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**NURI**

**Danlda**

# **Minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> NURI Implementation Monitoring Committee Meeting Held in Kitgum 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> /11/2021.**

**Prepared by the NURI Coordination  
Function**

**17/12/2021**

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# **MINUTES**

## **1. Introduction**

NURI Coordination Function planned the IMC meetings in close collaboration with RDE, NURI IPs and RAUs. The meetings were divided into two sittings, 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 Kitgum was held from 22 – 23/11/2021 at Kitgum district local government council hall. It was attended by representatives from the RDE, representatives from line ministries (MAAIF, MoFPED, MoLG, MWT, MWE, MGLSD, OPM), UNWMMZ- Lira, RDOs representing the refugee settlements, representatives from the DLG technical and political wings (Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Adjumani, Moyov and Obongi), representatives from the IPs (DRC, Care International), representatives from RAUs (Kitgum/Lawmo, Agago, Adjumani and Moyo/Obongi), representatives from UNFPA and NURI CF.

Important to note is that the Kitgum meeting was graced and fully attended by the Ambassador of Denmark in Uganda his excellency Ambassador Nicolaj Abraham H. Peterson, the Honorable Minister of State for Northern Uganda Ms Grace Freedom Kwiyoowiny and Parliamentary Affairs Commissioner for Northern Uganda. A detailed list is provided in the annex.

## **2. Welcome and Presentation of Participants.**

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 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.

## **3. Official Welcome to the Host District by LC 5 Chairperson.**

The LC 5 Chairperson Kitgum district recognized all the participants present in their various capacities and welcomed them to his district. He gave big thanks for such an important meeting taking place in his district. He said Kitgum district appreciates support from NGOs noting that in Uganda, contribution of NGOs is looked at in terms of advocacy of policy matters, support in areas of development among others.

On NURI program in Kitgum district, it has been able to improve the resilience of people by increasing agricultural production and access to financial services. NURI targets youth and women who were the marginalized in the community. As leaders we recognize that NURI program contributes to better livelihood in the district.

He noted that a meeting such as IMC helps to streamline monitoring, identifies challenges and provides recommendations to RDE for improvement of the program. He hoped that the outcome should lead to an impact in the district and program in general.

He reiterated that his district will provide conducive environment for the NURI operations. Finally, he concluded his remarks by declaring the meeting officially opened.

#### **4. Official remarks at the Meeting by the RDE Ambassador**

These were remarks made by the RDE Ambassador at Kitgum IMC meeting reproduced.

- The Minister of State for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation and Development, Hon. Grace Kwiycwiny
- District Chairpersons
- Resident District Commissioners
- Chief Administrative Officers
- District Technical Officers,
- NURI and WAY Partners
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to join you all for this year's Implementation Monitoring Committee (what you commonly refer to as the IMC) meetings.

A warm welcome to Hon. Grace Kwiycwiny, Minister of State for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation and Development to Kitgum to see the NURI and WAY programmes which are being supported by Government of Denmark. I know this is your ministerial area but I am very delighted to welcome you to this DANIDA funded programmes.

I would like to start by acknowledging the partners who are responsible for the implementation of these programmes namely, the NURI Secretariat and DRC for the NURI Programme and UNFPA and CARE for the WAY; and most importantly the District Local Governments and Ministry of Water and Environment who are guiding and overseeing the success of both Programmes.

Denmark has over the past decades supported different interventions in Uganda with specific support to Northern Uganda; particularly in the Health, Transport and Justice Sector. We have supported infrastructural development in Kitgum Government Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital and opened a number of access roads within the Acholi districts. These clearly demonstrates the close relation Denmark has with this Region.

The NURI is transforming the lives of farmer groups through transformative agriculture. The Programme, Hon. Minister is building on many years of support towards economic development in Northern Uganda. The programme has recruited extension workers in the field who train farmers with good farming technics, post-harvest management and marketing of their farm produce. Farming equipment and seeds were provided to the farmers. We have supported farmer groups and constructed access roads across the Acholi and West Nile sub regions. The farmers have formed VSLA groups and they support each other within their groups. Up to 60% of the NURI beneficiaries are female because they are the dominant labor force in agriculture. It is enhancing resilience and equitable economic development in the region for both refugees and host communities.

The WAY Programme which you will see tomorrow is empowering the youth and women to demand and seek their sexual and reproductive rights and services and supports prevention and management of GBV cases. The programme works with community structures in the implementation of SRHR services. We have role model men, women mentors, peer educators and teachers who are game changers in their communities. We know that enhancing women and young people's access and utilization of quality SRHR and GBV services are directly linked to health and economic empowerment. Through this Programme, women and young people are

empowered to live more healthy and productive lives and be able to contribute to their own development and to broader social changes in their communities.

The NURI and WAY Programmes which we are visiting this time are part of the current Country Programme 2018-2022 which we are in the process of extending to 2023. We have already commenced the development of our next Programme 2023-2027, focusing on Climate adaptation; refugees, rights and governance. Last year we conducted a mid-term review which was very successful and confirmed the relevance of the programmes. We anticipate to continue these programmes, basing on the lessons learned, additional priorities and consultations with the different stakeholders.

Hon. Minister we are very pleased that you launched these programmes in 2018 for the WAY in Arua and 2019 for the NURI in Lamwo respectively and you are now here to witness progress of the programmes. During both launches, the District Chairpersons made commitment to guide, support and oversee the implementations of the programmes. I am very pleased to confirm to you that the districts have lived their commitments and we are very happy with the very good collaboration the Partners, the Embassy have with the districts. Tomorrow when we go to the field, you will see the work on the ground and interact with some of the beneficiaries.

I want to end by once again thanking you Hon. Minister for offering to come and see our programmes, thank the district leaderships for the wonderful oversight roles you are playing for the successful implementation of these programmes and to you our partners for the great implementation work you are doing. We are very proud of you. I wish us all a beautiful IMC meeting and a great field visit tomorrow.

Thank you.

## **5. Official remarks from Minister of State Hon. Grace Kwiycwiny**

She thanked the RDE Ambassador H.E Nicolaj, officials from the Government Ministries present, DLGs and partners. She was happy to note that the leaders where the program was being implemented were present as they were part of where change was to happen.

The Minister appreciated NURI because it was a relevant program in the region. This is because northern Uganda is a host of so many refugees but also suffered from wars hence lagging behind in development. Figures from UBOS show high poverty rate in the region with Acholi having 68%. She wondered what was happening despite huge sums of money spent. On a positive note

though, data was beginning to show some improvement. Now the poor households reduced to 38% in Northern Uganda.

