

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

**NURI**

**Danida**








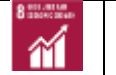









# **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021**



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

**March 2022**

## Summary of Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

<p><b>Key results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20% increase on average annual agricultural cash income of participating households</li> <li>Reduction in no. of participating households reporting periods of food insecurity</li> <li>Increase in the number of people benefitting from supported WRM interventions</li> </ul> <p><b>Justification for support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High levels of poverty in Northern Uganda, exacerbated by the influx of refugees</li> <li>Adverse effects of climate change on small-scale farmers who are dependent on rain-fed agriculture.</li> <li>Support to both refugees and host communities will promote Uganda's progressive refugee policies, protect the asylum space and safeguard Uganda as a safe haven for refugees.</li> <li>Building on years of experience in Uganda, NURI is uniquely placed to promote enhanced resilience and equitable development, both through its own interventions and by sharing best practices and lessons learnt.</li> </ul> <p><b>Major risks and challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land conflict and land access for land intensive activities. Mitigation: Prior engagement with communities, signing of land donation forms, access by refugees through mixed groups.</li> </ul>	<b>File No.</b>	2018-46856					
	<b>Country</b>	Uganda					
	<b>Responsible Unit</b>	2730 – Kampala					
	<b>Sector</b>	31120, Agricultural development					
	<b>Partner</b>	NURI Coordination Function (NURI CF)					
	<b>DKK mill.</b>	<b>'18</b>	<b>'19</b>	<b>'20</b>	<b>'21</b>	<b>'22</b>	<b>Tot.</b>
	<b>Commitment</b>	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	<b>325</b>
	<b>Projected ann.</b>	3.0	46.5	85.5	87.0	88.0	<b>325</b>
	<b>Duration</b>	2018 – 2022					
	<b>Previous grants</b>	DKK 150 million					
	<b>Finance Act code</b>	06.32.01.12 Uganda					
	<b>Head of unit</b>	Nicolaj A. Hejberg Petersen					
	<b>Desk officer</b>	Victor Azza Vuzzi					
	<b>Financial officer</b>	Asger Graae					
	<b>Relevant SDGs</b>						
							
No Poverty	No Hunger	Good Health / Wellbe	Quality Education	Gender Equality	Clean Water, Sanitation		
							
Affordable Clean Energy	Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth	Industry, Innovation, Infrastruct	Reduced Inequalities	Sustainable Cities, Communities	Responsible Consumption & Production		
							
Climate Action	Life below Water	Life on Land	Peace & Justice, strong Inst.	Partnerships for Goals			

### Strategic objectives:

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

### Justification for choice of partner:

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

### Summary:

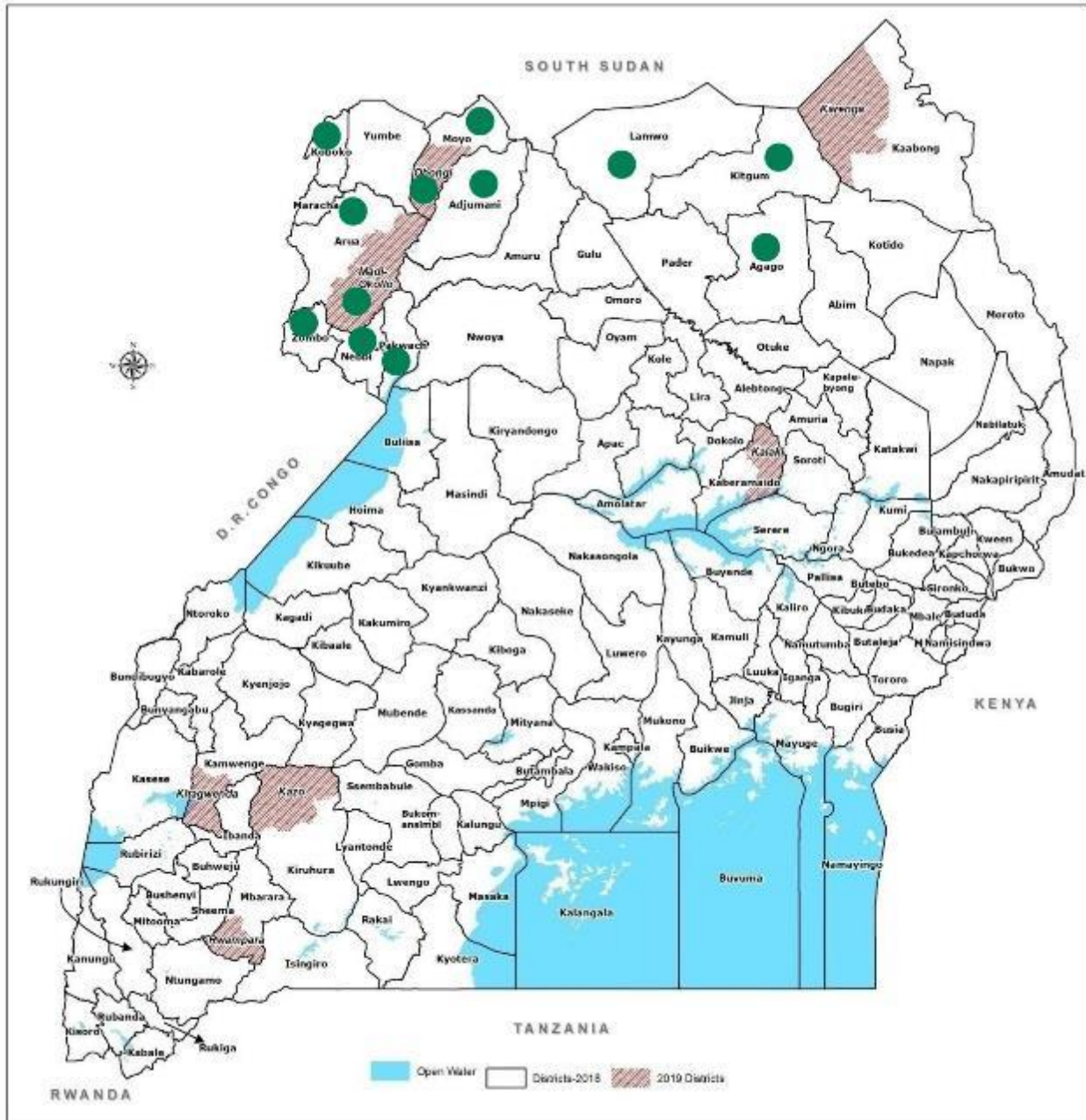
NURI will promote climate smart agriculture, agriculture-related rural infrastructure, and water resources management. It will also promote VSLA and SRHR and target refugees & host communities, women and youths to ensure equitable development and peaceful coexistence. The project will seek synergy with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

### Budget:

Output 1: Increased agricultural output of small-scale farmers	120.4
Output 2: Agric. related rural infrastructure renovated / constructed	116.6
Output 3: Agric. related physical & natural water infrastructure constructed or made more resilient	50
Coordination incl. TA and M&E	24
Contingency	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>

# Map of Uganda Showing NURI Districts

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



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## List of Acronyms

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

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

# Executive Summary

The year 2021 was a year of full implementation across all components of NURI. This was as per plan, but activities were at an even higher level than anticipated as NURI CF and management of implementing unit worked to catch up for earlier delays, including considerable delays caused by the COVID 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions.

Despite still facing a number of restrictions, including a period of lock-down, activity level was maintained, implementation rate was high, as was expenditure. By the end of 2021 NURI is on track to implement all RI projects and graduate all CSA farmer groups by the end of 2022, as planned in the DED and implementation plan.

Under Output 1, Climate smart agriculture, the final 536 of the 4,388 planned farmer groups were selected and brought on board. Through the year 3,348 farmer groups participated in CSA training, made up of over 2,000 national groups, 799 mixed refugee / host groups and 359 refugee women groups. Demonstration plots, extension advice, support to planning and marketing were provided by NURI extension teams, to all these groups. Of these groups, 2,270 were also supported with VSLA activities, with a large group joining during 2021, VSLA activities having been substantially delayed due to a long period of COVID related restrictions on savings meetings. The effort to combine agriculture planning with overall household planning and savings through the integration of VSLA activities with the Production and Marketing Planning activities of the component were further developed during the period. Absorption rate was 80%, impacted by the serious delays in District Capacity Building (DCB) activities, particularly trainings, which will have to be replanned, having been delayed by COVID restrictions to the point where the longer-term trainings are no longer feasible. As per the NURI implementation plan, CSA activities were completed in Agago district by the end of the year, with only VSLA activities continuing into 2022. An impact survey was carried out in the district, and an audit in early 2022 planned.

Under Output 2, Rural infrastructure a massive effort to implement activities in the approved implementation plans of Districts and settlements, and catch up for earlier delays led to the implementation of 564 projects during the year, with some still ongoing in 2022. A 95% absorption rate, excluding substantial outstanding commitments carried forward at the end of the year, bears witness to the high level of implementation.

For Output 3 the expenditure rate was much less, at 45%, due to the necessary period for completion of preparatory activities, planning and approval of investment plans, mobilization of equipment and tools which are necessary before the actual implementation of projects can take off. During the period 388 projects were approved for implementation and 56 completed.

NURI CF continued to build capacity of staff and partners and manage and monitor programme implementation. NURI CF absorption rate was 63%, caused by the decision to delay two programme wide surveys until the first half of 2022. The IMC meeting in November was an opportunity to share programme success and continue to learn lessons with engagement of concerned ministries, DLGs and partners.

# 1.0 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report covers implementation and outcome of NURI activities from January through December 2021, and includes all activities implemented by NURI implementing partners, Resilience Agricultural Units, District Local Governments and NURI Coordination Function.



## 2.0 Developments in the Programme Area

During the first quarter of the year, Uganda held general elections for presidential, parliamentary, district council, city council and lower local government positions. Campaign activities started in the last quarter of 2020 and rolled into the first quarter of 2021. This happened at a time when the country was dealing with COVID 19 pandemic. The election was eventually completed and newly elected leaders assumed office in the second quarter. In North West Nile, 60% of the elected leaders at the time of start of the programme were voted out of office therefore created a need for re-orientation and induction of district and sib-county leaders.

The programme implementation areas were largely peaceful throughout the year, with isolated incidents only. In Acholi sub region, cases of land conflict were reported across the three districts of implementation in the sub counties of Mucwini, Layamo, Madi-Opei, Agoro, Kuywee, Wol and Adilang which affected activities of 20 NURI farmer groups. Cattle rustling in the sub counties bordering Karamoja region and the borders of South Sudan was reported, in some cases affecting NURI CSA activities, as farmers in the affected areas invested time and resources in protecting their livestock. In Zombo district in South West Nile, rebel activities were recorded in the sub counties of Zeu, Akaa and Zombo town council where attacks were made on the military facility and some civilian homesteads. The government security forces intervened promptly and situation was normalised, however for some weeks, farming activities were disrupted by the unrest. In refugee hosting districts, isolated cases of theft were reported within the settlements, however these were routinely addressed by the relevant authorities. In general the DLG and LLG authorities played a key role in addressing the security concerns during the reporting period.

A second wave of COVID 19 set in after swearing in of the elected leaders, leading to a 42-day lockdown starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Measures introduced included a ban on public transport and most public markets. By the end of reporting period, there were 129,578 confirmed cases of COVID 19 in the country, 98,589 recoveries and 3,317 mortalities according to Ministry of Health's database.

The COVID 19 pandemic and related restrictions have led to a generally weakening of the economy and inflation increased from 2.0% in June to 2.9% by December 2021 (MoFPED, December 30<sup>th</sup> 2021). Many farmer households in the region reported declining household incomes, food insecurity and loss of employment opportunities.

Northern Uganda is hosting 56.5% of the total refugee population in Uganda according to UNHCR reports. By the end of the reporting period, there were 888,062 refugees, mainly from South Sudan; 827,426 in West-Nile and 60,636 in Acholi (UNHCR). Refugee response activities are overseen by OPM and coordinated through CRRF.

Other key development programmes in the region handling similar livelihoods activities are DRDIP, NUSAF3, PRELNOR and DINU. There was good coordination and collaboration across the different programmes, particularly at District level.

Some new local government administrative units were created after the elections. This led to an increase in the number of sub-counties and parishes in all the districts of operation. Arua municipality was granted city status and the district headquarters was moved to Vurra subcounty.

## 2.1 Context in West-Nile

### Weather

The first half of 2021 was characterized by unpredictable weather across all the districts with some receiving adequate rainfall and others insufficient. The first quarter was generally dry and dusty and farmers could only carry out post-harvest handling and marketing activities. During the second quarter, the districts of Moyo, Obongi, Koboko, Nebbi and Zombo received moderate rainfall between April and early May, allowing land preparation activities for Season A and early planting of some crops like beans, maize, onions, potatoes and cassava. The pattern changed towards the last weeks of May to the end of June, where a prolonged dry spell was recorded across all the districts, with temperatures ranging from 28°C to 35°C. This presented unfavorable conditions for crops growth of early planted crops, such as maize (Longe 5), beans (Narobean 1) and cassava. The dry spell provided favorable conditions for infestation of pests including fall army worm and variegated grasshoppers which affected maize crops in the districts of Adjumani and Koboko.

During the last half of the year, rainfall patterns became more stable and favored production of second season crops in nearly all the districts except Moyo, Obongi and Zombo that had erratic weather. Generally, first and second season production has merged due to the changes in the rainfall pattern. Some districts, including Arua, Nebbi and Pakwach experienced stable rain from April to November. Good harvests were achieved by farmers that planted groundnuts and soybeans in the first season, while for crops like cassava, sesame and maize, performance was affected by dry spells between June and August.

Under rural infrastructure, drier than unusual weather conditions characterized by dry spells with little or no rain during the months of July and August impacted the districts of Arua, Terego, Madi-Okollo, Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Koboko, Adjumani, Moyo, and Obongi. This affected the planned food forest maintenance (gap filling) and delayed planting of seedlings for the newly established food forests until September 2021. In some locations, such as Koboko, rains facilitated opening of new community access roads.

### Economic activities

Trade in agricultural commodities included maize, sesame, soybean, beans, groundnuts, potatoes, onions, rice and cassava which were normally sold in different forms of fresh and/or dry weight in the local markets within the districts. In the first quarter, trade attracted buyers from as far off as Mbale, Gulu, Lira, Luwero, Kampala, South Sudan and Congo. A slight increase in commodity prices was registered with farmers profiting from Season B 2020 harvest. The prices of major food items fluctuated throughout the year as a result of variations in their production and supply. For example, cassava flour cost between 1,000 & 1,200 Shs/Kg, cassava chips cost between 600 & 800 Shs/kg, Unshelled groundnuts cost between 1,500 & 2,500 Shs/kg, maize grain cost between 800 & 1,200 Shs/kg and beans cost between 1,500 & 3,500 Shs/Kg.

Trading activities were affected by the ban on public transport during the COVID 19 lockdown with some farmer and refugee households reported food insufficiency.

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

### Coordination and collaboration

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

### Refugee response

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

### Land Access for construction of RI/WRM projects

Under RI, access to land for project construction was a challenge in 12 project sites across West Nile. The projects were; 3 project in Arua (3km access road in Manibe sub-county), 1 project in Nebbi (1 food forest in Ndhew sub-county), 1 project in Moyo (1 CAR in Moyo sub-county), 3 projects in Obongi (food forests in Waka HC II, Itula sub-county and Biluru HC in Itula sub-county), 2 projects in Adjumani (food forests in Dzaipi sub-county and Ukusijoni sub-county), and 2 projects in Zombo (food forest in Paidha sub-county and Aphuma sub-county). Community members were encouraged to participate in the programmes site dialogue meetings with the local council officials and representatives of institutions. This increased awareness and encouraged land owners to sign the required land donation forms.

### Politics and Security

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

The political campaigns that were rolled out towards the end of 2020 overlapped into the first quarter of the year. Programme participants were actively engaged in the campaign meetings and later elections. Although in some cases group activities had to be rescheduled, implementation staff accomplished

activities as planned. The newly elected leaders were well received by the communities and some sensitization activities for newly elected leaders were conducted towards the end of the second quarter.

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

## **2.2 Context in Acholi sub-region**

### Weather

The region experienced a rather uneven weather pattern in the first half of the year, unfavourable to crop production activities for first season. It was dry, hot and dusty with very limited, light rain in the first quarter. The dry spell was longer than in the two previous years, and delayed land preparation. Farmers carried out post-harvest handling and marketing activities mainly. In a few instances seedbed preparation for season A crops like maize, soybeans and millet was done. Some stable rain was observed in the second quarter up to the second week of May. Another period of dry spell set in from the second week of May to the second week of June. Crops that were planted early, including sesame, sorghum and cassava, did not germinate well, others withered due to water stress and some dried up completely. Demo field established by the programme were equally affected in all the districts. A few crops like groundnuts, soybeans and sunflower were not severely affected.

In the second season, the districts experienced some rains between July and October, with November and December rather dry and dusty. While poor rainfall in both seasons affected planting of crops including those prompted by NURI, performance of some crops was surprisingly good compared to previous years, particularly, sesame, sunflower and soybeans was good compared to the previous years.

Under rural infrastructure and water resources management, the sporadic rainfall experienced in the region affected planting of seedlings in some areas including eastern parts of Lamwo District (Madi Opei, Agoro, Paloga, Padibe West and part of Lokung sub counties). The resumption of heavy downpour after mid-September to end of November had positive effects on the program implementation activities as the weather favoured most of the construction works ranging from excavation of bio-swales, ditching, road formation and compaction.

### Economic activities

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

Trading activities were greatly affected in the second and third quarter of the year due to COVID 19 restriction which was instituted in June. Some of the restrictions like the ban on public transport, closure of public markets greatly disrupted trade in agricultural commodities. In the fourth quarter, the government started lifting restriction and slowly farmer communities resumed their trading activities. There was an increase in the prices of agricultural commodities for example, soybeans reached 3000/kg for the first time, sesame at 3800 Sh/kg, millet 2200 Sh/kg, maize 1000 Sh/kg, sorghum 700 Sh/kg, and beans at 2500 Sh/kg depending on the variety. This was good for the NURI farmers, although there was little produce to sell, especially for first season.

Farmers and community groups supplemented their income from trade in agricultural commodities by engaging in other non-agricultural activities like brick making, charcoal making, petty trade, cash for work, ox-ploughing services and sand mining. The second quarter registered trade in shea nut oil, fruits like mangoes, lemon and tangerine. The livestock market in the Agago district was affected by an outbreak of Black-Quarter Disease in the sub-county of Omiya Pacwa.

### Coordination and collaboration

A good working relationship was maintained amongst the programme stakeholders and RAU Kitgum/Lamwo and DRC worked in close collaboration with UNHCR, OPM, DLG and LLG to implement activities with refugees in Palabek settlement. Other livelihoods programs being implemented in the region include Project for restoration of livelihoods in Northern region (PRELNOR), Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP), both implemented by the District Local Government, DINU implemented by LWF in consortium with other partners, USAID ICAN implemented by COW Foundation, American refugee Council (ARC), CARE International and International Rescue Committee (IRC). In Agago, GIZ is funding Agago DFA to pilot Climate Smart Agriculture in Lapono, Paimol, Lokole and Wol with more emphasis on environmental awareness. The units collaborated well with the partners, avoiding duplication and competition.

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

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

### Refugee response

About 3.9% (60,636) of the total refugee population in Uganda is settled in Palabek settlement in Lamwo district according to UNHCR reports. During the reporting period, a new influx of 1,017 refugees were received from South Sudan, despite the border points being closed. Also, 46 households with 63 refugees were relocated from Nakivale refugee settlement. OPM and UNHCR requested NURI to support the new

households with livelihood activities, and Kitgum/Lamwo RAU mobilized quickly and included 13 new groups in NURI CSA activities from July, employing an additional AEO for the task. RAU Kitgum/Lamwo and DRC worked in close collaboration with UNHCR, OPM and DLG to support refugee farmer groups and community members registered for rural infrastructure work during the reporting period.

#### Land Access for construction of RI/WRM projects

Under RI, access to land for project construction was a challenge in 10 projects sites in Kitgum district. The projects were 2 food forests of Omia Anyima sub-county, 5 CARs in Lalano sub-county and 3 CARs in Kitgum Matidi sub-county. Community members were encouraged to participate in site dialogue meetings with the local council officials and representatives of institutions. This increase awareness and enabled clear understanding by land owners who were able to sign the land donation forms.

#### Political and Security situation

The region was generally calm with little impact on implementation of NURI activities. Cases of cattle theft, in the sub-counties along the South Sudan border (Agoro, Lokung) and those bordering the Karamoja region occurred, with 73 heads of cattle reportedly lost. Land conflict was reported in all the three districts where a total of 20 farmer groups were affected. The DLG and LLG authorities intervened and calmed the situation which allowed for continuity of farming activities.

Political campaigns that started at the end of 2020 rolled into the first quarter of the year and voting took place in February and March. Some group activities were interrupted by the campaigns, causing NURI staff to reschedule activities. In the second quarter, newly elected leaders were sworn in and sensitization activities were conducted to introduce new leaders to the NURI programme. Some new administrative sub-counties and parishes were created and are now operational. Kitgum district now has 18 sub-counties (including two town councils) increasing from 9 during the old leadership, Lamwo has 15 sub-counties an increase from 9 and Agago has 19, up from 13. The creation of these new administrative units did not change the delivery of NURI activities as farmer groups and community groups had already been selected and their monitoring is based on the old structure.

## 3.0 Implementation of Work plan and Budget

This annual report covers the implementation period January to December 2021, and includes the three outputs of the programme; Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource management. Details on activity implementation is reported in this section of the report. A summary of activity implementation against indicators is included as Annex 1.

