

UPSIDE

**Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
(NURI)**



**Minutes for 2nd NURI
Implementation Monitoring
Committee Meeting Held in Arua-
Desert Breeze Hotel.
25 – 26/11/2021**

**Prepared by the Coordination
Function NURI
10/1/2022**

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1.0 Welcome and Presentation of the Participants

NURI Coordination Function planned the IMC meetings in close collaboration with RDE, NURI IPs and RAUs. The meetings were divided into two; one in Acholi sub-region covering the districts of implementation in Acholi sub-region and North West Nile and a second sitting in Arua covering the districts in South West Nile. The reason for holding two meetings was to adhere to COVID 19 SOPs instituted by the Government of Uganda.

The meeting in Arua was held from 25 – 26/11/2021 at Dessert Breeze Hotel in Arua City. It was attended by representatives from the RDE, representatives from line ministries (MAAIF, MoFPED, MoLG, MWT, MWE, MGLSD, OPM), UNWMZ- Lira, RDOs representing the refugee settlements, representatives from the DLG technical and political wings (Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego, Koboko, Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach), representatives from the IPs (DRC, AFARD, PICOT and Care International), representatives from UNFPA and NURI CF.

The Honorable Minister of State for Northern Uganda Ms Grace Freedom Kwiycwiny conducted the official opening of the meeting in South West Nile. A detailed list is provided in the annex.

2.0 Official Opening of the Meeting

The meeting began with an opening prayer and singing of the national anthem in observance of protocol in an event including the central and district government representatives. An introduction of participants (in groups) and welcome notes were made to the participants by the NURI M&E Coordinator and the National Programme Coordinator who were facilitators of the event.

A review of the two days programme was done including the plan for field activities in the second day. Participants were reminded about COVID 19 SOPs and the core reason for the IMC having had to be split into two separate sittings, one in Kitgum and another in Arua. She also noted that the meeting will be graced by the Minister for Northern Uganda as the Chief Guest.

2.1 Remarks from the Minister for Northern Uganda

The meeting was officially opened by the State Minister for Northern Uganda who expressed happiness for taking part in NURI event and gratitude for the people of West Nile and especially the DLGs whom she referred to as the faces of transformation of the country. She

stated that government was trying to reorganize itself for regional development to achieve better results. Regional re-organization is better because the DLGs will still be the implementers. She highlighted with concern the high poverty levels in Northern Uganda that have remained high according to UBOS in spite of numerous efforts to improve peoples' standard of living. she observed that people in Acholi complain of high poverty while those in West Nile do not believe that poverty level indicated by UBOS. The Minister challenged all present to tackle the issue of poverty and called for the relationship between programmes being implemented and poverty reduction saying it should lead to middle income status in the region. She emphasized creation of impact in whatever programmes are being undertaken noting that during political campaigns, politicians are left alone to account while implementers are often quiet.

The Minister commended NURI, NUSAF, DAR etc have invested massively in several Community Access Roads (CAR) but the challenge is they are not being maintained and wondered why and yet they provide access to social services for the rural poor. She called for increased commitment and collective responsibility of DLGs on maintenance of projects as this also threatens the implementation of the Parish Development Model that seeks to bring services nearer to people.

She said the Ambassador committed that Denmark will continue to support development initiatives in Northern Uganda. This will fit in the PDM that the Govt is rolling out noting NURI will have given a foundation by training farmer groups. Under PDM, each parish shall be given Ugx 100 million and this should be utilized well. There are many women brewing alcohol to earn a living, several girls who have eloped and she called upon the Parish Chiefs to think strategically. In addition, the donor funds should fit within framework of the PDM and the districts should make this work.

The Minister observed that in covid 19 pandemic, ICT has helped in some aspects including zoom meeting, data analysis which in existence but also expressed concern on the impact of COVID-19 on the girl child with numerous cases of defilement and teenage pregnancy, a precarious situation that calls for urgent attention as their future is doomed. She appealed for support towards a better future for teenagers and especially the girl child.

She ended by asking the participants to think of and suggest new strategies of implementing future programmes including NURI that should be cost efficient and sustainable and subsequently declared the meeting open.

2.2 Remarks from RDE

The head of RDE team expressed his gratitude to the Chief guest for her dedication towards the IMC all the way from Kitgum to West Nile and the time she committed to both meetings. He expressed love for NURI and the WAY programmes saying the results were on the ground. Farmers' realization of increased productivity and resilience is not an easy task but NURI programme is already achieving it. He reiterated that the farmer groups and Extension Officers were working hard in the field.