She asked, at the end of NURI's implementation (5 years), will it have contributed to poverty reduction in Northern Uganda? She noted that NURI is supporting Sustainable Development Goals, but will it reduce poverty after being implemented? She challenged the audience to be able to trace what the huge amount of money (250 million DKK) spent has done. Each extension staff has a motorcycle and they are over 200 which is not a small number. Thus, what impact have they created?

On sustainability, most programs suffer from this and is typical in DLGs. She said she has travelled in some of these roads that were worked on but they are not maintained. She wondered what the issue was. It was wasting time and resources. In some districts, they would show same projects to the donors, Government etc, saying what is this? She said NUSAF3 has developed national registry to avoid duplicating support to the same people and there was need to roll out this to the DLGs. In addition, a lot of support has come to northern Uganda but no impact. Furthermore, she said Government is beginning to bring the regional support with districts being key and ministries may change.

The Minister challenged the DLGs to perform better and already appreciate the mention of Parish Development Model (PDM) that Government is rolling out next financial year noting how such a program like NURI fits into it. The PDM is to train Parish staff and there were many other things that need to be done. She further reiterated that OPM was already implementing Parish Community association projects and it was being rolled maybe 3 parishes per district. She encouraged the leaders who lost in the recent elections since they are part of the community to be used in mobilisation and sensitization without putting payment.

On gender, she decried that a lot of girls during the covid 19 pandemic period had got pregnant, defiled, and raped for example in the greater Nebbi these were rampant. She encouraged the offenders to be arrested and prosecuted. It was alarming the future of the young girls was stopped whereby some have died, others were young mothers noting that our culture and even the law do not allow. With these events at play the future generation was lost.

On future program, if it was focused on refugees, they should be empowered e.g., trained so that they can start to earn a living. It should also have some agro-processing as most of the products in the north were sold raw compared to south of the country where processing it has

taken root. In addition, most youth were just idle on the roads unlike in the south. There should be PHH along the value chains upto industry level noting some crops to target were coffee, tea, cassava etc. On the other hand, Lira was ahead in Agro processing unlike other areas e.g., Gulu, Arua were nothing was happening. The Minister wants to see this in the next program and also women taking part. Women work together and are well coordinated and in line with the Government policy.

She concluded her remarks by emphasising the Government plan of reducing 39 % of the poor households and move people to the middle-income level economy. With this she wished the audience well in their discussions. Thank you.

## **6. Review of action points from previous IMC meeting.**

Action points from previous IMC meeting were presented by NPC so that members were able to see what has been done, see them in annex 5. It should be noted that a good of number of recommendations were implemented.

### Reactions to action points

- Action points should have been circulated in advance if members have to react well by the audience which was acknowledged.
- The CAO Moyo said the relationship between Obongi and Moyo which was previously was bad was now good. The two districts were working well. He also noted the CSA intervention under NURI program was good for PDM for the Government. Furthermore, VSLA was good for financial inclusion.
- The LC 5 Chairperson Adjumani appreciated Danish Government and NURI saying it was the biggest and quickest program in the region and requested for a successor one since NURI was about to end. NURI was benefiting the community directly. On humanitarian and development nexus he noted that the refugees do not have land and should be availed. He noted NURI should be integrated in the PDM of Government as well as the DLGs structures so that they move together. He appreciated DCB support of Danish Government where his District received motorcycles and vehicles much as some motorcycles number plates were missing which needed follow up.
- CARE specialist on Gender emphasised strengthening gender integration since a majority of



women were involved production. Then if production is increased, how is the quality of life? How is SRHR and voice of the farmers? He emphasised women's participation in leadership. By building on what has been achieved will lead to increased production, reduced GBV and quality of life.

## **7. Presentation on Implementation Progress.**

Presentations on the implementation progress included presentation of achievements under the different strategic interventions to date, challenges encountered and proposed recommendations. The presentations were made by the implementing partners for the 3 outputs, while District Local Governments gave reports of their monitoring and observations. UNFPA also made a short brief on the WAY program. These were given to participants in the memory sticks. Details of the presentations are below:

1. CSA updates- (Coordinator RAU Agago): Presentation of progress for Acholi Sub Region and North West Nile covering Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Adjumani, Moyo and Obongi districts and the settlements therein.
2. WAY program- (UNFPA) - Brief presentation on integration of WAY and NURI programs. CARE did not present due to time constraint.
3. RI and WRM updates - (DRC Project Manager): Presentation of progress for above six districts on the two outputs.
4. DLG updates (FPO Agago) - Presentation on the field findings during the quarterly monitoring by the DLGs for Acholi sub region.
5. DLG updates (FPO Adjumani) - Presentation on the field findings during the quarterly monitoring by the DLGs for North West Nile.

### **Key Achievements from the presentations for the 3 outputs:**

#### **a) Climate Smart Agriculture:**

- 2,508 Farmer groups (77,481 members) across the six districts were supported of which 36% were refugees in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi districts and 64% were nationals. By Gender representation; 68% females and 32% males while 35% were youth

- 345 old groups (selected from RDNUC) successfully completed their projects namely; tarpaulins, oil press machines, produce stores, apiary, maize mills and improved seeds and tree seedlings under co-funding arrangements and have been commissioned
- All new national farmer groups selected their enterprises and most commonly selected enterprises were Sesame (607), Soybean (489), sunflower (233), cassava (118) and groundnuts (126). On the other hand, the refugee groups both mixed and pure women had a variety of crops to select from.
- 44,853 farmer group members have attended CSA trainings across the six districts with females being 69% and males 31% with average attendance per group per session of 18
- 1,260 demonstrations were established across the six districts for two years however the yields were variable and lower than the research data.
- Production and marketing data for all groups was captured and analysed to gauge progress. None of the groups met their targets but data showed some improved in some variables analysed.
- On monitoring survey results; 84.3% of the new national farmers and 62.3% of refugee groups reported having learnt at least three new practices while 91% of the new national farmers and 82% of the refugee groups reported that the training was very good in terms of content and timeliness.
- In addition, 70% of farmer group members used improved seeds, while 68% of new nationals and 92% of refugee groups plant their crops in lines
- 1850 groups supported with VSLA where 55% are in North West Nile and 45% in Acholi and 36% for refugees. 20% have completed 1<sup>st</sup> cycle and 80% still in 1<sup>st</sup> cycle.
- Cumulative savings is about Ugx 3.9 billion (average per 2.1 million) and 32 groups linked to financial institutions. Average saving per member is ugx 83,400=, Average Loan per member is ugx 61,900=, Average agric. Loans per member is ugx 64,500= and Average saving per member for groups who completed 1<sup>st</sup> cycle is ugx 84,900=.
- The 4 RAUs employed in total 156 staff covering extension, VSLA and management
- UNFPA through CARE is implementing WAY program in the 6 districts and so far trained NURI CSA staff, CBTs and selected group leaders who supposed to sensitize the farmers.
- NURI and RAU Agago are piloting animal traction scheme through where 3 groups were linked with Talanta Microfinance to offer loans to the interested members.

