districts. New leaders have been elected to support Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in management of refugee welfare for the next one year. Elected leaders will assume office after they have been oriented and trained by OPM management.

2.2 Context in Acholi sub-region

Weather

Generally, the weather pattern was not adequate for production activities for season A crops across the three districts. It was dry, hot and dusty with about only two days of drizzles in the first quarter. The dry spell stretched for long compared to 2020 and 2019 where by mid- march the districts could receive some rainfall enough to do land opening. Farmers carried out post-harvest handling and marketing activities mainly. In a few instances seedbed preparation for season A crops like maize, soybeans and millet was done.

In the second quarter, peculiar weather was observed across the three districts where some stable rainfall was recorded from the second week of April up to the second week of May. A dry spell set in from the second week of May to the second week of June where there was no rain completely. Crops that were planted early by farmers like sesame, sorghum and cassava did not germinate well, others withered due to water stress and some dried up completely. Demo field established by the programme were equally affected in all the districts. A few crops like groundnuts, soybeans and sunflower were not severely affected. It is therefore anticipated that this will affect the general output for the year 2021.

Economic activities

The region engaged majorly in trade in agricultural commodities during the reporting period with major buyers coming from the neighbouring districts of Gulu, Lira, Mbale, Luwero, districts from West Nile and Kampala. Some traders from South Sudan were also reported especially during the first quarter of the year. The crops traded in were sesame, soybeans, sunflower, beans, sorghum, millet and cassava. Input prices increased over the months attributed to the prolonged dry spell, low supply and high demand.

Equally, purchase of agricultural inputs especially seeds and farm implement like hand hoes, ox ploughs and their spare parts were analysed. For seeds, averagely, the price of sesame II & III was UGX 8,000, sunflower was 65,000, soybean (Maksoy 3N) was 7,000, Beans (NABE 15) was 7,000 per kilogram from the agro-input shops in Kitgum town and Cassava (NAROCAS I) was 30,000 a bag. VSLA activities also run smoothly as source of funds for farmers to access improved agricultural inputs.

Farmers supplemented their income from trade in agricultural commodities by engaging in other non-agricultural activities like brick making, charcoal making, petty trade, cash for work, ox-ploughing services and sand mining. The second quarter registered trade in shea nut oil, fruits like mangoes, lemon and tangerine to earn money by farmers. Following the spike of covid 19 cases in the country, government suspended weekly and monthly markets which also affected economic activities in the region especially with the closure of public markets and transport towards the end of the second quarter. Important to note is that the livestock market in the Agago district was affected by outbreak of black quarter disease in the sub-county of Omiya Pacwa.

Coordination and collaboration

A good working relationship was maintained amongst the programme stakeholders through coordination and collaboration. RAU Kitgum/Lamwo and DRC worked in close collaboration with UNHCR, OPM, DLG and LLG to implement activities with refugees in Palabek settlement. Other livelihoods programs being implemented in the region include Project for restoration of livelihoods in Northern region (PRELNOR), Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP), both implemented by the District Local Government, DINU implemented by LWF in consortium with other partners, USAID ICAN implemented by COW Foundation, American refugee Council (ARC), CARE International and International Rescue Committee (IRC). In Agago, GIZ is funding Agago DFA to pilot Climate Smart Agriculture in Lapono, Paimol, Lokole and Wol with more emphasis on environmental awareness. The units collaborated well with the partners as such there was no duplication and collision.

The coordination activities included DEC and LLG joint monitoring visits to the programme sites, participating in cluster or sectoral meetings with partners implementing livelihood programme, COVID 19 task force meeting and other reporting platforms.

A number of farmer groups were linked to programmes under LLGs and other development partners. In Kitgum district, two groups were linked to the sub-county for support and benefited from Community Driven Development (CDD) fund. The fund facilitated acquisition of two pairs of oxen, one ox plough and 680 kilograms of maize seeds. In Agago, GOAL through its partners provided improved seeds to farmers at a subsidized price, one NURI group (Dok paco FFS) in Lapono benefited with 10kgs of hybrid sunflower (PAN 7057), while World Vision in Parabongo supported Parabongo community with Orange Flesh Sweet potato (OFSP) vine.

Refugee response

About 3.8% (57,114) of the total refugee population in Uganda is settled in Palabek settlement in Lamwo district according to UNHCR reports. During the reporting period, a new influx of 1,017 refugees were received from South Sudan, despite the border points being closed. Also, 46 households with 63 refugees were relocated from Nakivale refugee settlement. At the time of reporting, the official total number of refugees at Palabek refugee settlement stood at 57,114. RAU Kitgm/Lamwo and DRC worked in close collaboration with UNHCR, OPM and DLG to support refugee farmer groups and community members registered for rural infrastructure work during the reporting period.

Political and Security situation

The implementation environment in the region was generally calm with no major security issues. Cases of cattle theft, in the sub-counties bordering the Karamoja region were reported in Kitgum and Agago. A total of 76 heads of cattle was lost. In Kitgum district, a case of land conflict was reported from the sub-counties of Layamo and Mucwini where 1 person died. The conflict affected two farmer groups from the mentioned sub-counties however DLG and LLG authorities addressed the situation.

Political campaigns that started end of 2020 rolled into the first quarter of the year and voting took place in February and March. Some group activities were interrupted by the campaigns, causing NURI staff to rescheduled activities. In the second quarter, newly elected leaders were sworn in and sensitization activities were conducted to bring the new leaders up to speed with the NURI programme activities. Some new administrative sub-counties and parishes were created and are now operational. Kitgum district now has 18 sub-counties (including two town councils) increasing from 9 during the old leadership (Kiteny, Orom, Orom East, Omiya Anyima, Omiya Anyima West, Namokora, Lagoro Lalano, Kitgum Matidi, Amida West, Amida, Layamo, Akwang, Mucwini East, Mucwini West, and Mucwini West) and 2 new Town Councils (Namokora and Kitgum Matidi).

3.0 Implementation of Work plan and Budget

This annual report covers the implementation period January to June 2021, and includes the three outputs of the programme; Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource management. Details on activity implementation is reported in this section of the report. A summary of activity implementation against indicators is included as Annex 2.

Corona virus pandemic and coping mechanisms

COVID 19 pandemic is still a challenge in the programme implementation areas as the country was hit by second wave of the virus that led to total lockdown towards the end of the reporting period. Within the NURI teams, a few positive cases were reported in Nebbi, Arua, Koboko, Moyo and Adjumani. The cases were referred to the medical authority for further management while contacts within office were put under isolation and observation for 14 recommended days. There has been a laxity in observing the SOPs by the population as reported by the Ministry of Health.

NURI activities continued to be conducted under observance of SOPs. The staff at the district and sub county level have been co-opted onto task forces and attend the task force meetings. The measures agreed with the District Taskforces in 2020 continue to be followed, included:

- Farmer groups divided into smaller groups of 15-20 members for CSA trainings
- Community groups for public works divided in smaller units of 15-20 members
- Use of group leaders as a trainer of trainees' model
- Increased focus on radio as a channel for extension messages
- Following recommended SOPs in terms of hygiene and social distancing.
- Ensuring staff follow recommended SOPs in terms of hygiene i.e., wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitizers, frequent hand washing

3.1 Output 1: Climate Smart Agriculture

The objective of this intervention is to improve the knowledge and skills of farmer households and refugees in climate smart agricultural practices which will enable them to increase and sustain their production. The reporting period covers the period January to June 2021 where first season also known as season A in NURI plans is completed and production activities for season B just starting. Major activities under this output in the reporting period included:

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

3.1.1 Farmer Groups Identified and Trained in Climate Smart Agriculture

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

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

Assessment and selection of farmer groups for support

Formation and selection of new farmer groups for support under NURI programme starting 2021 was done in the districts hosting refugees (Madi-Okollo and Terego, Adjumani, Obongi and Lamwo). The group categories formed and selected are refugee women groups and mixed groups. Selection of new national farmer groups was completed in 2020.

The exercise started with sensitization of DLG, Sub County and settlement leaders from the refugee hosting districts about the NURI programme. The settlement leaders sensitized were OPM, RWC 3 and 1, and LC1, after which OPM allocated zones of operation. For groups that were already formed, factors included in the selection criteria were; having leadership structure in place, having minimal or no support from other development partners and willingness to work in group. SOPs were observed during the activity meetings and lists were verified with settlement leaders and authorities in place.

A total of 543 groups were selected from the refugee hosting area. In the mixed groups, it is expected that 50% of the group members would be refugees and 50% nationals however this has been relaxed where in some cases the refugees are more than 50% in the selected groups. The number of groups selected by district and target group category is summarised in the table below:

Table 3.1.1.0 Number of farmer groups selected for support under CSA in 2021

Target group	Arua	Adjumani	Moyo/Obongi	Lamwo	Total
Mixed groups	158	120	56	27	361
Women refugee groups	78	-	71	33	182
Total	236	120	127	60	543

Selection of enterprises by new and continuing groups

Enterprise selection by mixed groups and women refugee groups

Enterprise selection for refugee groups both in mixed groups and women groups is done for each season at group and individual level. Selection was conducted for continuing and newly selected groups. For the mixed groups, the groups select a main crop and an intercrop for cultivation. For the women refugee groups, each individual is supported with one main enterprise, 3 vegetables and 3 fruit trees.

Using the list of approved crop and vegetable enterprises, agreed in 2019 and 2020, the extension staff conducted enterprise selection exercises for the 543 groups. It was therefore possible for the staff to proceed with the exercises without interference.

The crop types considered as main enterprises were cassava, maize, sorghum, sweet potatoes and groundnuts while the intercrops were cowpeas, beans and pigeon peas. The vegetable types provided were tomatoes, okra, onion, sukumawiki, eggplant, cabbage, garden eggs (entula), amaranthus and green pepper. The refugee women selected fruit trees from passion fruit, mango, paypaya and citrus.

Preparation of Production and Marketing Plans for national farmer groups

As part of the NURI extension model, farmer groups prepare production and marketing plans (PMP) which are reviewed each year to measure progress towards achievement of farmer's own production goals. PMP is prepared by groups in the new national and mixed refugee group category. The plans are captured in to the CSA database. The database generates reports that extension team use to monitor farmer group achievement of their production goals and plan for marketing with identified produce buyers within the implementation areas. Normally to attract buyers, the extension team present projections of yields for the different strategic crops as recorded in the CSA database in different forums of profiled large buyers. As NURI is in the third year of implementation, there are three sets of farmer groups (2019, 2020 and 2021) being monitored. The groups that started in 2019 and 2020 were supported to review their plans.

In North West Nile all national groups started in 2020, and the process of developing the first PMP, started in 2020, but with various delays and a new team on the ground, stretched into the first quarter of 2021. Mixed groups selected for support in 2021 also developed plans.

Groups that started in 2019 revised their production results for two years to gauge progress towards achieving their three-year goal. This informed target setting for their final year. The groups that started in 2020 reviewed production results for one year and set targets for 2021. Actual yields from the previous two years strongly impacted target setting. For example, for soybeans, most farmers set targets lower than the previous year based on the actual yields experienced.

Farmer groups that made new plans started by generating baseline data which includes revalidating background data, number of producers in a group, land acreage, yield and price for the strategic crop in

2020. Against this baseline data, groups then set production goals and annual targets to achieve the goals. New national groups from North West Nile set two-year goals and mixed groups one-year. The new national groups in the South West Nile and Acholi had set three-year goals where groups that started in 2019 are now in their final year (3r) and those that started in 2020 are in their second year of working towards achieving their production goals. By the end of the reporting period, 85% of baseline and planning data for North West Nile had been entered in to the CSA database. For South West Nile and Acholi sub-region, 65% the reviewed plans for 2021 production for continuing groups had all be captured into the database.

Achievement of production targets depends on land access, yield and price of the produce at marketing. Land access between the two regions South West Nile and Acholi sub region varied; in South West Nile, farmer groups could access on average 0.5 acres except for Pakwach and some parts of Arua and Madi-Okollo while it was 1 acre in Acholi. In total, land planned for production of strategic crops in South West Nile in 2019 was 4,832 acres and the farmer groups achieved 7,427 acres. In Acholi it was 11,831 acres planned and the groups achieved 11,648. In year two, farmer groups had anticipated doubling their acreage of land for production, however this was not achieved, partially due to difficulties in accessing seeds. In South West Nile, farmers planned 6,024 and achieved 6,232 acres while in Acholi, they planned 13,465 and achieved 10,868 acres.

By the end of the reporting period, an analysis of two production cycles for groups that started in 2019 and are in their third year was done. Results indicate that production levels of the majority of the groups improved in their second year, however, they did not achieve their goals. The reasons according to staff on the ground are: low yields as farmers could not afford improved seeds for some enterprises, weather was unfavourable in season B 2020, access to land, especially in South West Nile and COVID 19 affected marketing of produce. To reiterate the yield factor, farmers argue that, they cannot afford improved seeds for the total acreage of land that they cultivate. In most cases, they end up mixing with home saved seeds or local grains. Also, that the seeds production from the demo fields often is insufficient to meet the groups seed requirements therefore farmers supplement these seeds with locally available alternatives.

Although farmers did not meet their production targets, staff on ground noted that, the PMP model has helped the groups to have a guided production and avoided a lot of wastage. The model is being integrated with individual household planning under VSLA with the objective that farmers can be able to finance their production activities better and achieve their goals.

Figure 3.1.1.2 and 3 below show the yield achievement for the strategic crops in South West Nile and Acholi sub region for farmer groups that started in 2019 who have now completed two production cycles. The yield is compared to baseline and CSA estimates. One can note that, yield for all strategic crops in 2020 was higher than 2019 however did not exceed baseline and NURI CSA estimate except for Rice. NURI CSA yield estimates have been developed based on gross margin analysis and average yield compilation from demo yield data. The reason for this has earlier been mentioned as farmers being unable to afford improved seeds for their production and unfavourable weather.