The head of RDE team stated that NURI programme is implemented in close collaboration with the DLGs an approach of service delivery he considered effective to secure solutions to local challenges. He further reported that NURI programme contributes more directly to the government policy on refugee protection. He noted with concern poverty statistics reflecting higher numbers of women, adolescents and youth as the most affected and whose plight needs special attention that the WAY programme is contributing to. He reported that RDE is in the process of preparing the next country programme and expecting to hear ideas from participants to inform the next strategy and second phase of NURI programme much as it is in early stages. He also hoped to see the activities in the field.

3.0 Review of action points from the first IMC meeting

The National Programme Coordinator took participants through progress in implementation of the action points and recommendations from the previous IMC meeting. A matrix of the key observations and recommendations made and actions taken by CF or responsible IUs were provided. This submission was meant to inform stakeholders on significance of the recommendations and implications to the programme.

4.0 Presentations on Implementation Progress

The presentations included achievements under the three strategic interventions from on-set of NURI to date, challenges encountered, recommendations and lessons learnt. Consolidated presentations were made on CSA, RI and Water Resources Management for the seven districts. The DLGs as key stakeholders also made presentations on findings and recommendations informed by their quarterly monitoring visits conducted.

The breakdown of the different presentations is listed below;

1. CSA updates (Programme Manager – AFARD): Consolidated presentation of progress in South West Nile districts of Arua, Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach, Madi-Okollo, Terego and Koboko districts)
2. Rural Infrastructure and Water Resources Management updates (Project Manager-Project Support – DRC West Nile South) covering all the 07 districts listed above. The WRM presentations submitted by DRC was inclusive of updates from the Upper Nile Water Management Zone (UNWMZ).
3. DLG updates (FPO Zombo) – Presentation on findings of quarterly DLG monitoring visits in all the 07 districts of West Nile South.

4.1 Key highlights in the different presentations submitted;

a) CSA (Output 1)

- The implementation context was characterized by weather variability, incidence of COVID-19 and preventive restrictions, fluctuation of produce prices and generally low economic activities.
- CSA interventions have reached out to 1,469 farmer groups; 929 new nationals and 540 refugee groups (34% in Lower South, 13% Koboko & 53% in greater Arua) with total membership 41,416 households, average number per household is 28. 410 of the 1,469 groups are successful groups from the previous programme (DAR 3) selected
- Support to the 410 old groups constitutes extension service and special projects using a 50% co-funding model for all except tree planting beneficiary groups whose support was entirely funded by the programme.
- Strategic crops selected include beans, cassava, sesame, soybean, potato, groundnuts, onions and maize while field crops grown by refugee groups include; groundnuts, maize, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes and sesame.
- All groups have undergone training in Climate Smart Agriculture with overall average attendance of 16 members per session. More female members (67%) attended the trainings compared to males (33%).
- Only rice and maize demonstration field yielded slightly higher than the regional averages due to unfavorable weather, pest and disease infestation and post-harvest losses.
- Total land under different enterprises has been increasing over the period 2019 – 2021. Highest increase is registered in beans and lowest in rice.
- Total production for each enterprise has been increasing over the period 2019 – 2021. Cassava, a major food crop in the region has shown the biggest rise in production.

- There has been increase in quantities of produce sold with varying proportions of produce marketed.
- Cassava was the highest contributor to HH income followed by rice. There is overall steady growth in HH income realized over the years
- 84.3% of new national farmers reported having learnt at least 3 new practices from the CSA training sessions while 62.3% of refugee groups reported the same.
- CSA training duration reported as appropriate with good timing and following the cropping calendar according to at least 91% of the new national farmers and 82% of the refugee groups while the sessions considered 78% of new national and refugee farmer groups according to the Adoption study report in Acholi/South West Nile and a draft report for the same for North West Nile.
- Improved agricultural production knowledge reported by at least 63.9% of the farmer groups including use of improved seeds by 70% and PHH techniques by 72%
- 05 cooperatives formed to date.
- 1,180 (80%) of farmer groups supported with VSLA training and financial literacy
- Total savings in the region stands at Ugx 2,829,574,800, loans worth Ugx 4,819,867,900 with 48% borrowed for agricultural purpose.

b) RI (Output 2)

- 360 Parish Development Plans in 56 sub counties revalidated
- 720 RI projects worth Ugx. 14,090,552,245 approved for implementation in 07 districts including Rhino camp and Imvepi refugee settlements
- Site dialogue meetings facilitated by local leaders held prior to project implementation, followed by signing of voluntary land donation forms
- A total of 2,800 PMC members formed and trained to manage public works groups
- 70% of approved 720 RI projects have been completed
- 898 PMCs established and trained for implementation of WRM projects

c) WRM (Output 3)