### Corona virus pandemic and coping mechanisms

COVID 19 pandemic was a challenge in the programme implementation areas as the country was hit by second wave of the virus that led to restrictions during the reporting period. Within the NURI teams, a few positive cases were reported in Nebbi, Arua, Koboko, Moyo and Adjumani. The cases were referred to the medical authority for further management while contacts within office were put under isolation and observation for 14 recommended days. There has been a laxity in observing the SOPs by the population as reported by the Ministry of Health. Some positive cases were reported within the groups implementing CSA in the settlement of Palabek. Activities with the group was put to a halt for 14 days as members were asked to quarantine.

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

- Following recommended SOPs in terms of hygiene and social distancing.
- Ensuring staff follow recommended SOPs in terms of hygiene i.e., wearing of face masks, use of hand sanitizers, frequent hand washing

## 3.1 Output 1: Climate Smart Agriculture

The objective of this intervention is to improve the knowledge and skills of farmer households and refugees in climate smart agricultural practices which will enable them to increase and sustain their production. Major activities under this output in the reporting period included:

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

While there are periods in the 2 or 3-year cycle of extension support that are more intense than others, on average, NURI CSA groups are visited at least 13 times per year on average with more visits in the earlier years, reducing as the groups near graduation. Those groups with VSLA activities will be visited an additional approximate 20 times per year by CBTs. Each group will additionally be visited by a VSLA supervisor, an AES or Coordinator one to two times per year.

### **3.1.1 Farmer Groups Identified and Trained in Climate Smart Agriculture**

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

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

#### **Assessment and selection of farmer groups for support**

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

The exercise started with sensitization of DLG, Sub County and settlement leaders from the refugee hosting districts. The settlement leaders sensitized were OPM, RWC 3 and 1, and LC1. In refugee areas there are few existing groups, so most groups are formed by NURI teams. Participant lists were verified by settlement and LLG leaders.

A total of 556 groups were selected from the refugee hosting area. In the mixed groups, the target is that 50% of group members are refugees and 50% nationals, however this is not stringently applied, depending on the interest of refugees and hosts and the makeup of the population in and around the settlement. The number of groups selected is summarised in the table below:

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

<b>Target group</b>	<b>Arua</b>	<b>Adjumani</b>	<b>Moyo/Obongi</b>	<b>Lamwo</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mixed groups	143	120	56	33	<b>352</b>
Women refugee groups	73	-	71	40	<b>184</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>536</b>



## **Selection of enterprises by new and continuing groups**

### **Enterprise selection by mixed groups and women refugee groups**

Enterprise selection for refugee groups, both in mixed groups and women groups, is done anew for each season at group and individual level. Selection was conducted for continuing and newly selected groups. This is 382 continuing as well as the 536 newly selected groups. For the mixed groups, the groups select a main crop and an intercrop for cultivation. For the women refugee groups, each individual is supported with one main enterprise, 3 vegetables and 3 fruit trees. The reason for supporting women refugee groups with vegetables is to support backyard gardening in the face of limited access to land, as well as to supplement household nutrition and food security.

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

### **Preparation of Production and Marketing Plans for national farmer groups**

As part of the NURI extension model, mixed and national farmer groups and individual farmers prepare production and marketing plans (PMP) which are reviewed each year to measure progress and plan for the coming season. The plans are captured in the CSA database as part of the NURI M&E system. The database generates reports that extension team use to monitor farmer group achievement of their production goals and plan for marketing with identified produce buyers within the implementation areas.

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

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

Farmer groups that made new plans started by generating baseline data such as land acreage, yield and price for the strategic crop in 2020. Against this baseline data, groups then set production goals and targets. Achievement of production targets depends on land access, yield and price of the produce at marketing.

#### **Land Access for production of strategic crops:**

Land access is very key in achievement of production goals and differences in land access between the NURI districts are reflected in the data. There is higher access/ownership in Acholi subregion compared

to South and North West Nile. In West Nile, farmer groups could access on average between 12-15 acres (0.5 acres per individual), while it was between 35-40 acres (1.3 acres per individual) in Acholi.

In South West Nile, according to PMP plans developed since 2019, 29,753 acres of land will be planted to strategic crops by the end of the programme. This is for 730 national farmer groups spread across the 6 districts. Achievement by the end of the reporting period was 15,314 acres. On an individual household level, it is projected, in the PMPs, that by the end of the three years of engagement with NURI, each household should have cultivated 1.8 acres of the selected crop. Data in the system for farmer groups that started in 2019 indicates 1.1 acres at the time of reporting, however it is expected that the target could be achieved after collection of 2021 production data is completed.

In Acholi, a total of 77,578 acres has been planned cumulatively by 660 farmer groups supported across the three districts since 2019. Achievement by the time of reporting is 39,888 acres. On individual basis, it has been planned that a member cumulatively cultivates 4 acres of the selected strategic crop by the third year of participating in the programme. Data collection for 2021 production was not yet completed by the time of reporting.

In North West Nile, the total acreage planned for production in 2021 was 12,547 across the four districts. Land access in North West Nile is similar to South West Nile where on average, farmer groups have planned to cultivate 15 acres (0.5 acres per individual). The farmer groups in this region are yet to complete 1 cycle of PMP and therefore monitoring progress is still on going.

The tables below show land access planned and achieved by new national farmer groups that started in 2019 and 2020:

**Table 3.1.1.1: Acreage planned for strategic crops by FG in South West Nile since 2019 for new nationals:**

S/N	Start year	Production year	Total Planned (acres)	Average acres / gp	Total acres Achieved	Average acres / gp
1.	2019	2019	4,756	13	4,392	12
		2020	6,027	16	6,279	17
		2021	7,929	21	On going	On going
2.	2020	2020	4,676	13	4,643	13
		2021	6,365	18	On going	On going

**Table 3.1.1.2: Acreage planned for strategic crops by FG in Acholi sub region since 2019 for new nationals:**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Start year</b>	<b>Production year</b>	<b>Total Planned (acres)</b>	<b>Average acres per group</b>	<b>Total acres Achieved</b>	<b>Average acres per group</b>
1.	2019	2019	11,828	26	10,185	23
		2020	14,460	32	12,279	27
		2021	18154	40	On going	On going
2.	2020	2020	8485	40	12424	59
		2021	14,651	70	On going	On going

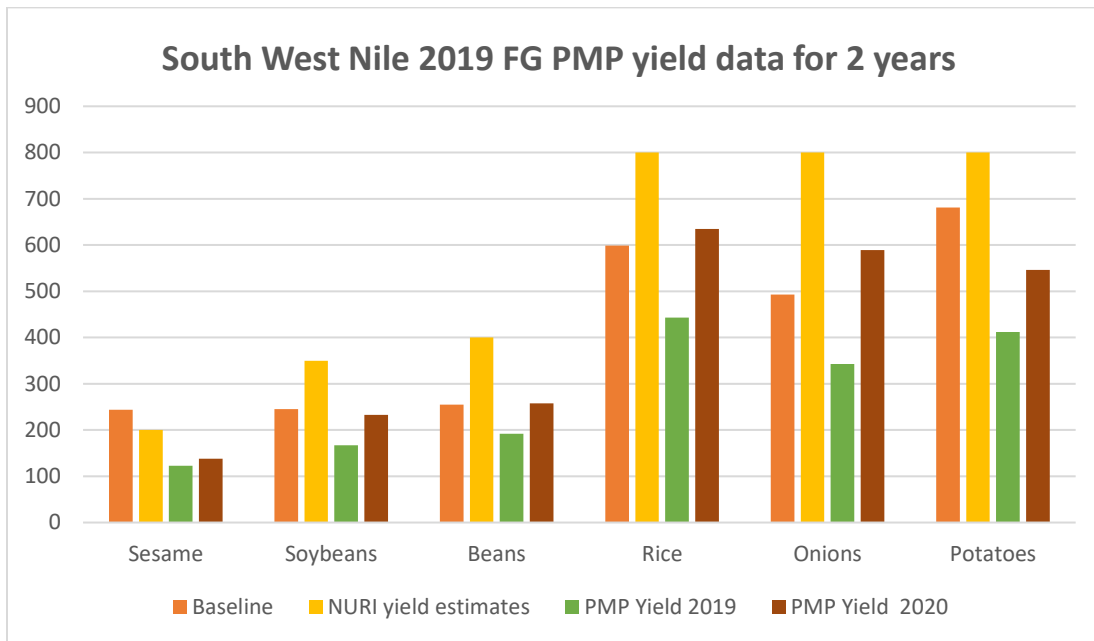
Yield for strategic crops

Results indicate that yield for groups that started in 2019 increased in 2020 and 2021, however, they did not achieve their goals. The reasons according to staff on the ground are: farmers could not afford improved seeds for some enterprises, weather was unfavourable in 2019 and season B 2020, lack of access to land, especially in South West Nile, and COVID 19 restriction affected marketing of seeds. Farmers argue that, they cannot afford improved seeds for the total acreage of land that they cultivate. In most cases, they end up mixing improved seeds with home saved seeds or local grains. Also, that the seeds production from the demo fields often is insufficient to meet the groups seed requirements therefore farmers supplement these seeds with locally available alternatives.

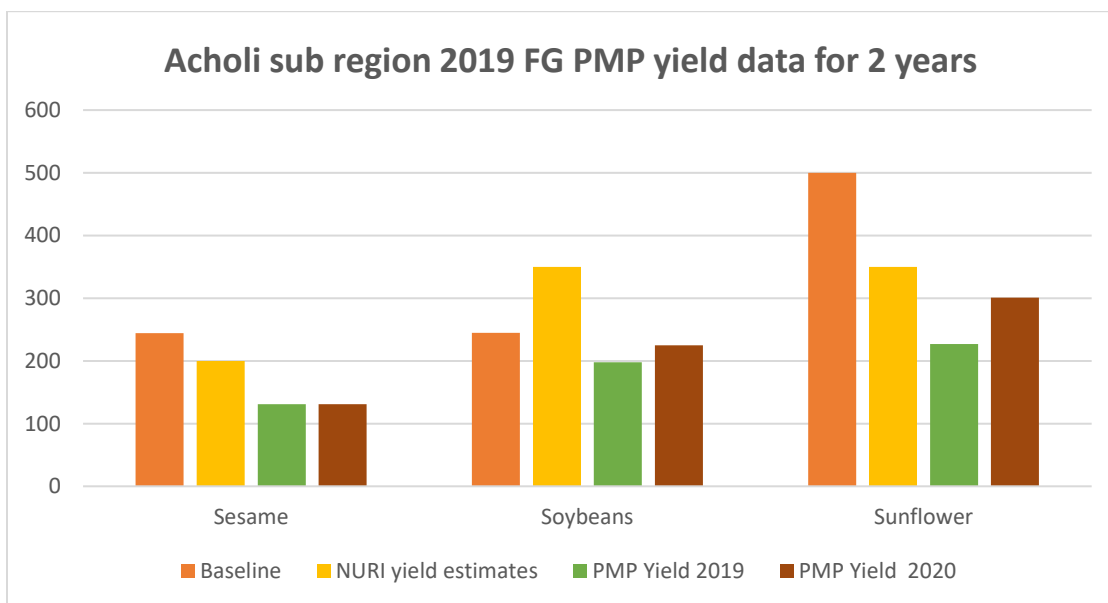
Although farmers did not meet their production targets, NURI extension staff noted that, the PMP model has helped the groups to have a guided production and avoided a lot of wastage. The model is being integrated with individual household planning under VSLA with the objective that farmers can be able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

Figure 3.1.1.2 and 3.1.1.3 below show the yield achievement for the strategic crops in South West Nile and Acholi sub region for farmer groups that started in 2019 who have now completed two production cycles. The yield is compared to baseline and CSA estimates. Yield for all strategic crops was higher in 2020 than 2019, however did not exceed baseline and NURI CSA estimate except for rice, beans and onions. NURI CSA yield estimates have been developed based on gross margin analysis and average yield compilation from demo yield data. As mentioned, reasons for not achieving expected yields are related to farmers being unable to afford improved seeds as well as unfavourable weather.

**Figure 3.1.1.0 PMP yield achievement for 2019 groups in South West Nile**



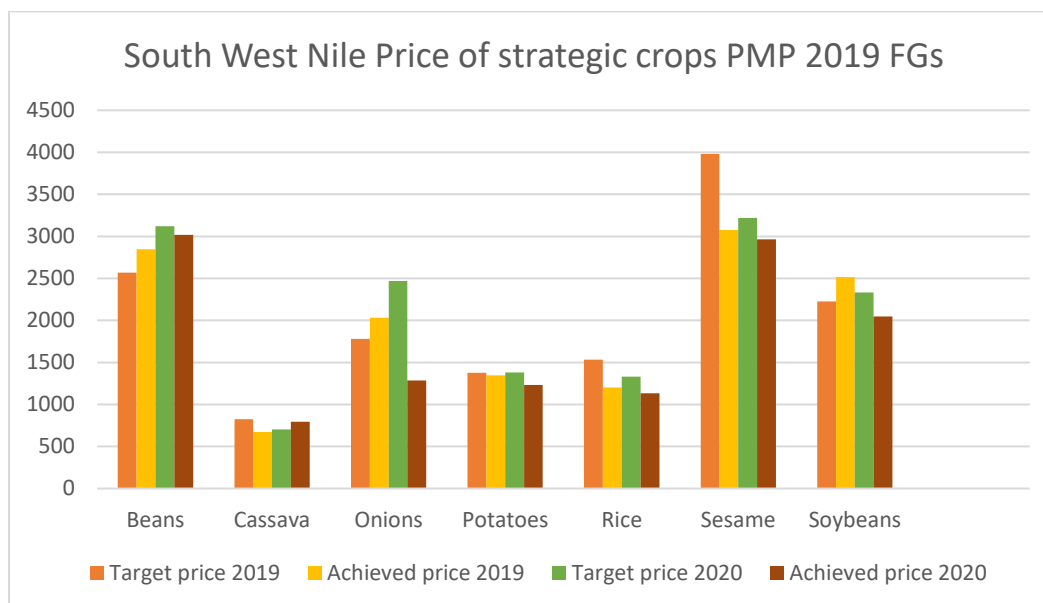
**Figure 3.1.1.1 PMP Yield achievement for 2019 groups in Acholi sub region**



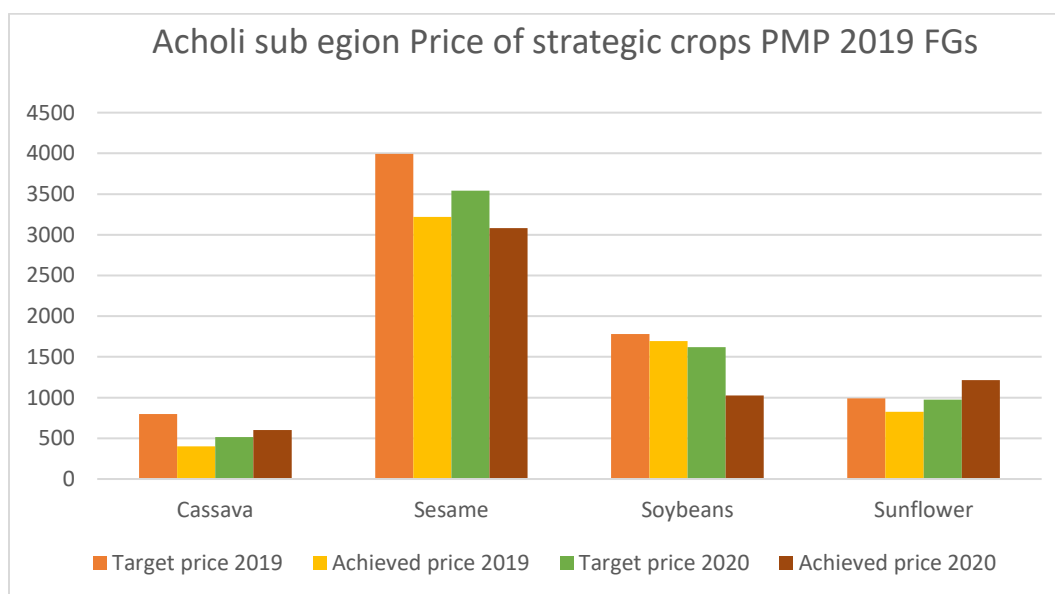
**PMP Marketing achievement for 2019 FGs for two production cycles**

In South West Nile, target price for sesame, rice and cassava was not achieved and prices in 2020 were generally lower than 2019. Fluctuating commodity prices discouraged farmers from group marketing. Price fluctuation tilted towards a fall instead of a rise, farmers reported that there was little difference between individual price and collective marketing and therefore were discouraged. In Acholi subregion, price for sesame, soybeans and cassava were below target and as in West Nile, commodity prices in 2020 was much lower than 2019.

**Figure 3.1.1.3 PMP price achievement for 2019 FGs in South West Nile**



**Figure 3.1.1.3 PMP price achievement for 2019 FGs in Acholi sub region**

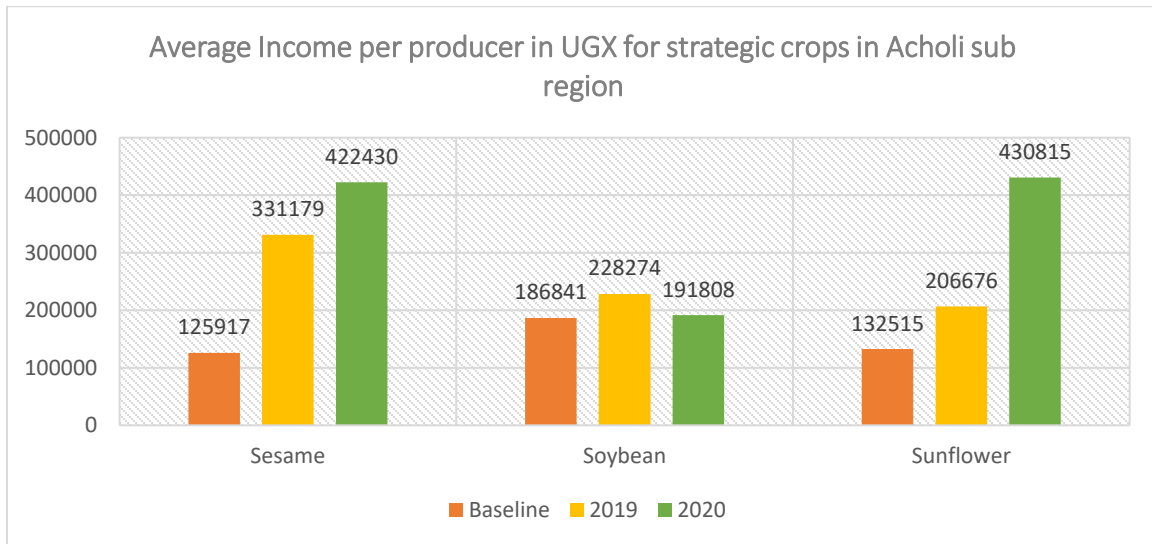


**Income from strategic crops for farmer groups that started in 2019**

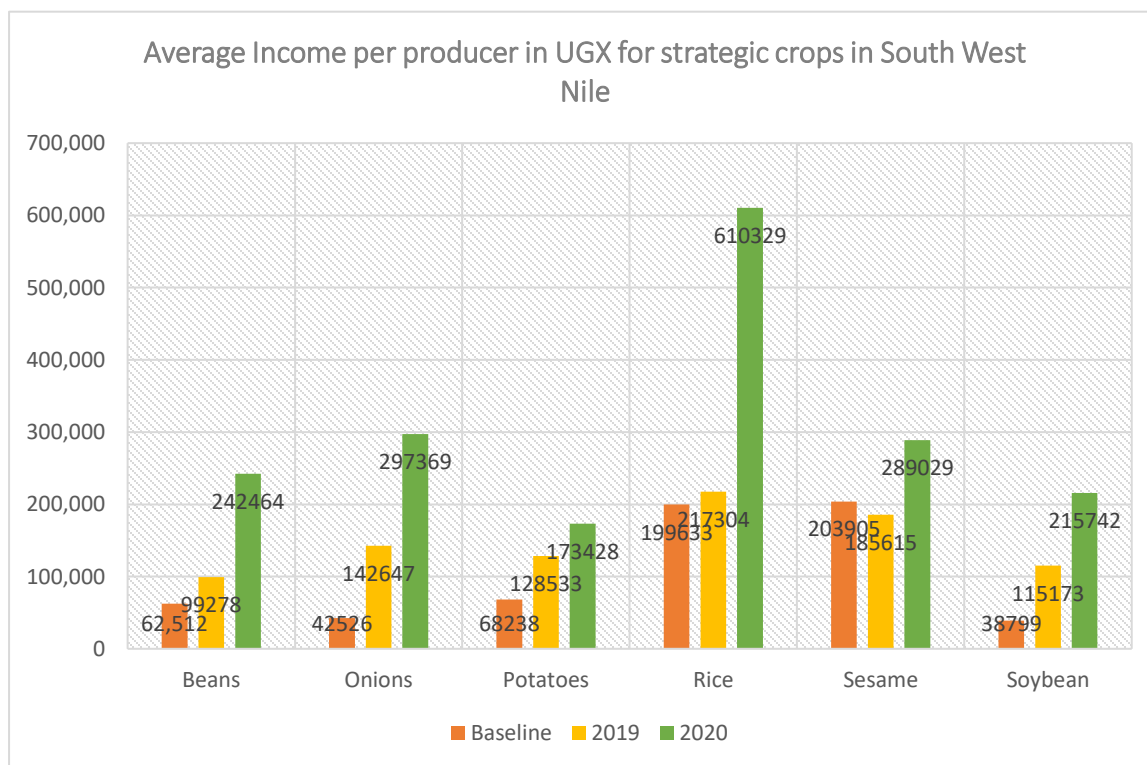
The PMP model enables farmer groups to project their income from sale of the strategic crops. An analysis was done for farmer groups started in 2019, having completed two production cycles to gauge improvement in income from sale of the selected strategic crops compared to baseline. This showed income from sale of the crops has increased compared to baseline although target was not achieved. Sunflower and Sesame earned the most income in Acholi sub region while in South West Nile it is rice, onions, beans and soybeans. This is attributed to fluctuating input/produce prices, low volume of produce and in 2020, marketing activities were affected by COVID. Figures for 2021 were not yet finalised at the

time of reporting however pre-liminary reports indicate higher incomes compared to 2020. The figures below show average income figures per producer for farmer groups that started in 2019

**Figure 3.1.1.4 Average income per producer per strategic crop for 2019 FGs compared to baseline Acholi sub-region**



**Figure 3.1.1.5 Average income per producer per strategic crop for 2019 FGs compared to baseline South West Nile**



## **Training in CSA practices**

Across the programme a total of 3,348 farmer groups were trained and supported in CSA technologies and practices following the ten training sessions in the CSA training manual. Training was conducted by AEOs with support from AES. The training is synchronized with the season and situation on the ground to facilitate learning and encourage adoption. The 10 sessions are:

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

CSA training was delivered to all categories of groups with modality differing across the group types. The new national groups that started in 2019 were trained on a case-by-case basis and majorly on their individual farms and project sites. Few old national groups, which graduated at the end of 2020 received strategic follow-up support on their cost-shared projects. Farmer groups that started in 2020 continued into their second year of training. Groups that started in 2021 completed training for season A and started sessions for Season B. The total number of groups trained as indicated above is disaggregated as 825-new nationals selected in 2019, 1,365-new nationals selected in 2020, 799 mixed groups and 359 refugee women groups selected in 2020 and 2021.