Figure 3.1.1.2 PMP yield achievement for 2019 groups in South West Nile

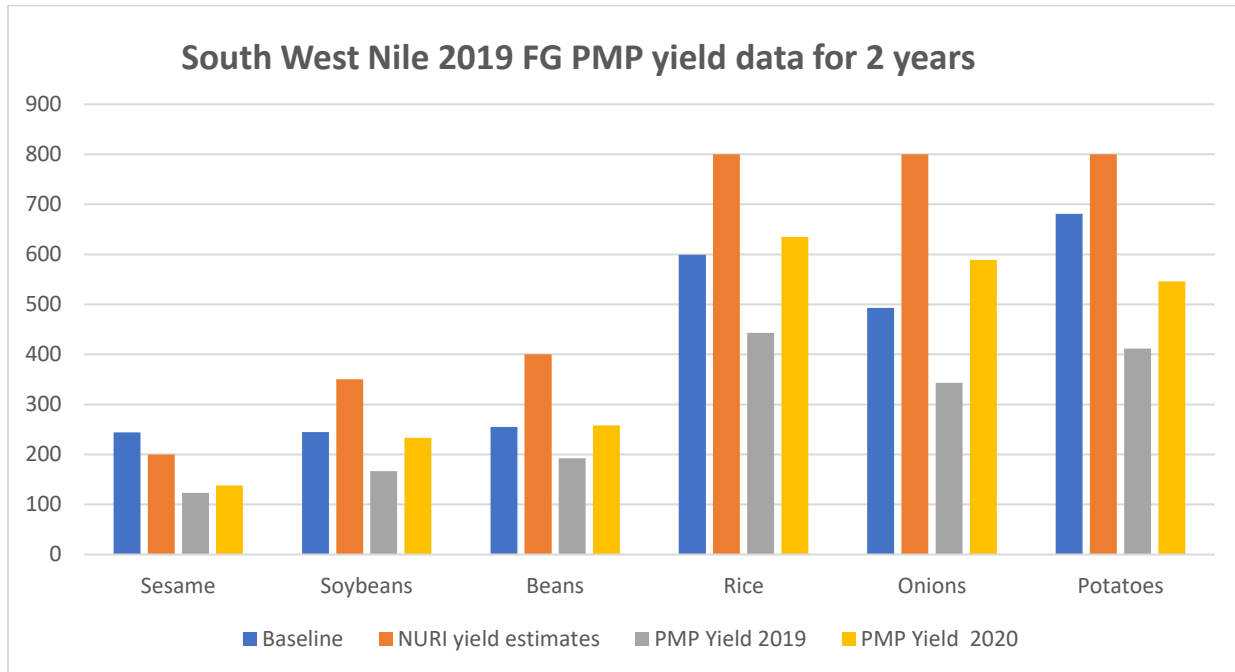
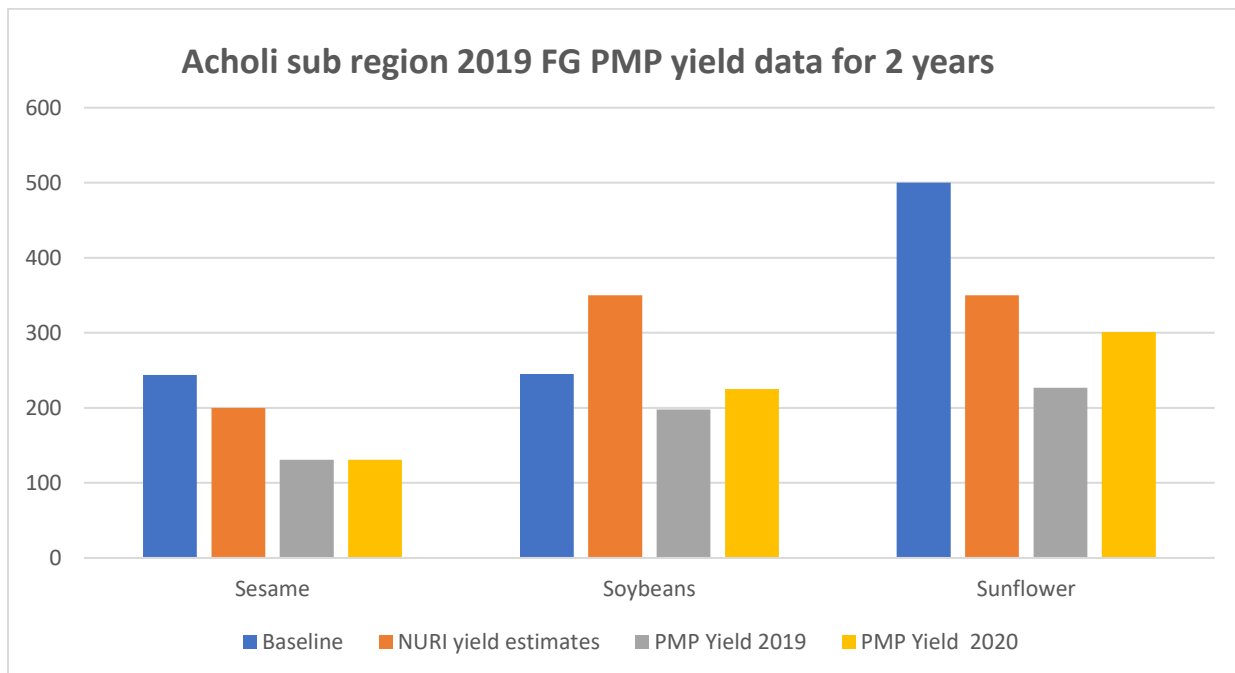


Figure 3.1.1.3 PMP Yield achievement for 2019 groups in Acholi sub region

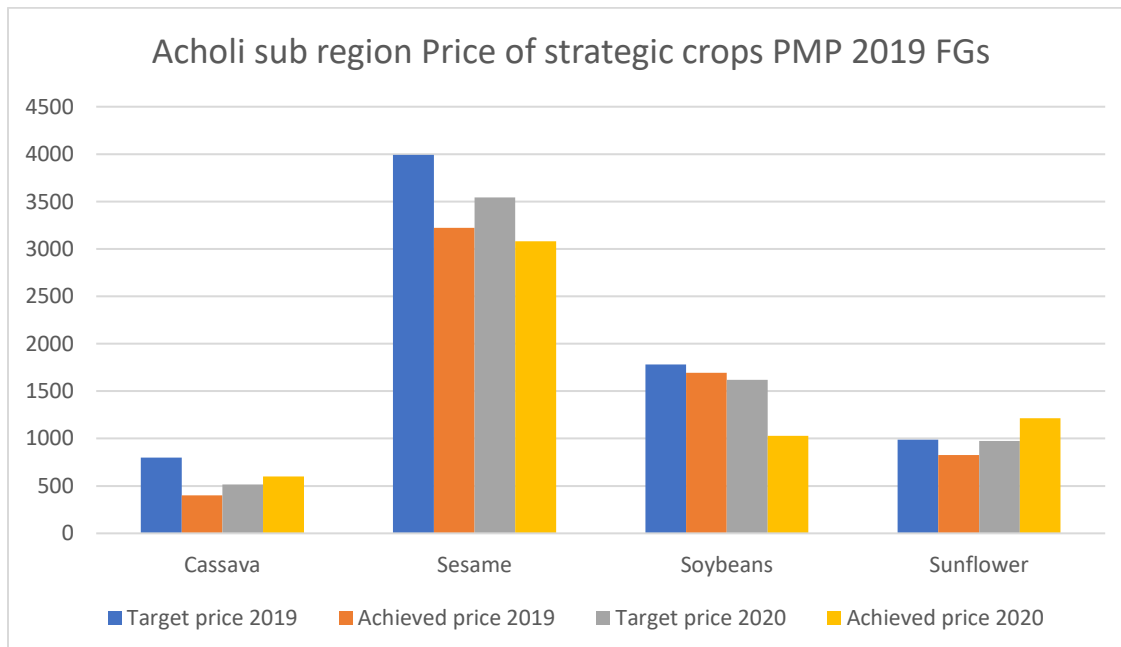
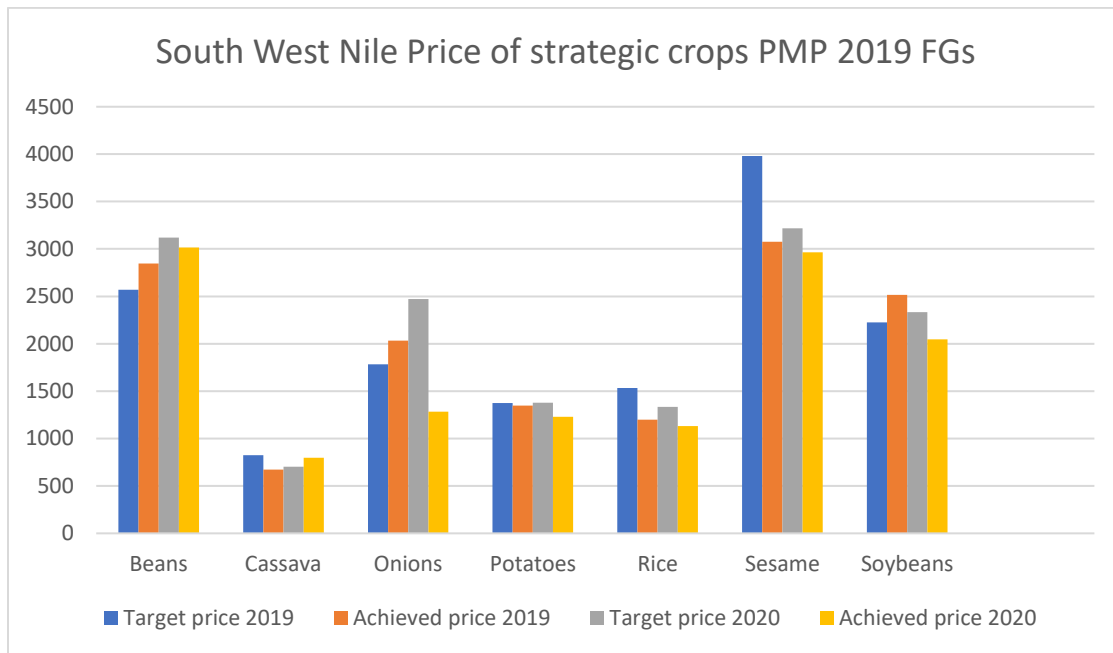


PMP Marketing achievement for 2019 FGs for two production cycles

In South West Nile, target price for Sesame, Rice and Cassava was not achieved and prices in 2020 were generally lower than 2019. Fluctuating commodity prices discouraged farmers from group marketing. Price fluctuation tilted towards a fall instead of a rise, farmers reported that there was little difference between individual price and collective marketing and therefore were discouraged.

In Acholi subregion, price for sesame, soybeans and cassava were below target and as in West Nile, commodity prices in 2020 was much lower than 2019.

Figure 3.1.1.3 PMP price achievement for 2019 FGs



Training in CSA practices

Across the programme a total of 3,270 farmer groups were trained and supported in CSA technologies and practices following the ten training sessions in the CSA training manual. Training was conducted by AEOs with support from AES. The training is synchronized with the season and situation on the ground to facilitate learning and encourage adoption. The 10 sessions are highlighted below:

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

CSA training was delivered to all categories of groups with modality differing across the group types. The old national and new national groups that started in 2019 were trained on a case-by-case basis and majorly on their individual farms and project sites. For the old nationals, focus was mainly on marketing and cost-shared projects since some projects that required construction were carried forward from 2020. Farmer groups that started in 2020 continued into their second year of training. Groups that started in 2021 completed training for season A and started sessions for Season B. The total number of groups trained as indicated above is disaggregated as 825-new nationals selected in 2019, 1,365-new nationals selected in 2020, 856 mixed groups and 224 refugee women groups selected in 2020 selected in 2020 and 2021.

Training attendance was average in all the implementation districts mainly because of the need to observe COVID 19 standard operating procedures, however there was improvement on 2020 attendance. Extension staff to meet between 20 - 50 farmers for training compared to 10-20 which was the case in 2020. The training was delivered using grain sack charts and demo plots. The numbers reduced when COVID 19 lockdown was imposed towards the end of the period. In this case, the Training of Trainers model in mini groups of 5-6 people that was used in 2020 was adopted with the expectation that the TOTs would then cascade the training to other group members. AEOs verified delivery of information and did back-stopping during individual household visits.

Membership of farmer groups is higher for female participants (68%) than for males (32%) and it is attributed to involvement of women at all stages of production. The same observation was noted for the mixed groups. For groups that started in 2019, the level of participation reduced greatly, average attendance was 42% compared to 66% for groups that started in 2020 and 2021. Comparing attendance of the different sessions, it was noted that higher number of participants was registered for sessions 1,4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The table below provides the breakdown per district:

Table 3.1.1.4 Number of farmer groups trained in CSA practices 2021 (season A and partially season B)

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obo ngi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
New national groups-2019	165	0	75	75	60	0	0	105	105	240	825
New national groups 2020	165	195	75	75	45	300	300	105	105	0	1,365
Mixed groups	560	0	0	0	0	120	56	0	120	0	856
Women refugee groups	153	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	224
Total	1,043	195	150	150	105	420	427	210	330	240	3,270

Individual farmer household and farm visits

From the second year of support, extension teams take on individual household and farm visits as a way of knowledge transfer and cascading learning from CSA training sessions. During the reporting period emphasis was put on farmer groups in their second, third year and old national groups whose projects were still running. In the visits, individual group members are helped to review their PMPs, yield data is verified, on-farm crop management practices monitored, extension advisory services in diversification into other enterprises provided, SRHR integration, input acquisition and market linkages. This activity is planned based on time available, season and issues arising. The achievement of target was 75% partially because of COVID 19 restrictions.

Overall, it was observed that adoption of CSA practices is being done by most farmer groups. Line planting, use of improved seeds, intercropping, pest and disease management for season A crops was noted.

Establishment of Demonstration plots

CSA training in NURI is delivered through a demo-plot approach. Farmer groups, with support from extension staff, identify suitable sites which are prepared for training and demonstration of CSA practices. The factors considered in plot selection are accessibility for ease of observation by both group and non-group members, fertility of the soil and vulnerability to damage by stray animals. For the new nationals, demos are majorly established in the second season except for cassava which is planted in the first season. Mixed groups are supported with demo fields every season for two years.

The implementing partners and units procured assorted inputs before the establishment of demos. For new nationals, it was seed and planting equipment for 1-acre demo fields, while for the refugees and mixed groups, it was two crop seed types and planting tools both for the demo and individual fields. Inspection of the input sources was done by NURI extension supervisors with support from the district production technical staff. Seed sources inspected included National Crops Resources Research Institute Namulonge, East African Seeds, FICA Seeds and Pearl Seeds. Areas of assessment included seed quality, storage conditions, packaging, etc. Samples were picked and subjected to germination test where test results showed over 85% germination. Cassava fields were also inspected and were found to be disease free leading to their procurement.

During the reporting period, a total of 1,096 demo fields were established across the 13 districts of implementation (867 mixed groups and 229 new nationals). For the new nationals, the demos established were mainly for cassava, soybean and sesame. Land preparation activities for sites identified for season B demo establishment was on-going at the time of reporting. All the mixed groups supported in the implementation areas established demos in the first season and equally started preparatory activities for second season support.