- 2,790 beneficiaries registered to participate in implementation of WRM projects with females constituting majority of participants
- 158/238 WRM projects including green roads for water, food forests, valley tank, protected springs and soil/water conservation projects are on-going representing 51.7%
- PUC established and 2581 members trained to maintain the RI and WRM projects upon completion and handover.

b) Challenges and recommendations

	Issues	Recommendations
CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Pandemic • Difficulty in marketing especially in times of bumper harvest • High price expectations and side selling • Limited access to land in some areas – refugees • Unreliable weather • Anxiety amongst staff due to right sizing; some already on the look out • Limited access to financial services for VSLA groups in some areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage staff to take up voluntary testing for COVID 19 and vaccination • Support to the cooperatives formed to enable stability and growth (logistics, capacity building, etc). • Future programming should consider some basic inputs especially seed at individual households • Budget support is needed for new administrative units.
RI and WRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance by the community to offer their land for project implementation, which was most evidenced in semi urban areas. This halted or delayed commencement of public works in some projects. • The unfavourable weather conditions during the month of July and August when it was hot, hardened the soils for establishment and maintenance of food forests. • Covid 19 pandemic restrictions delayed implementation of project activities especially training of the PMC and PUC • The heavy rains experienced at the beginning of the wet season affected construction of water ponds • Maintenance of created infrastructures is still a challenging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team is carrying out site dialogue meetings in order to mitigate land conflict issues. • The staff halted activities until rains soften the ground for transplanting of seedlings and carrying out of food forest maintenance activities. • DRC provided the community groups with Covid 19 mitigation items e.g soap and hand washing stations. Also encouraged community groups to observe social distancing and working in small groups. • Continuous sensitization on need to do maintenance of created assets.

c) **Lessons learnt during the implementation**

CSA

- The use of the household planning approach enhances household development
- Crashing variegated grasshoppers and making a solution out of them to spray crops will stop their activity in soybeans
- Use of rough sand to fight fall army worms proved potentially effective to maize farmers
- Integration of PMP-VSLA methodologies in CSA enhances the achievement of production and household goals
- Partnership with research institutions enhanced knowledge transfer and build capacity of the NURI extension staff e.g NARO, MAAIF
- Talents and expertise identification within the program accelerated knowledge transfer in-house
- Engaging refugees as trainers in VSLA enhances participation amongst the refugee communities

RI/WRM

- The inclusion of warning signs on all the water ponds helped to discourage children from swimming in the water ponds.
- Creation of bigger water structures for recharging of springs, flood control and keeping the roads motorable throughout the year.
- With good cooperation, districts have been lending heavy equipment, e.g. graders and sit on rollers to DRC for the construction of projects.

5.0 Presentation on WAY program by UNFPA and CARE

UNFPA secured Danida funds for WAY program. The aim is to improve SRHR and contribute to the socio-economic development. The program is working in refugee hosting districts and a lot has been achieved including with NURI. During sensitization of new leaders emphasized, there was emphasis on the fact that you cannot empower communities without working with livelihood partners. UNFPA and CARE will continue to pursue this.

Appreciated comments from RDE on NURI and WAY programs as these complement each other. The workplan for 2022 was being prepared to ensure more is achieved. Also appreciated the Local Leaders for their support as they are instrumental in the success of the program.

CARE reported that in the WAY program they handle Gender, SRHR and GBV and they deliver this through the districts where they have trained 826 staff including DLGs of which 406 are from NURI and the CBTs, 250 from 30 CSOs trained. CARE noted good reception of the program by the farmers and staff with improved attendance by farmer representatives.

In terms of impact, some women who are the majority in the groups have testified benefiting from the program. NURI staff have indeed a lot of work and limited time to handle this activity such that CARE moved to sensitize the group leaders so that NURI staff mainly handle referrals. Since NURI is scaling down, it was important the districts already start taking lead. CARE noted there was another program called ANSWER which covers other parts.

6.0 Workshop to reflect on the future of NURI programme

Prior to reactions, RDE led a consultative workshop to collect input and reflections with regards to the future of NURI programme. The questions posed during the workshop were based on the new Danish Development Strategy which emphasizes engagements within the thematic areas of green development and irregular migration. In order to maximize output of the workshop and active participation, the online tool slido.com was used. RDE will analyze the collected data and share a report with the workshop participants when ready.