Training attendance continued to be impacted by COVID 19 restrictions, however there was improvement on 2020 attendance. Training was delivered using grain sack charts and demo plots. The numbers attending reduced when COVID 19 lockdown was imposed towards the end of the period. In some cases, the Training of Trainers model in mini groups of 5-6 people that was used in 2020 was adopted with cascading of training to other group members. AEOs verified delivery of information and did back-stopping during individual household visits.

Female participants make up 68% of farmer groups, attributed to the involvement of women at all stages of production. For third year national groups, where there are no demonstration activities, the level of participation was relatively low at 42% compared to 66% for groups that started in 2020 and 2021. The table below provides the breakdown of farmer groups per district:

**Table 3.1.1.3 Number of farmer groups trained in CSA practices 2021 (season A and B of 2021)**

Target group	Arua	Koboko	Nebbi	Zombo	Pakwach	Adjumani	Moyo/Obo ngi	Kitgum	Lamwo	Agago	Total
New national groups-2019	165	0	75	75	60	0	0	105	105	240	<b>825</b>
New national groups 2020	165	195	75	75	45	300	300	105	105	0	<b>1,365</b>
Mixed groups	323	0	0	0	0	240	169	0	67	0	<b>799</b>
Women refugee groups	217	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	71	0	<b>359</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>3,348</b>

### **Individual farmer household and farm visits**

From the second year of support, extension teams make individual household visits to transfer knowledge and cascading learning from CSA training sessions. Individual group members are helped to review their PMPs, yield data is verified, on-farm crop management practices monitored, extension advisory services in diversification into other enterprises provided, SRHR integration, input acquisition and market linkages are discussed. This activity is planned based on time available, season and issues arising. The achievement of target compared to plans was 85% partially because of COVID 19 restrictions.

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

### **Establishment of Demonstration plots**

Training of farmer groups in climate smart agriculture under NURI programme is delivered through a demo-plot approach. Farmer groups, with support from extension staff, identify suitable sites based on accessibility for ease of observation by both group and non-group members, fertility of the soil and vulnerability to damage by stray animals. For the new nationals, 90% of the demos were established in the second season, except for cassava demos, which are planted in the first season. Mixed groups are supported with demo fields for both seasons. During the reporting period, a total of 2,963 demo fields were established across the 13 districts of implementation (1,598 mixed groups and 1,365 new nationals).



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

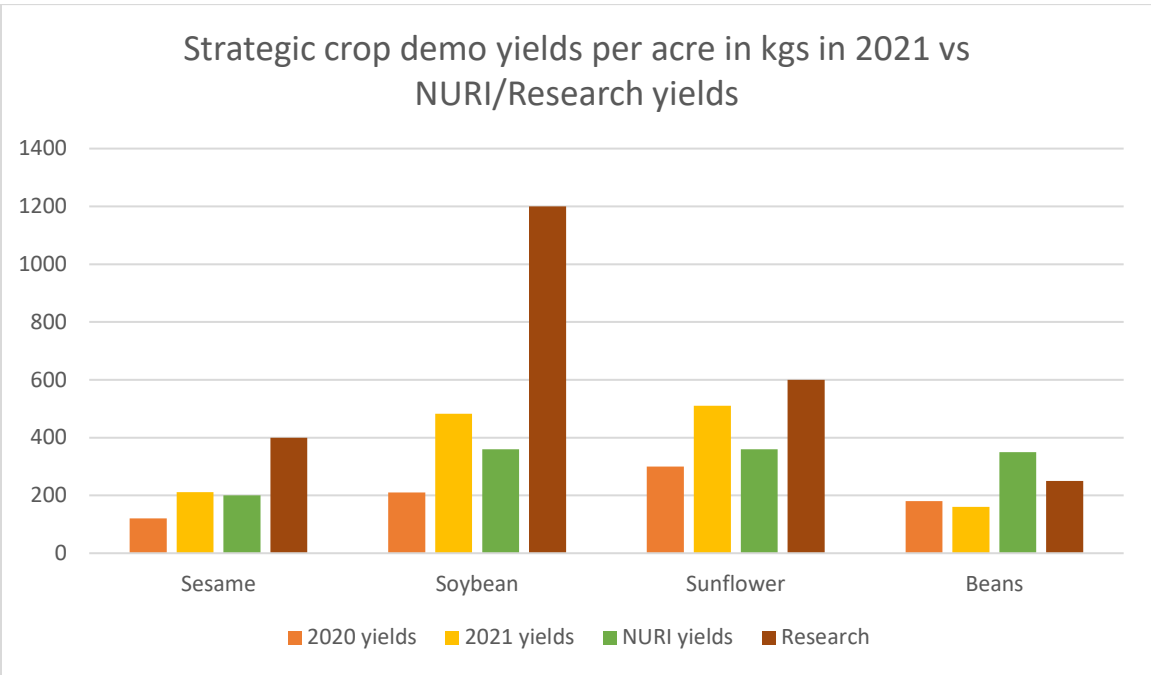
### **Demo performance monitoring**

The extension staff monitored performance of demos established in season A and B during the reporting period. The demos established in season A were for mixed groups and new nationals that are growing cassava as their strategic crop. During the course of implementation, it was observed that cassava as a crop is affected by dry spell and stray animals if not planted early and therefore it was decided that new nationals that selected cassava as their strategic crops establish demos in the season A. A six-weeks dry-spell set towards the end of May till the third week of June which affected flowering, podding and general growth of the crops planted in season A. In season B, another dry spell was experienced between November and December which affected harvesting.

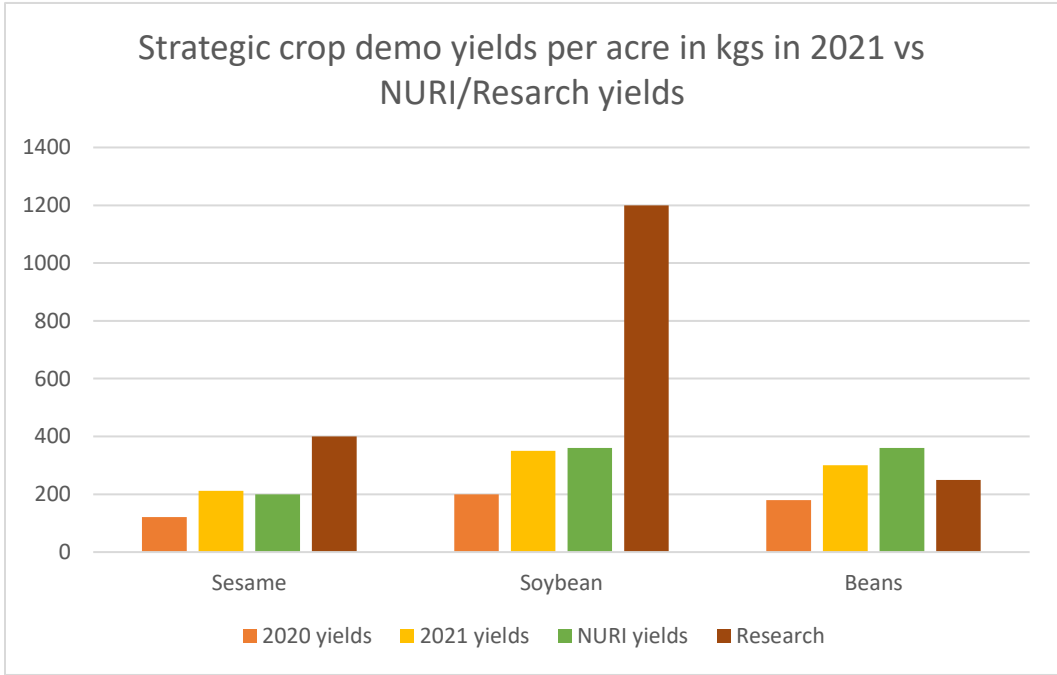
Yields for all the strategic crops in 2021 was better compared to the previous year however achieving the NURI and research estimates was challenging. Achieving the NURI estimates entailed vigorous work and frequent monitoring of the fields by the extension staff to ensure all the management practices are observed. With the research yields comparison is done for learning purposes well aware that there is heavy use of fertilizers and chemicals for research and plant breeding and these are not encouraged within NURI.

As compared to 2020, 90% of the demos performed better than the farmer fields which was an encouragement to the farmer groups to adopt the practices demonstrated at the sites. Highest achievement was noted for Sesame, Soybean, Sunflower and maize. In some sites, the farmer groups established sites with traditional planting methods very close by in order to make easy comparison of performances and also confirm what they learnt during the training sessions. The figures below demo performances compared to 2020 and NURI/research estimates:

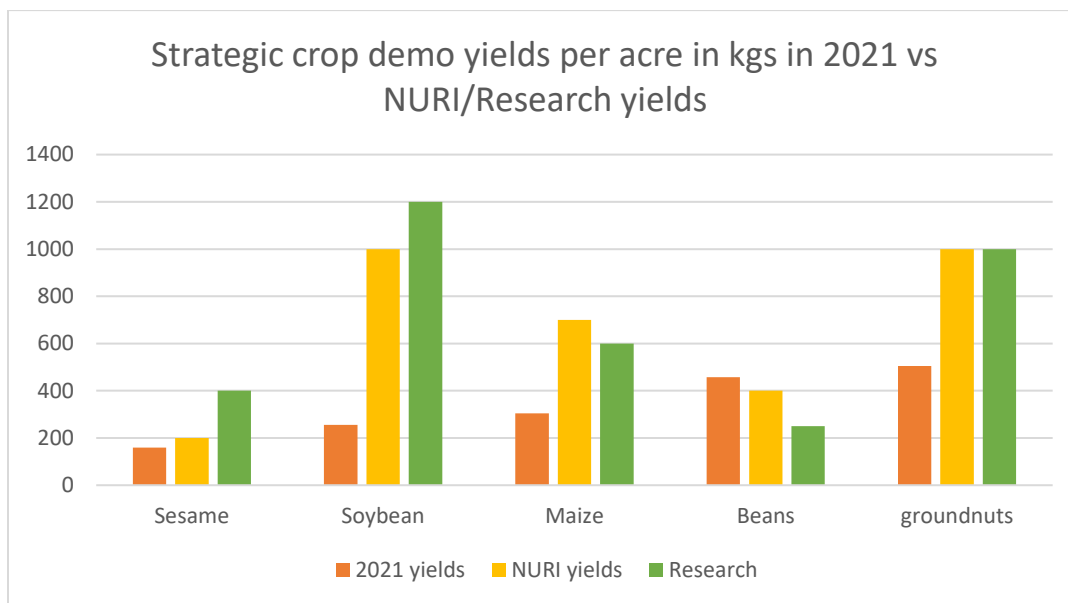
**Figure 3.1.1.5: Demo yield for strategic crops in Acholi sub-region in 2021 compared to NURI and Research:**



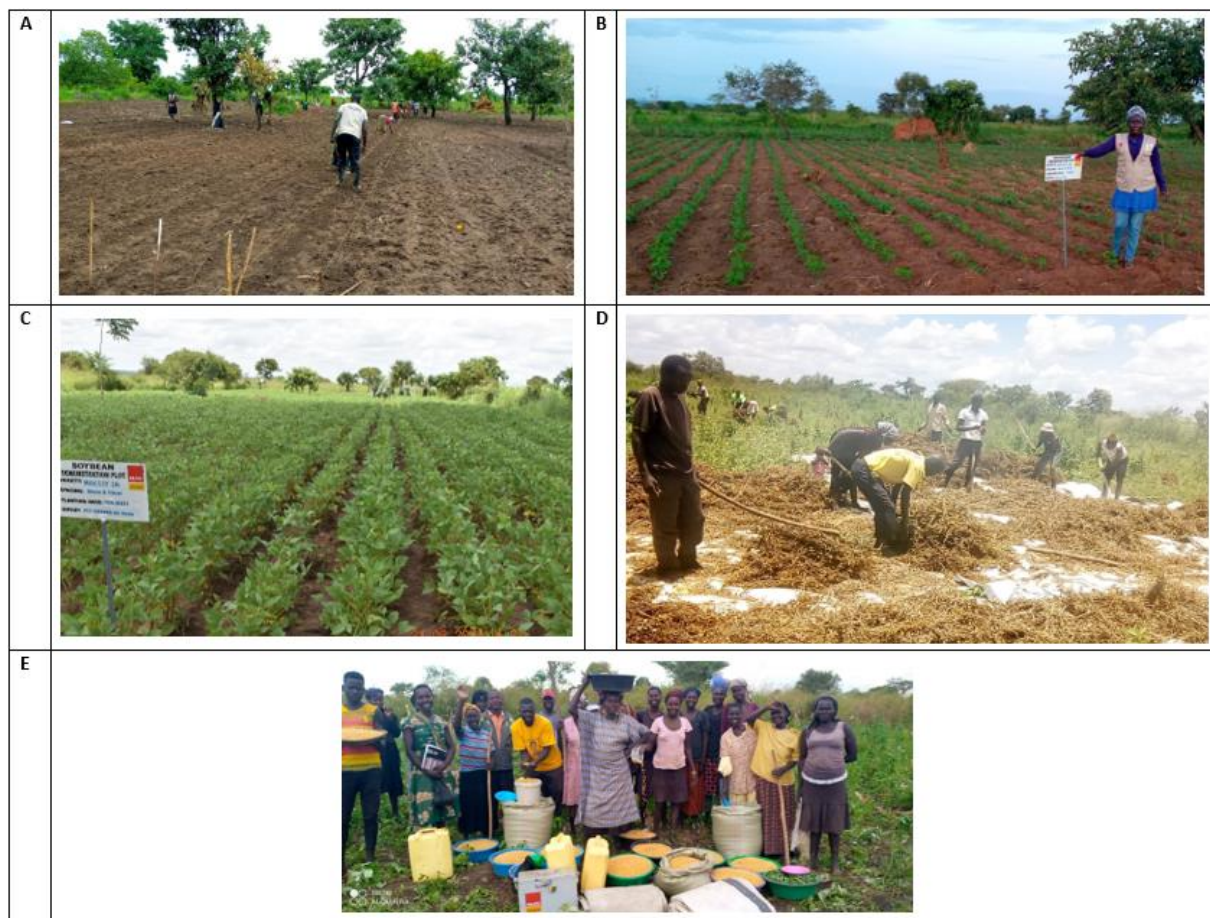
**Table 3.1.1.6: Demo yield for strategic crops in South West Nile in 2021 compared to NURI & Research:**



**Table 3.1.1.7: Demo yield for strategic crops in North West Nile in 2021 compared to NURI & Research:**



**Pictorial demo of soyabean demo from start to finish:**



## **Follow up of Old Farmer Groups' projects**

Activities with Old Farmer Groups targeted 755 farmer groups that has participated in the RDNUC programme. The selected groups identified projects which were supported using a co-funding modality with 50% contribution by the farmer groups. Groups were assessed and placed in tiers depending on their capacity to manage joint projects and raise cost-sharing. Implementation of the projects classified under tier II which were mainly tree seedlings, improved seeds, tarpaulins and a few mini stores were completed by end of 2020. For such projects, exit meetings were conducted with the groups and sub-county leaders including Chairperson LCIII, SAS, CDOs and Agric officers.

Projects classified in the tier 1, which were targeting groups engaged in substantial marketing activities, spilled over into 2021. These projects included produce stores, apiary, grinding mills, cassava chipping machinery and some balances of tarpaulin. The construction works for all project types were completed, commissioning and handover done by end of Q3 of 2021.

In AFARD, a single crop enterprise cooperative model is being promoted with the old national groups with the objective of strengthening marketing activities with the groups. A total of 9 cooperatives are in the process of registration, 2 from Pakwach, 5 from Nebbi and 2 from Zombo. These are groups from the old national farmer group category that have joined together to form the cooperative unions. All the preliminary processes were carried out including member sensitization, leadership elections, start-up funds mobilization (Ugx 2,080,000 collected for shares and membership to-date) as well as filing the necessary documentation with the District Commercial Office. These documents have been submitted to complete the formation of the cooperatives.

## **Farmer open days**

Due to COVID 19, it was not possible to conduct open days during the reporting period. The implementing units, however, did award prize to three best performing groups per sub county. CF guided the units and partners on the criteria for assessment and the extension staff carried out assessment exercise. The groups were awarded cash prizes. Local leaders participated in award ceremonies and appreciated the programme for motivating the farmer.

## **Exchange learning visits**

Exchange visits were organised to add on to the knowledge received through training and extension service from the AEOs. The extension staff selected individual farmers from different groups for the activity. Some visits were done between sub counties in a district while in some cases the participants visited other districts. The aim was to enable farmers share experiences and provide them with access to knowledge and information to reinforce learning and adoption. In the districts where resilience design sites were established, it was purposely planned that farmers from within the districts visited the sites.

## **Radio Talk Shows**

The implementing partners and units planned and conducted radio talk shows including spot messages, radio drama and live broadcasts during the reporting period to supplement training and increase outreach

to the farmer groups. There was a scale up in the frequency and number of spot messages during the period because of COVID 19 restrictions which prohibited large gatherings. The radio statements covered the activities in production calendar for the farmer groups in 2021. Other aspects of CSA output like VSLA, Collective Marketing/bulking, Agro-input sourcing, group development and general sensitization as new leaders were elected were tackled during the shows. The shows were in some cases combined with DRC and DLG depending on the radio statement prepared.