Figure 1 A Demo field from a mixed group in Adjumani

Demo performance monitoring

The extension staff monitored performance of demos established in season A for mixed groups and new nationals that are growing cassava as their strategic crop. Note that mixed groups are supported with demo fields for two seasons in a year. It was observed that cassava as a crop is affected by dry spell and stray animals if not planted early and therefore it was decided that new nationals that selected cassava as their strategic crops establish demos in the season A. A six-weeks dry-spell set towards the end of May till the third week of June which affected flowering, podding and general growth of the crops. It is estimated that yields might be below average due the dry spell. Crops severely affected were sesame, beans, sorghum, maize, onions and potatoes.

Follow up of Old Farmer Groups' projects

Support to the old national groups in terms of identified projects started in the third quarter of 2020. Some projects like tree seedlings, improved seeds, tarpaulins and a few mini stores were completed by end of 2020. For such projects, exit meetings were conducted with the groups and sub-county leaders like the chairperson LCIII, SAS, CDOs and Agric officers. The objective of the meetings was to ensure a peaceful weaning of the groups and handover to the sub county leadership for linkages with other programmes. Also, complains and concerns about the concluded projects were addressed.

Projects classified in the tier 1, which were targeting groups engaged in substantial marketing activities spilled over to the reporting period. These projects were Produce stores, apiary, grinding mills, cassava chipping machinery and some balances of tarpaulin. Construction work for all the stores in Arua, Agago, Kitgum and Lamwo was completed during the period and training in store management and other marketing principles was conducted for the groups. Also, the other project types were completed with commissioning and handover still on-going. See photos of completed mini stores from Agago below:



In AFARD, a single crop enterprise cooperative model is being promoted with the old national groups with the objective of strengthening marketing activities with the groups. A total of 9 cooperatives are in the process of registration, 2 from Pakwach, 5 from Nebbi and 2 from Zombo. These are groups from the old national farmer group category that have joined together to form the cooperative unions. AFARD worked in close collaboration with the District Commercial offices to conduct sensitization and training of

the groups, and as well follow up their registration processes. If it works out well, it will be possible to draw lessons from the groups and roll out to the wider farmer group communities.

Farmer open days

This activity normally is conducted for all farmer groups in each sub-county, it is an evaluation and celebration of completion of a production cycle. Due to COVID 19 restrictions where there was a limit to numbers in public gatherings, it was not possible to conduct open days during the reporting period in all the implementation areas.

Radio Talk Shows

The implementing partners and units planned and conducted radio talk shows including spot messages and live broadcasts during the reporting period to supplement training and increase outreach to the farmer groups. There was a scale up in the frequency and number of spot messages during the period because of COVID 19 restrictions which prohibited large gatherings. The radio statements covered the activities in production calendar for the farmer groups at the time. These were marketing activities for Season B of 2020 and planting for Season A of 2021. Other aspects of CSA output like VSLA, Collective Marketing/bulking, Agro-input sourcing, group development and general sensitization as new leaders were elected were tackled during the shows. The shows were in some cases combined with DRC and DLG depending on the radio statement prepared. The radio stations and time for the talk shows are given below:

Kitgum/Lamwo: Mighty Fire, Tembo and Peace FM.

Arua: Radio Pacis, Saturdays, 9:00am – 10:00am

Nebbi/Pakwach/Zombo: Radio Maria, Tuesdays, 8:30am – 9:30am

Adjumani: Radio Amani, Tuesdays, 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Moyo: Trans Nile Broadcasting Services, Thursdays, 8:30pm – 9:30pm

Koboko: Spirit FM, Thursday, 8:00pm – 9:00pm

Support of farmer groups in collective marketing

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

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

At the start of the programme, Marketing Coordinators were recruited in South West Nile and Acholi sub region to lead implementation of marketing activities. This was not the case with North West Nile where activities with new national farmer groups started in 2020. A review of the roles and responsibilities of

the marketing staff and extension officers was carried out towards the end of 2020 and spilled over to Q1 of 2021. There has therefore been a change in the methodology for providing marketing support to the farmer groups where now all the regions are included. North West Nile at the time of reporting had not yet started physical activities which are planned to kick start in the next quarter.

Market information collection and dissemination to farmer groups

Market information was collected in South West Nile and Acholi sub region, monitoring price trends of strategic crops through weekly or monthly dissemination of price lists. The Marketing Coordinators worked with selected enumerators, the extension officers and marketing committees. The price lists were displayed on public notice boards within the communities, sent through SMS to farmers/leaders' phones and sometimes aired during radio talk shows.

This modality is meant to help farmers set realistic prices for their bulked produce however this has been challenging due to constant fluctuations. During the reporting, prices for key crops like sesame, beans, soybeans, rice, maize and groundnuts kept dropping between January and May. It is expected that some increase will be recorded since demand is higher than supply due to the production period which is planting for season B of 2021.

Linkage of farmer groups to buyers and inputs suppliers

Implementing units profiled and validated list of potential buyers within their regions in order to link farmer groups to buyers for collective marketing. AFARD specifically conducted a new market survey in the region to add on to the existing list. They were able to identify 4 new potential buyers for sesame and cassava which were; Texas Millers, Power Source Millers-Koboko, GADC-Arua and Rasul and Family enterprises from Moyo. The buyers that were profiled in 2020 and were validated by both AFARD and ARUDIFA were; GADCo, OLAM Uganda, KAWA, Nile Agro Limited, Global international, GADIC, Dei Cooperative, Lira Rice Association. A discussion was held with the identified buyers on marketing of both strategic and non-strategic crops. It is hoped that marketing of season B produce will be better due to the contacts established within the region.

In the Acholi sub-region, the list profiled in 2020 were validated and the identified companies were still available within the region. They were; Mukwano group of companies, Ngetta Tropical holdings, UOSPA, Mt. Meru for sunflower, Agago Dit maize millers, Kalongo investment, Jolah Company limited, Arise and shine maize millers, Gulu Agricultural Development Company (GADCo), Erymaes enterprises and Agri Exim limited.

Bulking/collective marketing of produce

NURI famer group members are encouraged to bulk and store their produce in order to strengthen their negotiation position with buyers and take advantage of price fluctuations. Crops most commonly bulked in West Nile were sesame, beans, potatoes and onions while in the Acholi sub-region it was sunflower, followed by sesame and soybeans. The extension staff work in close collaboration with marketing committees to ensure this activity is implemented.

During the reporting period, farmer groups from South West-Nile from the districts of Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo and Arua were able to collectively market beans, potatoes, onions, sesame and soybeans. Collective marketing is generally challenging as farmer households face pressing cash needs leading to frequent early, individual sale. It has been confirmed that though it is difficult for farmers to market collectively, the benefit in terms of purchase price for produce is noticeable.

Support to Post Harvest Handling and marketing:

North West Nile implementing units and partner (PICOT) distributed tarpaulins and PICS bags for seed storage and facilitation of farmer group post-harvest handling activities to support the move towards better post-harvest handling and marketing of quality produce.

3.1.2 National FGs, mixed & refugee groups trained in VSLA

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

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

Assessment and selection of farmer groups for VSLA support

Selection of groups for 2021 was completed in Q4 of 2020. Based on requests from farmers and implementing units, NURI CF made the decision to allow groups already carrying out individual savings to benefit from financial literacy and refresher VSLA training. This broadened the base of suitable groups. A total of 1,575 groups were selected for VSLA support under the programme in 2021, exceeding the original target of 1,360 groups by 215. The reason was that in South West Nile, some groups were already running VSLA activities on their own but requested for support in financial literacy. In North West Nile and Acholi, more groups had requested support and these were included.

Selection and assessment was done by VSLA officers with support from the extension staff. Assessment considered groups interest and the level of support from other NGOs or organisations on VSLA. The districts of Madi-Okollo, Terego and Obongi are incorporated in the numbers for the mother districts of Arua and Moyo. Group numbers are summarised below:

Table 3.1.2.1 Number of VSLA groups selected per District for support in 2021

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

Recruitment and training of CBTs

For 2021 groups, a total of 172 CBTs were recruited and their training completed for all the implementing districts. Recruitment was done during the last quarter of 2020 and training carried out in Q1 of 2021. VSLA activities are implemented by Community Based Trainers (CBTs) hired on one-year contracts. The CBTs train, supervise, monitor and collect financial data from the farmer groups. The training was facilitated by VSLA staff, building the capacity of CBTs on the integrated VSLA methodology promoted by NURI.

Issues which emerged during the training included; handling emergency funds, fund borrowing and its repayment period, multiple memberships in groups, members poor culture of saving, loan default and interest rate on loans. These were concretely addressed by the VSLA team on ground, the CBTs were well prepared to deliver the training task to the groups selected for support under the programme.

Table 3.1.2.2 CBTS recruited to train farmer groups selected for VSLA support in 2021

CBT Target	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obo ngi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
Planned	24	10	12	10	5	36	35	11	16	13	172
Achieved	24	10	12	10	5	36	35	11	16	13	172

Procurement and distribution of VSLA kits

This activity was done for all the groups selected for support in 2021. The package includes assorted items to facilitate documentation, monitoring and safe keeping of funds before banking and /or borrowing by group members. They include a metallic savings box, stationary, calculators and plastic bowls for

handling money before storage in the box. All the groups selected for supported received the VSLA kist during the reporting period and have begun using them for their savings activities.

CBT training of farmer groups in VSLA methodology

During the reporting period, all the VSLA groups selected for support in 2021 received VSLA training. The training comprises of 7 modules: group formation, general assembly, VSLA concepts, leadership, constitution development, records and conflict management. By design, each CBT trains 6-10 farmer groups per savings cycle. The cycle for 2021 is not yet completed, and training sessions were on going at the time of reporting. Aggregation of training attendance statistics is not yet complete however preliminary reports show 78% attendance across the districts of implementation. In terms of gender, more women (68%) attended training during the reporting period compared to the men (32%).

Monitoring farmer group savings activities

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

Farmer groups that started in 2019

In 2019, a total of 418 groups were selected and supported in VSLA activities in South West Nile and Acholi sub region. These groups completed the one-year cycle and continued to the second and third cycle of their savings individually, supported on a case-by-case basis by the available CBT. During the reporting period, VSLA staff monitored progress of these groups and findings indicate that all the groups had graduated and shared out their savings/interest, and the groups have continued into a second or third cycle.

Saving and loans monitoring for groups supported in VSLA

The VSLA teams monitored portfolios of continuing groups from 2020 and those that started savings activities in 2021. Findings indicate that for most groups, women saved more than men. This is attributed to women's engaging in IGA activities and their commitment to VSLA as seen in higher attendance. Youth engagement has improved and compared to earlier periods, youth are now fully engaging in VSLA activities and progressed to a level where, in some groups their savings were higher than for the wider group. Generally, there has been a decline in-terms of returns on savings from 17.1% by December 2020 to 14.9% by the end of the reporting period. The decline is explained by the surge of COVID 19 and need to observe SOPs in the implementation areas. This is expected to improve during the last half of the year since the economy and economic activities have opened up partially.

In terms of fund utilization, there has been a rise from 54% in December 2020 to 71% by the time of reporting. This implies funds are being borrowed by group members and will positively impact on returns on savings. Monitoring reports indicate that the COVID 19 pandemic dampened willingness to take loans. Some members also added that they have inadequate skills to manage income generating activities.

There is a plan to integrate PMP and VSLA, this could be an avenue to improve on knowledge and skills of farmers to learn and diversity their income sources. While farmer groups capacity to borrow is low, considerable growth was registered in investment in agricultural activities. While this was 45% by December 2020, it had increased to 85% by the time of reporting.

Fund utilization in table 3.1.2.5 refers to the] amount of savings being loaned out and usually rises with time as groups gain confidence in handling loans.

Table 3.1.2.3 Cumulative savings for farmer groups supported in VSLA

District	Number of groups	Cumulative Savings	Cumulative savings Women	Cumulative savings men	Cumulative savings youth	Cumulative savings refugees	Average savings per member
Lamwo	300	611,665,800	130,363,000	393,617,700	81,093,300	6,591,800	79,375
Nebbi	187	316,537,900	189,342,800	127,195,100	68,956,800	N/A	77,603
Kitgum	228	500,621,800	318,421,700	182,200,100	123,141,000	N/A	76,360
Pakwach	120	244,783,200	152,399,500	92,383,700	50,304,700	N/A	72,722
Zombo	170	236,358,900	116,931,500	119,427,400	47,509,000	N/A	65,238
Arua	409	555,559,700	395,816,400	159,743,300	149,634,700	89,883,700	291,173
Agago	270	482,611,000	320,724,000	161,887,000	144,295,000	N/A	82,314
Adjumani	394	452,853,600	343,598,000	109,255,600	107,211,100	185,321,200	205,094
Moyo/Obongji	377	477,476,100	385,619,900	91,856,200	82,769,500	320,460,000	41,472
Koboko	80	68,987,300	51,700,000	3,347,800	13,939,500	N/A	30,050
Total	2,535	3,845,830,700	2,404,916,800	1,440,913,900	868,854,600	602,256,700	

Table 3.1.2.4 Cumulative loans and funds utilization for farmer groups supported in VSLA

District	Number of groups	Cumulative loans	Agricultural loans	Fund utilization	Cumulative loans women	Cumulative loans youth	Cumulative loans refugee
Lamwo	300	672,735,200	405,201,800	62%	184,929,300	67,097,300	4,078,000
Nebbi	187	539,028,800	537,776,400	93%	183,544,350	63,342,600	N/A
Kitgum	228	740,330,300	163,239,000	72%	479,634,800	184,642,302	N/A
Pakwach	120	442,214,258	239,600,100	88%	278,484,807	106,536,300	N/A
Zombo	170	315,190,250	225,241,650	80%	198,989,000	86,112,950	N/A
Arua	409	1,313,106,100	414,412,800	80%	949,884,900	344,595,300	112,833,500
Agago	270	654,752,000	335,477,000	70%	454,229,000	197,523,000	N/A
Adjumani	394	499,205,700	191,713,200	88%	402,074,000	118,683,150	228,987,900
Moyo/Obongji	377	356,391,200	95,323,200	62%	281,345,700	76,177,900	233,580,000
Koboko	80	51,944,233	35,700,500	64%	42,794,900	13,939,500	N/A
Total	2,535	5,584,898,041	2,643,685,650	71%	3,455,910,757	1,258,650,302	

Household planning and monitoring

Under the VSLA component, participant households are guided to develop savings investment plans by setting goals that link to their production and marketing plans. The concept is brought in during their trainings and participants have been guided to set their goals, develop saving, debt management plans and budget to be implemented during a saving cycle. In developing the plans, farmers make short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. From the plans developed, it could be seen that short-term goals for most households were to acquire improved seeds for different crops, land for production, farm tools like hoes. Medium and long-term goals were to acquire cattle, ox-ploughs, goats, piglets, poultry, solar panels for lighting, motorcycles, bicycles and construction of semi-permanent houses, pay school fees and start up small businesses.