7.0 Feedback from the Field Visits

The second day of the meeting was for field visits. Six groups were formed and each team moved to a different sub-county. During the visits the teams interacted with farmer groups that have participated in CSA activities and local community members who participated in rural infrastructure projects. The interaction included discussions of tasks, accomplishments, challenges and recommendations proposed by the beneficiaries, committees and local authorities. The teams gave reports from their field visits and below are some facts and issues noted below:

Group 1. Oluko Sub County

1. Riki market: Its construction expected to cost Ugx. 50 million. It is fenced with chain link, gate house and 2 stances VIP latrine with urinal constructed. Construction of temporary stalls by individuals found on going. Construction of temporary stalls on-going by individuals

Issue: Butchery on-going inside the market and on bare ground and needs to be relocated. It is void of stalls and merchandize store. Community should be mobilized by the leaders to revive the market. An old fence standing in the market should be removed.

2. Ewasindeewaku Farmer Group: Group planted 1.5 acres of NAROCAS1 cassava in July 2021, 01 acre intercropped with maize and half acre in pure stand on rented land. Spacing of cassava was 1mx1m. They have recently done weeding. Group members have a saving of 4,462,700/= expected to be shared out in March, 2022.

Issues: The maize was intercropped at grain filling stage, soil and water conservation structures opened along the slope that will instead aid erosion

3. Ariapi to Orivu Health Centre Community Access Road (CAR): A 1.6Km road whose total cost is Ugx. 64million. It has helped to ease access to services from Health Centre, Churches and Education institutions. Travel time for health services according to the community has since reduced from 1 hr to 15minutes.

Issues: The road is bushy, valley areas seem to have settled in, necessitating more materials to backfill and need for final inspection before commissioning.

Group 2. Visit to Vura sub county:

1. Tiva CSA farmer group: The group has 35 members; 8 male, 27 Female (2 male youth, 3 Female youth, 1 PWD and 2 PLWHIV). It started in 2019. They grow beans (NABE 15) and received trainings on CSA, GAP, VSLA and SRHR. They have a production and marketing plan aiming to produce 78 bags of beans in 03 years.

Issues: Use of rudimentary tools for land opening, VSLA saving cycle pushes action audit to festive period that is tempting and inadequate storage facilities.

2. Vurra S.S. Food Forest; A 03 acre food forest located in Vurra subcounty, Tilevu parish, Vurra ss village. It was planted in August 2020, with various spices for medicines, food, Timber, wood fuel. Survival rate is 90% and they planned to do gap filling. It has perimeter fence to protect the food forest.

Issues: There were no water harvesting structures like smile berms and bio-swales, rampant incidence of termites, crop types planted in the food forest not ideal due to growth patterns.

3. Okugani protected spring: A spring located in Ombavu Village, Anzuru Parish, Vurra sub county was constructed on 31st July 2020 with a purpose of increasing access to safe water, by a group of 15 group members and a contractor. It's the only spring in the village, used by over 1,000 households and yields 20 liters per minute.

Issues: Resistance by Landlord to offer land for tree growing around the spring. The yield of the spring significantly reduces in dry season. In wet season, the water comes dirty/contaminated. The barbed wire fence used to secure the spring is inadequate hence the need for live fence.

Group 3. Visit to Ajia subcounty

1. Pope John Paul Ocoko Catholic- Food Forest/ Wood Lot: 3 acres of food forest established by 1 group of 30 members in 2020 season A. It is dominated by plantation trees, mainly pine, at roughly 80% and a few fruit trees. Survival is about 80% and the church has already taken over maintenance.

Issues: Missing soil and water conservation structures, demand to plant more trees outweighs what DRC was set to offer. Fencing is partially done hence exposing the young trees to browsing.

2. Opiio high land FG: The group with 30 members (16 male and 14 female) started in 2017. They were enrolled in NURI in 2019. They are producing soya beans (Maksoy 3N). They are active in VSLA. The group bought rice huller through a link with Local government and complemented efforts with 30Kgs of NABE15 from Operation Wealth Creation. Members are active in SRHR activities including use of family planning methods.

Issues: Lack of storage facilities since their produce volume is fast increasing. Limited knowledge of members on market prospects.

3. Ombatini Chapel to Ariwa 4.2 Km Car Road Project: The task involved 4 groups that worked for 02 days though public works in reality consumed more time rocky. The CAR has eased accessibility to market, church, hospital quarry site etc.