### **Support of farmer groups in collective marketing**

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

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

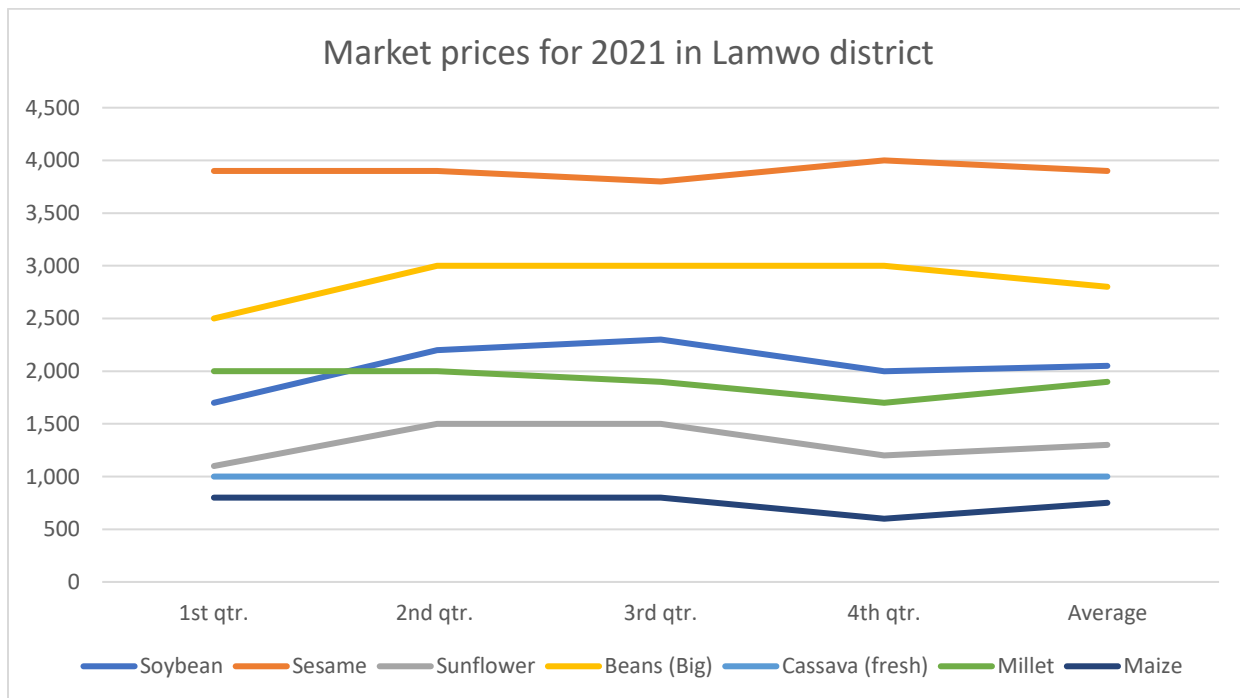
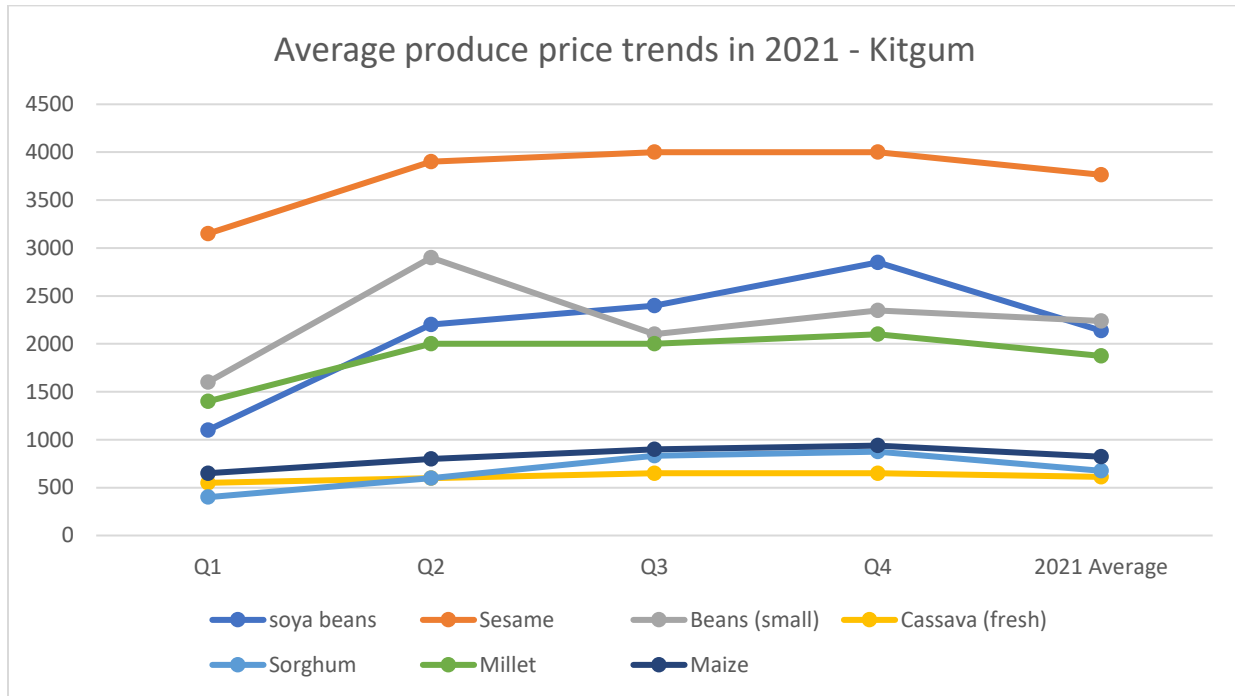
At the start of the programme, Marketing Coordinators were recruited in South West Nile and Acholi sub region to lead implementation of marketing activities. This was not the case with North West Nile where activities with new national farmer groups started in 2020. A review of the roles and responsibilities of the marketing staff and extension officers was carried out towards the end of 2020 and spilled over to Q1 of 2021. There has therefore been a change in the methodology for providing marketing support to the farmer groups where now all the regions are included.

#### **Market information collection and dissemination to farmer groups**

Market information was collected in all the regions by the extension officers with support from the marketing committees formed in each of the farmer groups being supported by the programme. This was done on weekly or monthly basis where price trends of strategic crops are monitored and disseminated to the farmer groups through radio talk shows, group meetings, display in community places and sometimes sent through SMS to the farmer group leaders.

This modality is meant to help farmers set realistic prices for their bulked produce however this has been challenging due to constant fluctuations. Commodity prices were unstable throughout the reporting period especially for sesame, beans, soybeans, rice, maize and groundnuts although some improvement was recorded during the fourth quarter. An example of price fluctuation of prices of key commodities during the reporting period is provided in the figures below:

**Figure 3.1.1.8 : Price trend for key commodities in Acholi sub region**



Linkage of farmer groups to buyers and inputs suppliers

Implementing units profiled and validated list of potential buyers within their regions in order to link farmer groups to buyers for collective marketing. AFARD conducted new market surveys in the region to add on to the existing list. AFARD were able to identify 4 new potential buyers for sesame and cassava

which were; Texas Millers, Power Source Millers-Koboko, GADC-Arua and Rasul and Family enterprises from Moyo. The buyers that were profiled in 2020 and were validated by both AFARD and ARUDIFA were; GADCo, OLAM Uganda, KAWA, Nile Agro Limited, Global international, GADIC, Dei Cooperative, Lira Rice Association. A discussion was held with the identified buyers on marketing of both strategic and non-strategic crops. PICOT visited potential produce buyers from Arua, Nebbi and Zombo to understand the produce types they deal in to enable them profile their buyers list. The list would be consolidated to be used in Q1 of 2022.

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

#### Bulking/collective marketing of produce

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

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

**Table 8: Quantity of produce bulked and sold collectively in Kitgum 2021**

S/N	Strategic crop type	Price per Kilo in local market (UGX)	Price per Kilo when bulked (UGX)	Quantity bulked & sold (Kg)	Amount earned (UGX)
1	Sesame	3,600	3900 (8% higher)	75,360	293,904,000
2	Sunflower	1,100	1400 (21%higher)	4,400	6,160,000
3	Soybeans	2,500	2,850 (12% higher)	53,249	151,759,650

**Table 8: Quantity of produce bulked and sold collectively in Nebbi 2021**

<b>Sn</b>	<b>Strategic crop type</b>	<b>Price per kilo in local market (UGX)</b>	<b>Price per kilo when bulked (UGX)</b>	<b>Quantity bulked and sold (kg)</b>	<b>Amount earned</b>
<b>1</b>	Soybean	1,500	1,900 (21% higher)	15,595	29,630,500
<b>2</b>	Onions	800	1,500 (46% higher)	48,532	72,798,000
<b>3</b>	Beans	1,000	1,200 (17% higher)	9,600	11,520,000
<b>4</b>	Potato	700	1,000 (30% higher)	18,485	48,985,250
<b>6</b>	Cassava	450	650 (31% higher)	18,630	8,383,500

#### Support to Post Harvest Handling and marketing:

North West Nile implementing units and partner (PICOT) distributed tarpaulins and PICS bags for seed storage and facilitation of farmer group post-harvest handling activities to support the move towards better post-harvest handling and marketing of quality produce. Also, in the refugee hosting districts, tarpaulins were distributed to mixed groups to support during harvesting and cleaning of the demo proceeds.

#### Exit meetings for national groups selected in 2019 and refugee groups selected in 2020

Under the NURI program, national farmer groups are supported for 3 years and refugee groups for 2 years. All the farmer groups under that category had their final year of supported concluded in 2021. Exit meetings were conducted for all these groups to sustainable handover and recognition by the local authorities. The farmer group lists were handed over to the local authority and refugee leadership structures (OPM, UNHCR and RWCs).

### **3.1.2 National FGs, mixed & refugee groups trained in VSLA**

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

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



- Monitoring farmer group savings activities

### **Assessment and selection of farmer groups for VSLA support**

Selection of farmer groups for support in VSLA during the reporting period was completed in Q4 of 2020 while groups that were to start in 2022 were selected in 2021. Based on requests from farmers and implementing units, NURI CF made the decision to allow groups already carrying out individual savings to benefit from financial literacy and refresher VSLA training. This broadened the base of suitable groups. A total of 2,207 groups were selected for VSLA support in 2021 and 2022. Group selection was completed earlier than planned, so the overall figure includes groups for 2022.

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

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

<b>Target group</b>	<b>Arua</b>	<b>Koboko</b>	<b>Nebbi</b>	<b>Zombo</b>	<b>Pakwach</b>	<b>Adjumani</b>	<b>Moyo/Obo ngi</b>	<b>Kitgum</b>	<b>Lamwo</b>	<b>Agago</b>	<b>Total</b>
New national groups	108	100	147	94	61	238	374	94	94	100	<b>1,410</b>
Refugee groups	242	0	0	0	0	172	286	0	97	0	<b>797</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,207</b>

### **Recruitment and training of CBTs**

For 2021 groups, a total of 234 CBTs were recruited, 172 new nationals and 62 refugees and their training completed for all the implementing districts. Recruitment was done during the last quarter of 2020 and training carried out in Q1 of 2021. VSLA activities are implemented by Community Based Trainers (CBTs) hired on one-year contracts. The CBTs train, supervise, monitor and collect financial data from the farmer groups. The training was facilitated by VSLA staff, building the capacity of CBTs on the integrated VSLA methodology promoted by NURI.

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

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

<b>CBT Target</b>	<b>Arua</b>	<b>Koboko</b>	<b>Nebbi</b>	<b>Zombo</b>	<b>Pakwach</b>	<b>Adjumani</b>	<b>Moyo/Obo ngi</b>	<b>Kitgum</b>	<b>Lamwo</b>	<b>Agago</b>	<b>Total</b>
New nationals	30	13	12	9	5	39	27	11	13	13	<b>172</b>
Refugees	12	-	-	-	-	6	35	-	9	-	<b>62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>234</b>

**Procurement and distribution of VSLA kits**

This activity was done for all the groups selected for support in 2021. The package includes assorted items to facilitate documentation, monitoring and safe keeping of funds before banking and /or borrowing by group members. They include a metallic savings box, stationary, calculators and plastic bowls for handling money before storage in the box. All the groups selected for supported received the VSLA kits during the reporting period and have begun using them for their savings activities.

**CBT training of farmer groups in VSLA methodology**

During the reporting period, all the 2021 VSLA groups 2021 were trained through 7 modules: group formation, general assembly, VSLA concepts, leadership, constitution development, records and conflict management. By design, each CBT trains 6-10 farmer groups per savings cycle. Reports indicate that 92% attendance was recorded across the districts despite COVID 19 restrictions. In terms of gender, more women (75%) attended training during the reporting period compared to the men (25%).

**Monitoring farmer group savings activities**

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

**Graduation of Farmer groups**

During the reporting period, there was monitoring of graduation of groups that had completed a cycle of savings activities where action audits and share out was done. The activity covered groups that started in 2019 and 2020, groups that started in 2021 had not yet completed a cycle by the time of reporting. Report indicated the lowest amount received as 9,300 UGX and 684,000UGX as the highest with an average of 248,500UGX. In Agago district, 06 groups from the those that started in 2021 completed a

cycle. COVID 19 restrictions limited farmers capacity to engage in a number of economic activities, but economic activity was picking up by the end of 2021.

**Table 11: Share out information.**

District	No of groups	Accumulated interest	Accumulated amount saved	Amount shared	Average share-out per group.
Terego	45	72,929,900	229,476,000	302,405,900	6,720,131
Madi okollo	37	40,044,200	141,750,000	181,794,200	4,913,356
Arua	56	56,184,700	188,584,500	244,769,200	4,370,878
Koboko	7	4,470,000	29,003,000	33,505,500	4,786,500
Adjumani	76	63,933,250	174,148,000	238,081,250	3,132,648
Moyo/Obongi	89	67,730,418	363,113,000	369,886,048	4,156,023
Kitgum	121	123,065,648	513,901,861	636,967,509	5,264,194
Lamwo	121	109,707,600	391,785,400	501,493,000	4,144,570
Agago	156	107,095,600	596,016,100	703,111,700	4,507,126
Nebbi	37	81,936,000	158,696,900	240,632,900	6,503,592
Pakwach	64	97,058,800	187,193,500	284,252,300	4,441,442
Zombo	34	108,460,622	116,725,728	225,186,350	6,623,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>932616738</b>	<b>3,090,423,989</b>	<b>3,962,085,857</b>	

#### Saving and loans monitoring for groups supported in VSLA

The VSLA teams monitored portfolios of continuing groups from 2020 and those that started savings activities in 2021. Findings indicate that for most groups, women saved more than men. This is attributed to women's engaging in IGA activities and their commitment to VSLA as seen in higher attendance. Youth engagement has improved and they are now fully engaging in VSLA activities and progressed to a level where, in some groups their savings were higher than for the wider group. Return on investment increased by the end of 2021 from 17.1% to 19%..

In terms of fund utilization, there has been a decline from 71% by June 2021 to 57% by December 2021. The reason is that groups were graduation and therefore funds were being returned to the savings boxes. Although reports indicate fund utilization as good before graduation, it should be noted that COVID 19 pandemic dampened willingness to take loans. Some members also added that they have inadequate skills to manage income generating activities. There is a plan to integrate PMP and VSLA, this could be an avenue to improve on knowledge and skills of farmers to learn and diversity their income sources. While farmer groups capacity to borrow is low, considerable growth was registered in investment in agricultural activities. While this was 45% by December 2020, it had increased to 85% by the time of reporting.

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

**Table 3.1.2.3 Cumulative savings for farmer groups supported in VSLA by December 2021**

District	Number of groups	Cumulative Savings	Cumulative savings Women	Cumulative savings youth	Cumulative savings refugees
Lamwo	362	963,697,000	470,949,300	220,465,000	44,848,000
Nebbi	188	478,675,200	188,845,500	74,423,308	-
Kitgum	230	751,728,000	301,733,000	131,893,400	-
Pakwach	119	393,306,100	128,603,500	28,445,800	-
Zombo	176	517,143,000	161,052,000	35,067,500	-
Arua	527	995,050,800	489,755,600	188,376,000	165,012,500
Agago	271	701,691,500	288,002,100	123,738,100	-
Adjumani	472	1,311,937,600	752,452,000	341,977,600	174,195,734
Moyo/Obongi	522	872,899,000	494,572,900	174,965,500	116,130,500
Koboko	100	286,680,000	212,398,500	65,910,500	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>7,272,808,200</b>	<b>3,488,364,400</b>	<b>1,385,262,708</b>	<b>501,605,734</b>

**Table 3.1.2.3 Cumulative savings for farmer groups supported in VSLA by December 2021**

District	Number of groups	Cumulative loans	Agricultural loans	Cumulative loans women	Cumulative loans youth	Cumulative loans refugee
Lamwo	362	884,737,600	432,276,686	648,254,800	349,768,900	48,899,000
Nebbi	188	697,595,150	432,051,000	566,610,950	203,599,450	-
Kitgum	230	779,801,522	373,161,400	518,851,300	224,046,600	-
Pakwach	119	237,565,500	94,135,692	183,012,850	57,109,550	-
Zombo	176	339,822,250	138,459,400	181,126,100	63,072,050	-
Arua	527	1,396,450,750	535,017,300	1,015,128,100	376,717,800	189,539,200
Agago	271	664,096,500	376,926,840	427,377,100	176,783,600	-
Adjumani	472	1,409,830,550	625,279,500	910,206,750	377,619,700	201,842,600
Moyo/Obongi	522	775,606,300	330,936,700	511,597,600	165,771,000	-
Koboko	100	333,548,400	229,219,301	256,717,900	74,094,000	60,403,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>7,519,051,522</b>	<b>3,567,463,819</b>	<b>5,218,884,200</b>	<b>2,068,582,650</b>	<b>500,684,300</b>

### **Household planning and monitoring**

Under the VSLA component, households are guided to develop plans by setting goals that link to their production and marketing plans. During trainings participants are guided to set goals, develop saving, debt management plans and budget to be implemented during a saving cycle. In developing the plans, farmers make short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals for most households were to acquire improved seeds, land for production, farm tools like hoes. Medium and long-term goals were to acquire cattle, ox-ploughs, goats, piglets, poultry, solar panels for lighting, motorcycles, bicycles and construction of houses, pay school fees and start up small businesses.

During the period, CBTs conducted household visits to assess progress on goal achievement by supported households. Findings from the monitoring visits indicate that 99% of the households visited mainly implemented their short-term goals while monitoring of implementation of long term goals is still on going as this relates to completion of the production cycle.

### **Linking farmer groups to MFIs**

Efforts to link VSLAs to financial institutions, where this was in the interests of the VSLA groups, continued. A total of 105 farmer groups were linked to MFIs, these were from; AFARD- 47, RAU Agago- 06, RAU Kitgum/Lamwo- 11, RAU Moyo/Obongi- 20, PICOT- 13 and RAU Adjumani – 08. Groups were linked to commercial banks, micro-finance institutions and SACCOs, according to the particular situation of the group and the district.

Through the linkages, groups have been sensitized on how to secure group savings and access financial services. They have opened bank accounts and deposited their funds into the accounts. Groups that started in 2021 have completed preparatory processes for opening accounts.

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

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

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

The farmers trained the animals which can now ploughing. Loan repayment, had started as grace period elapsed in November 2021. On the other hand, 5 farmers in Lokole sub county who had paid for 5 bulls refunded their money worth 2,700,000 as the process of giving them the animals was taking long.

Various discussions have been ongoing with Talanta and farmers on this pilot scheme. With the closure of RAU Agago activities, Talanta is expected to share information with NURI CF. The conclusions will be drawn at the end of the project. It was evident that the demand was high including the other sub counties that were sensitized.

### **3.1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built**

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

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

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

9. Training in Defensive riding: This was conducted for the staff in North West Nile who were newly recruited to enhance their riding skills while running extension activities.
10. Collective marketing training: This training conducted in all the regions organized by NURI CF with support from consultants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021. The objective was to equip the extension staff in collective marketing skills in order to support the farmer groups.
11. Sexual Reproductive health and Rights: This training was conducted for staff in Acholi sub-region and North West Nile by CARE international to equip the staff with knowledge and skills on SRHR matters. This would help them to sensitize the farmer groups and make referrals where possible.

### **3.1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production Department)**

The objective of this activity is to build the implementation capacity of the district production departments in all NURI districts, to ensure that development activities which are important for rural livelihoods are implemented in an effective and efficient manner. The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; one of skills/career development and the other re-tooling.

Under skills/career development, the plans that were approved and implemented are given below.

Career courses:

1. Msc in Agriculture and Rural Development (2 participants)
2. Msc of Management science (1 Participant)
3. Msc in Applied science and Entomology (1 Participant)
4. Msc in Climate and Disaster Management (1 participant)
5. Msc in Agro-ecology (2)
6. Msc in Food security and community nutrition (1)
7. PGD in Project Planning and Management (3 Participants)
8. PGD in Food Safety Management (2 Participants)
9. PGD in Food safety (2)
10. PGD in Livestock planning and management (1)
11. PGD in monitoring and evaluation (1)

Skills/short courses:

1. Training in Horticulture Management (8 participants)
2. Training in excel and data base analysis and Management (08 participants)
3. Mind set transformation and leadership training (05 participants)
4. Sustainable soil management (15 participants)

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

### **CAREER TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPEMENT**

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

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

Under re-tooling, the districts developed the capacity development plans with support from consultants. CF organised a workshop to harmonise specification of procurement items in the approved plans which was attended by all DLG technical heads. CF developed plans for procurement and managed the procurement process. The districts that were supported in the reporting period are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo, Terego, Koboko, Kitgum and Arua. O4 motor vehicles, 29 motor cycles:

### **Table showing distribution of motor vehicles and motorcycles distributed under DCB:**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Motorcycle</b>
1.	Pakwach	-	7
2.	Obongi	1	2
3.	Adjumani	1	-
4.	Moyo	1	6
5.	Madi-Okollo	1	5
6.	Terego	-	4
7.	Koboko	-	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>

Assorted items were procured and distributed to the respective DLGs. The table below the distribution of the items across the districts supported during the reporting period:

### **Table showing distribution of assorted items across the districts under DCB in 2021:**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>PRODUCTION ITEMS</b>	<b>QTYS</b>	<b>DLG</b>
1	Plant clinics	3 pcs	Kitgum DLG, Moyo DLG, Obongi DLG
2	Office Metallic filing cabinets	10 pcs	Pakwach DLG



3	Bookshelves	12 pcs	Obongi, Madi Okollo DLG, Koboko DLG
4	Visitors chair	24 pcs	Madi Okollo, Pakwach, Koboko DLG
5	Reception Benches	6 pcs	Pakwach DLG, Koboko DLG
6	Executive High back Chairs	6 Pcs	Obongi DLG, Koboko DLG, Madi Okolo, Pakwach
7	Office Desks	21 pcs	Obongi DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach, Koboko
8	Boardroom Tables	3 pcs	Adjumani DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG
9	Boardroom chairs	74 pcs	Adjumani DLG, Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG
10	Solar power installation	1 pc	Obongi DLG
11	Artificial Insemination kits	5 Pcs	Madi Okollo DLG, Pakwach DLG, Obongi DLG.
12	Vaccine Carriers	11 pcs	Obongi DLG, Kitgum DLG, Pakwach DLG
13	GPS Machines	2 Pcs	Koboko DLG
14	Motorized Sprayer Pump	01 pc	Obongi DLG
15	Spray pumps	12 pcs	Kitgum, Obongi DLG, Pakwach DLG
16	Digital Weighing scales	12 pcs	Pakwach DLG, Obongi DLG
17	Ordinary scales	9 pcs	Pakwach DLG
18	Horn shear	1 pc	Pakwach DLG
19	Dehorning wire	2 pcs	Pakwach DLG
20	Automatic Drenching guns	6 pcs	Pakwach DLG
21	First Aid kits	4pcs	Obongi DLG
22	Rain gauge	4pcs	Obongi DLG
23	Cannulars	6pcs	Pakwach DLG
24	Trochers	6pcs	Pakwach DLG
25	Burdizzos	18pcs	Kitgum, Obongi, Pakwach DLG
26	Fish pond seine net	1pc	Pakwach DLG
27	Microscopes	2 pcs	Pakwach DLG
28	Digital Cameras	2pcs	Obongi DLG
29	Bucket foot pumps	6pcs	Pakwach DLG
30	Spray pumps	14pcs	Kitgum, Obongi and Pakwach
31	Weight tape measures	6pcs	Pakwach DLG
32	Ear tags	6pcs	Pakwach DLG
33	Binding machines	2pcs	Pakwach, Madi Okollo DLG
34	Refrigerators	2pcs	Pakwach, Madi Okollo DLG

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

Care International implements this output, financed through a DANIDA grant to UNFPA. CARE's core role is to train the CSA staff in the units and implementing partners on SRHR issues so as to equip them with knowledge and skills to conduct sensitization of NURI beneficiaries and where possible make referrals.