**b) Rural Infrastructure:**

- Investment plans worth Ugx 11.4 billion were prepared and approved by DTTPCs in 6 districts and the refugee settlements following screening of selected projects by DRC and district technical teams guided by LC 1s and Parish Chiefs covering community access roads, woodlots, springs, water ponds and markets.
- Site dialogue meetings facilitated by local leaders, including parish chiefs, LC3 Chairpersons, sub-county Councilors, Sub- County Chiefs, LC II, LCI and opinion leaders were held and signing of voluntary land donation forms were done for all the projects
- Community groups around the project sites for cash for work were formed according to this criterion; 50% females, 60% as youth between 18 to 28 years and groups in refugee settlements should have; 50% host community and 50% refugees.
- 2,564 (1,276 males and 1,288 females) as Project Management Committees (PMCs) with 4 members per project (2 being women) were elected among the group members and trained on their roles. They served as work foremen for the members who were working on a project.
- Achievements by projects; 416 Km of roads, 168 food forests, 4 markets, 22 springs and 17 water ponds and completion is at 47%.
- Cash payment for cash for work beneficiaries was Ugx 2.1 billion for 17,031 participants (8,175 males and 8,856 females).
- DRC organized Resilience Design Approach training for DRC staff and district engineers in Nebbi in Nov/Dec 2020 above districts were beneficiaries.
- For sustainability of projects, DRC formed and trained 1,689 project user committees (978 males and 711 females)
- The RDE, NURI-CF, DEC, LIG, technical staff and officials carried out monitoring and support visits on the project activities.

**c) Water Resource Management:**

- Activities for 3 micro catchments are ongoing; in Kitgum, Adjumani and Obongi with one in Lamwo to be operationalized
- Just like rural infrastructure, 1,128 (582 males and 594 females) as Project Management Committees (PMCs) were elected among the group members and trained on their roles.
- Cash payment for beneficiaries was Ugx 965 million for 7,740 participants (3,691 males and 4,049 females).

- Achievements by projects; 15 road links (GR4W), 102 food forests, 13 springs and 15 water ponds and 6 soil and water conservation and completion is at 50.4%. A number of activities related to procurement have been initiated.
- DRC NURI staff 130 with key staff being 15 out of 16 filled while Implementation staff based in the 11 Field Offices are 115.

All the presentations stated above were given to the participants in memory sticks. In case you do not have send an e-mail to CF's Administrative Assistant, [angella.keneza@nuri.ag](mailto:angella.keneza@nuri.ag) who will be helpful. In addition, much of the information can also be found in the NURI reports that are usually circulated to the DLGs and NURI web site <https://nuri.ag/>

## **8. Getting ideas for future program**

The Denmark - Uganda country program is ending next year and RDE has started a process of getting new ideas for the next country program. NURI's input to Future Danish programme in Uganda was presented by Victor and Mikkel from RDE. This was intended to solicit ideas for new country program 2023 – 2027 to be prepared. A power point presentation was made followed by group work where participants with smart phones were linked to a portal where they posted their ideas based on the questions asked. In addition, prior to the meeting all participants were asked to give their ideas to the link; [NURI: Workshop in Kitgum \(padlet.com\)](https://padlet.com) and during the meeting participants who gave best ideas as per the criteria were awarded certificates. All the information generated by RDE will be synthesized and will continue to solicit for new ideas as the country program is being prepared.

More details on the presentation can be found in the documents shared in the memory stick.

## **9. Discussion of the Presentations**

The session on updates about implementation progress of CSA, rural infrastructure and water resource management as well as reports from DLGs was followed by discussions and reactions from the audience. Representatives from the DLGs expressed their satisfaction with the work done and the close cooperation with the NURI CF and its implementing partners. Generally, the DLGs appreciated the NURI and WAY programs, satisfied with the work done and requested RDE and NURI CF to come up with a successor program as these are due to end next year. They observed that the programme had created impact in the communities.

Many issues were raised with some as recommendations. NURI CF and partners will analyse and gauge who is responsible to address it. They have been summarised together with the issues and recommendations from the field visits and are presented in Section 10.

## **10. Feedback from Field Visits.**

The second day of the meeting was for field visits. Six teams were formed by the participants and each team moved to different sub-county or sub counties including Palabek refugee settlement. During the visits, the teams made observations and interacted with NURI beneficiaries that had participated in CSA and local communities that had participated in rural infrastructure and water resource management projects. The interaction included a discussion of challenges and way forward. The teams gave reports or observations from their field visits which are highlighted below. The key issues are jointly presented in section 10 with some recommendations / action points.

### **GROUP 1: A visit to Lalano and Kitgum Matidi sub counties - Kitgum District.**

**1: Community Access Road, Aparo to Corner Abicel Lalano sub county:** 5.9 Km Road which was under minor rehabilitation by 4 groups of 30 members each. The project is benefiting 03 sub counties (Kitgum Matidi Town council, Lalano and Lagoro sub counties. esp. access to hospital, schools and for transportation of produce to markets.

***Issues:** Work rate of 25 days at 6,000 per day per person was low, no trees at road sides, no resilience design structures. Alcoholism in males, teenage pregnancies and no protective gears and first aid kits for groups.*

**2: WAY project at Kitgum Matidi T/C offices:** Two categories; Role Model Men (RMM) and Women mentors (WM ) were met. The role model Men and Women mentors were selected on merit by the community members. Each RMM selected supports 10 households on GBV, Family planning issues etc. For Women mentors, 03 females are selected per parish and each supports 30 (15 girls aged 10-19 and 15 women aged 20-45 years. RMM and WM are advocating against teenage pregnancies, create awareness on Condom use, and promote dialogue among youths.

***Issues:** High teenage pregnancy rates, separate trainings for Men and Women, transport is difficult, high level of alcoholism by men, delayed payment, more refresher training and IEC*

*materials. Women did not speak during these visits and yet they have and again many women were carrying babies unlike men and these are program issues.*

**3: Two farmer groups (Jing koma and Niang nok) visited:** The groups are engaged in sunflower and sesame production. There were 4 acres of sunflower demonstration gardens for different varieties (04) established. Sunflower well planted in straight and clear lines. Individual members planted total of 40 acres. Constructed a small store with a capacity of 9 tonnes produce and filled with produce. There WAY program integration in the two groups. Such groups be supported with tractors.