- *Issues: Section of the road found already bushy. Section of the road found already bushy. Need for additional CAR within the PDPs (Iwa-Ombaderuku, Iwa-Oluko). A burrow pit from which DRC ferried materials remained open and a safety hazard. The wage rate is quite low despite there being no provision for lunch.*

Group 5: Visit to Odupi Sub county

1. Ocea Trading Center – Katiku – Ariwa Road link (6.5 Km): The road connects three settlement zones/villages of Ocea, Katiku & Ariwa. It is an access route for the Community to the Market, Katiku Primary School, Katiku Early Childhood Development Center and Ariwa Primary School. It has some features for Water conservation as follows; bio-swales,

smiley berms, tree planting, perma gardens and water pond to be established at the valley along the road link.

Issues: Works delayed by too much rainfall. Significant bottle neck of a valley that is challenging to work in. Around Ocea Trading Center, there is no Road reserve and therefore impossible to have off shots for drainage. The place is so sandy that the Culverts that are installed keep sinking down with time. The community members complained of late delivery of tools for doing road works and delayed payment for the works done. They recommended stone pitching at the entrance of the road at Ocea trading center, sign posts to control traffic flow due to presence of many children within the center, gravelling along the road since the place is sandy, river training up and down stream and proposed that groups are paid daily for works done.

2. Arawuga Water Pond (Small Valley Tank)

Issues: There is too much Sand in the area which may cause silting of the Water Pond, dry season might easily affect the water volume. The Community members complained of delayed payment for as long as 04 months. Recommendations include planting of grass around the water pond to control erosion, use of top loamy soil to support establishment of cover grass that ought to be irrigated.

3. Loketa farmers Group: This Group has 35 Members (15 female Nationals, 10 male Nationals and 10 Refugees). It is promoting groundnuts and cassava.

Issues: Periodic occurrence of drought that keeps destabilizing them. Termites are posing a big threat due to the rampant dry spell. Some group members have negative attitude towards group work. They reported overwhelming demand for seeds and poor quality of cassava cuttings procured for the group by the programme.

8.0 Issues and Recommendations

Following the field visits and plenary, a final question and answer session ensued on the two days of interaction and field findings as recorded in the table below; in addition, RDE prepared back to office from IMC meeting and also highlighted some issues which have been captured.

Issue	Recommendation	Responsibility	Time frame
Food forests established in considerate of growth patterns of woody trees, fruits and shrubs. Most were found lacking the water retention structures. The composition of fruit trees pretty low	Food forests should be implemented by CSA partners and quality assurance for fruit trees done by District Agriculture Officers	NURI-CF	2022
Cash for Work payments over delay, sometimes up to 04 months which is causing dissatisfaction. Groups that complete their works earlier are compelled to wait before payment Wage rates considered to be too low compared to what is paid by other programmes and a request to increase daily wage rate from Ugx. 6,000 to Ugx. 10,000	Public works groups should be informed of payment schedules prior to onset of works	DRC	2021 - 2022
	Variation in cash transfer rates is quite complex and should be discussed at higher coordination platforms	DRC/CF/RDE	2022
	To the extend possible, DRC should address the issue of delayed payments as an urgent issue	DRC	2021 - 2022
Sustainability of NURI infrastructure investments remain a challenge. Some established projects are not being maintained. Several Community Access Roads have already been established while majority are poorly maintained. NURI is adding more produce stores while others are not being used. Using "Salongo" as a means of maintenance was rejected as not a good practice. Involvement of stakeholders is important and this was evident in food forests. In Ocoko it was doing well because the Priest was involved while in Vurra and Ombachi it was poor	Going forward, NURI programme should focus on sustainability as a top priority	NURI-CF/DRC	2022
	Post completion management plans should be prepared for all completed projects before commissioning and handover	NURI-CF/DRC	2022 or upon certification of projects
	Six months after commissioning, each project should undergo a post completion evaluation	NURI-CF/DRC	2022
	The viability of RI/WRM projects should be properly assessed before approval	DRC	2021-2022 and prior to DTPC approval
	NURI should work with DLGs to disseminate and upscale O&M models e.g. the example of Atego sub county and also conduct studies on sustainable approaches that should be adopted in NURI Involve institutional Heads for the case food forests, bring teachers on board	NURI-CF/DRC/DLGs	2022