During the period, CBTs conducted household visits to assess progress on goal achievement by supported households. Findings from the monitoring visits indicate that 99% of the households visited mainly implemented their short-term goals. This is linked to the fact that it was planting period for season A and land preparation for season B. The medium and long-term goals will be achievable after a years production cycle. Some contiuing groups had started recording some progress.

Linking farmer groups to MFIs

During the reporting period, both continuing and newly selected groups have been linked to financial institutions. In all the regions groups have been linked to Centenary Bank, Bank of Africa, Pride Micro-Finance, Post Bank and Stanbic Bank. In Kitgum, groups were linked to Kitgum Cooperative Savings and Credit societies and in Moyo, Moyo SACCO.

Through the linkages, all the groups have been sensitized on how they can secure their group savings and access financial services. The continuing groups have opened up bank accounts to deposit their funds while some new groups have begun preparatory processes for opening accounts.

TALANTA Finance Limited Animal traction loan services to farmer groups in Agago

NURI has partnered with Talanta Microfinance to pilot animal traction loan services to farmer groups in Agago district. This is done through provision of animals to the farmer groups, with repayment over 2 years. Together with Talanta Microfinance, NURI staff were able to sensitize 56 farmer groups from the four sub counties of Patongo, Lokole, Lira Palwo and Wol.

After the sensitization, 42 farmers from four groups showed interest and paid 30% of the loan requirement to Talanta. A total of 66 animals and 6 ox ploughs were distributed to 42 farmers from Patongo sub county. However, 4 of the animals died due to unknown reasons. Talanta is yet to compensate the four farmers who lost the animals since they were insured. Delivered animals have now been trained by the farmers and ploughing has commenced.

Follow up activities were on going at the time of reporting which included; collecting top-up payments from farmer groups so that additional animals are provided, insurance cover and loan guarantee from ABI. Implementation was disrupted by the COVID 19 lockdown.

3.1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

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

1. Resilience design training for all the extension staff in all the implementation units was conducted in March and April, 2021. The training was conducted by staff who were the first participants of the training organised by DRC. The training is to enable the programme build synergies across the three output areas of implementation.
2. A refresher training on demo setting and establishment was conducted for the extension officers in the first quarter so as to prepare them for demo setting for season A crops but also in general start early preparations for season B. The training was conducted by IP and Unit leaders with support from the district production officers.
3. Refresher training on preparation of Production and Marketing Plan (PMP): Refresher training was organised during the reporting period for all continuing staff and new training conducted for staff recruited to work with mixed groups in the settlements. The training was both theoretical and practical and teams conducted pre-tests before rolling out the exercise.
4. Training on SAVIX: Training was conducted by NURI VSLA Coordinator for all the VSLA staff and RAU Unit/CSA Coordinators. The aim of the training was to equip and refresh the staff with skills on the usability of the system as well improve on quality of reports entered into the system.
5. Training on Climate Smart Agriculture: NURI CF CSA training for all newly recruited staff working with refugees and mixed groups selected in 2021. From the continuing group, there were a few staff replacements who also attended the CSA training. For the bigger and continuing group of staff, refresher sessions were conducted focusing on working with groups continuing into their second cycle. The training was organised in collaboration with NARO-ZARDI, Ngetta with the objective of imparting knowledge and skills on CSA technologies. Concepts on climate change and good agricultural practices were key topics handled during the training. It also included concepts and practices of vegetable and fruit tree production for refugee households.
6. Training on NURI M&E Framework: Training was conducted for all newly recruited extension staff working with refugee/mixed groups in North and South West Nile together with a few continuing staff who had missed out the sessions run in 2020. The objective was to build capacity on M&E reporting while emphasizing their M&E roles. The training was conducted for two days in Arua.
7. Review of Terms of Reference and Standards of Work: NURI CF organised a two days' workshop for all the extension staff including the data officers to review the terms of references for the respective job positions and standard of work, for the leadership teams in Q2. The objective was to provide clarity on performance assessment areas and supervisory lines.
8. Plant Clinic training: NURI CF in collaboration with MAAIF organized one-week training 24-29/5/2021 in Kitgum district on setting up plant clinics. AEOs from the units and implementing

partners attended the training. The DLG production departments also attended the trainings. They learnt to identify and diagnose pests and diseases occurrence as well as offer recommendations. They are working closely with the production department to support farmers in disease and pest management.

3.1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production Department)

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

The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; one of skills/career development and the other re-tooling. The skills/career development plans that were approved are given below.

Career courses:

1. Msc in Agriculture and Rural Development (2 participants)
2. Msc of Management science (1 Participant)
3. Msc in Applied science and Entomology (1 Participant)
4. PGD in Project Planning and Management (3 Participants)
5. PGD in Food Safety Management (2 Participants)

Skills/short courses:

1. Training in Horticulture Management (8 participants)
2. Training in excel and data base analysis and Management (08 participants)
3. Mind set transformation and leadership training (05 participants)

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, there has been considerable delay in the start-up and completion of the approved courses. The table below provides status of achievement of the approved training plan:

CAREER TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPEMENT

	Course	Courses attended	Pending Training	Total
1	Masters' studies	8	9	17
2	Post Graduate Diplomas	9	18	27
3	Short Courses	17	77	94

In the coming quarter a review of the outstanding long-term courses will be done and funds reallocated if trainings cannot be completed during the programme period. This will be only for plans approved before the proposed re-adjustment to 2023.

Under re-tooling, the districts developed the capacity development plans with support from consultants. CF organised a workshop to harmonise specification of procurement items in the approved plans which was attended by all DLG technical heads. CF developed plans for procurement

and managed the procurement process. The districts that were supported in the reporting period are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Kitgum and Arua. The table below provides the details:

S/N	PRODUCTION ITEMS	QTYS	DLG
1	Plant clinics	3 pcs	Kitgum DLG, Moyo DLG, Obongi DLG
2	Office Metallic filing cabinets	10 pcs	Pakwach DLG
3	Bookshelves	12 pcs	Obongi, Madi Okollo DLG, Koboko DLG
4	Visitors chair	24 pcs	Madi Okollo, Pakwach, Koboko DLG
5	Reception Benches	6 pcs	Pakwach DLG, Koboko DLG
6	Executive High back Chairs	6 Pcs	Obongi DLG, Koboko DLG, Madi Okolo, Pakwach
7	Office Desks	21 pcs	Obongi DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach, Koboko
8	Boardroom Tables	3 pcs	Adjumani DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG
9	Boardroom chairs	74 pcs	Adjumani DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG
10	Solar power installation	1 pc	Obongi DLG
11	Artificial Insemination kits	5 Pcs	Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG, Obongi DLG.
12	Vaccine Carriers	11 pcs	Obongi DLG, Kitgum DLG, Pakwach DLG
13	GPS Machines	2 Pcs	Koboko DLG
14	Motorized Sprayer Pump	01 pc	Obongi DLG
15	Spray pumps	12 pcs	Kitgum, Obongi DLG, Pakwach DLG
16	Digital Weighing scales	12 pcs	Pakwach DLG, Obongi DLG
17	Ordinary scales	9 pcs	Pakwach DLG
18	Horn shear	1 pc	Pakwach DLG
19	Dehorning wire	2 pcs	Pakwach DLG
20	Automatic Drenching guns	6 pcs	Pakwach DLG

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

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

The implementing units of Agago, Kitgum/Lamwo, Adjumani and Moyo conducted sensitization of farmer groups in the respective districts and made referrals where possible. In the districts in Adjumani and Moyo/Obongi all the newly selected groups selected for support in 2021 were sensitized. In the older districts, continuing groups were refreshed on aspects of SRHR.

3.2 Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

The objective of this output is to improve agricultural related infrastructure using a labour-intensive approach. This is expected to facilitate and support increased agricultural production and marketing through improved access to local retail and bulk markets. It further creates temporary off-farm employment through cash-for-work modality. Activities are implemented under the following outputs:

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

3.2.1 Prioritized Infrastructure Investment Plans Approved

The activities to be implemented under this output include; sensitization activities, formation of parish development committees, revalidation of parish development plans, selection and prioritization of projects at the sub-county level, technical screening and costing of prioritized projects.

During the reporting, the activities under this output were only implemented in Lamwo districts, Palabek Ogili, Palabek Gem and Padibe West sub counties that are hosting refugees. Implementation of the highlighted activities was completed by December 2020 in all the other districts of support.

Prioritization and selection of projects at Sub County level.

DRC supported reaffirmation of priorities in two sub counties of Palabek Gem and Palabek Ogili that had some unspent funds. Also, in Padibe West sub county, there was need to replace one project- a community access road that was not done due to land conflicts. DRC engaged STPCs (Sub County Technical Planning committees) who identified and selected key priorities from the various Parish prioritized projects. Prioritized projects were identified in line with the output and scope of NURI with focus on agricultural related infrastructure which can be done by labour-based approach. A total of 25 projects were prioritized and details are given in the table below:

Table 3.2.1.1. Number of projects reprioritized per parish in the two sub-Counties

Sub-County	Parish	CAR Links	Food forest	Springs	Ponds	Market	Total
Palabek Gem	Anaka/Zone 5A & 7	3	0	0	0	0	3
	Gem	2	0	0	0	1	3
	Moroto	3	0	0	0	0	3
	Cubu	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Patanga	0	0	0	0	1	1
		10	0	0	0	2	1

<i>Palabek Ogili</i>	<i>Lugwar/Zone 2 & 3</i>	5	0	0	0	0	5
	<i>Apyetta</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2
	<i>Padwat</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2
	<i>Paracelle</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
		9	0	0	0	0	9
<i>Padibe West</i>	<i>Ywaya</i>	02	0	0	0	0	2
	<i>Madi Ki Loc</i>	02	0	0	0	0	2
		04	0	0	0	0	04
Sub total		23	0	0	0	2	25

Screening and costing prioritized projects

Screening of selected projects was conducted in the 3 sub-counties of Palabek Gem, Palabek Ogili (Palabek Refugee Settlement) and in Padibe West (Lamwo District) with the support of the district technical staff. The selection staff comprised of the District Engineer, Commercial Officer, Community Development Officers and parish chiefs. After completion of screening of the projects, the DRC engineering team costed viable selected projects and generated an investment plan for 2021B season projects for Palabek Refugee settlement. For Palabek Refugee settlement it was done to exhaust the remaining balance of funds of UGX 416,768,200 and for Padibe West, was a replacement of 01 road link (3km) which had land conflict and was halted.

Prioritized infrastructure investment plans approved

A total of 13 prioritized Community Access Road projects (9km of 3 links for Settlement and 4km of 01 link for Lamwo District) were presented and approved by the district technical planning committee and the District Executive committee to be implemented in 2 Sub Counties of the Palabek Refugee settlement and 01 sub county of Padibe West for 2021 B during the reporting Quarter. The table below provides a summary:

Table 3.2.1.2 Prioritized infrastructure projects approved for Season 2021 B.

Sub county	Project category				
	CAR (km)	Water Ponds	Market	Protected spring	Food forest (Acres)
Palabek Gem	3	0	0	0	0
Palabek Ogili	6	0	0	0	0
Padibe West	4	0	0	0	0
Total	13	0	0	0	0

From above table, priority was on community Access Roads which suits the implementation season from July-December.

3.2.2 Approved Infrastructure Projects Implemented

The following activities were carried out under this output: Site dialogue meetings, formation of community groups, selection and training of Project Management Committees (PMCs), procurement and distribution tools project activities, construction activities, selection and training of masons for culvert installation, installation of culverts on community access roads, scarification and compaction of community access roads (CAR) and maintenance activities on food forests.

Site Dialogue Meetings and signing of voluntary land donations forms

During the reporting period, site dialogue meetings were conducted and voluntary land donation forms were signed by landlords. This was done in all the districts of implementation before construction work for the approved projects began. The objective of the meetings was to educate community members on project design, conflict resolution and awareness for project implementation gaining acceptance for resilience designs at their farms. Voluntary land agreements were signed with land owners who offered land for project implementation without expecting compensation.

These meetings were attended by sub-county stakeholders; including the LC III, Sub County Chiefs, CDOs Parish chiefs LC IIs, LC I and elders in the various project locations and was chaired by the LC I. Landlords and community members willingly signed Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) forms to allow and permit DRC access on lands affected by projects. In refugee settlements project site dialogue meetings comprised of OPM, RWC, LLG, host community, land lords, refugee community

Communities were informed about the projects, including payment rates, work days, nature of the work and payment modalities. Details of attendance is provided in the table below:

Table 3.2.2.1: Participants for the dialogue meetings

District	Number of site dialogues	Male	Female	Total
Rhino Camp	4	111	57	168
Zombo	8	104	88	192
Adjumani	14	70	20	90
Kitgum	1	11	4	15
Arua	36	106	40	146
Total	63	402	209	611

Community Groups Formation

Working with local authorities, community groups were identified to participate in the labour-based works. A total of 6,966 nationals to implement 318 projects and 2,460 refugees for 83 projects were identified across programme districts. The selection process was headed by Parish chiefs and LC I of the respective areas with support from DRC field staff. Local leaders played a key role in verifying selected community members are resident in the village and within walking distance of the project site.

From the new nationals, 47% were female and 55% were youth between 18 to 28 years. The communities voluntarily participated in the process and registered their groups for participation.

Table 3.2.2.2: Disaggregated group formation statistics of participants- nationals

S/no	District	No of Projects	Participants		Youth 18-28 yrs	Total
			Male	Female		
1	Arua	51	671	724	875	1395
2	Koboko	42	512	538	634	1050
3	Adjumani	15	204	231	258	435
4	Moyo	28	321	369	419	690
5	Obongi	7	83	112	124	195
6	Kitgum	18	255	285	324	540
7	Lamwo	47	661	749	850	1410
8	Agago	54	460	456	614	916
9	Nebbi	11	150	150	180	300
10	Pakwach	30	426	459	525	885
11	Obongi	15	196	254	334	450
TOTAL		318	3,939	4,327	5,137	6,966

Group formation- Refugees

Group formation in refugee communities was done in Adjumani, Palorinya, Rhino camp and Invepi settlements. The same principle for 60% and 50% inclusion of the youth and women was applied, it was not possible to meet the target for youth (54%) while for women, participation was 53%. Summary per settlement/district is provided in the table below:

Table 3.2.2.3: Disaggregated group formation statistics of participants- refugees

S/no	District	No of Projects	Participants		Youth 18-28 yrs	Total per Sub county
			Male	Female		
1.	Adjumani	1	8	7	8	15
2.	Palorinya	24	284	436	345	720
3.	Rhino camp	11	270	180	210	450
4.	Invepi	47	574	701	765	1,275
TOTAL		83	1,136	1,324	1,328	2,460

Project Management Committees

RI projects have PMCs comprising community members that support supervision of project construction work. A committee is made up of a Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Groups was formed for all new projects from 9 districts and settlements during the reporting period. In 9 districts, 1,992 members (M 868, F 895) were elected to support activity implementation. A consideration was made to include 50% women and youth on committees.