During the reporting period, CARE conducted training of CSA staff and CBTs in SRHR & GBV. The aim was to build the capacity of staff to raise awareness, and make referrals of SRHR related matters to institutions that can support such case. All the CSA staff in Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, Arua, Moyo/Obongi and Adjumani were trained. Other NURI districts are not included under the WAY programme.

In RAU Kitgum, the staff supported CARE to plan, mobilize and select farmer groups for refresher training on aspects of SRHR. The extension teams developed the plans and shared with CARE team who then run the sessions. A total of 50 farmer group leaders, women mentors, men mentors, women activists and sub county stakeholders in the 5 sub counties of Labongo Amida, Layamo, Akwang, Mucwini and Kitgum Matidi sub counties were trained. AEOs in the respective sub counties attended these trainings. Additionally, the staff sensitized 154 out of 210 groups on WAY in the 6 sub counties of Namokora, Mucwini, Akwang, Kitgum Matidi, Amida, and Layamo and in total of 2,657 farmers (940 Males, 1,717 Females and 439 Youths) were reached. Key information disseminated during CSA training were, gender roles and responsibilities, gender-based violence and family planning. Also, 28 referrals were made by NURI extension staff for farmer group members to access SRHR services at the health facilities, sub counties and CARE structures on the ground.

In Agago, CARE conducted a joint refresher training in Q1 for RAU Agago extension staff and Agago DLG staff. A total of 21 staff attended the training. The training was on revised curriculum for the integration of gender, gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health rights into the extension work. After the training, NURI extension staff were able to sensitize 240 farmer groups on GBV and 3 GBV cases were referred to the sub county community development offices of Lapono and Wol sub counties for Management. 01 defilement case in Lapono sub county was referred to Police with support of LCI of Lapere north village for case management. 01 community dialogue was organized by the AEO of Omiya Pacwa in collaboration with the sub county Community Development Officer (CDO) to sensitize the community on GBV which was very rampant within the sub county.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year CARE in partnership with RAU Agago conducted sensitization for 17 group representatives, 13 CBT who were not trained before and 2 RAU staff (VS and AES) on SRHR and GBV with support from the Kalongo hospital midwives and District Community Development Officer (DCDO).

In Adjumani and Moyo/Obongi, newly selected groups for support in 2021 were sensitized conducted sensitization of farmer groups in the respective districts and made referrals where possible.

## 3.2 Output 2: Rural Infrastructure

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

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

### **3.2.1 Prioritized Infrastructure Investment Plans Approved**

The activities to be implemented under this output include; sensitization activities, revalidation of parish development plans, selection and prioritization of projects at the sub-county level, technical screening and costing of prioritized projects. Formation of parish development committees and revalidation of development plans were conducted during inception and roll-out of rural infrastructure activities. These activities were therefore reported about in the previous implementation year.

#### District and sub-county sensitisation meetings

The above activity was conducted in 12 out of 13 districts of RI implementation under the programme. The objective was to ensure the newly elected leaders had full understanding of the programme activities, their roles and responsibilities during implementation. The meetings were conducted in collaboration with CSA implementing units and district and sub county authorities. The participants from the DLG were Chief Administrative Officers (CAO), LCV Chairpersons, Secretaries of Production, Secretaries of Works and Technical Services, Secretaries of Health and Education, Secretaries of Finance and the NURI District Focal Point Officer. At the sub counties the participants were Sub-County Chiefs, Community Development Officers, Agricultural Officers, Parish Chiefs, District Councillors, LC II and Sub-County Councillors.

The exercise was not conducted in Zombo district because most of the leaders retained their elective positions. In total, 3,002 participants (1,643 male and 1,359 female) attended district and sub-county sensitization meetings over the course of 2021.

**Table 3.2.1: Participants in 2021 District and Sub-County Sensitisation Meetings**

District / Settlement	Sub-County	Male	Female	Total
Adjumani	11	121	100	<b>221</b>
Agago	19	343	178	<b>521</b>
Arua	N/A	8	2	<b>10</b>

Imvepi Settlement	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Kitgum	19	299	184	<b>483</b>
Koboko	6	38	17	<b>55</b>
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	17	240	143	<b>383</b>
Madi-Okollo	N/A	5	2	<b>7</b>
Moyo	5	541	720	<b>1,261</b>
Nebbi	N/A	11	3	<b>14</b>
Obongi	N/A	12	3	<b>15</b>
Pakwach	N/A	17	3	<b>20</b>
Rhino Camp Settlement	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Terego	N/A	8	4	<b>12</b>
Zombo	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>3,002</b>

*Out the total attendance of 3,002, 54.7% were male, while 1,359 were female representing 45.3%*

#### Project screening activities conducted in 2021

Prioritized projects for implementation in 2022 were identified and screened for viability during 2021. This activity was conducted in the districts of Adjumani, Agago, Arua, Kitgum, Koboko, Lamwo, Obongi, Terego and Zombo. Majority of the district technical staff did not attend the exercises citing competing priorities although it was a pre-requisite in the NURI Rural Infrastructure manual that they participate. DRC observed a general feeling amongst district technical staff that DSA of UGX 20,000 was insufficient although agreed and documented by the local development partner group. This could have contributed to the low turn up for the activity.

With regards to investment plans, Kitgum, Lamwo, Palabek settlement and Zombo presented their plans to the DTPCs for approval, however 7 districts were unable to present their plans in 2021, instead committing to sharing them with DRC in January 2022. The following projects were approved within the plans submitted for implementation in 2022; 30 kms of community access road, 7 protected

springs and 29.32 acres for food forests. In Lamwo, replacements for 2 community access roads that were abandoned in 2021 due to land issues were identified in the neighbouring parishes. A breakdown of the location and type of rural infrastructure projects screened, costed and approved for implementation in 2022 are indicated in the table below:

**Table 3.2.1. Rural Infrastructure Projects Approved in 2021**

District	Sub-Counties	CAR	Market	Food Forest	Springs	Ponds
UNIT	No.	km	No.	Acres	No.	No.
Kitgum	2	9	0	3	0	0
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	2	6.8	0	0	0	0
Zombo	8	14	0	26.32	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29.32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

### **3.2.2 Approved Infrastructure Projects Implemented**

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

#### Community site dialogue meetings and signing of project implementation agreements

Previously, site dialogue meetings were conducted after the formation of community groups and PMC selection, however, DRC found this approach frequently led to delays and losses due to land conflict. Site dialogue meetings are now done as soon as Investment Plans are approved by the DTPCs.

A total of 408 Site dialogue meetings were conducted during the reporting period across all districts. These meetings were also used to address issues related to land disputes, demarcations, as well as seeking community approval of the prioritized projects and identify any other issues that could potentially arise before actual works commenced. Payment rates, work days, the nature of the work and work site safety, and payment modalities were also discussed during the meetings. Regarding safety, emphasis was placed on the potential risk of ponds and ensuring the community participates in keeping children away from the sites. Meetings were facilitated by local leaders, including Parish Chiefs, LC III, Councillors to the sub-county, Sub-County Chiefs, LC II, LC I and opinion leaders, such as cultural leaders, elders, and religious leaders. Meeting minutes have been documented and signed by local authorities.

**Table 3.2.4: Site Dialogue Meetings Conducted Per District**

District / Settlement	Site Dialogue Meetings Conducted
Adjumani	20
Agago	8
Arua	36
Imvepi Settlement	8
Kitgum	8
Koboko	62
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	110
Madi-Okollo	0
Moyo	38
Nebbi	20
Obongi	32
Pakwach	21
Rhino Camp Settlement	4
Terego	6
Zombo	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>

#### Community Groups Formation

DRC worked with local authorities to identify participants and form local community groups that were willing and able to participate in the construction of NURI projects. The process was led by parish chiefs and LC1 of the respective areas, and supported by DRC field staff. Local leaders played a key role in verifying members' residence status within the respective communities. During the selection, DRC verified to ensure that all group members were within walking distance to the project site, at least 50% were female and 60% were youth between the ages of 18 to 28. A total of 564 groups comprised of 15,939 members, across all 13 districts were formed. 7,463 (46.8%) men, 8,476 (53.1%) women and 9,138 (57.3%) youth. The details are provided in the table below:



**TABLE 3. Community Groups Formed**

District / Settlement	Groups	Total Participants				Youth				Adults			
		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
		National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee
Adjumani	31	453	41	387	49	226	20	230	35	222	20	161	16
		Total:494		Total: 436		Total: 246		Total: 265		Total: 242		Total: 177	
		<b>Sub Total: 930</b>				<b>Sub Total: 511</b>				<b>Sub Total: 419</b>			
Agago	77	1112	-	1108	-	666	-	659	-	446	-	449	-
		Total: 1,112		Total: 1,108		Total: 666		Total: 659		Total: 446		Total: 449	
		<b>Sub Total: 2,220</b>				<b>Sub Total: 1,325</b>				<b>Sub Total: 895</b>			
Arua	41	575	-	475	-	354	-	276	-	220	-	200	-
		Total: 575		Total: 475		Total: 354		Total: 276		Total: 220		Total: 200	
		<b>Sub Total: 1,050</b>				<b>Sub Total: 630</b>				<b>Sub Total: 420</b>			
Imvepi Settlement	47	701	-	574	-	385	-	380	-	316	-	194	-
		Total:701		Total: 574		Total: 385		Total: 380		Total: 316		Total: 194	
		<b>Sub Total: 1,275</b>				<b>Sub Total: 765</b>				<b>Sub Total: 510</b>			
Kitgum	26	420	-	360	-	243	-	239	-	177	-	121	-
		Total: 420		Total: 360		Total: 243		Total: 239		Total: 177		Total: 121	
		<b>Sub Total: 780</b>				<b>Sub Total: 482</b>				<b>Sub Total: 298</b>			
Koboko	64	888	26	820	20	482	17	445	15	406	9	375	5
		Total:		Total: 840		Total: 499		Total: 460		Total: 415		Total: 380	
		<b>Sub Total: 1,754</b>				<b>Sub Total: 959</b>				<b>Sub Total: 795</b>			
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	71	1100	-	1030	-	568	-	649	-	532	-	381	-
		Total: 1,100		Total: 1,030		Total: 568		Total: 649		Total: 532		Total: 381	
		<b>Sub Total: 2,130</b>				<b>Sub Total: 1,217</b>				<b>Sub Total: 913</b>			



Madi-Okollo	28	394	-	446	-	191	-	242	-	204	-	203	-
		Total: 394		Total: 446		Total: 191		Total: 242		Total: 204		Total: 203	
		<b>Sub Total: 840</b>				<b>Sub Total: 433</b>				<b>Sub Total: 407</b>			
Moyo	35	517	-	383	-	237	-	216	-	238	-	209	-
		Total: 517		Total: 383		Total: 237		Total: 216		Total: 238		Total: 209	
		<b>Sub Total: 900</b>				<b>Sub Total: 453</b>				<b>Sub Total: 447</b>			
Nebbi	11	158	-	142	-	82	-	81	-	64	-	73	-
		Total: 158		Total: 142		Total: 82		Total: 81		Total: 64		Total: 73	
		<b>Sub Total: 300</b>				<b>Sub Total: 163</b>				<b>Sub Total: 137</b>			
Obongi	55	707	239	521	168	471	112	366	68	236	127	155	100
		Total: 946		Total: 689		Total: 583		Total: 434		Total: 363		Total: 255	
		<b>Grand Total: 1635</b>				<b>Grand Total: 1017</b>				<b>Grand Total: 618</b>			
Pakwach	30	464	-	421	-	263	-	262	-	196	-	164	-
		Total: 464		Total: 421		Total: 263		Total: 262		Total: 196		Total: 164	
		<b>Sub Total: 885</b>				<b>Sub Total: 525</b>				<b>Sub Total: 360</b>			
Rhino Camp Settlement	11	205	-	125	-	135	-	75	-	70	-	50	-
		Total: 205		Total: 125		Total: 135		Total: 75		Total: 70		Total: 50	
		<b>Sub Total: 330</b>				<b>Sub Total: 210</b>				<b>Sub Total: 120</b>			
Terego	4	103	-	92	-	70	-	69	-	33	-	23	-
		Total: 103		Total: 92		Total: 70		Total: 69		Total: 33		Total: 23	
		<b>Sub Total: 195</b>				<b>Sub Total: 139</b>				<b>Sub Total: 56</b>			
Zombo	33	373	-	342	-	142	-	167	-	231	-	175	-
		Total: 393		Total: 279		Total: 142		Total: 148		Total: 231		Total: 151	
		<b>Sub Total: 672</b>				<b>Sub Total: 290</b>				<b>Sub Total: 382</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>8,170</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>7,226</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>4,515</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3,591</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>2,933</b>	<b>121</b>
		<b>Grand Total: 15,939</b>				<b>Grand Total: 9,138</b>				<b>Grand Total: 6,801</b>			

### Project Management Committee members formed and trained

PMCs were formed for all project sites, including a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and one committee member. The PMCs were elected and trained to oversee group activities, including management of the group register, management of tools, preparation of detailed workplans for their projects, organization and supervision of work, maintenance of attendance registers, support in issuing payments to members, and handing over tools to PUCs. Across the 13 districts, a total of 2,272 (1,160 women and 1,112 men) PMCs were formed and trained during the reporting period.

**Table 3.2.4. Project Management Committees Formed and Trained**

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of Groups</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adjumani	31	62	62	<b>124</b>
Agago	77	154	154	<b>308</b>
Arua	41	82	82	<b>164</b>
Imvepi Settlement	47	94	94	<b>188</b>
Kitgum	26	52	52	<b>104</b>
Koboko	64	128	128	<b>256</b>
Lamwo	71	154	130	<b>284</b>
Madi-Okollo	28	68	44	<b>112</b>
Moyo	35	70	70	<b>140</b>
Nebbi	11	22	22	<b>44</b>
Obongi	55	110	110	<b>220</b>
Pakwach	30	60	60	<b>120</b>
Rhino Camp Settlement	11	22	22	<b>44</b>
Terego	4	16	16	<b>32</b>
Zombo	33	66	66	<b>132</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>2,272</b>

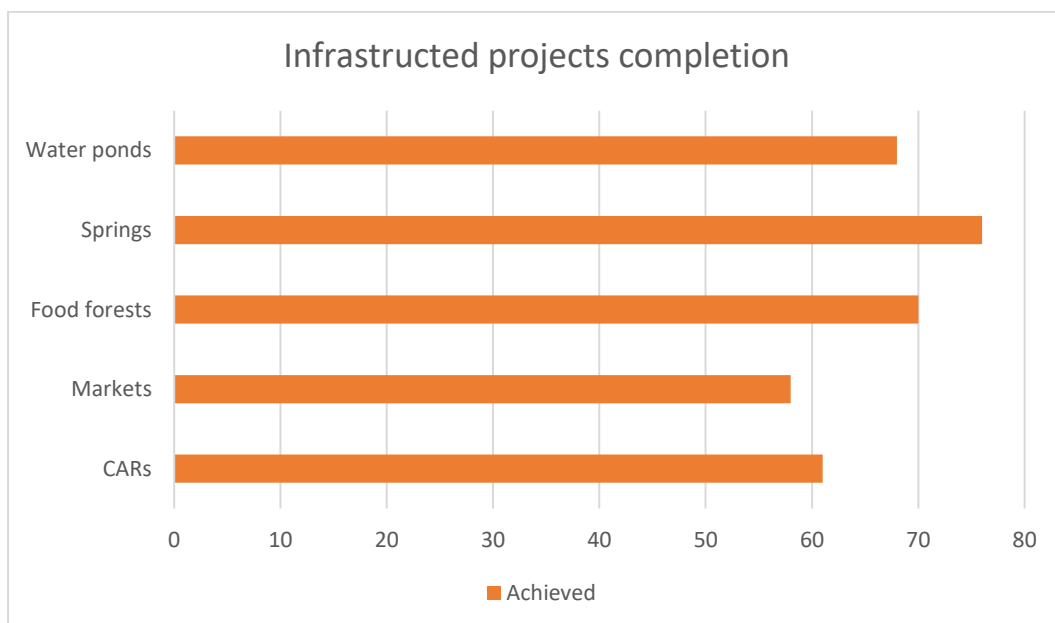
### Procurement and distribution of tools

DRC procured assorted tools and planting materials for use by community groups in the construction of approved projects. The tools and planting materials were distributed to all 564 community groups after completion of site dialogue meetings and PMC trainings. Tools included hoes, spades, wheel barrows, bonding rods, measuring tape, string, buckets, crowbars, hammers and first aid kits, while planting materials for food forests included teak, afzelia, mvule, and neem for canopy cover, tamarind, tangerine, pawpaw, bananas, and guava for fruiting trees and sesbania, aloe vera, hibiscus, and ginger for shrubbery.

### Implementation of approved projects

Out of 1,347 projects approved in investment plans since the commencement of the NURI programme, 890 (66%) have been fully completed by DRC, 438 (31.8%) are ongoing, and 29 (2.2%) were not implemented.

**Table 3.2.2.5: % completion of infrastructure projects**



The table below provides a comprehensive overview of project status per district of implementation.

**TABLE 5. Status of Infrastructure Projects Implemented as of Quarter 4 2021**

District / Settlement	CAR		Markets		Food Forests		Springs		Water Ponds		TOTAL		
	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Total Planned	Total Completed	
<b>Adjumani</b>	79	48	0	0	39 <sup>1</sup>	37	2	2	3	3	<b>123</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Agago</b>	82	35	1	0	24	0	8	6	7	7	<b>122</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Arua, M/O Terego,</b>	115	98	4	4	103	103	48	43	0	0	<b>270</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Imvepi</b>	43	21	1	0	10	10	7	0	3	3	<b>64</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Kitgum</b>	38	18	1	1	28 <sup>2</sup>	21	0	0	3	3	<b>70</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Koboko</b>	43	19	2	0	26 <sup>3</sup>	23	11	10	7	7	<b>89</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Lamwo</b>	57	10	2	1	25	0	1	1	4	4	<b>89</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Moyo</b>	37	24	0	0	13	0	10	6	0	0	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Nebbi</b>	31	19	1	1	38 <sup>4</sup>	34	8	6	3	3	<b>81</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Obongi</b>	105	66	0	0	25	0	1	0	0	0	<b>131</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Pakwach</b>	30	17	0	0	14	0	1	0	4	4	<b>49</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Palabek</b>	18	18	0	0	14 <sup>5</sup>	10	0	0	0	0	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Rhino Camp</b>	63	51	0	0	43	43	6	6	0	0	<b>112</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Zombo</b>	21	20	0	0	14 <sup>6</sup>	11	20	13	0	0	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>66%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2 food forest projects in Adjumani were affected by flooding and replaced by ponds.

<sup>2</sup> 7 food forest projects in Kitgum are pending gap filling.

<sup>3</sup> 3 food forest projects in Koboko are pending gap filling.

<sup>4</sup> 3 food forest projects in Nebbi are pending gap filling, while 1 was not able to be implemented as planned.

<sup>5</sup> 4 food forest projects in Palabek are pending gap filling.

<sup>6</sup> 3 food forest projects in Zombo have not been implemented due to communities not being willing to donate the land required.

### Formation of Project User Committees (PUC)

As part of NURI sustainability plan, PUCs were formed for each project completed in 2021. The PUC members were all comprised of nominated members of the user's groups and assumed responsibility for:

- Leading the process of formulating and submitting by-laws for approval by local councils.
- Preparing maintenance work plans
- Mobilising resources for the maintenance of created assets.
- Mobilising community members to carry out periodic maintenance.
- Reporting any problems in regard to infrastructure delivered through NURI to the local authorities.

During the reporting period, a total of 3,226 individuals (1,962 men and 1,264 women) formed 358 PUCs. Each PUC averaged 9 members, including a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasure and 05 other members. They were all trained on their roles and responsibilities by DRC and were supported to develop maintenance plans and by-laws. LC I and LC II members were encouraged to support and join PUC formation processes. The committees will be followed up and supported for 06 months after commissioning of the projects is done.

It should be noted that PUCs were not formed for food forest or market projects as these types of projects are fully handed over to respective institutions and sub-counties for management and maintenance. In the case of markets, sub-counties subsequently outsource management and maintenance to individuals or firms.

**Table 3.2.: Project User Committee Members Trained Per District**

District	Sub-County	Male	Female	Total
Adjumani	7	290	175	465
Agago	6	50	40	90
Arua	4	59	31	90
Imvepi Settlement	1	235	152	387
Kitgum	4	193	159	352
Koboko	6	168	102	270
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	8	262	134	396
Madi-Okollo	0	0	0	0

Moyo	5	127	89	216
Nebbi	8	115	92	207
Obongi	4	263	194	457
Pakwach	0	0	0	0
Rhino Camp Settlement	2	95	39	134
Terego	0	0	0	0
Zombo	4	105	57	162
Total	59	1,962	1,264	3,226

#### Radio talk shows conducted

Over the course of 2021, 99 radio talk shows were aired as a means to create awareness about NURI programme and rural infrastructure activities. The radio statements included a wide range of topics which included; status of on-going projects, planned activities, community roles and responsibilities in rural infrastructure projects, land donation processes, conflict management, challenges encountered during implementation, maintenance and handover processes for completed structures. Some programmes were combined with CSA partners, the DLG and sub county leadership.