Some communities reported unfilled burrow pits that are health and safety hazards to them	Open burrow pits assessment will be done and filled and levelled or converted into water ponds	DRC	2021 – quarter 1 of 2022
Action audit around the end of year has risk of money being spent on festivities	The timing of action audit should be regulated	NURI-CF	2022
Recurrent challenges of access to input quality. E.g; Delivery of potato seeds centrally procured by CF over delayed Some groups received poor quality cassava cuttings that were rejected	The programme should ensure timely procurement of inputs and some farmer groups trained into Local Seed Business (LSB) units Action was taken on the supplier and was fined.	NURI-CF	2022
A lot of produce sales has been registered. A list of off-takers in the region be shared so would be necessary to foster networks for collective marketing. NURI does linking of farmers and buyers but main complaint is commodity pricing	Consolidated profile of off-takers to be generated and shared with RDE Farmers have fixed mind on post prices and there is need to bring them to appreciate price dynamics – mindset change	AFARD/Arua DFA	2022
Members appreciated the stores constructed but note aware of trainings conducted to operationalize them	Increase involvement of DLGs especially commercial office in training of groups and marketing activities	All IPs	Continuous
Statistics of NURI programme beneficiaries reflects more support directed to nationals whilst the recommended proportion of assistance for refugees should be higher (70%) as opposed to nationals (30%)	There is popular request for extension of NURI programme beyond 2022 Expand host community to increase land access to the refugees which is important factor in production	RDE	
Societal issues: We should be intentional about men. We are ignoring men and yet they are a serious challenge. There were high teenage pregnancies and defilement cases mainly perpetuated by men. Men were saving low in VSLAs and this has a mindset change implication	There is need for more research on how the participation of men in development programmes can be improved.		

Participants were impressed with data presented however in terms of yield gap why are the NURI yield averages low and not higher than the regional averages in terms of productivity? What is behind those numbers? Something to think about.	The programme's progress should be compared with performance indicators at baseline and target of the indicators at endline	NURI-CF	2022
Is it correct that cassava is a profitable enterprise in the region besides being a food security crop?	Subsequent procurements to be localized upon quality assurance by relevant authorities to increase market value of cassava	All CSA partners	2022
Since the shift of the financing of DLG monitoring to DRC, there are gaps in consistence of monitoring due to delays in financing the activity. DRC should share notes on DLG monitoring with Arua DFA for improvement.	There is need for timely execution of this activity in all districts and reports promptly shared	DLG-FPOs and all IPs/NURI-CF	2022
There are numerous NURI funded investments within Arua city that should be given attention	Intensify sensitization of user communities Work with Arua DFA and DLG to ensure work is completed and learn from it	NURI-CF	2022
The venues for subsequent IMC meetings should be rotated for the committee to have a reasonable insight		NURI-CF	2022
The meeting observed delays in implementation of some DCB activities like procurement of tools/equipment, career and skills training enrolment due to COVID-19 restrictions.	There is need to review and implement revised DCB plans	NURI-CF	February, 2022
	There is need to fast track pending procurements including ownership transfer of 11 motorcycles and 02 vehicles for Koboko district	RDE/NURI-CF	December, 2021
NURI programme is well aligned to the Parish Development Model that needs to be supported and communities mobilized to embrace it. OPM is pilot Parish Development	The next phase of NURI should be aligned to all 07 pillars of the PDM	RDC	2022 going forward
	NURI's outreach be used to mobilize communities for PDM	NURI-CF	2022 going forward

Association and Zombo was one of them. More districts expected in Acholi			
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9.0 Closure of the Meeting

The PMA appreciated all participants and the NPC or moderating the meeting. She pledged that all the comments have been recorded for follow up to ensure attention to address them. More support can affect geographical coverage.

She noted that performance of NURI is due to adequate field presence of its staff including DRC staff and Extension staff who move the tasks.

The meeting was officially closed the Head of RDE team who thanked all members present for the time dedicated to the meeting and field visits. He expressed gratitude for the commitment exhibited by the Minister towards the two IMC meetings in Acholi and West Nile.

He confirmed being impressed by the quality of the presentations made by NURI and the groups visited as well as collaborative efforts within the programme. He pledged to continue with consultations for ideas to inform the next phase of NURI programme and asked the DLGs for continued cooperation. He said RDE loves NURI because of the good collaboration saying you can achieve more.

ANNEXES

I. ANNEX 1: PROGRAMME OF IMC MEETING IN ARUA

IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING PROGRAMME – South West Nile

Venue: Desert Breeze Hotel, Arua

Date: 25 – 26/11/2021

Purpose:

To monitor implementation progress of NURI programme activities in Northern Uganda including for Refugees

Objectives:

1. To provide updates on achievement of planned implementation activities in Northern Uganda including for refugees (January 2019 to date)
 2. To validate results of implemented activities through programme site/beneficiary visits
 3. To make recommendations for improvement of programme implementation
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DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	Lead person
24/11/2021	9:00am – 6:00pm	Travel to Arua from Kitgum	NURI Senior Driver
DAY 1 25/11/2021	8:00 – 8:30am	Registration of participants	NURI FAO/FAA
	8:30 – 9:00am	Welcome & introduction of participants	NURI M&E
	9:00 – 9:15am	Official welcome into the host district	LC5 Arua
	9:15 – 9:30am	Official opening of the meeting	Representative from RDE
	9:30 – 10:30am	CSA Updates South West Nile (Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo)	PM AFARD
	10:30 – 11:00am	TEA BREAK	NURI FAO/FAA
	11:00 – 11:30am	Reactions to CSA updates	NURI NPC/M&E
	11:30 – 12:30 noon	RI/WRM Updates South West Nile including Koboko	PMS, DRC
	12:30 – 1:00pm	Reactions to RI/WRM updates	NURI NPC/M&E
	1:00 – 2:00pm	LUNCH BREAK	NURI FAO/FAA
	2:00 -2:30pm	DLG updates greater South + reaction (Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko)	FPO – Arua
	2:30 – 3:00pm	DLG updates lower South + reaction (Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo)	FPO – Zombo
	3:00 – 4:30pm	NURI Future- Group work (brain storming)	RDE

	4:30 – 5:00pm	General reactions about NURI	NURI NPC/M&E
	5:00 - 5.30pm	Evening tea	NURI FAO/FAA
	6:00 – 7:30pm	Cocktail (at Desert Breeze)	NURI HRC
DAY 2 26/11/2021	8:00 - 8.30am	Participant’s registration & reporting	NURI FAO/FAA
	8:30 – 9:00am	Early break tea & organizing for field trip	NURI NPC/RCs/M&E/IPs
	9:00 – 9:30am	Travel to the field	NURI NPC/RCs/M&E/IPs
	9:30 – 1:00pm	Field excursion	NURI NPC/RCs/M&E/IPs
	1:00 – 2:00pm	Travel back from field	NURI NPC/RCs/M&E/IPs
	2:00 – 3:00pm	LUNCH BREAK	NURI FAO/FAA
	3:00 – 4:45pm	Feedback from the field excursion	NURI NPC & M&E
	4:45 – 5:00pm	Official closure	LC5 Nebbi
	5:00 – 5:30pm	Evening tea and closure	NURI FAO/FAA

II. ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MEETING

S/N	Participant category	Number	Comments
1	Ambassador and staff from RDE	3	Ambassador to be represented by staff from RDE
2	Representatives from Line ministries	6	MoFPED, OPM, MoWT, MoLG, MWE, MAAIF
3	CRRF Secretariat	1	CRRF
4	UNFPA/Care	2	
5	RDO- Rhinocamp & Imveppi settlements	1	1 covering South West Nile
6	UNWMZ – Lira	3	
7	District Local Council Chairpersons	7	Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Terego
8	Chief Administrative Officers	7	Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Terego
9	District Production Officers	7	Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Terego
10	District Engineers	7	Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Terego
11	District Focal Point Officers	6	Arua, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo
12	DRC Management	6	Arua & Country Office
13	IP Management	7	ARUDIFA, AFARD, PICOT
14	NURI CF	10	Kampala, Moyo, Arua, Kitgum
	Total	73	

III. ANNEX 3: SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS IMC MEETING HELD IN ARUA

1. Actions / plans in addressing recommendations for IMC meeting of 2020

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)				
Sn	Observations /Findings	Recommendations	Actions	Status
1	<p>Need to ensure synergy among the three outputs of NURI.</p> <p>Partners focus exclusively on their outputs and yet the community should benefit from all the interventions.</p>	<p>Need to improve on the partnership between RI/WRM and CSA partners.</p> <p>Mobilization and guiding farmers near projects to use of water for production.</p>	<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 me
2	<p>A practical on-farm training on soil and water (moisture) conservation to avert adverse weather effects.</p>	<p>NURI CF and DRC should consider organizing such trainings.</p> <p>Introduce participatory planning.</p> <p>Utilization of created structures e.g. mitres/drainage structures</p>	<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 Utilization of the indigenous traditional knowledge in planning Training on soil and water conservations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 CSA staff attended the training and this wa cascaded to all the units. ✓ 13 CSA staff & 13 farmers selected to attend training ✓ Consultations and sharing of the weather for guide implementation

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 AEO general extension advise (3rd year farmer gro
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 o 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	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff trained at Ngetta ZARDI covered seed multiplication for most of the crops. Most of promoted are not cross pollinated.