Below is a table showing composition of PMCs trained.

Table 3.2.2.4: Project Management Committees (PMC) Members Formed and Trained

District	No of Projects	Male	Female	Total
Arua	51	111	93	204
Rhino camp	33	74	74	148
Invepi	47	94	94	188
Koboko	43	86	86	172
Adjumani	15	30	30	60
Moyo	56	56	112	224
Obongi	53	105	107	212
Kitgum	18	36	36	72
Lamwo	47	94	94	188
Agago	54	108	108	216
Nebbi	7	14	14	28
Pakwach	15	60	60	120
TOTAL	439	868	895	1,832

Development of Maintenance Plans and by-laws of completed projects

DRC, involved Sub County Officials, PUCs and Community members along the CARs to develop maintenance Plans and by-laws for the created assets. The Community were trained on basic maintenance skills and how to use the tools handed to them to help maintain the roads.

Procurement and distribution of tools and materials

Tools and planting materials were procured and distributed to community groups for implementation of infrastructure projects. Tools included hoes, spades, wheel barrows, bonding rods, measuring tapes, strings, buckets, crow bars, hammers, first aid kits etc. The seedlings for food forests included different varieties of seedlings for instance: Teak, Afzelia, Mvule, and Neem (canopy), Tamarind, Tangerine, Pawpaw, Bananas, and Guava (Fruit seedlings) and Sesbania, sesban, Aloe vera, Hibiscus, and Ginger (Shrubs).

Status of Infrastructure Activities Implementation

Monitoring of construction works for approved projects was done during the reporting period to gauge the level of completion. Out of 1,336 projects approved in the investment plans since the NURI program's inception, 653 (49%) have been fully completed by DRC, while 683 (51%) are ongoing projects. For all these projects, construction work is completed, what is left is installation of structure works and maintenance before handover to communities. It is optimistic that all the works will be completed. The tables below provide a comprehensive overview of completion status for each project by end of the reporting period:

Table 3.2.2.5: % completion of infrastructure projects

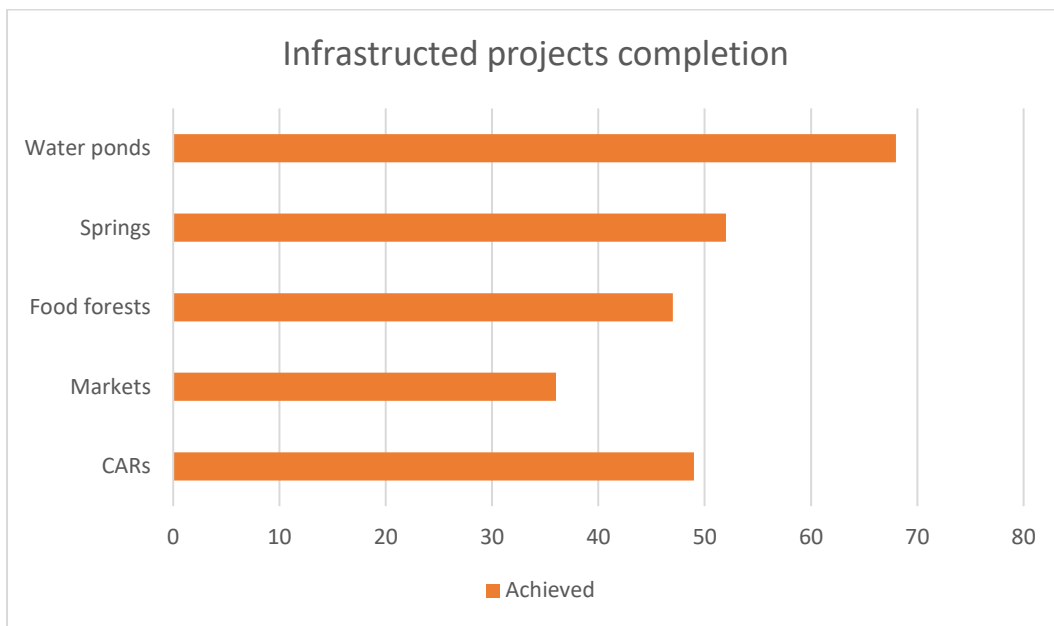


Table 3.2.2.6. Status of Infrastructure Projects Implemented as of Quarter 2 2021

Area	CAR		Market		Food Forest		Springs		Water Ponds		Total	
	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed
Arua, Terego, Madi Okollo	113	68	4	4	104	69	46	27	0	0	267	168
Rhino Camp	63	51	0	0	43	23	6	6	0	0	112	80
Imvepi	43	15	1	0	10	0	7	0	3	1	64	16
Nebbi	31	17	1	0	38	34	8	5	3	3	81	59
Koboko	43	19	2	0	26	0	11	3	7	6	89	28
Adjumani	79	31	0	0	39	27	2	2	3	3	123	63
Palabek	18	18	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	28	28
Lamwo	57	9	2	1	25	0	1	1	4	0	89	11
Kitgum	38	18	1	0	28	21	0	0	3	2	70	41
Pakwach	30	17	0	0	14	0	1	0	4	2	49	19
Moyo	37	15	0	0	13	0	10	0	0	0	60	15
Zombo	21	6	0	0	14	9	20	13	0	0	55	28
Agago	77	35	1	0	24	0	9	6	7	6	118	47
Obongi	105	50	0	0	25	0	1	0	0	0	131	50
Total	755	369	14	5	413	193	122	63	34	23	1,336	653

Other Activities conducted by DRC during the reporting period:

Soil Fertility Assessment

As part of NURI Mid-term review an evaluation of RI activities was carried out. A key finding was low survival rate of seedlings in Food Forests, particularly in Acholi. This was linked to lack of clear understanding of the soil composition of the area among other factors. This prompted a DRC assessment of plants nutrients in the soil, the level of organic matter content and further investigate the acidity and the alkalinity of the soil. Soil tests were conducted for 47 out of 53 Food Forests in different institutions in Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago districts. The results detailed the PH levels, Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) for all samples collected and tested with recommendation for seedling's species matching for each food forest soil. Besides, use of organic fertilizers such as animal manure, green bio-slurry, green manure (using cover crops and crop residues after harvest) and compost were equally recommended to build soil structure and reduce nutrient loss through leaching while conserving soil moisture.

The full assessment report is available from DRC and NURI CF.

Participation in Inter-Agency Coordination

DRC attended district inter-Agency coordination meetings including COVID-19 taskforces. DRC also solicited resources and support from partners to disseminate information on COVID-19 and information on recommended SOPs. The DRC support included provision of hand washing soap, and hand washing facilities to the districts and the cash for work groups. DRC also received full support from the districts administration regarding business continuity for the implementation of NURI activities amidst the period of partial lockdown.

Radio Talk Shows on NURI Project Activities

Radio talk shows are conducted monthly, in local languages on local radio stations for one hour each. A total of 48 talk shows were aired on local radio stations in 9 districts of implementation. The topics included general community sensitization matters especially on land issues around projects sites, payment modalities, number of work days, roles of stakeholders and community leaders, project management committees, user committees. The radio programmes are used as a platform for the communities to obtain knowledge on progress of NURI programme implementation and seek clarification on emerging issues as well as share their feedback.

Settlement coordination meetings

DRC actively participated in Inter-Agency coordination meetings in settlements of Palabek, Parolinya, and Rhino camp. The meetings encouraged partners to resume activities in the settlements in 2021. Meetings were attended by OPM commandant, implementing partners, LC V, CAO's office, planning Unit, Engineering, Production, Health and OPM/UNHCR at settlement.

3.2.3 DLG Capacity (engineering department) built

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

The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; skills/career development and re-tooling. The skills/career development plans were approved and implemented.

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

Skills/short courses:

1. AutoCAD Civil 3D roads and highway design (12 participants)
2. Labour-based Road construction (5 participants)
3. Training in Road works machine operation (5 participants)
4. Training Operation of Back hoe/TLB (2 participants)

Most of the short courses have been put on hold because of the Covid 19 restrictions since most of the training institutes are closed. However, when the guidelines are relaxed, the short courses will resume. The table below provides status of achievement of approved courses:

	Course	Courses Attended	Pending Training	Total
1	Masters' studies	5	4	9
2	Post Graduate Diplomas	4	4	8
3	Higher Diplomas	4	2	6
4	Short Courses	1	64	65

The objective of retooling the Engineering department is to help with service delivery within the department for better implementation of the NURI activities under Rural Infrastructure. The districts that benefited under retooling are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo and Koboko. Arua was added onto the list because they had a surplus budget from the career/skills plan. Procurement of items under retooling was done by CF. A summary of the items procured and delivered are given in the table below:

S/N	ENGINEERING ITEMS	QTY	DLG
1	Executive high back chairs	5 pcs	Obongi DLG,
2	Office Desks	2 pcs	Madi Okollo DLG
3	Visitors' chairs	8 pcs	Pakwach DLG
4	GPS Machines	2 pcs	Koboko DLG
5	Borehole Camera	1 Pc	Adjumani DLG
6	Solar Power Installation	1 Pc	Obongi DLG
7	Arc GIS Software	7 pcs	Kitgum DLG, Koboko DLG
8	Open Flow CAD 2019	1 Pc	Adjumani DLG
9	ARC View GIS Software	7 Pcs	Adjumani DLG
10	Solid Edge 3 CAD	1 pc	Adjumani DLG
11	Auto CAD 3D Civil	2 Pcs	Adjumani DLG
12	Victoron Configuration Software	1 pc	Kitgum DLG
13	Archcad Software	3 Pcs	Adjumani DLG, Koboko DLG
14	Total Station	2 Pcs	Pakwach DLG, Madi Okollo DLG.

3.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management

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

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

3.3.1 Develop micro-catchment plans

Description of implementation mechanism for four micro catchment plans

During the reporting period, UNWMZ conducted a detailed description of the methodology of implementing projects identified in the 4 micro catchment plans of Ogowapoke (Kitgum), Nyivura (Adjumani), Iboa (Moyo/Obongi) and Abongo (Pakwach). This included sorting from the list of projects provided and highlighted those within the scope of NURI programme after which DRC took over technical screening of the projects. Selection and prioritization of projects for implementation from the plans is ongoing.

Formation of micro catchment management organisations

The catchment management organisations are formed in order to provide overall management of the implementation of projects in the plans. Although this was planned to be conducted during the period, it was not possible to implement the plan due to political transition as a result of the general elections that was conducted early in the year and new leaders assumed office in the second quarter of the reporting period. These new leaders were still undergoing sensitization and orientation after which the activity can then be implemented.

Selection of 8th micro-catchment for plan preparation

The 8th and final micro catchment for plan preparation was selected following detailed assessments and using selection criteria spelt out in the project DED. The selected catchment is Awic-Pager in Kitgum district. Procurement of consultant to undertake plan preparation was completed and plan development started off.

Development of effective community agreements/bylaws on natural resource management that emphasizes water management

The above activity was delayed by the extension of completion of plan development and COVID 19 restrictions however procurement of consultant is on going and the activity is expected to commence at the start of the next reporting period.

Formation of implementation level committees and capacity building of stakeholders

Under this activity, project implementation committees were formed for each project formulated from the proposed interventions in the micro catchment plans. Consequently, 8 planned trainings were conducted for the 4 new micro catchments. Stakeholders capacity were enhanced through knowledge transfer sessions held during community meetings, focus group discussions and workshops conducted.

MICRO CATCHMENTS WITH ONGOING MICRO CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION

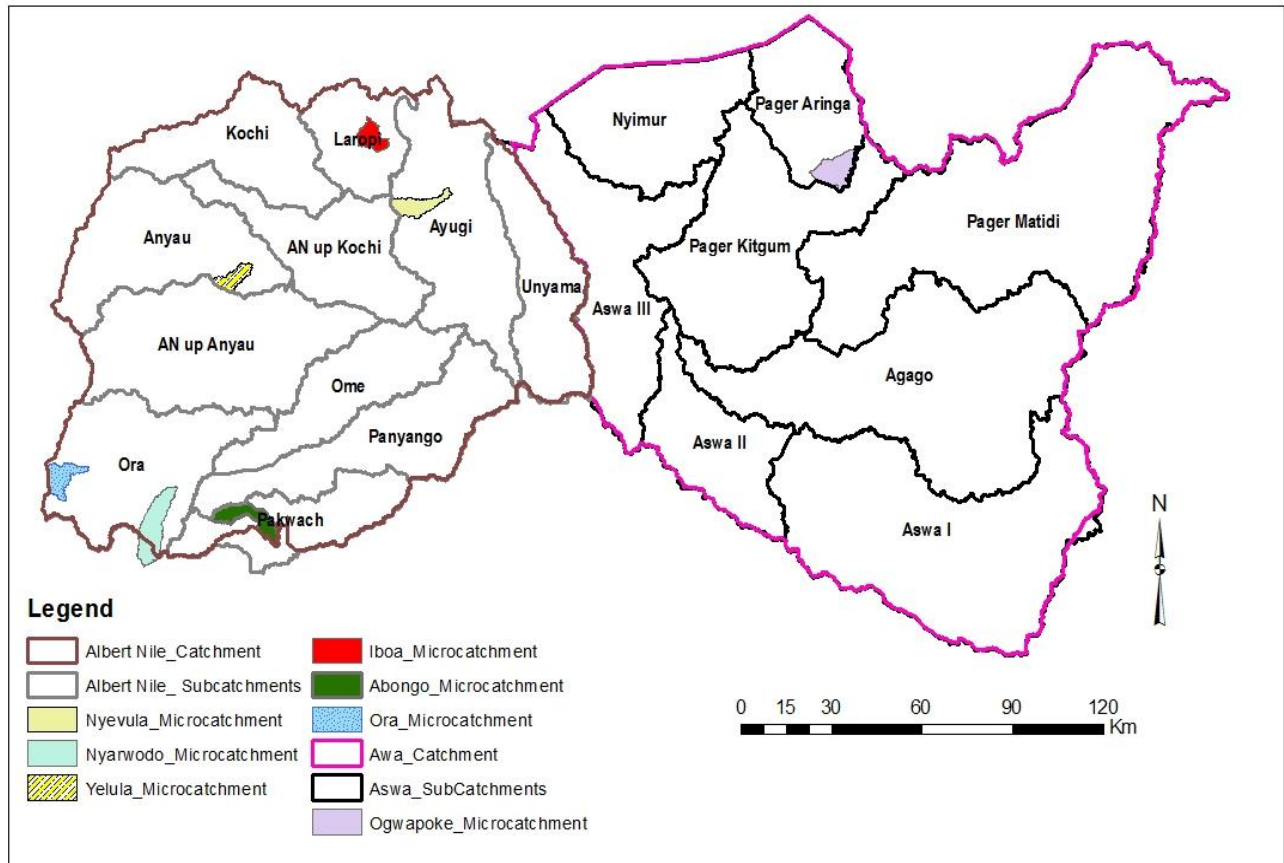


Fig.1: Micro catchments with completed mCMPs

3.3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

Implementation of interventions/projects

The activities implemented under this output during the reporting period were: presentation and approval of investment plans, sensitization and site dialogue meetings, formation of community groups for 4 micro-catchment plans. During the reporting period, DRC together with UNWMZ completed the highlighted activities for Nyivura catchment in Adjumani district which has 83 projects. These activities were done in 2020 for the rest of the micro-catchments.