**TABLE 12: Radio Talk Shows conducted Per District**

District / Settlement	Number of Radio Talk Shows Aired
Adjumani	14
Agago	10
Arua	2
Imvepi Settlement	1
Kitgum	12
Koboko	10
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	6
Madi-Okollo	2
Moyo	10

Nebbi and Pakwach	16
Obongi	4
Rhino Camp Settlement	1
Terego	2
Zombo	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>

#### Commissioning of completed projects

Commissioning of completed projects was carried out in the districts of Agago, Arua, Kitgum and Lamwo districts as well as in Rhino Camp settlement. In total, 212 projects were commissioned in collaboration with district local authorities, RDC and LCV Chairpersons. This activity has been postponed to Q1 of 2021 in the districts of Adjumani, Obongi and Terego however final inspection was on going at the time of reporting with progress slower than planned, primarily due to challenges in organizing final inspections with district technical staff.

**Table 13: Commissioned Projects Per District**

District / Settlement	Commissioned Projects
Agago	12
Arua	67
Kitgum	43
Lamwo	43
Rhino Camp Settlement	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>

#### **Other Activities conducted by DRC during the reporting period:**

##### Soil Fertility Assessment

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

residues after harvest) and compost were equally recommended to build soil structure and reduce nutrient loss through leaching while conserving soil moisture.

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

#### Participation in Inter-Agency Coordination

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

#### Settlement coordination meetings

DRC actively participated in Inter-Agency coordination meetings in settlements of Palabek, Parolinya, and Rhino camp. The meetings encouraged partners to resume activities in the settlements in 2021 amidst COVID 19 restrictions. Meetings were attended by OPM commandant, implementing partners, LC V, CAO's office, planning Unit, Engineering, Production, Health and OPM/UNHCR at settlement.

### **3.2.3 DLG Capacity (engineering department) built**

The objective of this activity is to build the implementation capacity of the DLG engineering department to ensure that rural infrastructure activities that support agricultural development within the districts are in an effective and efficient manner. The capacity building plans are implemented in two ways; skills/career development and re-tooling.

During the reporting period, the following skills/career development plans were approved and implemented:

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

Skills/short courses:

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



There was delay in start date of the short courses with some put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions as most of the training institutes were closed. However, when the guidelines are relaxed, some short courses resumed. The table below provides status of achievement of approved courses:

**Table 3.2.3.1 Course supported under DCB**

	<b>Course</b>	<b>Courses completed</b>	<b>Courses Pending</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Masters' studies	5	4	9
2	Post Graduate Diplomas	4	4	8
3	Higher Diplomas	4	2	6
4	Short Courses	1	64	65

Under the retooling for the Engineering department, the objective is to help with service delivery within the department for better implementation of the NURI activities under Rural Infrastructure. The districts that benefited under retooling are Pakwach, Obongi, Adjumani, Moyo, Madi-Okollo and Koboko. Arua was added onto the list because they had a surplus budget from the career/skills plan. The districts received vehicles, motor cycles and assorted equipment.

**Table 3.2.3.2 showing distribution of motor vehicles and motorcycles distributed under DCB:**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Motorcycle</b>
1.	Pakwach	1	2
2.	Obongi	1	2
3.	Adjumani	1	-
4.	Moyo	1	6
5.	Madi-Okollo	1	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

Assorted items were procured and distributed to the respective DLGs. The table below the distribution of the items across the districts supported during the reporting period:

**Table 3.2.3.4 Assorted items procured and distributed under DBC:**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>ENGINEERING ITEMS</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>DLG</b>
1	Executive high back chairs	5 pcs	Obongi DLG,
2	Office Desks	2 pcs	Madi Okollo DLG
3	Visitors' chairs	8 pcs	Pakwach DLG
4	GPS Machines	2 pcs	Koboko DLG

5	Borehole Camera	1 Pc	Adjumani DLG
6	Solar Power Installation	1 Pc	Obongi DLG
7	Arc GIS Software	7 pcs	Kitgum DLG, Koboko DLG
8	Open Flow CAD 2019	1 Pc	Adjumani DLG
9	ARC View GIS Software	7 Pcs	Adjumani DLG
10	Solid Edge 3 CAD	1 pc	Adjumani DLG
11	Auto CAD 3D Civil	2 Pcs	Adjumani DLG
12	Victoron Configuration Software	1 pc	Kitgum DLG
13	Archcad Software	3 Pcs	Adjumani DLG, Koboko DLG
14	Total Station	2 Pcs	Pakwach DLG, Madi Okollo DLG.
15	Rebound hammers	2pcs	Madi Okollo, Moyo DLG
16	Water testing kits	1pc	Obongi DLG
17	Incubator	1pc	Obongi DLG
18	Printers	1pc	Pakwach DLG
19	Tablets	4pcs	Obongi, Koboko DLG
20	Digital cameras	4pcs	Moyo, Obongi DLG

## 3.3 Output 3: Water Resource Management

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

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

### 3.3.1 Develop micro-catchment plans

#### Selection of 8th micro-catchment for plan preparation

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

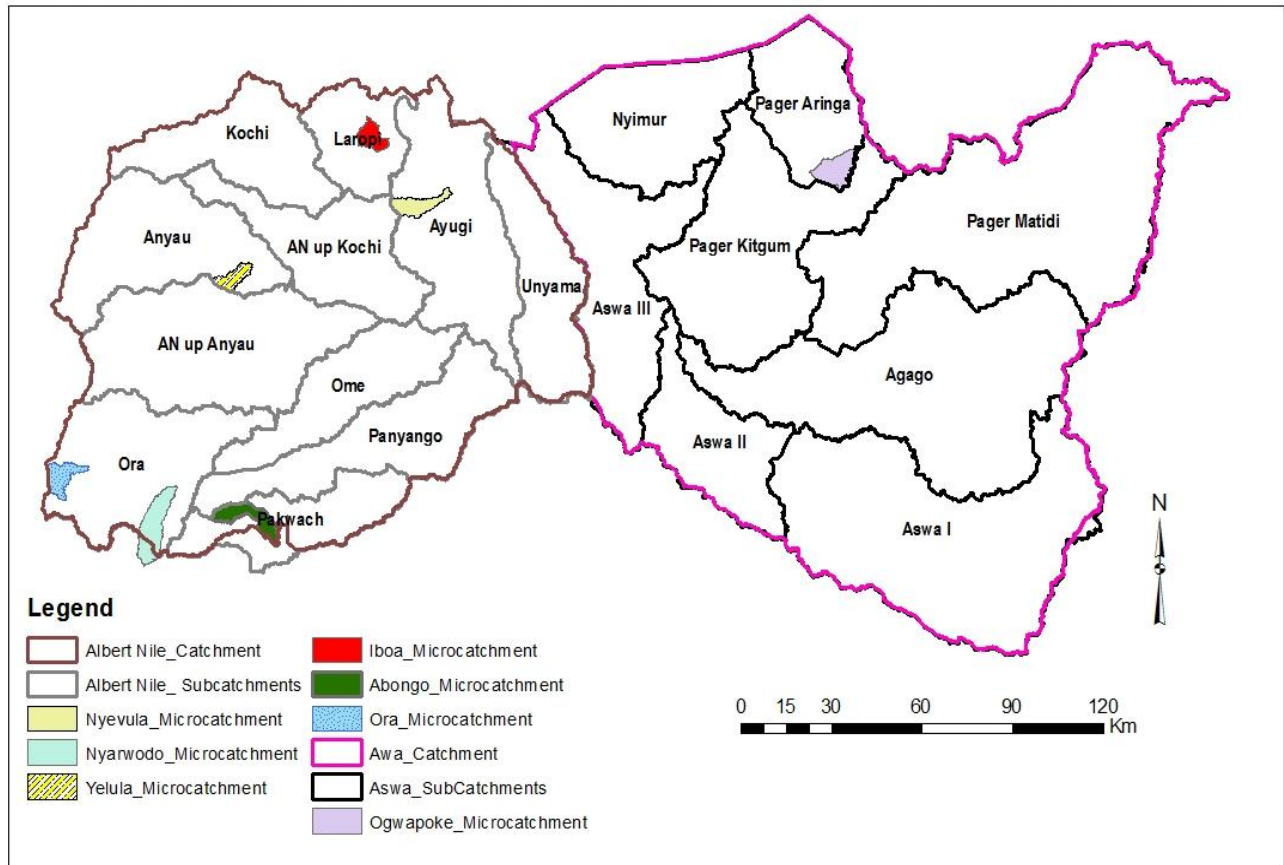
#### Development of effective community agreements/bylaws on natural resource management that emphasizes water management

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

#### Formation of implementation level committees and capacity building of stakeholders

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

**MICRO CATCHMENTS WITH ONGOING MICRO CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION**



**Fig.1: Micro catchments with completed mCMPs**

**3.3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed**

Preparation of infrastructure investment plans for approval

Investment plans for the seven micro catchments of Ayila Abongo, Iboa, Nyarwodho, Nyivura, Ogwapoke and Yelulu were prepared, presented and approved for implementation. The table below presents the details for the total number of WRM projects across all 7 micro-catchments stands which stands at 388.

**Table 3.3.2.1: Summary of Projects as per Approved Investment Plans**

Micro Catchments	Green Roads for Water	Valley Tank	Food Forests	Springs	Ponds	Soil and Water Conservation	Total
Ayila Abongo	2	-	68	11	12	4	97

Iboa	5	-	36	1	6	3	51
Nyarwodho	4	-	27	16	2	5	54
Nyivura	5	-	30	7	5	2	49
Ogwapoke	5	-	36	1	5	1	48
Ora	3	-	25	29	2	-	59
Yelulu	4	1	19	2	1	3	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>388</b>

The total of 388 is expected to increase after approval of the 2022 Awic and Ora mC's investment plans. The total number of projects decreased by 1, after submission of the quarter 3 report. This is because 1 water pond project was deemed unviable due to soil conditions.

#### **Riba Gravity Flow Scheme (GFS):**

DRC under WRM earmarked funds for the re-construction of Ora GFS in Zombo District, which was intended to supply potable water to communities in Ayaka and Amuda Parishes in Akaa sub-county. The initial assessment of water yield indicated good yield appropriate to supply water for GFS. During the development of the detailed design, a recommendation to conduct another assessment was given, therefore two other assessments were done which results showed very low yield values (i.e. 0.75m<sup>3</sup>/hr and 0.94m<sup>3</sup>/hr) compared to the demand of 0.06m<sup>3</sup>/person/day. This led to a decision to cancel the Ora GFS design workshop.

Two alternative schemes were provided; Ngume and Riba GFS. An assessment was done by MWE together with DRC and Zombo DLG under the northern umbrella for water and sanitation. Results showed that Ngume GFS had a yield of 0.31m<sup>3</sup>/hr at the faucet while Riba GFS discharge was 0.6m<sup>3</sup>/hr at each of the five tap stands and up to 3.4m<sup>3</sup>/hr at the source. A comparative analysis of the two schemes indicated that Riba was most viable. DRC will proceed with the Riba GFS project and a review workshop planned for the first week of February 2022. Implementation of this scheme is planned to begin in March and to be completed by June 2022.

#### **Waka Flood Control Works on River Kochi:**

This project was undertaken to address flooding that affected Waka parish and the villages of Kochi Boma, Kochi Central and Gborokonyo in Itula sub-county. Notably, 3 community access roads, 1 primary school (Waka P/S), 3 Health Centre IIIs (Waka Old H/C, Waka H/C and Belle H/C) and Gborokonyo trading centre were fully submerged. The cause of flooding was related to the attempted construction of a bridge on the Kochi River connecting Obongi to Yumbe, which left a waterway that gradually widened.

Furthermore, blockage of the natural stream due to siltation and poor fishing practices forced the flow through other routes. DRC was able to control the flooding through the implementation of river bank restoration works combined with resilience design approaches. The specific activities completed included:

- i) Unblocking of the natural water course - 15m wide.
- ii) Blocking a burst point by constructing a 30m wide earth dam with a 17m long key way and 15m long X 3m wide X 2m compacted embankment layering 300mm. The inner dam wall plugged with piled soil from the river bed to ground level created a seal for the dam wall.
- iii) Construction of 5km long X 4m wide X 1m deep bioswale to slow, spread and sink the excess spillage from the River Kochi.
- iv) Opening an access road to the site. A total of 4.3km from the main road at Kochi Boma through Waka Health Centre to the Waka restoration site was opened to enhance accessibility for locals to their farmlands which had been destroyed by flooding.
- v) Planting of vertiva, napier, bamboo and trees to further stabilise the river embankment and reduce siltation of the river.

As of January 2022, these two aforementioned projects, therefore, will add to the total number of WRM projects from the previous 388 to 390.

#### District and Sub-County Sensitization of New Leaders

DRC conducted sensitization of newly elected leaders across all the districts hosting the 7 micro-catchments. This was done in collaboration with the Resilience Agricultural units, implementing partners and the DLG and LLG. Across the micro-catchments, a total of 118 (77 males and 41 female) people participated in District-level sensitization meetings, while 1,571 (921 male and 650 female) participated in sub-county sensitization meetings. Attendance in Ayila Abongo and Nyivura micro catchments was low. This was attributed to conflicting priorities within the districts. As a general observation, the rate of involvement of women in the proceedings were low compared to that of men, with a majority of the talking and decision-making by men. To address this, DRC always encourages NURI staff to develop a comprehensive understanding of the hierarchies, attitudes, beliefs and power dynamics in communities, so as to anticipate possible barriers to participation. Overall, the sensitization meetings were successful as districts have exhibited a strong understanding of the NURI programme.

**Table 3.3.2.2: Attendance to District and Sub-County Sensitisation Meetings**

Micro-Catchment	District		Sub-Counties		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Ayila Abongo	17	3	74	49	143

Iboa	13	7	182	115	317
Nyarwodho	9	6	137	98	250
Nyivura	13	8	93	59	173
Ogwapoke	8	6	107	71	192
Ora	9	6	174	120	309
Yelulu	8	5	154	138	305
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1,689</b>

#### Site Dialogue Meetings and Signing Voluntary Land Donation Forms

A total of 164 site dialogue meetings were conducted during the reporting period with participation of 2,651 individuals (1,529 male and 1,122 female). The meetings contributed to minimizing potential land dispute issues, and provided a space for addressing community concerns and questions. Cash for work beneficiary modalities, groups formation criteria, payment rates and modalities, voluntary land donation forms and the nature of work were also explained during the meetings. All meetings were immediately followed by landlords signing voluntary land donation forms. Over the course of the year, turnout for the meetings was high, owing to high enthusiasm by communities.

**Table 3.3.3.3: Summary of Site Dialogue Meetings and Signing Voluntary Land Donation Forms**

Micro-Catchments	Groups	Participants		Total
		Male	Female	
Ayila Abongo	33	256	133	389
Iboa	8	165	115	280
Nyarwodho	27	285	300	585
Nyivura	13	188	155	343
Ogwapoke	15	184	261	445

Ora	26	241	63	304
Yelulu	7	210	95	305
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1,529</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>2,651</b>

### Community Groups formation

Group formation activities were completed during the year for WRM construction works. A total of 256 groups were formed for cash for work activities as given in the table below. During monitoring of cash for work activities, it was noted that participation of groups especially in the refugee-hosting micro-catchments (Yelulu and Nyivura) was low. This was attributed to clashes with market days as well as in-settlement distributions. DRC tried to organise planning meetings before the construction works started to agree with community members on the most appropriate days of the week and times for scheduling work. 52.4% of the registered members were female and 47.6% men.



Micro-Catchment	Groups	Total Participants				Youth				Adults			
		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
		National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee
Ayila Abongo	45	662	0	689	0	415	0	413	0	276	0	276	0
		Total: 662		Total: 689		Total: 415		Total: 413		Total: 276		Total: 276	
		<b>Sub-Total: 1,351</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 828</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 552</b>			
Iboa	54	1,488	100	1,262	90	917	42	776	36	529	58	528	54
		Total: 1,588		Total: 1,352		Total: 959		Total: 812		Total: 587		Total: 582	
		<b>Sub-Total: 2,940</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 1,771</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 1,169</b>			
Nyarwodho	61	794	0	743	0	408	0	395	0	376	0	348	0
		Total: 794		Total: 743		Total: 408		Total: 395		Total: 376		Total: 348	
		<b>Sub-Total: 1,537</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 803</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 724</b>			
Nyivura	85	1,064	0	1,111	0	605	0	567	0	521	0	473	0
		Total: 1,064		Total: 1,111		Total: 605		Total: 567		Total: 521		Total: 473	
		<b>Sub-Total: 2,175</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 1,172</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 994</b>			
Ogwapoke	85	1,334	0	1,059	0	756	0	680	0	578	0	379	0
		Total: 1,334		Total: 1,059		Total: 756		Total: 680		Total: 578		Total: 379	

		<b>Sub-Total: 2,393</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 1,436</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 957</b>			
Ora	<b>26</b>	270	0	240	0	97	0	89	0	163	0	151	0
		Total: 270		Total: 240		Total: 97		Total: 89		Total: 163		Total: 151	
		<b>Sub-Total: 510</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 186</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 314</b>			
Yelulu	<b>25</b>	204	105	188	83	252	23	99	35	88	14	60	9
		Total: 309		Total: 271		Total: 275		Total: 134		Total: 102		Total: 69	
		<b>Sub-Total: 580</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 409</b>				<b>Sub-Total: 171</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>6,021</b>		<b>5,465</b>		<b>3,515</b>		<b>3,090</b>		<b>2,603</b>		<b>2,278</b>	
		<b>11,486</b>				<b>6,605</b>				<b>4,881</b>			

**TABLE 4: Community Groups Formed**

### Project Management Committees formed and trained

During the reporting period, a total of 1,912 (956 females, 956 males) members of PMCs were trained. The trainings were for two days implemented both in theory and practice covering construction and maintenance of Green Roads for Water, food forests, protected springs, riverbank restoration and soil and water conservation techniques. Due to COVID 19 SOPs, DRC divided the training participants into smaller groups to avoid violations of the SOPs requirements. The trainings were conducted by DRC with support from the district technical and sub-county staff. The content of the sessions was:

- The technical specifications of the specific projects they will manage.
- The technical methods to apply and demonstrations of how to use tools safely.
- Basic project cycle management and inter-personal supervision skills.
- Record-keeping for attendance.
- Work norms and conditions, and methods for payment as per the national policy on cash for work.
- Basic training on how to use first aid kits.
- The DRC's feedback and complainants' mechanisms.
- Reporting mechanisms for conflicts and risks to relevant stakeholders.

The table below provides the details.

**TABLE 3.3.3.5: Project Management Committees Formed and Trained**

<b>Micro-Catchment</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ayila Abongo	144	144	288
Iboa	216	216	432
Nyarwodho	122	122	244
Nyivura	118	118	236
Ogwapoke	170	170	340
Ora	82	82	164
Yelulu	104	104	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>1,912</b>

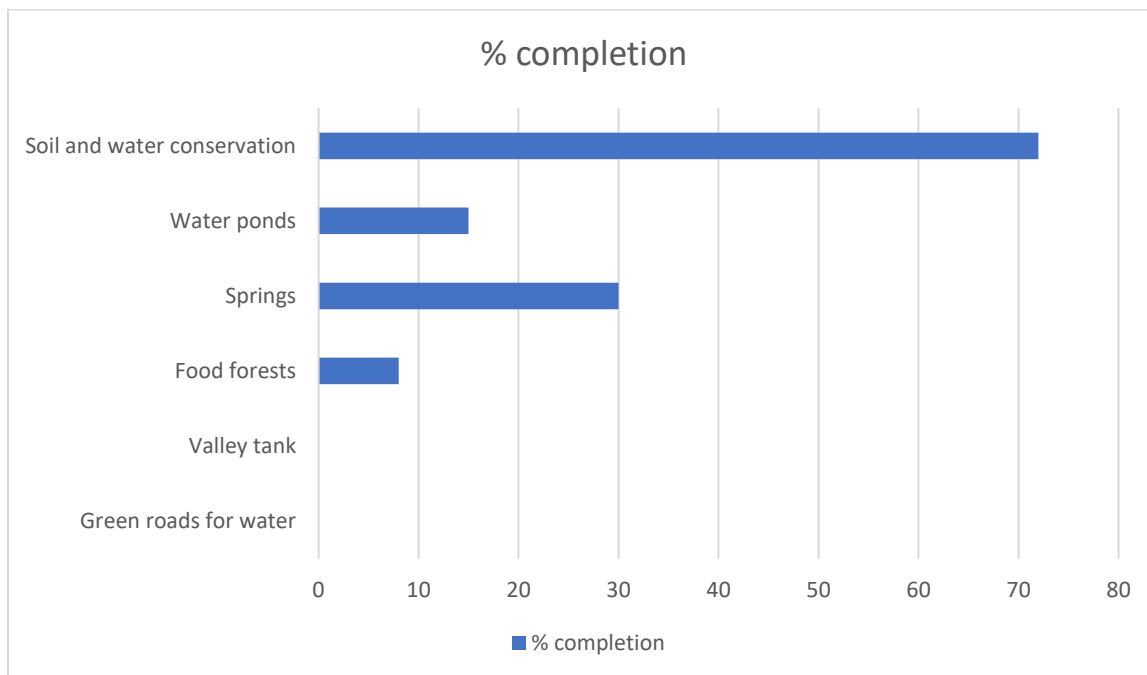
### Procurement and distribution of tools

Based on each project’s infrastructure investment plans and following the standard procedures of the NURI WRM manual for the distribution of tools, a total of 17,155 assorted tools were procured and distributed to project groups in Ayila Abongo, Iboa, Nyarwodho, Nyivura, Ogwapoke and Ora for construction activities.