		support on quality declared seeds.	line with applicable seed multiplication regulations.	
7	CSA Training, Areas observed to need strengthening: appropriate use of soil and 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	CSA training should address the issues observed and promote the appropriate application of the general principles of CSA.	<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 extensions ✓ Technical trainings organized with external technical experts on a 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	<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 all units ✓ Most procurement and distribution handled by local IPs/Units. ✓ Team building done

	information, and land fragmentation			
9	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 where the bidders are taken through requirement/specifications. Partners/IUs to emphasize procurement of cultivars from certified local source to allow close inspection of quality throughout 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 s only delivered when approved
RI/CSA				
10	Land disputes affecting project implementation. Land disputes was mentioned as one of the key challenges in both the implementing units and the local government reports.	NURI CF, implementing units & participating Local Governments take extra measures moving forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site dialogue meetings conducted before group formation • Signing of voluntary land donation forms by landlords and Sub county local authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implemented and ongoing in all project sites

11	<p>Compliance with sector norms, guidelines and standards. A member was of the view that the DLGs were more involved during project approval processes but less during project implementation.</p>	<p>NURI CF and DRC always involve the DLG in all stages of the project cycle, i.e. from identification, design/specification, approval, implementation, monitoring and supervision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the DTPCs and LLG in monitoring and supervision of projects. • DLGs/LLGs submit work plans for monitoring and supervision in advance for facilitation. 	<p>✓ Implemented and ongoing across all DLGs/L</p>
12	<p>Support for WRM. NURI has a target to support integrated WRM in 8 micro-catchments spread across the programme area</p>	<p>MWE/UNWMZ prepares and shares quarterly progress reports for the integrated water resources management output with NURI CF, the RDE and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRC shares quarterly report with UNWMZ for consolidation and submission to CF 	<p>✓ Implemented and ongoing</p>
13	<p>Quality assurance. According to some LGs report, some inputs supplied by NURI were either of poor quality or not well adapted to the local agro-ecological environment (tree seedlings).</p>	<p>This should be addressed by DRC and NURI CF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree seedlings procured locally from within the districts/regions. • Water quality test conducted before and after construction. • Testing of samples of materials e.g sand, murram, aggregates and culverts 	<p>✓ Implemented and ongoing</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of district water dept. and MoWT. • All structures constructed and installed are certified by the DE before any payment effected. 	
14	Low participation of women. Fewer women participated in the PDPs revalidation exercises especially during farming season since women are mostly engaged in farming than their male counter parts.	Continuous sensitization on the importance of equal participation by both males and females in the project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with community with emphasis on gender participation and youth. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2,564 (Female 1,288 & Male 1,276. ✓ Women taking up leadership. ✓ Group formation ✓ Cash payment in Acholi 17,031(Female 8,856 & 8,175)
15	Status of the CARs: Inaccessible Roads and Sustainability / maintenance of roads opened	Spot gravel slippery surfaces Hand tools after public works to sub counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close consultation with the DLGs in harmonization of specifications. • Regular joint monitoring and supervision of projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swamp raising e.g. in Akwang, Arinyapi etc • RD to direct water for production ✓ Spot gravelling done
Cross cutting CSA and RI/WRM				
16	Synergy with other programmes. NURI farmers can benefit from complementary programs in	Responsibility for follow up lies in the units and DLGs DRC should involve the agriculture extensions officers, CDOs and LCs right	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exit meetings for Old groups were conducted groups shared with LLGs. ✓ Coordination meetings held





	<p>the Districts in production and marketing.</p> <p>CSA IU to work closely with DRC to sensitize land owners to the potential value of water run-off for production when they refuse construction of mitre drains / offshoots into their fields.</p>	<p>from project planning and through implementation.</p>	<p>programmes including DINU, DRDIP etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint radio talk shows, joint site dialogue meetings and combined programs for joint sensitizations already drawn to start in Feb, 2021. Both CSA & RI staff shall move together to accomplish these activities. 	<p>✓ Commissioning and equipping the stores accomplished jointly with all stakeholders</p>
17	<p>The poor mind set of beneficiaries: Farmer group members and community beneficiaries focusing on hand-outs.</p>	<p>Continuous sensitization of the farmer groups right from selection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURI and DLGs should take this up as they engage with farmers 	<p>✓ Continuous activity and Ongoing</p>

IV. ANNEX 4: ATTENDANCE LIST

NURI ILMU MEETING AT DESERT BREEZE HOTEL ARUA (Day 2 on 26/11/2021)						
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Angasthane Peter	DMC	DRIVER	0794232735		
APHEW RICHARD	NATIONAL ACADEMY	DRIVER	075561855		
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V. ACTIVITY PHOTOS



Figure 1 Visiting a FG store project in Arua



Figure 2 Visiting to WRM project in Terego