Presentation and Approval of WRM Investment Plan

Presentation and approval of 83 projects in Nyivura Micro Catchment by the District Technical Planning Committees (DTPC's) of Adjumani was done. The projects comprising of green roads (GR4W), spring protection, river band restoration (RBR), food forests, water ponds, valley tank and small irrigation system (SSIS) will be implemented in the Sub counties of Adjumani town council, Pakelle, Adropi, Ofua and Dzaipi.

Table 3.3.2.1 - Summary of Nyivua mC Investment Plan.

Sub-county	GR4W (km)	Spring Protection	Food Forest (acres)	Valley tank	SSIS	Ponds/Dam	RBR (acres)
Adjumani T/C	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Adropi	1.8	2	6	-	-	1	-
Dzaipi	4	-	16			4	-
Pakelle	2.5	4	38	1	1	5	6
Ofua	7	2	12			3	-
Total	15.3	8	72	1	1	13	16

Sensitization and site dialogue meetings

Sensitization meetings were held, led by DRC and UNWMZ, supported by parish chiefs and LC1 of the various project sites to inform the communities of the projects planned, involvement of the community in cash for work, encouraging communities to donate land for implementation of the approved projects. Thirteen site dialogue meetings were held, and community concerns related to land issues were addressed. Also, permission from landlords to access land for project construction was obtained. Also cultural matters like land with graveyards and other physical cultural structures were addressed.

Table 3.2.2.2: Sensitisation and Site dialogue meeting groups formed.

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Total
			Male	Female	
01	Adjumani T/C	5	75	75	150
02	Pakelle	36	472	473	945
03	Dzaipi	16	210	210	420
04	Adropi	8	97	98	195
05	Ofua	18	232	233	465
	Total	83	1,086	1,089	2,175

Cash for Work groups formed per project category:

A total of 83 community groups were formed to implement the projects approved by the DTPC. These groups are described per project type as presented in the next sections. Note that for each of these projects, participation of refugees was not registered due to distance and location of the settlements.

Green Roads for Water (GR4W)

These are roads that are envisioned to have secure transport functions and serve other purposes like water management, flood protection, reduce water erosive energy, promote good land management and road side vegetation that controls dust and filters effluents.

Apart from Tree planting; other green elements on the GR4W are;

- i) Water Harvesting from road surface for crop production (Feeding soil moisture with road drain) where mitre drains terminate into shallow infiltration pits and bioswale for long term hydration of soil.
- ii) Establishment of permagarden/gardens along the road to utilize runoff for crop production.
- iii) Water harvesting into road drain dams for livestock watering to provide water security. This will improve soil moisture and sub-surface water retention
- iv) Borrow pits close to the roads converted into water storage structure for livestock watering and crop production.
- v) Solid drift (Irish bridge) road embankment creates water reservoir and sand mining opportunity on the upstream side.

A total of 16 groups with 480 members were formed to implement 15.3km of green roads for water. Trees will be planted along community access roads. In the 16 groups, with 480 members, 288 (60%) are youth, and 240 (50%) are women. Details per sub county are presented in the table below.

Table 3.2.2.3: Group formation statistics of participants for green roads for water

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Dzaipi	4	60	60	36	36	120
02	pakelle	3	45	45	27	27	90
03	Adropi	2	30	30	18	18	60
04	Ofua	7	105	105	63	63	210
	Total	16	240	240	144	144	480

Valley Tanks and SSIS (small scale irrigation systems)

Valley Tanks are an excavated barrier that stops or restricts the flow of water or underground streams. Four public works groups formed and registered for the implementation of 1 valley tank project (2

projects) and 2 Small scale irrigation systems in Pakelle with 60 members. Makeup of the groups is in the table below:

Table 3.2.2.4: Group formation statistics of participants for Valley Tank and SSIS (Small Scale Irrigation).

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Pakelle	4	30	30	18	20	60
	Total	4	30	30	18	20	60

Ponds or dams

Water ponds are earth structures constructed to store water for irrigation (crop production), livestock watering, controlling floods, domestic uses like washing clothes, brick laying and construction of houses and hydration of soil, recharging underground aquifers, springs and boreholes. During the reporting period, 13 water ponds were constructed by 13 public works groups comprising of 195 community members.

Table 3.2.2.5: Group formation statistics of participants for Ponds or dams

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Pakelle	5	37	38	22	23	75
02	Dzaipi	4	30	30	18	18	60
03	Adropi	1	7	8	4	5	15
04	Ofua	3	22	23	13	14	45
	Total	13	96	99	57	60	195

Food Forest

36 groups were formed and registered to participate in 36 projects of 72 acres of food forests. A project comprised of each 2 acres of food forest. This group formed comprised of 1,080 and details are provided in the table below:

Table 3.2.2.6: Group formation statistics of participants for Food forest establishment

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Pakelle	19	285	285	171	171	570
02	Dzaipi	8	120	120	72	72	240
03	Adropi	3	45	45	27	27	90
04	Ofua	6	90	90	54	54	180
	Total	36	540	540	324	324	1080

River bank restoration

River bank restoration is a means of restoring, protecting and stabilizing the banks of rivers against scouring, flooding and erosion. For this project type, 8 groups were formed to implement 8 projects approved in the investment plan. Description of group membership is given in the table below.

Table 3.2.2.7: Group formation statistics of participants list.

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Adjumani T/C	5	75	75	45	45	150
02	Pakelle	3	45	45	27	27	90
	Total	8	120	120	72	48	240

Spring protection

A total of 8 groups were formed to implement 8 spring protection projects in the micro catchment.

Table 3.2.2.8: List of participants for Spring protection.

S/no	Sub county	No of Groups	Participants		Youths -18 - 28 yrs.		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
01	Pakelle	4	30	30	18	18	60
02	Adropi	2	15	15	9	9	30
03	Ofua	2	15	15	9	9	30
	Total	8	60	60	36	36	120

Other Activities

Coordination with other stakeholders

DRC NURI team attended a stakeholder review and validation of Nyivura Micro Catchment Management Plan at Ruyo Guest House organized by Ministry of Water and Environment.

Radio talk shows on the NURI program

Two radio talk shows were held on 89.6 Radio Amani FM in Adjumani. The show including discussion on stakeholder roles and responsibilities, sensitization of communities about site dialogue meetings, reviving of previous existing community groups, formation of new community groups, screening of selected projects identified, costing of screen project, preparation and presentation of the Investment plan to the DTPC/DEC for approval.

3.4 Output 0: Programme Coordination

NURI CF is responsible for coordination of programme activities, and provides technical support to the programme. NURI CF has a team of 10 technical staff and six drivers. Of the technical staff, six are based in Kampala and four in regional offices in Arua, Moyo and Kitgum. CF works in close collaboration with RDE and coordinators/managers of the implementing units and partners and DLG technical staff.

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

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

3.4.1 Synergy and Coordination

During implementation, there are a number of activities that are planned and conducted jointly amongst stakeholders and implementing partners across the NURI programme outputs but most especially output 1 and 2. Such activities include local radio talk shows, field monitoring visits, DEC and LLG monitoring, sensitization and community mobilization both with the nationals and refugee population.

Field Coordination Meetings.

During the reporting period, NURI CF organised 2 regional meetings with the implementing partners and units to review implementation of program activities, address implementation challenges in the various districts and discuss strategies for improvement. A meeting was held in Adjumani in the first quarter, and another in Arua in the second quarter. Meetings focused on implementation processes and emerging issues and the Arua meeting included discussion around improvement standards of work and reviewing staff terms of references.

Resilience Design

After the resilience design training led by DRC in the last quarter of 2020, NURI CF implemented a roll out of the relevant concepts to all CSA staff across the IUs. Programme content, planning and training was developed and carried out by CSA staff that had participated in the DRC training with support from CF technical staff. A detailed report is available from NURI CF on request.

3.4.3 Financial management activities

NURI CF is responsible for financial monitoring of implementing partners. The finance team reviews financial reporting from the implementing partners and checks that agreed procedures are followed. The

finance team worked in close collaboration with the coordinators and accountants of each implementing partner and unit. During the reporting period, the activities accomplished are described below:

Budget Utilization monitoring

The Programme percentage of budget utilization for the period Jan to Jun 2021 is 73.5% as per the performance monitoring reports. Some activities were affected by COVID 19 including delays in procurement processes with some delayed to Q3. Activities involving large gatherings, such as the IMC and staff trainings were put on hold. Where possible meetings were conducted on-line.

In general, more, smaller meetings and trainings were held, resulting in increased travel by NURI CF staff. This increased the consumption of the Coordination budget.

Financial support Activities

Review of the NURI Accounts manuals was finalized within the period and soon to be rolled out for use after the final review by the FMA that joined NURI in July 2021 while activity Codes in QuickBooks Online for the CF were revised to provide a better analysis of the reports generated out of the system.

CF supported implementing Units in the 2021 budget review, with approval of the revised budget in July 2021. Financial Management support trips were carried out to the units to facilitate the reconciliations of payables and receivables between the Units and CF and ensure compliance to guidelines.

Audit

The finance team was involved in the reconciliations of the NURI and RDNUC programme to separate the funds that were combined in the NURI books. This in turn aided the successful completion of the 2019 Audit by KPMG auditors. The printed reports are yet to be shared since the finalisation happened during the second COVID 19 lockdown.

Procurement

There have been no major procurements by CF. Procurements have been of services, such as vehicle and motorcycle maintenance, renewal of security services, and minor procurements of riding gear, stationary etc., mainly to top up where there were new staff.

3.4.4 Human resources

Staff Recruitment and HR issues: For NURI CF the positions of Finance Management Advisor (FMA) and Supervising Engineer (SE) were advertised and recruited, with both positions filled by July 2021.

Within the programme, one Agriculture Extension Supervisor (AES) from ARUDIFA was promoted to CSA Coordinator and transferred to Moyo RAU.

There were four resignations registered during the period, one VSLA supervisor and three AEOs. All were replaced within the period. The role of Marketing Coordinator was strategically phased out of the CSA Output and remaining MC positions were terminated by the end of June 2021.

Three accidents involving staff were reported during the period. All cases have been referred to GPA Insurance provider (UAP) to process Compensation claims for injuries as required under Workers Compensation Act. Investigations and follow-up are ongoing.

Staff trainings: Four nominees for DFC capacity building courses in Denmark did not take off due to COVID 19 and travel restrictions to EU countries.

HRC attended CF sponsored Training in Labor Laws: Discipline Management and Termination approaches for the 21st Century Organizations 29-30 April 2021 –Organized by Federation of Uganda Employers.

Performance Management: As part of the performance management plan all CSA staff Terms of Reference (ToR), Standard of Work and Means of Verification were reviews, with engagement of staff and managers. Only Accountant's ToRs across programme are pending FMA's input.

Performance Agreements (Targets for 2021) for all employees were completed and agreement on Performance Assessment timelines are set for the fourth quarter.

3.4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

The function of monitoring and evaluation in NURI is guided by the NURI log-frame with result defined in the programme document and DED. Monitoring measures progress towards achievement of component objectives and outcomes, while enhance learning and accountability. During the reporting period, NURI CF M&E function was supported by consultants, relevant stakeholders and Implementing partners and unit's staff and management. M&E CSA staff trainings are covered in the section on trainings under CSA.

DEC and Lower Local government (LLG) field monitoring

In NURI, DLGs through the DEC is mandated to carry out quarterly monitoring of activities, while, at lower levels, LLG monitoring is conducted with the same purpose. In the settlements, OPM takes lead and works in close collaboration with the partners to ensure activities in the settlements are monitored on a quarterly basis. In planning for the visits, DLGs normally select specific sub-counties to visit while the LLG visit all the sub counties. DLG/DEC monitoring team comprises of LC V chairman, DPO, DAO, DE. Other sector committee members also join the monitoring team namely; and secretary production, Secretary work and construction, Secretary finance, planning and Administration and Secretary Health and Education. At lower local Government, the team comprised of LC III chairpersons, SAS, AO, and CDO.

During the reporting period, monitoring of activities under all the programme outputs in all the districts of implementation was conducted in both Q1 and Q2. NURI CF, implementing partners/units planned the visits in close collaboration with the District Focal Point officers. Under output 1, the monitoring focussed on implementation of old groups projects in South West Nile and Acholi sub-region, general CSA activities in all the regions including settlements, VSLA and construction project works on going. Under output 2 and 3, projects visited were food forests, CARs, Market rehabilitation and water ponds. Supervision reports per sub county were compiled and shared with the sub counties and the partners. In terms of technical supervision, District Technical Team (Engineering, Forestry, Water, Environment, and

Production) have continued to render their technical supervision to ensure quality assurance of the infrastructure projects and providing technical backstopping to DRC.

Key issues raised were; the programme to include transparent roofing material to provide some light inside the building, the low utilization of the constructed stores, issues of quality of produce and low prices for the produce, late delivery of seeds and averting the effects of changing climate. CF has captured these issues and following up to ensure they are addressed.

Recommendations were also offered that included the programme to make timely delivery of seeds and strengthen linkages with input dealers and off takers, and farmers to adopt the best CSA practices to increase on their yields. District and DRC's Engineers have developed a quality assurance checklist designed to rely on observations, recommendations and simple onsite tests for effective monitoring and management of quality issues

Monitoring data entry into the CSA database

PMP data collected by the extension officers is verified by Data Officers with the support of supervisors and captured in to the CSA database. During the reporting period monitoring of data entry was done to ensure completion of entry of actual data from 2020 season B production. Data entry for farmer groups that started in 2019 has been completed for two production cycles (2019/2020). For groups that started in 2020, entry for a single production cycle has been completed. In North West Nile, entry of baseline and planning data for the national groups was completed.

Programme reporting (quarterly, semi-annual and annual)

During the reporting period, IPs and Units prepared Q1 and Q2 progress reports based on NURI reporting formats and timelines. CF conducted reviews and quality checks on submitted reports before sharing with relevant stakeholders.