*Issues: Drought, unstable market prices, want to increase production, do value addition, and expand local seed business.*

## **GROUP 2. A visit to Mucwini Sub county - Kitgum District**

**1: Pudo to Larakaraka 7 Km road:** The road connects Pudo to Larakaraka (markets, schools, Health Centre, and main road to Kitgum). Some small roadside selling is now also starting to take place. Public works activities were completed in September and CfW participants paid 150,000/= each. A uniform road surface and mitre drains were done and connected to bioswale for water conservation.

*Issues: Permagardens are yet to be established and RI and CSA to work closely with each other, delays in payments, increase the amount paid per day from 6,000 to 10,000, more tools, provision of protective gears, sub county and community to take up maintenance of the road and more links be opened. In addition, PDCs elected were hiring out tools handed them for maintenance of their projects, this is hampering community cohesion and the tools were getting lost.*

**2. Deg Bedo Farmer Group, Linga Linga Village:** Group had 30 members (23 women, and 7 men with 8 youth). Selected in 2020 and trained in CSA on sesame and VSLA by NURI. They planted 1.5 acres for demonstration and 76 acres for individual production. Benefits from NURI e.g. A woman built two roomed house using CfW money from tree planting project of NURI and used the money to buy cement for her house. Some of the group members also participated in Road works and saved the money in the VSLA. Skills in planning imparted to the members.

*Issues: lobby for more roads opened e.g. Orii road, asked for animal watering points (rehabilitation of nearby dams), timely supply of inputs, issues of land wrangles around*

*communities and Sub-county requested means of transport (like Motorcycle) to aid monitoring of projects.*

**3. Individual food forests in Okol parish – under Water Resources Management:** 6 acres Food Forest for three Households under Ogwapoke micro catchment. Planted trees with water harvesting structures e.g. making bioswale and pruning of existing trees in the food forests.

*Issues: more Food Forest projects in all villages, add some important tools, CAR from Okol P/S to Pamabone, 7 Km to connect schools, add more days and money paid to members and PMCs, and dam at Ayom Olola.*

**4. Ribbe Ber farmer group:** Group indicated the inter connection between Roads being done by NURI and the crop production also supported by NURI. Group testified that Domestic violence has greatly reduced as a result of NURI intervention. Group has received training on sesame production, VSLA and VSLA kit, tarpaulins and writing materials. They have now bought chairs, chicken, goats from the money got from NURI. The local leaders appreciated NURI being; transparent, do what they prioritize in the sub county, NURI staff were very hard working, rated No. 1 amongst all NGOs in the district in performance and has taken over almost 60% of the unfunded priorities of the sub county.

*Issues: construction of water dam, store and increase of amount paid to CFW beneficiaries.*

### **Group 3. A visit to Akwang Sub-County - Kitgum District**

**1: Gul Kee farmer group in Abudere Gogo village, Pajimo parish:** Group had 32 members (16M, 16F) who were very happy, enterprise is soybeans. From demonstration harvested 320 Kg and their own demo got 318 Kg. Kept seeds for next year planting with plans for increased production. Also doing VSLA and value addition with knowledge got elsewhere.

*Issues: limited storage for bulking, buying seeds is expensive and low grain prices, weather challenges and need to prepare the group on post-harvest handling*

**2: Water pond:** The pond had filled with water.

*Issues: Pond is small and may dry up, need to secure the pond to avoid drowning and sub county to take this up.*

**3: Pajimo center to Oryang Ogom CAR 5.2 Km:** Road was completed and tools were handed to PUCs for maintenance which they have planned twice per year. Have done it once. Road is helping for transporting produce, access to Pajimo health centre III and to schools.

*Issues: mobilization for maintenance, low rate of payment for CfW beneficiaries and many days to complete the projects.*

**4: Oryang Ogom farmer group in Oryang Ogom village, Lugwar Parish:** The group selected sesame after comparing with soybeans and performed better. Road was completed and tools were handed to PUCs for maintenance which they have planned twice per year. Have done it once. Group worked on 1 Km of road on self-help. Road is helping for transporting produce, access to Pajimo health centre III and to schools.

*Issues: all leaders were male so deliberate effort be made to include women, wants access to market beyond Uganda, wants to extend the road that they opened themselves and wants tools, water for animals, NURI program be extended, group wants to engage in LSB.*

#### **Group 4. A visit to Padibe East and West Sub counties- Lamwo District**

**1: Joint produce store at Okora Lonyony village, Padibe East Sub County:** The store was put with support from NURI and 5 farmer groups. It is now registered as a cooperative. Some produce in the store. It is also open to other members of the community to store their produce. Management committee in place. Members testified the benefits of the store such as acquisition of knowledge in GAP/CSA/ Gender issues, assets such as livestock (goats, cows, oxen), reduction in GBVs at household level, a woman reported paying her son at the university, building semi-permanent house, marketing collectively. Minister thanked the groups for their work hard and implored them take advantage of parish development model to be rolled out to complement their activities.

*Issue: utilization of stores in the region is low, support in terms of mentoring this group to grow, promotion of value addition, difficulty of transporting produce to the store, lack of threshing equipment for their produce, Poor access roads connecting some of the villages where some members cultivate, expand and become a bigger farmer Cooperative Society with more members*



*involved in collective production, Also to plant trees (by all the individuals members through contributions from the members for the seedlings).*

**2: Community Access road from Ongako to Katebo 13 Km:** the road connects to farm land, school and two sub counties of Padibe East and Paloga. Good surface of the road. Community pledged to maintain the road.

*Issues: Community wants more projects e.g. valley dam, delayed payment of CFW beneficiaries*

**3: Peko Rac Mixed Farmer Group:** The group is in Padibe West sub county with 40 members (29 female, 11 male) with 9 youth. Group activities are; crop production, VLSA and livestock rearing. The group have their PMP for soybean enterprise with a target of 40.5 acres and achieved 37.2 acres and harvested 3.284 Kg already with expected to still in the field. They have their future plans; livestock rearing at individual level, construct a store and procure bulls and ox plough.

*Issues: Lack of production assets like ox-traction and store, low prices for soybean, want value addition e.g. a grinding machine, more training on financial literacy, limited VSLA funds for borrowing, and unclear of market for their produce*

#### **Group 5. A visit to Lokung Sub-County - Lamwo District**

**1: Community access road 6.9 Km under construction from Kila to Ngom Onyaa:** It is connecting to farm land and children to Pangira P/S, there are 7 groups working on the roads with 210 members with some in CSA groups and its expected to cost is Ugx134,000,000.