### Implementation of approved projects in 2021

From the 388 WRM projects approved for implementation during the period, 56 projects were completed in 2021. Completion rate for the projects therefore stands at 21% most of which was soil and water conservation activities. Green roads and valley tanks had not yet started while food forests, springs and water ponds started but most of the works moved to 2022. Handover of these projects has not yet been done because water user committees were still under going formation and training at the time or reporting. Completion of 285 projects has been rolled over to 2022 majorly with gap filling works in food forests.

**Figure 3.3.2 : Percentage completion of WRM projects**



Overall, 285 (73.5%) projects were rolled over to 2022 due to the fact that investment plans were presented in May and a number of projects have experienced delays with procurement processes. It should also be noted that DRC prioritized food forest projects over other in order to ensure early establishment. Of the projects rolled over into 2022, 223 projects are food forests, which are already established and waiting gap filling and final maintenance.



**TABLE 3.3.3.6: Status of Projects Implemented as of Quarter 4 2021**

Micro-Catchment	GR4W		Valley Tank		Food Forests		Springs		Water Ponds		SWC		TOTAL		
	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Total Planned	Total Completed	
<b>Ayila Abongo</b>	2	0	0	0	68	0	11	0	12	5	4	2	97	7	7%
<b>Iboa</b>	5	0	0	0	36	0	1	0	6	0	3	2	51	2	4%
<b>Nyarwodho</b>	4	0	0	0	27	0	16	7	2	0	5	4	54	11	20%
<b>Nyivura</b>	5	0	0	0	30	0	7	0	5	0	2	2	49	2	4%
<b>Ogwapoke</b>	5	0	0	0	36	0	1	0	5	0	1	0	48	0	0%
<b>Ora</b>	3	0	0	0	25	0	29	11	2	0	0	0	59	11	19%
<b>Yelulu</b>	4	0	1	0	19	18	2	2	1	0	3	3	30	23	77%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14%</b>

### Formation of project user committees (PUC)

In Yelulu mC, DRC facilitated selection and training of PUCs for all Green Roads for Water constructed in 2021 and springs projects constructed in 2020. A total of 135 (81 females, 54 males) members were trained. They were selected using the criteria in the WRM manual. The tools that were used for implementation of infrastructure projects were handed over to the PUCs for carrying out maintenance. The committees were not formed for Food Forests because they will be handed over to the respective institutions and individuals to carry out maintenance activities. This activity for the other micro catchments will be in the second quarter of 2022 after installation of culverts for green roads for water, source protection activities for water ponds and protected spring.

### Field coordination meetings

During this reporting period, DRC participated in 01 Settlement Co-ordination meeting, 04 Sector Working Group meetings and 02 District stakeholder's coordination meetings in Yelulu and Nyivura micro catchments. DRC also attended 8 field-level coordination meetings organized by DLGs, OPM, World Food Programme (WFP), sub county and Coordination Function (CF). In these meetings, specific District Development Plans (DDP), improvement of coordination amongst WASH partners, introduction of Cash Based Transfers (CBT) were discussed.

### Radio talk shows

59 radio talk shows were conducted during the reporting period. 4 on Radio Maria 90.5 FM in Nebbi, 2 on Trans-Nile Broadcasting Services 98.6 FM in Moyo, 2 on 91.5 Might FM Kitgum and 2 on 90.0 Radio Pacis FM in Arua city. Listeners were taken through the various stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, sensitization to the role of communities in site dialogue meetings, screening of selected projects, costing modalities of screened project, preparation and presentation of the Investment plans, roles of stakeholders, cash for work modalities and payment rates, tasks and maintenance activities. General feedback from listeners on the implementation of the NURI Programme were received and taken into consideration.

**TABLE 6: Radio Talk Shows on NURI WRM Project**

<b>Micro-Catchment</b>	<b>Broadcasts</b>	<b>Radio Station</b>	<b>Location</b>
Yelulu	1	Pacis	Arua City
Ora	9	Maria	Nebbi
Nyarwodho + AyAb	16	Maria	Nebbi
Ogwapoke	9	Mighty FM	Kitgum

Nyivura	14	Amani	Adjumani
Iboa	10	TBS	Moyo
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>		

#### Commissioning of projects

This was not done for WRM projects that were completed at the time of reporting however the activities have been moved to Q1 of 2022. This is because for the already established projects, formation and training of project/water user committees, preparation of maintenance plans and bylaws was on-going by the end of 2021.

#### Coordination with other stakeholders

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



## 3.4 Output 0: Programme Coordination

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

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

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

### **3.4.1 Synergy and Coordination**

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

#### Field Coordination Meetings.

During the reporting period, NURI CF organised 3 regional meetings with the implementing partners and units to review implementation of program activities, address implementation challenges in the various districts and discuss strategies for improvement. A meeting was held in Adjumani in the first quarter, Arua in the second quarter and Hoima in Q3. Meetings focused on implementation processes, improving standards of work, reviewing staff terms of references and emerging issues including the future of NURI.

#### Resilience Design

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

### **3.4.3 Financial management activities**

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

## **Budget Utilization Monitoring**

The NURI 2021 Budget Review in July 2021 was prepared and approved by the Embassy. This review resulted in an increased NURI Budget 2021 by approx. UGX 13.8 billion of which, UGX 4.5 billion was for CSA training and UGX 8.6 billion was for RI/WRM projects.

The programme percentage of budget utilization for the FY 2021 is 78% as per the performance monitoring reports.

Key developments in 2021 have been the continued construction of rural infrastructure projects (UGX 17.5 billion), the intensified CSA training having most farmer groups in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year (UGX 7.7 billion) and the continued building of capacity of the NURI RAU's and partners (UGX 12.8 billion). Establishment of the water resource management projects have picked up in 2021 from approval of development plans late 2020 (UGX 5.7 billion).

## **Financial Support Activities**

The new FMA joined NURI in July 2021 and visited the NURI partners as well as select farmer groups and RI/WRM projects in West Nile in August/September 2021.

Significant efforts have been put into consolidating the NURI finance, procurement and administrative duties and responsibilities laying the foundation for the future work.

The former programme, RDNUC, has been administratively closed by remitting ending bank balances and interest earned to the Embassy. The fixed assets carried forward from RDNUC are now integrated into the NURI fixed asset registers.

The NURI Manuals were reviewed and approved by the Embassy.

The NURI programme financial status 2018-2021, including payments made by the Embassy, was produced and submitted to the Embassy securing financial control of the total pool of NURI programme funds.

The NURI fixed asset registers were updated including details pertaining to procurement actions carried out by the Embassy.

NURI offices in Agago District were closed as at end of 2021. Support was provided by NURI CF towards the financial and administrative closure of the offices. The audit of the Agago annual accounts 2021 was agreed to be carried out in February 2021.

## **Audit**

The new auditing firm of the NURI programme, PKF, was engaged by the Embassy in 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2021 and the annual audit of NURI annual accounts 2020 was carried out in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021.

An emphasis was on ensuring an audit report was produced for each of the four implementing partners having their own governance framework, Management and Board of Directors, thereby emphasizing the importance of compliance with Danida financial guidelines.

The audit of NURI annual accounts 2021 is planned for March 2022.

### 3.4.2 Procurement activities

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

RDE has supported NURI CF in the procurement of 9 vehicles (2,049,318), 56 motorcycles (747,000 DKK) and tarpaulins (1,997,800 DKK) by international tender. Some delays were experienced due to COVID 19 restriction, however by the end of the reporting period, delivery to implementing partners and farmer groups was complete. While agricultural inputs and items for office running were procured by the units, they received support from CF on a range of other goods and services, including motorcycle repairs through a pre-qualified service provider, printing of training manuals, repair of office equipment including laptops, leasing copiers and purchasing riding gears for staff.

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

### **Managing procurement of service providers for planned trainings**

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

### **District Capacity Building Procurement**

Under this activity, each district supported came up with an approved plan for their procurement and training. The procurement process has faced delays, including a number of issues related to COVID-19 restrictions and delivery by suppliers and is still ongoing by the end of 2021. Training activities have been particularly hard hit by COVID 19 restrictions.

### 3.4.4 Human resources

NURI HR system performs the functions of human resource planning, recruitment and selection, performance management, learning and development, health and safety and ensuring employee rewards. During the reporting, CF HRC worked in close collaboration with unit and implementing partner heads to ensure all these functions are well executed. The specific activities accomplished during the period are provided below:

#### **Recruitment and Headcount:**

Recruitment and on boarding activities for 2021 were planned and delivered programme wide. They are highlighted below:

- Recruitment: Two vacancies: Finance Management Advisor (FMA) and Supervising Engineer (SE) at CF were filled and position bearers onboarded by November 2021. CF and Unit level heads continued to support IUs with immediate recruitment/replacement action plans of any existing vacancies arising out of terminations.
- Staff Mobility: One Agriculture Extension Supervisor (AES) was promoted to CSA Coordinator and deployed to Moyo RAU.
- CSA Output establishment/workforce reshaping: Marketing Coordinator position was phased out programme wide as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- CSA workforce headcount programme wide, including CF, as at 31 Dec 2021 was 346 (116 female representing 34%, 230 male 66%).
- As at 31st Dec 2021 employee turnover (leavers against establishment) was 1%. Four against 346 CSA staff voluntarily resigned and were replaced during the period. 1 VSLA supervisor and 3 AEOs from different IUs.

### **Annual Performance Appraisals 2021**

This activity was done to ensure gaps are identified within staff and capacity development plans are prepared accordingly. CF supported all implementing units and partners to conduct and complete Annual Performance Appraisals (APA) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. There was increase in consistency and appraisal rate due to participation of IUs in CF organised Performance Planning and Management refreshers.

- Unit APA outcomes were shared with CF, who guided management approach to 2022 CSA Workforce planning, rightsizing and eventual deployment.
- Staff Annual Performance Appraisal completion rate was 95 % as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 against a target of 100%. CF received and reviewed detailed unit APR outcomes for all units.
- Work pressure, family issues and long-term sickness were main reasons given for those who delayed to finalize 2021 appraisal on time.

### **Compensation and Benefits Highlights 2021**

HR department monitored staff welfare including health and safety and necessary adjustments were made, with the following activities implemented during the reporting period:

- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA): CSA staff programme wide were eligible for a 4.765% adjustment. COLA was computed and paid retrospectively in August for Jan to July 2021, to 346 CSA workforce.
- Staff Medical Insurance. As at 30st December 2021 NURI had 925 active enrolments on staff medical scheme (346 principals and 579 dependents). NURI paid 80% of the with employees responsible for 20%.
- Group Personal Accidents. As at 30st December 2021 all 346 CSA work force was on GPA cover as required under the Workers compensation Act 2006. UAP Old mutual is our service provider. During the year there was a surge in reported accidents 10 cases (2 fatal and 8 minor) across the programme. All cases were escalated to the service provider for injury claim processing
- Annual Leave. As at 30st December 2021 Annual leave management was not seen as a priority with competing demands by line managers across Implementing Units. By Close of year 2021 a significant percentage of CSA workforce had not fully utilised their Annual Leave entitlement. CF is currently liaising with IU managers to produce actions plans to address annual leave balances.

### **Staff Training and Development:**

NURI CF believes in a capacity development of its staff towards meeting the programme objectives. CF has been supporting staff in the units and implementing partners to identify capacity development areas for support. However, opportunities to participate in DFC course in 2021 were disrupted by COVID 16 restrictions. Technical trainings are reported under the relevant chapters of this report.

### **2022 CSA Workforce Planning and Transition Management**

NURI CSA extension activities are implemented in a phased manner based on the year of start with the farmer groups. As the groups selected in 2019 graduated, there was need for right sizing. CF supported the units and implementing partners to ensure that was done. By the end of the reporting period:

- Total CSA workforce headcount reduced by 39% (i.e.,135 CSA staff had their contracts not renewed beyond 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.
- Out of 346, 211(61%) had contracts renewed and transitioned to 2022 CSA work force.
- All implementing units participated in CF organised transition and exit management engagements during the period for both transiting and exiting CSA staff.

### **Team Building**

This activity was planned by all units and partners to address staff burn out, increase staff engagement and create enabling conditions for staff to be their best. Significant improvement was seen in enabling working relationships as an immediate outcome. NURI CF provided a guideline and supported all the units/partners in planning the events, by the end of the reporting period:

- All CSA implementing units implemented 2021 Team building events. Units had their team building engagements in Entebbe, Masindi, Fort portal and Kasese Districts.
- Areas for improvement were; CF needs to work with subject matter knowledge partners around work place sexual harassment, exploitation, detection, safeguarding and case management to create awareness programme wide.

### **3.4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities**

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

## **DEC and Lower Local government (LLG) field monitoring**

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

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

Key issues raised were; the programme to include transparent roofing material to provide some light inside the building, the low utilization of the constructed stores, issues of quality of produce and low prices for the produce, late delivery of seeds and averting the effects of changing climate. During the last half of the year, CF supported the units and implementing partners to conduct commissioning of the completed projects and exit meetings. In this engagement, CF was able to address some of the issues raised and encouraged farmer groups to utilise the projects effectively.

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

## **Monitoring data entry into the CSA database**

PMP data collected by the extension officers is verified by Data Officers with the support of supervisors and captured in to the CSA database. During the reporting period monitoring of data entry was done to ensure completion of entry of actual data from 2020 season B production and plans for 2021 season B. Data entry for farmer groups that started in 2019 has been completed for two production cycles (2019/2020). For groups that started in 2020, entry for a single production cycle has been completed. In North West Nile, entry of baseline and planning data for the national groups was completed.

### **Programme reporting (quarterly, semi-annual and annual)**

During the reporting period, IPs and Units prepared Q1, Q2 and Q3 progress reports based on NURI reporting formats and timelines. Q4 reports were combined with the annual reports and this activity stretched to the first month of Q1 of 2022. CF prepared semi-annual in July to compile overall programme status in the first half of the financial year. For the reports compiled by the partners and units, CF provided quality checks before sharing with relevant stakeholders.

### **Monitoring surveys and studies**

During the reporting period, CF organised and conducted 01 monitoring survey covering the district of Agago in which CSA activities closed and an adoption study in North West Nile covering the districts of Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi and Koboko.

CF oversees output and outcome monitoring according to the results framework and reports on the performance indicators at that level. The survey in Agago was done with support by a consultancy firm while the adoption study was done by an individual consultant who had done the same assignment in South West Nile and Acholi sub region. The reports have been finalised and shared with CF and can be accessed through the CF office or on the NURI website.

### **NURI IMC Meeting**

The implementation monitoring committee is an annual event that is organised by NURI CF and brings together all the stakeholders of the programme to monitor progress of implementation of the programme by the respective stakeholders. In attendance were; the RDE, Line ministry representatives, DLG officials, RAUs, IPs and NURI CF.

The event was organised in two regions and conducted from 22 – 23/11/2021 in Kitgum covering the districts of North West Nile and Acholi sub region and in Arua from 25 – 26<sup>th</sup>/11/2021 covering the districts of South West Nile including Koboko. The reason for organising two meetings was to be able to observe COVID 19 SOPs.

All the stake holders were able to present status report on implementation of programme activities since inception in 2019 to day. Participants were able to provide feedback on the status of the activities accomplished and provided recommendations for continuity. Participants made field visits to interact with programme beneficiaries.

A detailed report has been prepared and can be accessed through NURI CF offices or NURI website.

### **3.4.6 Programme Communications**

A number of communications materials have been developed for NURI, through a consultancy financed and managed by the RDE. Based on these materials and recommendations from the RDE and MTR that NURI strengthen communications and programme profile, NURI CF established a communications team in the first half of 2021. The team consists of NURI staff members with particular skills in communications and target improving the NURI Facebook page, website, and communications in general. TORs have

been developed with the target of increase visibility and awareness about NURI programme activities and results within NURI teams, stakeholders and the wider community.

During the reporting period, the following activities were accomplished:

1. NURI programme website was upgraded and made proactive with all important programme documents i.e., annual reports, manuals, DED, M&E reports, finance, procurement and HR documents.
2. Communications materials developed by the firm financed by the RDE were shared widely and made use of within NURI teams
3. Success stories and other materials uploaded on Facebook and NURI website, for easy access by NURI teams and other stakeholders.
4. NURI programme Facebook improved to allow for popularization of field activities and other events within the programme

Currently the team is working on podcasts, video clips and building capacities of other staff to improve documentation of success areas for the programme.

### **3.4.7 Closure of CSA Activities in Agago**

In accordance with NURI program implementation plan, CSA intervention in Agago district closed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. All the CSA activities planned were implemented except for the following activities that will continue to Q1 and 2 of 2022; collection of the PMP data for 2021, supporting the VSLA groups of 2021 to graduate, and preparation of Annual report 2021. It is expected that by June 2022 all activities would have closed.

There were specific activities that were implemented by RAU Agago with support from NURI CF to enable smooth close down by December 31/2021. The activities are highlighted below:

**Records and documentations:** The unit had accumulated stock of records for a period of 6 years of operation right from RALNUC3 program in 2016 up to the closure of NURI 2021. The records included financial and field activities ranging from PMP files, activity reports, VSLA records, animal traction record files, human resource files, training materials, payment vouchers and receipts, service contracts among others.

The activity records from RALNUC 3 which had outlived their retention period like PMP files, activity reports, training materials etc were sorted and burnt except financial documents from RALNUC3 and the documents for NURI were transferred to Kitgum for safe custody. Other documents for NURI like PMP files, VSLA records, financial records and activity reports which are still required for audit had been retained in Agago awaiting the audit exercise.

**Notification of service providers:** The unit was getting the following services; security from SGA company for Patongo office, internet subscription from Airtel company, photocopying through lease from Edge Technologies and office space from two Landlords. RAU Agago and NURI CF through the Coordinator and FAO communicated to these service providers about closure of the office as per the



contracts signed. Airtel and Edge Technologies contracts were terminated by November 2021 while SGA by December 2021. RAU Agago staff that remained were shifted to DRC Agago offices.

**Handling of assets and property:** The unit assets and property were; solar installation motorcycles, furniture, fridge, laptops, printers, copiers, water dispensers, cameras, safe. kitchen ware and operational items in stock. An updated inventory of these assets including functionality was shared with NURI CF. The furniture and other small items were handed over to the Local Government at the end of the period with acknowledgement. None functional items were auctioned while 24 motorcycles some laptops and printers to be handed over to the district, 5 motorcycles and a few other items to be kept by the program. The Coordinator and Accountant were fully in charge of this activity supervised by the Regional Coordinator and FAO.

**Renovation of two offices:** RAU Agago had two offices with Patongo being the main one and a satellite office in Kalongo. As part of the rental agreements signed, upon vacation of these two offices by December 2021, the offices were renovated and handed over to the Landlords.

### **Staff contract termination**

The unit had 23 staff by the time of phase out; 1 Coordinator, 2 AESs, 1 Accountant, 1 VSLA Supervisor, 1 VSLA Officer, 16 AEOs and 1 Office Assistant. The contracts of the staff came to an end by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. However, four staff; Unit Coordinator, Accountant and the 2 VSLA staff remained to finalize on reports and audit as well as guide the 100 VSLA groups for 2021 to complete their savings cycle in May 2022.

### **Exit meeting with farmer groups and the Lower Local government leaders**

This activity was conducted for 240 new national farmer groups by AEOs. It was conducted to inform the groups on official end of program as well as pending activities that would still require group participation like PMP data collection and VSLA activities which would overlap up to 2022. During the exit meetings; the groups generally appreciated NURI in all the sub-counties for the support and requested for certificates of participation in the program, linkages to access inputs and market for their commodities and they proposed if the next phase of the NURI program is to be there, animal traction and environmental component like tree planting should be included.

On the other hand, Sub County exit meetings were also conducted spearheaded by the AESs to officially inform the Sub Counties of the phase out of the program and also handover the farmer groups list NURI was supporting to their respective sub county authorities for continued support and sustainability.

The sub counties appreciated the NURI support to the local government and appealed to NURI to raise fund for another program. The sub county exit meeting was combined with the Award of the best three groups per Sub County as it was the norm during farmers open days. However, because of COVID 19 open days couldn't be held to prevent crowding.

## 4.0 Progress against Outputs and Outcome Targets

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

A survey of progress against output and outcome indicators was planned for year 2, however this has been pushed to 2022. Two M&E studies were carried out in 2021:

1. CSA adoption study in North West Nile covering the districts of Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi and Koboko. The study was carried out for South West Nile and Acholi sub region in 2020.
2. Monitoring survey in Agago district, as CSA activities are closing in the district by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The survey for the rest of the regions will be done in 2022.

The two studies are to inform indicators at output and outcome according to the results framework. For the monitoring survey this will be done in 2022 when all the monitoring surveys have been conducted. At activity level, considerable progress has been made contributing toward the achievement of targets.

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

#### **Achievement of Programme Outcome indicators**

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

Findings from the survey conducted in Agago indicate that in 2020, average agricultural cash income was 1,345,623 UGX which is a decline from baseline which was 1,540,540 UGX. The results from only one district cannot be used to provide the overall programme picture, also production in 2021 was recorded to have been better than 2020. A reliable result will be provided after the 2022 surveys have been conducted and comparison made with baseline figures.

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

Results from the survey in Agago district shows that 45.1% of household reported experiencing food shortage in 2020 compared to 45% during baseline. This result cannot be used to generalise the programme, reliable data will be provided after the 2022 surveys have been conducted.

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

By 31<sup>th</sup> December 2021, only 21% of projects approved for construction work in Q3 and Q4 of 2020 were completed. From this, a total of 11,486 participants benefitted. Most of the works had been moved to 2022 and therefore more beneficiaries will be recorded in the semi-annual report for 2022.

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

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

An adoption study was conducted in South West Nile and Acholi sub-region and reported in the 2020 annual report. Reference can be made to the 2020 Annual report, in summary, there is good progress in adoption and uptake of CSA practices in the districts of implementation.