3.4.6 Programme Communications

A number of communications materials have been developed for NURI, through a consultancy financed and managed by the RDE. Based on these materials and recommendations from the RDE and MTR that NURI strengthen communications and programme profile, NURI CF established a communications team in the first half of 2021. The team consists of NURI staff members with particular skills in communications and target improving the NURI Facebook page, website, and communications in general. TORs have been developed with the target of increase visibility and awareness about NURI programme activities and results within NURI teams, stakeholders and the wider community. The team is actively working, and a report on communications initiatives will be included in the 2021 annual report.

4.0 Progress against Outputs and Outcome Targets

NURI aims to increase the agricultural output of small-scale farmers including refugees and hosts.

A survey of progress against output and outcome indicators was planned for year 2, however this has been pushed to 2022. An adoption study was conducted in South West Nile and Acholi sub region to follow up delivery of CSA training and measure some outcome indicators. Considerable progress has been made at activity level that contributes toward the achievement of targets.

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

Achievement of Programme Outcome indicators

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

Monitoring survey against baseline will be conducted in Q3 of 2021 for Agago district which is closing down by December 2021 and in Q1 of 2022, the rest of the districts will be assessed.

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

Monitoring survey against baseline will be conducted in Q3 of 2021 for Agago district which is closing down by December 2021 and in Q1 of 2022, the rest of the districts will be assessed.

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

By 30th June 2021, construction work for projects approved in Q3 and Q4 of 2020 was started, however few projects have reached completion. The 2021 annual report will contain figures on this indicator.

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

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

An adoption study was conducted in South West Nile and Acholi sub-region and reported in the 2020 annual report. Reference can be made to the 2020 Annual report, in summary, there is good progress in adoption and uptake of CSA practices in the districts of implementation. For North West Nile, the study is planned for Q3 covering the districts of Adjumani, Moyo/Obongi and Koboko.

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

Based on the baseline report and PMP yield analysis, results show a slight increase in yields for strategic crops for farmer groups that started in 2019 however still below NURI CSA estimates and baseline for some crops. More details are in the CSA section 3.1.1 on review of production and marketing plans.

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

Results shall be provided after completion of entry of production and marketing data for 2020 for groups that started in 2020. Also, further assessment will be included in the monitoring survey of 2022.

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

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

For 1,336 projects approved in the investment plans since programme inception, completion rate is 49% while 51% is on-going. Disaggregation according to project types indicate: 49% for CARs, 36% Markets, 47% Food forests, 52% Springs and 68% Water ponds.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q1 of 2022.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q1 of 2022

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

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

Implementation of approved micro-catchment plans, however for the approved plans, community groups have been formed and the first projects will be completed in Q3 of 2021.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q1 of 2022

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q1 of 2022

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q1 of 2022

5.0 Status on Risks and Assumptions

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

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

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

Status on Risk factors:

Risk factor	Likelihood	Impact	Risk assessment and response	Update at June 2021
Programmatic risks				
Creation of aid dependency by supporting small-scale farmers to access subsidized low-cost inputs.	Likely	Major	NURI's strategy is to provide inputs only to those farmer groups that fulfil certain conditions, like co-financing and preparation of a business plan. Also, subsidized inputs will constitute a small proportion of the total intervention.	This risk has not materialized. The importance of levelling expectations from the start, is a lesson learnt from earlier programmes. Production and Marketing plans, supported by VSLA Saving with a Purpose activities encourages farmers to plan for inputs.
Land conflicts due to unclear land ownership and increasing pressure on land and/or land-grabbing by powerful entities or individuals.	Likely	Major	Land conflicts may be exacerbated by the NURI success. Mitigation through ensuring land ownership is clearly defined and recorded and through inclusive planning processes, locally driven implementation and strengthening of local communities.	Land conflicts are managed on a case-by-case basis, for example by relocating demonstration plots or compromising on the width of CARs. Land disputes are more common in Acholi but reducing over time. All cases are solved with engagement of LLG authorities.
Poor sustainability of constructed or renovated	Likely	Major	NURI will strengthen learning from cases where mobilization of local communities for	DRC has built in mitigation based on earlier experience. Implementation of Resilience

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

and better salaries for staff			both community participation and project staff.	on capacity building vs inputs is widely understood and respected. In Acholi some staff lost to DINU.
Institutional risks				
Corruption or misuse of funds among NURI implementing partners (also programmatic risk)	Likely	Major	Mitigation through implementation modalities based on experience. Lessons learned on safeguards under RDNUC are incorporated in the Management and Accounts Manuals.	Financial and procurement guidelines and monitoring are implemented. Whistle blower reports are thoroughly investigated.
Self-implementation by NURI CF leads to lack of sustainability and excessive management burdens.	Unlikely	Major	This risk will be mitigated by building on previous positive effects of self-implementation: Many local staff have been trained and equipped with skills they can apply in different contexts, and efficiency has been high due to decreased fiduciary risks and no politicisation of activities.	In NURI CSA sustainability is achieved through building human capacity in IPs, DLGs and the community. NURI extension and VSLA staff are recognised for their capacity and, go on to jobs in public, NGO and private sector, taking with them the technical and management skills imparted by NURI. Excessive management burdens have been addressed through expansion of CF, and addressing specific capacity 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 is integrated in all NURI interventions.	DLGs and LLG are enthusiastically engaged in NURI. Being involved in selection of beneficiaries, strategic crops, infrastructure projects and activities as well as in monitoring, and in attending and occasionally facilitating trainings, DLGs and LLGs are generally highly involved in implementation.
Emerging Risks 2020				
Conflict between Districts where new districts have been split off from NURI districts	Likely	Medium	Managed by a transparent splitting of resources between the sub-divided districts and by engaging with the new districts. NURI will follow the lead of GoU and not engage in any political debate.	After the formation of Obongi from Moyo District there was some unrest and some groups were unwilling to work with any partner until they are acknowledged as falling under Moyo District. NURI temporarily

				suspended work in the affected sub-county, however the leaders of the two districts carried out a joint dialogue and all activities have restarted. No other conflicts reported.
COVID-19 lock-downs and restrictions hinder work and raise fear of outsiders in the communities	Likely	Medium	Emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has already had major impact on Uganda and on all economic and development activities. NURI works with District COVID taskforces.	Working with District COVID-19 task forces, developing and following SOPs and taking sensible precautions allowed NURI to continue work from the early stages of the pandemic to date.
Emerging Risks 2021				
Access to quality inputs in remote sub-counties and settlements			Access to quality inputs remains a problem despite some improvement for farmers closer to urban settlements. For refugees, access to vegetable seeds, training in own propagation of seeds will be further strengthened.	Although access to inputs is increasing as the market responds to demand, there are still cases where demanded inputs such as improved varieties, are not available. Kitgum reports increased number of agro-input businesses, with limited cases of outreach. Strengthening group members knowledge on own propagation of seed needs to continue.

Status on Assumptions

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

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

6.0 Reporting on Expenditure

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

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

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

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

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

Output	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	%
Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	-	16	35	36	29.5	116.5	35.9
Rural Infrastructure (RI)	-	16	36	37	31.5	120.5	37.1
Water Resources Management (WRM)	3	8.5	8.5	15.5	14.5	50.0	15.4
Coordination incl. TA and M&E	-	6	6	6	6	24.0	7.3
Contingency	-	-	-	-	14	14.0	4.3
Total	3	46.5	85.5	94.5	95.5	325.0	100

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

NURI Fund utilization for 2021

For the period January to June 30th, a total budget of UGX 34 billion was approved, UGX 28 billion was disbursed, and of that UGX 25 billion was expended. Funds utilization rate was 73.5% for the reporting period. See table below for details:

Table 6.1: NURI BUDGET UTILIZATION FOR 2021

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AS PER NURI 2021 WORKPLAN
SUMMARY**

Expenditure & Budget Intervention per Implementing Unit				
January to June 2021				
	(UGX '000)			
Implementing Unit	Planned No of Farmer Groups in 2021	Approved Budget	Actual Expenditure	% of Budget
0. Coordination, TA and M&E		1,439,093	891,222	61.9%
* Coordination, TA and M&E	N/A			
* NURI CF, Kampala	N/A	1,439,093	891,222	61.9%
1. Climate Smart Agriculture	3,210	15,575,824	12,904,990	82.9%
* NURI CF, Kampala	N/A	2,117,244	1,763,656	83.3%
* AFARD	405	1,205,120	1,262,032	104.7%
* RAU Agago	240	646,566	658,966	101.9%
* RAU Adjumani	540	2,840,631	2,135,554	75.2%
* Arua DFA	750	2,905,186	2,776,429	95.6%
* RAU Moyo	540	3,521,384	2,126,280	60.4%
* RAU Kitgum	540	1,698,362	1,661,225	97.8%
* PICOT	195	641,332	520,848	81.2%
2. Rural Infrastructure		12,217,077	9,973,242	81.6%
* NURI CF	N/A	997,588	342,011	34.3%
* DRC	N/A	11,219,489	9,631,230	85.8%
3. Water Resource Management		4,882,955	1,295,470	26.5%
* NURI CF	N/A	0	0	
* DRC	N/A	4,670,008	1,020,524	21.9%
* WRM	N/A	212,947	274,946	129.1%
TOTAL	3,210	34,114,949	25,064,924	73.5%

Notes

1. Expenses by RDE on behalf of the NURI Programme not Included
2. Expenditure for UNWRM-MWE was funded by funds B/F from previous period disbursements

3. DRC budgets are as per the approved budgets for the period though the DRC report considers the annual budget
Summary per Implementing Partner:

Table 6.2: Summary per Implementing partner/RAU

NURI Coordination Function				
Disbursement, Expenditure & Budget per Implementing Unit				
January to June 2021				
	Disbursed Funds	Actual Expenditure	Approved Budget	% of Budget
NURI Coordination Function	-1,169,226,458	2,996,889,265	4,553,925,000	65.8%
AFARD	1,830,017,118	1,262,032,143	1,205,120,000	104.7%
RAU Agago	652,305,075	658,965,839	646,566,000	101.9%
RAU Adjumani	2,731,793,609	2,135,553,901	2,840,630,860	75.2%
Arua DFA	2,749,979,953	2,776,429,416	2,905,186,000	95.6%
RAU Moyo	3,259,718,792	2,126,280,228	3,521,383,500	60.4%
RAU Kitgum	1,662,486,798	1,661,224,816	1,698,362,000	97.8%
PICOT	634,371,198	520,847,757	641,332,000	81.2%
DRC	15,889,487,000	10,651,754,553	15,889,497,000	67.0%
WRM	0	274,945,709	212,947,000	129.1%
TOTAL	28,240,933,085	25,064,923,627	34,114,949,360	73.5%

Notes

1. Expenses by RDE on behalf of the NURI Programme not included
2. Approved budget for WRM considered
3. Budget for DRC are as per the approved budgets for the period of reporting
4. The negative figure for disbursement by NURI CF reflects disbursement to units above the receipts from RDE. This is caused by a carryover of funds from the previous period.

7.0 Challenges and lessons

Implementation of activities under COVID-19 restrictions

COVID 19 pandemic remains a challenge across the programme. The year started with some relaxation of restrictions; however, restrictions were reintroduced following a second wave of infections spreading to most parts of the implementation areas. Implementation of NURI activities have been done under observance of COVID 19 SOPs. Because of this, some challenges were encountered like, delay in start date of planned trainings, reduced number of farmers and community members to be reached at a time, limited movement across districts, reduced magnitude of technical backstopping visits. Activity planning and implementation has been revised to the extent that COVID 19 SOPs are mainstreamed in the planning process.

Weather and environmental challenges

NURI CSA activities are based around the agricultural calendar with two main production seasons. Successful production depends on time and predictability of onset of the rain as well as the volume and spread of rain. The reporting period recorded erratic weather patterns with both seasons' onset delayed and prolonged dry spells affected planting and crop growth. This weather pattern will affect crop yields for both season A and B. The unpredictability of rainfall is a major concern to farmers who face challenges in planning and meeting production goals. This has brought in the question of diversification of production activities to reduce reliance on only crop production, farmers are being advised to consider other enterprises like apiary, animal and poultry rearing. Around the settlements, environmental degradation is visibly seen because of the continuous reliance on environmental resources. There is need to address this by integrating tree planting to willing and committed community and farmer groups.

Closure of activities with old national groups

NURI has been supporting old national groups since 2019 with cost-shared projects. Most groups had completed their projects by the end of 2020, however a number of the larger projects implemented by groups engaged in substantial marketing activities, spilled over into 2021. Projects were stores, apiary, grinding mills, cassava chipping machinery and some balances of tarpaulin. These were completed during the reporting period and handover was done. It was noted that depending on the project types, some of these groups are proactive and working towards building cooperatives. In Agago district for instance, groups that selected oil press in Patongo and Maize mill were working well to the extent that they had begun lending some funds to group members. In Nebbi, AFARD has worked with the district commercial office for development of cooperative societies targeting these farmer groups. Staff noted that, the groups supported in stores received some training before closure however further linkages and connections with produce buyers and development agencies is needed.

Training Modalities

Partnering with established government institutions in CSA training delivery has been a very successful model since it was introduced in 2020. When lockdown was first instituted in Uganda in 2020, a number of planned staff training programmes had to be re-planned. NURI CF worked partnered with NARO – ZARDIs and extension staff were trained within their regions to avoid large trainings. The trainings were so successful that the model has been adopted for all relevant trainings.

NURI has also focused on identifying capacities within the team, and worked with staff members with strengths in particular areas to train their colleagues, using a TOT model. This approach has been used on Resilience design trainings. In North West Nile, the staff engaged the District Focal Point Officer to train in Maize agronomy as a way of copying during the pandemic.

Inputs subsidy (seeds)

Access and affordability of improved agro-inputs continues to pose challenge to agricultural production for farmer groups in the implementation areas. With the 1-acre demo approach, it is expected that seed needs would be addressed to some extent however with some crops this is not achieved. Where process for improved seeds are high, for example, sunflower seeds, farmers are reluctant to buy the seeds, and there are cases of difficulty in access of the seeds promoted by NURI.

Farmers continue to request for the opportunity to change their strategic crop during the programme period, however as each group follows a gradual training and up-scaling plan, it is difficult to change one the programme is underway.

8.0 Implementation of recommendations

8.1 Recommendations from NURI midterm review

During the first quarter of the reporting period a Mid-term review of the RDE Country Programme was carried out, covering all programmes including NURI. While the team from Denmark were not able to visit Uganda because of COVID-19 restrictions, local consultants supported by RDE did visit field activities. A number of studies and reports had been prepared for the review, and on-line meetings and interviews with NURI team members were held.

During the field visit all the output areas of the programme were visited. The review team held meetings with District Executive members and technical staff of local governments. Project status updates were given by the NURI focal point person on the status of project implementation in the district. They also visited projects sites for Rural Infrastructural projects and climate smart agriculture being implemented by DRC and CSA partners. Project sites visited included food forests, resilience design training site, community access roads, protected springs, and Imvepi point J market, demo fields and stores constructed under the old group's projects.