*Issues: Pay rate be increased to 12,000/day, inadequate PPEs and tools, rituals required on trees cut and grave yard excavated, dialoge with community on resilience designs along the road and the usage, delay in payment and the road has lose surface and community requested for full murrum cover.*

**2: Lacan Tute farmer group:** Located in okora village, Pangira parish, with 30 members (23F, 7 M). Selected by NURI in 2020 and selected soya beans as strategic enterprise. Established 1.5 acres for seed multiplication and seeds distributed to each member at 23 Kgs. In 2021 got 925 Kg from demo and sold at 3,000= and the money is a revolving fund in the group. Supported in VSLA, Tarpaulins, trainings and FID. Several members achieved their households plans and

acquired several assets including goats, cattle, bricks, cement, pigs etc. Plan to acquire oxen and ox ploughs.

*Issues: value addition machines, more seeds be given, store construction, follow up by NURI staff, and block field production*

**3: Tii pi kwoni VSLA and farmer group:** Located in Akelikongo village, Pangira Parish with 27 members (20 F and 7 M) of which 19 are Youth. Very organized group in soya beans enterprise supported by NURI from 2020 in CSA trainings, inputs, VSLA, tarpaulins. Established 5 acres of block garden. Supported with beans/soya beans thresher by the district and WAY program prominent from the testimonies. Got 629 Kgs from demo and sold at 2,900= of which Ugx 1,124,100 is revolving fund and balance was used to build the house for the soya bean threshing machine. Several members achieved their households plans and acquired several assets including goats, bricks, cement, pigs etc and trying to do value addition on soybeans.

*Issues: value addition, more collaboration with district, local seed business, more campaign on GBV, follow up by NURI staff, block field production, and increase productivity at individual level.*

#### **Group 6. A visit to Palabek Gem sub county and Palabek settlement- Lamwo District**

**1: Lubanga Lakica food forest project Palabek Gem Sub County:** Established food forest on 2.5 acres of land at a community school. Groups supported with trainings, tree seedlings and paid Ugx 3.6m cash for work and this supported meeting household expenses.

*Issue: The community school be upgraded by the Government, need for reliable water source, access road to health facility and markets, support on VSLA, challenges of raising seedlings for individual planting, sustainability of the project.*

**2: Lacan Tute mixed farmer group:** Group of 30 members of refugees and host community and the activities are farming and VSLA, group received Groundnut seeds and cassava cuttings for demo and individual planting and farm tools and received trainings on CSA practices. It harvested and sold 25 bags of cassava chips, earned Ugx 750,000 which it bought a she goat, part of it for hiring land and saved Ugx 300,000. The Group harvested 4 bags of Groundnuts from the demonstration and plans to sell 2 bags and use the other 2 bags for more seed multiplication. Individual achievements include improved food security and increased household income; members acquired poultry and goats. Refugees accessing land by hiring and friendship from hosts.

*Issues: seeking for animal traction from NURI to open more land, better market access, tree planting for conservation of environment, grinding mill on cost share basis, and construction of produce store.*

**3: Ribbe ber farmer group:** It is composed of 27 women refugees only with 16 youth. Received vegetable seeds, sweet potato vines and trainings by NURI staff. Planted kitchen garden that helped improve availability of food and utilization (Nutrition), planted fruit trees around homestead and applied resilience design like smiling berms. There was improved food security at household as they take at least 2 meals per day. Some income from the sale of the excess vegetable at the market, some preserved for future use and started their own VSLA. The women group reported access to land for field crop production.

*Issues: access to fuel wood, no seeds for field crops, want VSLA training and kit, supported with poultry.*

**4: Community access Road 3.5km from Beyogoya junction to Zone 4, Block 5.** This was a drive through a completed road without any meeting or assessment done.

## **11. Issues and Recommendations**

In this section the issues raised and the recommendations made during the discussions on the first day and the second day have been summarised and are presented in the table on the next pages. In addition back to office report from IMC meetings was prepared by RDE for attention of NURI CF and these issues raised were incorporated.

## Issues raised and Recommendations.

Issues	Recommendation	Responsibility	Timeframe
General			
NURI future: The program is assessed as successful and beneficial to communities. Local leaders assess NURI as the top performing NGO/programme, highlighting: CARs linking communities to services, planning skills, highly committed staff, alignment to LG systems, working relations with DLGs, and transparency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is popular request to extend the life of the current programme and come up with a successor programme for NURI</li> <li>- NURI should continue to work closely with DLGs and Govt</li> </ul>	RDE	2022
<p>Sustainability of the NURI activities: Ensuring DLG involvement Under RI/WRM</p> <p>Long-term maintenance of projects? New projects vs maintenance of existing projects e.g. CARs and stores, Cost/benefit of 100% gravelling of CARs Under CSA: Farmers reverting to their traditional methods of farming once they go to their individual farms. PHH losses increasing as production increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare post completion management plan for completed projects before commissioning and hand over.</li> <li>- The programme should work with the DLGs to document, disseminate/share, and adaptively upscale O&amp;M models / approaches proven to work, e.g. the one in Atego Sub County.</li> <li>- To improve future sustainability, conduct a study on sustainable models / approaches and adapt these to interventions.</li> <li>- DLGs are expected to take some of the projects e.g. Community access roads</li> </ul>	DRC DLGs Community RDE	2022
Mobilisation of the community is key for the success of NURI and community leaders role is important.	Make use District leaders when engaging communities		2022
DLG DCB implementation: Many DLG capacity building activities are lagging behind schedule. In some districts, a lot of money for DLG capacity building has not been utilized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up on the ownership transfer for the 11 DLG CB motorcycles.</li> <li>- Follow up 2 vehicles for Koboko DLG</li> <li>- Include the NURI District FPO in the DLG capacity building support.</li> </ul>	NURI CF RDE	2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and implement a revised DLG capacity building plan.</li> </ul>		
<p>Parish Development Model: NURI projects are identified from Parish development plans; thus NURI is largely aligned to the Parish Development Model (PDM). NURI should align activities on the 7 pillars of the parish development model and members should familiarise with them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It the responsibility of the DLGs to integrate these projects in the district plans</li> <li>- In future, align NURI to the seven pillars of the PDM.</li> <li>- Prepare the communities / farmers to implement the PDM</li> </ul>	<p>DLGs RDE NURI CF Implementing units</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>Reporting: Issues raised on reporting included: To what extent has the NURI effort contributed to results, including reducing poverty in Northern Uganda? Where did we come from? Where are we? And Where are we going? Include centres of responsibility in reports, also at IMC meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics should be backed with case studies to add depth to reporting and document the programme's experiences and lessons learnt to inform future programming</li> <li>- Statistical comparisons should where possible be for same data collection methods and for the same period and geographical location. Otherwise, limitations of the comparative analysis should be acknowledged.</li> <li>- Progress should be compared with baseline and target e.g. outcome/impact indicators for CARs could include the distance reduced and or time saved to access service points.</li> <li>- The % progress of works should be reflected to give a more accurate picture of progress.</li> <li>- Reporting format should be harmonized across the programme.</li> <li>- Completed projects should be commissioned and handed over.</li> </ul>	<p>NURI CF DRC CSA implementing units</p>	<p>2022</p>
Rural Infrastructure	-		
<p>Food forests: gap-filling in the food forests must wait for rainfall. Survival rates of the food forests and species preferences were a concern.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen focus on building community skills and knowledge in water retention and issues of environment</li> <li>- Assessment of survival rates should set a requirement of 85% survival</li> </ul>	<p>DRC DLGs NURI CF</p>	<p>2022</p>