The review team (RT) commented on the NURI programme in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability, as well as offering feedback on specific issues raised by RDE and NURI CF, and making general recommendations

Relevance: The agriculture sector is in the epicentre of the coming climate emergency. No other industry or set of livelihoods is more sensitive to climate outcomes than densely settled smallholder farmers in tropical areas. NURI's three-pronged approach is addressing these challenges. The engagement is also directly tackling the challenges thrown up by the influx of 1.3 million refugees from South Sudan that has heightened the vulnerability of northern Uganda. Project participants and beneficiaries have themselves confirmed the relevance of the programme in meeting their specific needs.

Effectiveness: Out of the target of 120,000 beneficiaries, at this mid-way point, CSA has reached 104,000 households representing 84% of the target. Rural Infrastructure is also on track with 604 projects out of the revised target of 1,504 completed in a difficult year, with Covid-19 restrictions. WRM is slightly behind schedule with only 3 mini catchment plans under implementation and four still in draft. The Upper Nile Water Management Zone (UNWMZ) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) partners assured the RT that the development of the outstanding plan will move faster now. In all the components, target group selection has been rigorous and largely meets inclusivity criteria of gender, age group and nationality.

As at end March 2021, 63% of the NURI budget had been disbursed while actual expenditure was at 32.9%. Given that some 60% of the programme life has already elapsed, this level of expenditure needs to be accelerated.

Efficiency: The NewPlan Assessment Report on the quality and sustainability of outputs concluded that “the infrastructure was implemented according to specifications and most of it meets the standards... it was constructed at relatively low cost compared to the sector average costs”. Similarly, the Assessment of the NURI CSA extension model found that the activities were well done and that the cost of delivering extension services to households under the programme was lower than under other programmes.

Impact: Given that the majority of the outputs are yet to be delivered, it is too early to authoritatively assess impacts. The planned monitoring survey which is supposed to measure these indicators is scheduled towards the end of 2021. Nevertheless, the study on “old groups”, the Assessment of NURI CSA extension model and the Adoption Rate Survey capture some evidence of emerging impacts. Farmers trained on CSA are adopting some of the practices which is making a difference in their yields, food security and share of marketed outputs.

In the refugee hosting areas, the mixed refugee/national groups are witnessing cordial relationships being built, leading to increased access to land for refugees, as well as contributing to intercommunal peace. In women’s refugee groups, access to more nutritious diets is apparent, as are opportunities to generate small amounts of income.

Sustainability: The key pillars for the continuation of benefits beyond the programme life span lie in capacity building and the institutionalization of NURI interventions. It is at local government level that this is most felt, with skills and knowledge being acquired through hands-on participation in programme activities like Resilience Design and CSA work. Furthermore, nearly all NURI interventions, particularly RI and WRM, are derived from development plans at parish, sub-county and district levels, and this is essential to ownership.

Recommendations

- The EoD should approve the revised target for RI that integrates the resilience design approach and update the results framework to reflect this and develop additional indicators for each component to better track progress.

The report contains details of several issues that were shared with the RT for consideration. These are summarised in the table below with the RT’s response.

Request to RT	RT’s Response
1. Approve DRC’s revised RI target in light of “Resilience Design Approach in NURI”.	Recommended
2. Examine NURI CF institutional arrangements and staffing with a view to possible improvements	This is an overarching recommendation of the RT and will be dealt with along with the DGF FMU

<p>3. Examine NURI's youth engagement model with a view to recommending possible adjustments / improvements</p>	<p>Working well in RI and WRM where over 50% are youth and women are strongly represented. CSA and VSLA lower. If there are new groups deliberating targeting of youth groups could be considered.</p>
<p>4. Based on the report on "Assessment of the NURI CSA Extension Model" assess if the NURI CSA extension model is fit for purpose and recommend possible improvements</p>	<p>Based on the assessment report, Adoption Rate Survey and the Study of Old Groups and Animal Traction, the RT is persuaded the model is delivering and management should implement feasible and cost-effective recommendations from the studies</p>
<p>5. Based on the report on "Quality Assessment of NURI RI and WRM Projects" review the report and advise on its recommendations</p>	<p>RT supports the recommendation and urges management to implement those that are feasible and cost effective</p>
<p>6. Review the MTR of the WAY Programme and the Assessment of the NURI CSA Extension and advise on the recommendations on improving the delivery of SRHR.</p>	<p>RT recommends that NURI and WAY managements along with Desk Officers from the EoD should meet and forge a way forward to improve the delivery of SHHR and GBV.</p>
<p>7. Review the note on "Animal Traction Loan Product Collaboration" between NURI CF, Talanta Microfinance, and aBI and advise on its recommendations</p>	<p>The pilot hasn't produced lessons for scaling up. RT believes scaling up should wait for the results of the pilot. RT notes that the pilot is restricted to one region, Acholi. If resources are available this could be extended to the other regions as well so that the lessons are more compelling.</p>

8.2 Recommendations from IMC, studies and RDE

NURI CF takes note of all relevant and practical recommendations, from the IMC, RDE field visit reports and studies carried out. Recommendations are tabled in a matrix, and addressed as and when possible. The matrix of recommendations is updated regularly.

Actions/Implementations of the "Back to office" Recommendations

Propose actions / plans in addressing CSA recommendations from the IMC meetings & RDE Back to office reports.

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)				
Sn	Observations /Findings	Recommendations	Probable Actions	Status
1	Need to ensure synergy among the three outputs of NURI. Partners focus exclusively on their outputs and yet the community should benefit from all the interventions.	Need to improve on the partnership between RI/WRM and CSA IUs. Mobilization and guiding farmers near projects to use of water for production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSA and DRC staff to intensify collaborations when mapping farmer/infrastructure groups and projects such that the community near can utilize and benefit from the structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ IUs Meetings conducted jointly ✓ Staff contacts profiled and shared. ✓ Involvement of CSA staff in site dialogue meetings.
2	A practical on-farm training on soil and water (moisture) conservation.	NURI CF and DRC should consider organizing such trainings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience design training organized by DRC benefiting the CSA staff CSA staff to cascade the training to units. Selected CSA staff + Farmers to benefit from the F2F training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 CSA staff attended the training and this was cascaded to all the units. ✓ 13 CSA staff & 13 farmers selected to attend F2F training
3	Some farmer groups have lost interest in their strategic crops and need to change	Allow flexibility and include focus on nutrition and food security while promoting CSA through strategic crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional commodities may be considered for farmer groups in their 3rd year. Addendum to the 3rd year AEO guideline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers are encouraged to diversify with AEOs giving general extension advise (3rd year farmer groups).

4	Some farmer groups would wish to upscale to seed producers	Support farmer groups with good potential to become Local Seed Producers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train the AEOs on Local Seed production/Business • NURI liase with DLG/MAAIF • Train the potential farmer groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In the pipeline as preparations for exit and only for few groups including cooperatives
5	Resilience around strategic crops. AEOs focus mainly on selected farmers and strategic crops. Farmers need guidance beyond the strategic crops if NURI is to have impact on farmers income and resilience.	NURI CF should guide the AEOs to widen the scope of their advisory services to include other enterprises and farmers whenever possible and practical.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA staff to intensify demand driven provision of diverse extension services and knowledge through homestead / household visits. This shall include supporting and encouraging even the non-group members to attend CSA trainings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ToRs revised for staff ✓ Activities for AEOs in 3rd year also revised
6	Demo plots cum seed multiplication and CSA training not sufficient. Demo plots are for training and seed multiplication; however, farmers are not trained on seed production.	NURI CF and RAUs/IPs train the AEOs on the requirements for seed production, NURI CF is advised to liaise with MAAIF for expert support on quality declared seeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURI CF shall consult Ngetta ZARDI, NaSARRI, Abi ZARDI, DAOs to build capacity of the AEOs and also provide relevant materials/manuals in line with applicable seed multiplication regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff trained at Ngetta ZARDI covered seed multiplication for most of the crops. Most of the crops we are promoting are not cross pollinated.
7	CSA Training, Areas observed to need strengthening: appropriate use of soil and	CSA training should address the issues observed and promote the appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher CSA training for staff • AEOs making individual follow up of group members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resilience design training done for all extension staff

	water conservation structures, correct practicing of contour cultivation, regular use of plant residues in mulching and manuring, timely planting, safe use of pesticides and better understanding of PMPs	application of the general principles of CSA.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical trainings organized with external trainers on needs basis ✓ Technical backstopping ongoing
8	Translating challenges to CSA. Numerous challenges if effectively addressed could translate into CSA. These include confusing contours and difficult terrains, prevalence of crop pests & diseases, low germination of seeds and planting materials, late weeding, delayed delivery of inputs, delay in demo establishment, adverse weather effects e.g. heavy rains, unreliable weather information, and land fragmentation	<p>NURI CF and IPs/RAUs explore the possibility of exchange visit for cross learning as some of the IPs/RAUs have registered progress in addressing some of the identified challenges.</p> <p>Identify best season for planting</p> <p>Timely establishment of the demonstrations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF/IPs/RAUs to identify the potential sites for learning and they visit while putting emphasis on inter- regional/inter-partner exchange visits. • Units should procure demo inputs timely, observe quality and advise farmers to follow GAPs • Proper site selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resilience Design training conducted ✓ Refresher training on demo setting done across units ✓ Some procurement and distribution done and ongoing ✓ Team building done

9	<p>Technical approval and supervision of construction work under CSA. Status of staff houses in some settlements and staff overload. The DLGs were not involved in designs and supervision of construction work and guidelines were not followed. NURI staff accommodation in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement are inhospitable. AEO for mixed groups complained of much work as they combine extension work with input distribution.</p>	<p>NURI CF and her partners consults the DLGs when implementing civil works / engineering projects</p> <p>NURI CF investigate the concerns raised by the agriculture extension officers and respond as necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site clearing around stores and communities should build around isolated stores • Consultation with DLG engineers shall be taken up in future constructions. • Groups to be trained on store management and if funds allow buy basic store equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ramps have been put in place and groups selected the sites themselves. ✓ DRC engineers helped to supervise the stores and in future DLG engineers shall be consulted ✓ Some readjustment on the Lifeshelter structures was done and the structure is habitable now. Staff planting greenery to mitigate the heat effect. ✓ Training in store management conducted across groups
10	<p>Synergy with other programmes. NURI farmers can benefit from complementary programs in the Districts in production and marketing. CSA IU to work closely with DRC to sensitize land</p>	<p>Responsibility for follow up lies in the units and DLGs</p> <p>DRC should involve the agriculture extensions officers, CDOs and LCs right from project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPs/Units to share the profile of progressive groups with the DAOs/DPOs as well as focal persons/Area Coordinators of the complimentary programmes including DINU, DRDIP etc • Joint radio talk shows, joint site dialogue meetings and combined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exit meetings for Old groups were held and group details shared with LLGs. ✓ Coordination meetings held

	owners to the potential value of water run-off for production when they refuse construction of mitre drains / offshoots into their fields.	planning and through implementation.	programs for joint sensitizations already drawn to start in Feb, 2021. Both CSA & RI staff shall move together to accomplish these activities.	✓ Commissioning and equipping the store ongoing.
11	Quality assurance. some inputs supplied by NURI were either of poor quality e.g. cassava cuttings or not well adapted to the local agro-ecological environment. In some cases, varietal mixtures noted.	Supply of poor quality inputs should be addressed by NURI CF and implementing partners for CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More engagement of the vendors on quality parameters. Pre-bid meetings with bidders to clarify specifications. Partners/IUs to emphasize procurement of cultivars from certified local source to allow close inspection of quality in the delivery process. CF to generate and rollout an SOP on input quality assurance to guide the units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Germination tests are done ✓ Verification by DLGs conducted at the seed source
12	The poor mindset of group members	Continuous sensitization of the farmer groups right from selection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURI and DLGs should take this up as they engage with farmers 	✓ Ongoing

Annex 1: Achievement of Activity indicators and targets

Output 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture

Main activity 1.1 Identify and train target farmers' groups

- Assessed and selected 543 farmer groups for support in 2021 all of which were mixed groups (new nationals and refugees) and women refugee groups.
- Supported enterprise selection for the newly selected groups and continuing groups from 2020 for the refugee and mixed groups.
- Trained 3,270 farmer groups in CSA practices; 825 new national groups started in 2019, 1,365 new national groups started in 2020, 856 mixed groups and 224 refugee women groups, fully achieving targets.
- Established 1,096 demo plots for new national groups and mixed groups as per target.
- Facilitated new national groups in South West Nile and Acholi sub region selected in 2019 and 2020 to review their PMPs, new nationals in North West Nile and mixed groups selected in 2021 to develop new production and marketing plans for the strategic crops selected
- Planned and conducted specialised trainings for extension staff on CSA and related topics

Main Activity 1.2 VSLA training of Farmer Groups including refugees

- Assessed and selected a total of 1,575 farmer groups to be supported and trained in VSLA in 2021 (includes new national and refugee groups).
- Facilitated the recruitment of 172 CBTs to train farmer groups selected for support in 2021 based on the number and geographic location of groups.
- Trained 3,270 farmer groups in VSLA methodology during the reporting period.
- Monitored savings and loans for farmer groups under support and guided them in household planning

Main Activity 1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

All the CSA staff received specialised training on job related roles including CSA, M&E, Resilience design, Plant Clinic.

Main Activity 1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production department)

- Plans were developed and approved. Procurement of retooling items was done and distributed to the respective districts.
- Training and short courses were approved, some are on-going while others pending due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Main Activity 1.5 Sensitize farmer groups to SRHR & GBV issues

CSA staff from Acholi sub-region and North West Nile conducted sensitization of farmer groups and made some referrals of cases to relevant stakeholders based on guidance from CARE staff.

Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

Main Activity 2.1 Prepare infrastructure investment plans

- The main activities under this output were completed in 2020 except for Lamwo district where some balance of funds was available for two sub-counties and one sub county where 1 project was put on hold due to land conflict.

Main Activity 2.2 Approved investment projects implemented

- Formed 318 groups for nationals consisting of 6,966 community members for participation in 318 projects. 83 groups for refugees consisting of 2,460 community members for implementation of 83 projects. 47% were female and 55% were youth in the groups formed.
- Trained 439 project management committees
- Conducted site dialogue meetings and signed voluntary land agreement forms for all projects
- Procured and distributed tools for construction work

Output 3: Water Resource Management

Main Activity 3.1 Develop WRM micro-catchment plans

- Developed 4 new micro catchment plans
- Process of formulating bylaws for 4 micro catchments started

Main Activity 3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

- Formed 83 community groups for implementation of approved projects from Nyivura micro catchment plan.