Maintenance of the sites, as well as individual planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider preference of beneficiaries in species selection</li> <li>- Ensure engage of beneficiaries in maintenance</li> </ul>		
Delays in completion of works e.g. culvert installation, compaction which affects benefit realisation	Delays in works need to be addressed.	DRC	2022
DEC role: In approval of investment plans for different projects, the DEC is not part only DTPC and yet it is important in decisions of the district	DEC be involved and DTPC is expected to take the investment plans for blessing by DEC. In some cases DEC and DTPC are brought together during approval	DRC	2022
Cash-for-work activities: Delays in the payment of beneficiaries, resulting from number of beneficiaries required for payment to be triggered. Rate is small and yet many days to complete a project. There is need to increase payment rate for the beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To the extent possible, DRC should address the issue of delayed payment for labour intensive public works.</li> <li>- The issue of differing wage rates for LIPW is so complicated that it can only be addressed at the highest level of coordination e.g. LDPG</li> </ul>	NURI CF DRC RDE	2022
Safety at RI and WRM sites: Provision of safety gears for C4W, and replenishing first aid kits. Risks of water ponds / dams and warning signs do not stop children from playing at them with possible drowning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some are not possible in the current project</li> <li>- Groups are insured and first aid kit is provided</li> <li>- There is need for DRC and DLGs to help the communities understand the WRM projects.</li> </ul>	DRC	2022
Access to equipment: DRC activities are facing challenges of access to equipment, while some districts have idle equipment	Committee to look into how such can be put to use		2022
Water for livestock: More water points needed for animals. Some communities need water for animals e.g. Mucwini sub county	Sub county should take it up to secure this through the planning processes, including NURI	DLG	2022
Some communities want tools to open their own roads	Identify such and they are supported and give small incentive	DLGs DRC	2022
Climate Smart Agriculture	-		

Quality assurance: Progress was acknowledged, however, some quality issues raised during the 2020 IMC have persisted including: Supply of planting materials delayed e.g. Irish potato seed materials and quality of cassava cuttings.	- The programme should ensure timely procurement and supply of demo inputs as late supply of agricultural inputs is not climate smart.	NURI CF implementing units DRC	2022
Duplication of Activities: In Nebbi, there is duplication of support to the same VSLAs groups by AFARD and WENIPS, and efforts to bring these two agencies together to harmonize their support have so far failed.	- Intervene in addressing the duplication of support by AFARD and WENIPS to the same VSLA groups in Nebbi - Mapping of what partners are doing and holding coordination meetings		2022
Traction Options: Improved access to animal traction is needed and much demanded also by refugees DLGs requesting for tractors.	DLGs could also ask Govt to give tractors at Parish level	DLGs	2022
Produce stores: Many community stores have been constructed but not utilised. Consider renovation rather than further construction. Despite above concern some groups requested for stores due to limited/poor storage they have	Stores NURI constructed were demand driven and strategically located. Monitor their usage  Not in the current new groups for the program, sensitize the groups to do it on their own Other devt partners can support on stores	CSA implementing units Govt and other partners	2022
Commodity Focus: Northern Uganda could benefit from promotion of certain strategic commodities as in other part of Uganda.	Policy issue for consideration in future programme	Govt RDE	2022
Land related matters: Issue of land titles, land conflicts especially in Acholi sub region, underutilization of land in some areas.	Sensitize the community in northern Uganda especially Acholi to put abundant land to productive use and where possible support them Sensitize community about land titles and conflicts	Govt DLGs Devt partners	2022
Value addition: Some farmers demonstrated value addition with knowledge they acquired elsewhere. Can value addition be included in the program?	Sensitize farmers on importance of improved seeds Support relevant farmer groups with addition training and equipment	NURI CSA DLG	2022

Unfavourable weather: Dry spells and other floods / water logging have led to failure of some demonstrations.	Prepare farmers to cope with weather related challenges Consider improved varieties, irrigation etc.	NURI CSA implementing units DLGs	2022
Business development: Some NURI groups interested in local seed business. Some have aspirations to export products, others for further diversification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study and support a few groups that are ripe</li> <li>- Diversification of enterprises by farmers be encouraged</li> <li>- Such groups could be boosted with some production support e.g. tractors</li> </ul>	NURI CSA implementing units DLGs	2022
Group composition and gender: Some groups have only men in leadership and women in some groups did not speak.	Deliberate effort should be made to have women in leadership, and encourage meaningful participation	NURI CF NURI CSA	2022
Refugees access to land: Some women refugees groups want activities covering field crops as they can acquire land	Consider types of support to different groups. Consider special consideration for requests of refugee women groups as in the past.	NURI CF NURI CSA	2022
<b>SRHR</b>			
SRHR issues have been aggravated by Covid 19 lockdown. Teenage pregnancy Monitoring and collaboration at DLG level needed Gender roles sensitization	Strengthening support for SRHR at family and community level.	DLGs CARE UNFPA NURI	2022
<b>Cross cutting issues</b>			
Other requests from IMC meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rotate the hosting of NURI Annual IMC Meetings</li> <li>- Include the MPs in the monitoring of NURI activities</li> <li>- Ensure the monitoring of NURI projects feeds into DLG decision making</li> <li>- Increase SDA rate for DLG as current rate (UGX 20,000) is not adequate</li> </ul>	NURI CF RDE	2022



### **Lessons Learnt During the Implementation.**

- DLGs appreciated the NURI program implementation because of the commitment from staff especially the extension, close working with them and the transparency exhibited
- There was increase in the yield and general production among the farmer groups
- There was general improvement in the implementation of NURI program in terms of the outputs.
- etc

### **12. Closure of the meeting**

IMC meeting was officially closed with remarks from PMA, RDE Ambassador and Minister of State as captured below. However, NURI Coordination Function that organised the meeting thanked all the participants for enduring the two days despite their busy schedules.

#### **Remarks by Program Management Adviser NURI CF**

Rilla thanked the Minister for participating in program, similarly the Ambassador for being flexible in the field. She said NURI staff were hard working and doing this to bring about change. They were always in the field and the reason farmer groups are full of praise to the extension staff. She recommended that after NURI, the districts could recruit them.

She noted that in NURI, “we do not do big things, what is important is change in the farmers by empowering them and it is them to create that change”. She added that “we want to work with farmers, meet them there and where they are”.

Comment on tractors, the small-scale farmers feel they will not help them and they can be taken away. However, NURI is about building confidence of the farmers. On marketing, she said no easy answers to solve it but farmers should increase production and do other bit by bit to attract market. It calls for hard work encouraging farmers to do what they do.

The energy you get in NURI team you may not get elsewhere. In some cases, activities are started as a pilot before they are upscaled. These are building blocks by identifying the successful ones and improving the failed ones.

She concluded by appreciating all NURI CF staff, DRC, RAUs, and DLGs for putting this meeting together let alone what NURI has done in the field.

### **Remarks by RDE Ambassador**

He said he was not going to repeat himself. He thanked all for organizing this program. To CARE staff he noted the was cooperation between NURI and WAY program including with DLGs. In the field, integration was evident. He was happy to see field of sunflower which was perfectly planted, some produce was in the store and the two groups were working together with the common vision.

Commenting on the visit to WAY program, he observed there were role model men and women and girl mentors. They gave clear testimonies of how things have changed.

Responding to the Minister's earlier concerns including sustainability, he said these would be addressed in the next program which focuses on climate change and support to refugees. However, access to market and WAY services will be taken into consideration. His prayer was that the schools should open. He said, the Local Governments will be involved for ownership of the program and with this he welcomed the Minister to give her closing remarks.

### **Remarks by Minister**

She began by recognizing the Ambassador, DLG staff and Ministries staff present noting that the event was fruitful which took her back to many years of field work when she worked with NGO fraternity. She noted the groups visited they were very active and some produce was in their stores and they were now asking for processing machines. She wondered if this can be addressed in the next program as this would help farmers etch more money though value addition. This would also help to diversify to other enterprises because for example they feed bye products can be used for animal feed. She decried heavy dependency on oil seeds emphasizing on better quality for better income and the residue for animals.

The Minister observed that the last group she visited had the uniform meaning they have invested in corporate society. She requested the districts to send District Commercial Officers to help such groups or else they will stagnate and collapse.

On Climate, it was dry season till March next year and that meant farmers will be redundant or merry making eating what has been harvested. Under climate change, irrigation should be promoted so that farmers do not wait for nature or depend on rain fed agriculture. Furthermore, she wondered if the farmers had access to quality seeds because the group she visited they had planted 4 varieties of which 2 were doing well while the other two were not. They seemed had

long-term maturity and wanted farmers be directed to plant right quality seeds. The District Local Governments have work to do as they have ready community and the commodities to promote. She emphasized that it was about approaches, methodologies and as this will help implement the parish development model that Government was rolling out. It was building on what was already there and the parish development model will not fail. There were already factories for oil crop to provide raw materials.

She also noted defilement was still a problem and District Local Governments have a role to sensitize the community for the future of the girl child.

Markets were still a challenge and it was important to support these farmers so that they can sell their products.

She summed her remarks by pledging that Government will work with Danish embassy. She also thanked the technical teams for the job well done in organising the meeting, appreciated all the participants in the meeting and asked the district technocrats to take all that were discussed in the meeting back to their respective places and closed with Thank you.

## ANNEXES

### 1. Programme for IMC meeting in Kitgum

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	Lead person
21/11/2021	9:00 – 6:00pm	Travel to Kitgum	NURI Senior Driver
<b>DAY 1</b> 22/11/2021	8:00 – 8:30am	Registration of participants	NURI FAO/FAA
	8:30 – 8:45am	Welcome & introduction of participants	NURI M&E
	8:45 – 9:00am	Official welcome into the host district	LC5 Kitgum
	9:15 – 9:30am	Official opening of the meeting	RDE (Ambassador)
	9:30 – 10:30am	CSA Updates Acholi & North West Nile	Coordinator RAU Kitgum/Lamwo
	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 Acholi & North West Nile	PM – NURI 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 Acholi sub-region + reaction	FPO – Kitgum
	2:30 – 3:00pm	DLG updates North West Nile + reaction	FPO - Adjumani
	3:00 – 4:30pm	NURI Future- Group work (brain storming)	RDE
	4:30 – 5:00pm	General reactions and closure of the day	NURI NPC/M&E
	5:00 - 5.30pm	Evening tea	NURI CF FAO/FAA
	6:00 – 7:30pm	Cocktail (at Cactus Hotel, directions to be given)	NURI HRC
<b>DAY 2</b> 23/11/2021	8.00 - 8.30am	Participant's registration & reporting	NURI FAO/FAA
	8:30 – 9:00am	Early break tea & organizing for field trip	NURI NPC/M&E/ RC Acholi
	9:00 – 9:30am	Travel to the field	NURI NPC /M&E/RCs/RAUs

9:30 – 1:00pm	Field excursion	NURI NPC/M&E/RCs/RAU S
1:00 – 2:00pm	Travel back from field	NURI NPC/M&E/RCs/RAU S
2:00 – 3:00pm	LUNCH BREAK	
3:00 – 4:45pm	Feedback from the field excursion	NURI NPC & M&E
4:45 – 5:00pm	Official closure	LC5 Moyo
5:00 – 5:30pm	Evening tea & departure	NURI CF FAO/FAA

## 2. List of Participants

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3. Photo Gallery



Figure 1 Honorable Minister opening the meeting in Kitgum



*Figure 2 His excellency the Danish Ambassador visiting a project*



*Figure 3 Minister and Danish Ambassador visiting a demo field in Kitgum*

#### 4. List of Acronyms

<b>Abb.</b>	<b>Full text</b>
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
MWT	Ministry of Works and Transport
MAAIF	Ministry of Agricultural Animal Industry and Fisheries
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
RAU	Resilient Agricultural Unit
CAR	Community Access Road
CF	Coordination Function
CfW	Cash for work
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
Danida	Danish International Development Assistance
DCB	District Capacity Building under the NURI program
DEC	District Executive Committee
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
NURI	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
DLG	District Local Government
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NPC	National Program Coordinator
NURI	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
PHH	Post Harvest Handling
RALNUC3	Brand name from previous phase used in Acholi Sub-region
RI	Rurai Infrastructure component under NURI
PMP	Production and Marketing Plan
RDE	Royal Danish Embassy
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WAY	Women Adolescents and Youth
WRM	Water Resource Management component under NURI
UNWMZ	Upper Nile Water Management Zone

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

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)				
Sn	Observations /Findings	Recommendations	Actions	Status
1	<p><b>Need to ensure synergy among the three outputs of NURI.</b></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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ IUs Meetings conducted jointly</li> <li>✓ Staff contacts profiled and shared.</li> <li>✓ Involvement of CSA staff in site dialogue meetings.</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>A practical on-farm training on soil and water (moisture) conservation to avert adverse weather effects.</b></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"> <li>Resilience design training organized by DRC benefiting the CSA staff</li> <li>CSA staff to cascade the training to units.</li> <li>Selected CSA staff + Farmers to benefit from the F2F training</li> <li>Utilization of the indigenous traditional knowledge in planning</li> <li>Training on soil and water conservations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 5 CSA staff attended the training and this was cascaded to all the units.</li> <li>✓ 13 CSA staff &amp; 13 farmers selected to attend F2F training</li> <li>✓ Consultations and sharing of the weather forecast to guide implementation</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Some farmer groups have lost interest in their strategic crops and need to change</b></p>	<p>Allow flexibility and include focus on nutrition and food security while promoting CSA through strategic crops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional commodities may be considered for farmer groups in their 3rd year.</li> <li>Addendum to the 3rd year AEO guideline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Farmers are encouraged to diversify with AEOs giving general extension advise (3<sup>rd</sup> year farmer groups).</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Some farmer groups would wish to upscale to seed producers</b></p>	<p>Support farmer groups with good potential to become Local Seed Producers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train the AEOs on Local Seed production/Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In the pipeline as preparations for exit and only for few groups including cooperatives</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NURI liase with DLG/MAAIF</li> <li>• Train the potential farmer groups</li> </ul>	
5	<p><b>Resilience around strategic crops.</b> 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.</p>	<p>NURI CF should guide the AEOs to widen the scope of their advisory services to include other enterprises and farmers whenever possible and practical.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ToRs revised for staff</li> <li>✓ Activities for AEOs in 3<sup>rd</sup> year also revised</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Demo plots cum seed multiplication and CSA training not sufficient.</b> Demo plots are for training and seed multiplication; however, farmers are not trained on seed production.</p>	<p>NURI CF and RAUs/IPs train the AEOs on the requirements for seed production,</p> <p>NURI CF is advised to liaise with MAAIF for expert support on quality declared seeds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Staff trained at Ngetta ZARDI covered seed multiplication for most of the crops. Most of the crops promoted are not cross pollinated.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>CSA Training,</b> 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</p>	<p>CSA training should address the issues observed and promote the appropriate application of the general principles of CSA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher CSA training for staff</li> <li>• AEOs making individual follow up of group members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Resilience design training done for all extension staff</li> <li>✓ Technical trainings organized with external trainers on needs basis</li> <li>✓ Technical backstopping ongoing</li> </ul>

8	<p><b>Translating challenges to CSA.</b> Numerous challenges if effectively addressed could translate into CSA. These include confusing contours and difficult terrains, prevalence of crop pests &amp; 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>	<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"> <li>• CF/IPs/RAUs to identify the potential sites for learning and they visit while putting emphasis on inter-regional/inter-partner exchange visits.</li> <li>• Units should procure demo inputs timely, observe quality and advise farmers to follow GAPs</li> <li>• Proper site selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Resilience Design training conducted</li> <li>✓ Refresher training on demo setting done across units</li> <li>✓ Most procurement and distribution handled by IPs/Units.</li> <li>✓ Team building done</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Quality assurance.</b> 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.</p>	<p>Supply of poor quality inputs should be addressed by NURI CF and implementing partners for CSA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Germination tests are done</li> <li>✓ Verification by DLGs conducted at the seed source and only delivered when approved</li> </ul>
RI/CSA				

10	<b>Land disputes affecting project implementation.</b> 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"> <li>• Site dialogue meetings conducted before group formation</li> <li>• Signing of voluntary land donation forms by landlords and Sub county local authority</li> </ul>	✓ Implemented and ongoing in all project sites
11	<b>Compliance with sector norms, guidelines and standards.</b> A member was of the view that the DLGs were more involved during project approval processes but less during project implementation.	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of the DTPCs and LLG in monitoring and supervision of projects.</li> <li>• DLGs/LLGs submit work plans for monitoring and supervision in advance for facilitation.</li> </ul>	✓ Implemented and ongoing across all DLGs/LLGs
12	<b>Support for WRM.</b> NURI has a target to support integrated WRM in 8 micro-catchments spread across the programme area	MWE/UNWMZ prepares and shares quarterly progress reports for the integrated water resources management output with NURI CF, the RDE and other relevant stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRC shares quarterly report with UNWMZ for consolidation and submission to CF</li> </ul>	✓ Implemented and ongoing
13	<b>Quality assurance.</b> According to some LGs report, some inputs supplied by NURI were either of poor quality or	This should be addressed by DRC and NURI CF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree seedlings procured locally from within the districts/regions.</li> <li>• Water quality test conducted before and after construction.</li> </ul>	✓ Implemented and ongoing



	not well adapted to the local agro-ecological environment (tree seedlings).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing of samples of materials e.g sand, murram, aggregates and culverts</li> <li>• Involvement of district water dept. and MoWT.</li> <li>• All structures constructed and installed are certified by the DE before any payment effected.</li> </ul>	
14	<b>Low participation of women.</b> 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"> <li>• Meetings with community with emphasis on gender participation and youth.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 2,564 (Female 1,288 &amp; Male 1,276.</li> <li>✓ Women taking up leadership.</li> <li>✓ Group formation</li> <li>✓ Cash payment in Acholi 17,031(Female 8,856 &amp; Male 8,175)</li> </ul>
15	<b>Status of the CARs:</b> 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"> <li>• Close consultation with the DLGs in harmonization of specifications.</li> <li>• Regular joint monitoring and supervision of projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swamp raising e.g. in Akwang, Arinyapi etc</li> <li>• RD to direct water for production</li> <li>✓ Spot gravelling done</li> </ul>
<b>Cross cutting CSA and RI/WRM</b>				
16	<b>Synergy with other programmes.</b> NURI farmers can benefit from complementary programs in the Districts in production and marketing.	Responsibility for follow up lies in the units and DLGs  DRC should involve the agriculture extensions officers, CDOs and LCs right from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Exit meetings for Old groups were conducted and groups shared with LLGs.</li> <li>✓ Coordination meetings held</li> </ul>

	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.	project planning and through implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint radio talk shows, joint site dialogue meetings and combined programs for joint sensitizations already drawn to start in Feb, 2021. Both CSA &amp; RI staff shall move together to accomplish these activities.</li> </ul>	✓ Commissioning and equipping the stores accomplished jointly with all stakeholders
17	<b>The poor mind set of beneficiaries:</b> Farmer group members and community beneficiaries focusing on hand-outs.	Continuous sensitization of the farmer groups right from selection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NURI and DLGs should take this up as they engage with farmers</li> </ul>	✓ Continuous activity and Ongoing