For North West Nile, results indicate that 91.2% of farmers in the new national groups adopted at least 3 new CSA practices and in the mixed groups 95%. The practices were methods of seed planting, soil fertility & water management, use of improved seeds and post-harvest handling.

Overall, there is good progress in adoption and uptake of CSA practices within both the national farmer groups and refugees in mixed groups in all the districts of implementation.

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

Based on the baseline report and PMP yield analysis, results show a slight increase in yields for strategic crops for farmer groups that started both in 2019 and 2020 however still below NURI CSA estimates and baseline for some crops for sesame, maize, groundnuts and potatoes. Sunflower, Soybeans and beans performed relatively better than other strategic crops. More details are in the CSA section 3.1.1 on review of production and marketing plans.

More details shall be provided in the monitoring survey planned for 2022 which covers all crop types. As at the reporting period, data for 2021 which from the implementing activity reports indicate better yields was not completed.

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

Results indicated that 63% of strategic crops harvested is sold by the farmer groups that started in 2019 where data for two complete production cycles was available. Looking at the results regional, more volumes were sold in Acholi (71%) compared to West Nile (55%). Crops like Sunflower, Soybean, Rice registered 100% sales while Sesame, Beans, Potatoes, Onions and Cassava some of it was consumed in the households. In North West Nile, data for one production cycle is yet to be completed since entry is on-going. There will be further assessment of marketed in the planned monitoring survey of 2022.

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

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

For 1,347 projects approved in the investment plans since programme inception, completion rate is 66% while 34% is on-going. Disaggregation according to project types indicate: 61% for CARs, 58% Markets, 70% Food forests, 76% Springs and 100% Water ponds.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q2 of 2022.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q2 of 2022

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

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

A total of 388 projects were approved for implementation, during the period, however only 56 were completed during the reporting period. Most of the projects were moved to 2022.

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q2 of 2022

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q2 of 2022

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

The assessment of this indicator shall be done during the monitoring survey planned for Q2 of 2022

## 5.0 Status on Risks and Assumptions

The COVID pandemic emerged as a major and unforeseen threat to NURI implementation in early 2020 and continued to impact on implementation throughout 2021. In general, assumptions about the programme made at the time of programme design, held, and risks were successfully mitigated. The results of the MTR, related studies and the adoption studies carried out in 2020 and 2021, allow for some confidence in updating the status on risks and assumptions.

Emerging issues are: flooding and waterlogging, especially along the Nile, starting in 2020 continued in 2021, which was in many cases beyond NURI capacity to mitigate. Demand for improved inputs which NURI has played a part in fuelling, is in some cases not being met by the market.

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

Status on Risk factors:

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

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

and better salaries for staff			both community participation and project staff.	on capacity building vs inputs is widely understood and respected. In Acholi some staff lost to DINU. Some VSLA groups have moved to other programmes that offer financial incentives.
<b>Institutional risks</b>				
Corruption or misuse of funds among NURI implementing partners (also programmatic risk)	Likely	Major	Mitigation through implementation modalities based on experience. Lessons learned on safeguards under RDNUC are incorporated in the Management and Accounts Manuals.	Financial and procurement guidelines and monitoring are implemented. Whistle blower reports are thoroughly investigated. Quarterly financial reports to be submitted to NURI CF combined with quarterly finance and procurement visits by NURI CF.
Self-implementation by NURI CF leads to lack of sustainability and excessive management burdens.	Unlikely	Major	This risk will be mitigated by building on previous positive effects of self-implementation: Many local staff have been trained and equipped with skills they can apply in different contexts, and efficiency has been high due to decreased fiduciary risks and no politicisation of activities.	In NURI CSA sustainability is achieved through building human capacity within the IPs, DLGs and the community. NURI CSA staff, including VSLA staff are recognised for their capacity and, from past experience, go on to jobs in public, NGO and private sector, taking with them the technical and management skills imparted by NURI. Excessive management burdens have been addressed from the start with additional staffing, and during 2021 a Supervising Engineer joined the team.
Limited engagement of local governments, as they do not implement.	Unlikely	Minor	As NURI will rely on the active engagement of DLGs, it is designed to ensure full alignment to their structures and procedures. Furthermore, capacity building is integrated in all NURI interventions.	DLGs and LLG are enthusiastically engaged in NURI as is clearly seen in quarterly monitoring and at the IMC. Being involved in selection of beneficiaries, strategic crops, infrastructure projects, as well as in monitoring, and in attending and occasionally facilitating trainings, DLGs and LLGs are generally highly involved in implementation.

Emerging Risks 2020				
Conflict between Districts where new districts have been split off from NURI districts	Likely	Medium	Managed by a transparent splitting of resources between the sub-divided districts and by engaging with the new districts. NURI will follow the lead of GoU and not engage in any political debate.	The initial conflict between Obongi and Moyo districts has receded, and no other conflicts identified that have impacted on NURI implementation.
COVID-19 lock-downs and restrictions hinder work and raise fear of outsiders in the communities	Likely	Medium	Emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has already had major impact on Uganda and on all economic and development activities. NURI works with District COVIID taskforces.	Working with District COVID-19 task forces, developing and following SOPs and taking sensible precautions has allowed NURI to continue work from the early stages of the pandemic to date.
Emerging Risks 2021				
Access to quality inputs in remote sub-counties and settlements	Likely	Medium	Access to quality inputs remains a problem despite some improvement for farmers closer to urban settlements.	Although access to inputs is increasing as the market responds to demand, there are considerable gaps, including access to improved varieties. Kitgum reports increased number of agro-input businesses, but with limited outreach. Strengthening group members knowledge on own propagation of seeds needs to continue.



## Status on Assumptions

No.	Assumption / Risk	Status
KA CSA	Farmer groups will be open to learning climate smart agricultural methods and will adopt and apply the techniques on their farms	Farmer groups have been selected based on interest and commitment.
KA CSA	Farmer groups will be willing to participate and cost-share some types of support such as produce stores	Old National Groups contributed significantly through cost-sharing for projects focused on marketing, although their ability to do so reduced due to COVID-19. A tree growing pilot, which includes cost-sharing on seedlings is ongoing.
KA CSA	Refugees will have access to sufficient land for production activities	Access to land for refugees varies considerably across the settlements. In general access to land has not hindered group activities.
KA RI	Participating communities will be willing and able to contribute to physical investments through labour and maintenance of infrastructure	Groups are actively participating in activity implementation. Participation in maintenance activities for RI still has challenges.
KA RI	Climatic conditions are favourable for construction works	Heavy and persistent rains are problematic in terms of flooding and erosion of road works. Resilience design is being introduced as mitigation. RI activities are on schedule.
KA RI	Local contractors are available and able to meet quality standards	Availability of qualified local contracts have caused delays in some RI activities, and procurement process have had to be adopted to address this.
KA WRM	UNWMZ is able to establish collaboration and agreements	Lower-level collaboration still needs to be strengthened but is successful at district level.
KA WRM	Stakeholders are able to identify suitable micro-catchments	All eight micro-catchments under the programme have been identified.
KA WRM	Participating communities are willing and able to contribute to physical investments	Based on experience from RI and WRM there are challenges in willingness to contribute land for NURI investments and intense community dialogue and the signing of land-donation agreements prior to starting is essential as well as involvement of local government.

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

## 6.0 Reporting on Expenditure

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

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

The budget for Coordination activities is DKK 24 million and for contingencies DKK 14 million. CSA activities have a budget of DKK 120.4 million DKK and RI activities DKK 116.6 million.

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

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

Output	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	%
Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	-	16	35	36	29.5	120.4	37.0
Rural Infrastructure (RI)	-	16	36	37	31.5	116.6	35.9
Water Resources Management (WRM)	3	8.5	8.5	15.5	14.5	50.0	15.4
Coordination incl. TA and M&E	-	6	6	6	6	24.0	7.3
Contingency	-	-	-	-	14	14.0	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>325.0</b>	<b>100</b>

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

### NURI Fund Utilization for 2021

In 2021, a total budget of UGX 72.7 billion was approved and UGX 56.8 billion was spent. Funds utilization rate was 78% for the year.

**Table 6.1: NURI BUDGET UTILIZATION FOR 2021**

### **Summary per Output:**

<b>NURI CONSOLIDATED REPORT COORDINATION FUNCTION REPORT</b>			
<b>Budget vs. Actuals</b>			
<b>January - December 2021</b>			
<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>%Budget Absorption</b>
<b>0. Coordination ,TA and M&amp;E</b>			
<b>Total 0.0.1. NURI Coordination, Management, M&amp;E</b>	-2,050,545,237	-3,247,884,322	63.13%
<b>Total 0. Coordination ,TA and M&amp;E</b>	-2,050,545,237	-3,247,884,322	<b>63.13%</b>
<b>1. Climate Smart Agriculture</b>			
<b>1.0.1. NURI coordination, Management ,M&amp;E</b>	-770,429,293	-793,627,000	97.08%
<b>1.1.1. Assess and select strategic crops and beneficiary farmer groups</b>	0	-14,662,000	0.00%
<b>1.1.2. Prepare plans with the selected farmer groups</b>	-50,366,200	-74,395,000	67.70%
<b>1.1.3. Train in Climate smart agricultural practices</b>	-7,656,204,567	-9,574,411,198	79.97%
<b>1.1.4. Train in and support collective marketing.</b>	-871,831,766	-1,018,532,500	85.60%
<b>1.1.5. Continuously assess farming systems and climate smart agricultural practices</b>	0	-120,000,000	0.00%
<b>1.2. Train target farmer groups in financial literacy</b>	-1,898,589,070	-2,709,445,868	70.07%
<b>1.3. Provide capacity building and operational support to the implementing partners</b>	-12,775,913,232	-14,472,426,035	88.28%
<b>1.4. Provide capacity building and operational support to DLG Production Departments</b>	-646,179,829	-2,045,101,000	31.60%
<b>Total 1. Climate Smart Agriculture</b>	-24,669,513,957	-30,822,600,601	<b>80.04%</b>
<b>2. Rural Infrastructure</b>			
<b>2.3. DLG capacity building (by NURI CF)</b>	-523,047,034	-1,714,901,000	30.50%
<b>2.1. Prepare Infrastructure Investment Plans</b>	-18,049,700	-15,339,500	117.67%
<b>2.2. Implement approved Infrastructure Projects</b>	-17,481,588,140	-16,671,463,014	104.86%
<b>2.3 Capacity Building and Operations - DRC</b>	-5,785,619,092	-6,730,883,339	85.96%
<b>Total 2. Rural Infrastructure</b>	-23,808,303,966	-25,132,586,853	<b>94.73%</b>
<b>3. Water Resources Management</b>			
<b>3.3. Consultancies,short term TA (by NURI CF)</b>	0	0	
<b>3.2 Construct approved WRM Infrastructure Projects</b>	-5,677,703,912	-12,732,375,652	44.59%
<b>3.1 MWE UNWMZ Office Capacity Building</b>	-597,567,584	-812,946,500	139%
<b>Total 3. Water Resources Management</b>	-6,275,271,496	-13,545,322,152	46.33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-56,803,634,656</b>	<b>-72,748,393,927</b>	<b>78.08%</b>

Note: Un-audited financials

Under Output 0, Coordination, Management & M&E, the budget absorption rate is only 63%. This is primarily due to M&E surveys being deferred from 2021 to 2022 but also consultancies and fellowship training not being utilized in 2021.

Under output 1, CSA, the budget absorption rate is 80%. This is primarily due to delays in the DLG capacity building, i.e. in the procurement of equipment for DLG's and in the support towards education and training of DLG staff. Especially, the support towards education and training has been hampered by the COVID-19 restrictions.

Under output 2, Rural Infrastructure, the absorption rate is 95%. The implementation of RI projects has picked up pace, projects are being completed including the commissioning of projects to DLG's.

Under output 3, Water Resource Management, the absorption rate is only 45%. This is primarily due to late receipt of development plans from MWE late 2020. Thus, a part of 2021 have been

spent by DRC on planning the implementation of the development plans before actual implementation. Seven development plans were received by DRC late 2020; the eighth development plan is expected to be received in 2022.

Apart from the DLG capacity building, hereunder especially the education and training component, overall NURI progress in 2021 is deemed satisfactory technically as well as financially.

### Summary Per Implementing Partner:

<b>Expenditure &amp; Budget Intervention per Implementing Unit</b>					
January to December 2021					
	(UGX '000)				
Implementing Unit	Planned No of Farmer Groups in 2021	Actual Expenditure	Approved Budget	% of Budget	Expenditure per Farmer Group
<b>0. Coordination, TA and M&amp;E</b>		<b>2,050,545</b>	<b>3,247,884</b>	63.1%	
* NURI CF, Kampala	N/A	2,050,545	3,247,884	63.1%	
<b>1. Climate Smart Agriculture</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>24,669,514</b>	<b>30,822,601</b>	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>6,150</b>
* NURI CF, Kampala	N/A	3,802,701	6,835,084	55.6%	
* AFARD	405	2,590,110	2,762,138	93.8%	6,395
* Arua DFA	870	5,291,247	6,046,910	87.5%	6,082
* PICOT	195	1,041,644	1,194,278	87.2%	5,342
* RAU Agago	240	1,213,238	1,264,805	95.9%	5,055
* RAU Kitgum	603	3,067,880	3,319,796	92.4%	5,088
* RAU Moyo	540	3,883,883	4,697,371	82.7%	7,192
* RAU Adjumani	540	3,778,810	4,702,218	80.4%	6,998
<b>2. Rural Infrastructure</b>		<b>23,808,304</b>	<b>25,132,587</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	
* NURI CF	N/A	523,047	1,714,901	30.5%	
* DRC	N/A	23,285,257	23,417,686	99.4%	
<b>3. Water Resource Management</b>		<b>6,275,271</b>	<b>13,545,322</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	
* NURI CF	N/A	0	0		
* DRC	N/A	5,677,704	12,732,376	44.6%	
* WRM	N/A	597,568	812,947	73.5%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>56,803,635</b>	<b>72,748,394</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	
Note: Un-audited financials					

The NURI programme is comprised of two intervention areas: CSA training and construction of RI/WRM structures each counting for approx. 40% of Budget 2021.

In terms of the CSA intervention, implementation progress is highly satisfactory technically as well as financially. Apart from NURI CF not having managed to implement some CSA training activities, implementation is between 80-96% of an ambitious CSA Budget 2021. The average cost per farmer group, including procurement of agricultural inputs, salaries for AEO's and capacity building of the units and partners, is at UGX 6,150,000 equal to approx. 11,000 DKK (at DKK=UGX 560). Approx. 40% of the CSA expenditure goes towards CSA training including procurement of agricultural inputs; another 40% goes towards capacity building and operational support of the units and partners.

In terms of the RI intervention, implementation progress has really picked up technically as well as financially. Not included in 2021 expenditure is UGX 3.1 billion in outstanding DRC commitments under the RI intervention.

In terms of the WRM intervention, this had a late start in 2021 due to late approval of the micro-catchment development plans late 2020. Implementation progress is therefore only at 45%. Micro-catchment development plan no. 8 is yet to be approved and submitted to DRC. Not included in 2021 expenditure is UGX 5.4 billion in outstanding DRC commitments under the WRM intervention.

Accumulated NURI Financial Status:

<b>NURI PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE - ACCUMMULATED AS AT END OF 2021</b>			
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>DKK</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure Accumulated End of 2021</b>	<b>NURI Programme Budget 2018-2022</b>	<b>Remaining Budget 1st January 2022</b>
0. Coordination, TA & M&E	<b>18,894,856</b>	<b>24,000,000</b>	<b>5,105,144</b>
1. Climate Smart Agriculture	<b>102,809,085</b>	<b>120,370,000</b>	<b>17,560,915</b>
2. Rural Infrastructure	<b>89,302,644</b>	<b>116,630,000</b>	<b>27,327,356</b>
3. Water Resources Management	<b>14,746,969</b>	<b>50,000,000</b>	<b>35,253,031</b>
<b>TOTAL INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>225,753,553</b>	<b>311,000,000</b>	<b>85,246,447</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>		<b>14,000,000</b>	<b>14,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>		<b>325,000,000</b>	<b>99,246,447</b>

Total actual NURI programme expenditure including procurement actions by RDE amounts to 225 million DKK leaving 85 million DKK for programme implementation in the final year of the NURI programme.

In terms of the Coordination Function and planned activities for 2022, the remaining budget for the Coordination Function, 5.1 million DKK, is about 2.0 million DKK short of what is required for the planned operations and activities of the NURI Coordination Function in 2022.

In terms of the CSA interventions scoped for 2022, the remaining budget for the CSA intervention, 17.6 million DKK, is about 13.7 million DKK short of what is required for the implementation of the NURI work and procurement plan 2022.

In terms of the RI/WRM intervention, the remaining budget is adequate for the RI/WRM work plan set out for 2022.

## 7.0 Challenges and lessons

### Implementation of activities under COVID-19 restrictions

The ongoing COVID 19 pandemic was a challenge across the programme during the reporting period. The year started with some relaxation of restrictions; however, restrictions were reintroduced in May, June following a second wave of infections. Implementation of activities have been done under observance of COVID 19 SOPs. Because of this, some challenges were encountered including delay of planned trainings, reduced number of farmers and community members reached, limited movement across districts and, for that period, a reduced number of technical backstopping visits.

In general, the impact was minimized by adapting to the restrictions and working closely with DLGs. The flexibility of the NURI team, and the close relationship of the Implementing Units with DLGs makes NURI a programme that is able to adapt to changing circumstances.

### Weather and environmental challenges

NURI CSA activities are based around the agricultural calendar and the two main production seasons. Successful production depends on time and predictability of onset of the rain as well as the volume and spread of rain. The reporting period recorded unpredictable weather patterns with first seasons' onset delayed and second season with extended dry spells between October and December. Yields for first season crops were affected, but second season yields were good despite the period of drought. The weather challenge led to an overlap between the two seasons and this was a major concern to farmers who faced challenges in planning and meeting production goals. This has brought in the question of diversification of production activities to reduce reliance on a single crop. Farmers are being advised to consider other enterprises like apiary, animal and poultry rearing.

Around the settlements in particular, but also more widely, environmental degradation is apparent as communities rely on environmental resources. There is need to address this by integrating tree planting to willing and committed community and farmer groups.

NURI extension staff are encouraged to address farmers interests and needs in terms of extension, beyond the basic model of the programme.

NURI, through AFARD, is piloting tree growing by individual farmers in Pakwach, through a cost-sharing model.

### Closure of activities with old national groups

NURI has been supporting old national groups since 2019 with cost-shared projects. Most groups had completed their projects by the end of 2020, however a number of the larger projects implemented by groups engaged in substantial marketing activities, spilled over into 2021. The

projects were stores, apiary, grinding mills, cassava chipping machinery and some balances of tarpaulin. These were completed during the reporting period and handover was done. Some groups showed initiative and are working towards building cooperatives. In Patongo, Agago district, for instance, groups that selected oil press and maize mill were had begun lending activities with group members. In Nebbi, AFARD has worked with the district commercial office for development of cooperative societies targeting NURI old national farmer groups.

Groups supported with stores received training on running of stores and marketing but the extension team assess they need further support in market linkages.

### Training Modalities

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

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

The same model is being used in Farmer Marketing Schools training, which will be introduced in 2022.

### Inputs subsidy (seeds)

Access and affordability of improved agro-inputs continues to pose challenge to agricultural production. With the NURI demo approach, seed needs are addressed to some extent, however with some crops the seed production is insufficient to supply all group members. Where prices for improved seeds are high, for example, sunflower seeds, farmers are reluctant to invest in the seeds, despite the evidence of profitability.

NURI will explore opportunities for Local Seed Business development in 2022.



## 8.0 SUCCESS FACTORS & FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

According to the programme implementation plan, the programme the final year of operation is 2022. NURI CF is gathering documentation on success factors and prospective for the future. Such ideas can contribute to the development of a second phase. This section provides ideas generated from the annual reports of implementing partners and units across the programme, as well as a section with thoughts on success factors generated by NURI CF.

### 8.1 Success Factors and Future Perspectives from Implementing Unit reports

#### Involvement of primary beneficiaries before implementation of activities are rolled out

Drawing from previous DANIDA funded programmes in the region, engagement of stakeholders at all levels has been a major factor in enabling successful implementation of planned activities. Under CSA, group selection, enterprise selection and other formalities were successful because of involvement of key DLG and LLG leaders. Under RI, conflicts over project sites to a great extent have been addressed by relying on the DLG. During the last half of 2021, RDE in close collaboration with NURI CF has been engaging, ministry representatives, DLG, implementing partners and units in workshops to generate ideas which has been quite successful.

It is recommended that such engagement could be brought a step lower to also include the primary beneficiaries of DANIDA interventions. At the start of NURI selected farmers were involved in discussing strategic crops, however once implementation started, farmer groups felt their views were not well represented. Discussions around implementation modalities, community roles and responsibilities could be taken up before decisions are made. In this way, ownership and sustainability can be achieved.

#### Extension of duration of support to programme primary beneficiaries

Under the current programme, CSA beneficiaries are supported for three years with training and extension service. In the two years, they groups are provided with inputs to establish demo fields while in the third year, the groups receive only extension advise. Under rural infrastructure, community groups are supported with inputs to construct a range of project types through cash for work modality with some continuing in the next cycle to conduct maintenance activities. Since programme roll out in 2019, both CSA and RI have been affected by unreliable weather. Agricultural production for the primary beneficiaries of the programme depends on a rain fed system.

After the first year of implementation, NURI revised the implementation and procurement plan and decentralised procurement of inputs to enable the units and partners procure demo inputs intime before the rains could start however even with this, some setbacks on project sites and demo fields were experienced due to weather vagaries. During 2021, it was observed that

production seasons (A & B) overlapped which made it difficult for farmer groups to plan their production life.

Upon this premise, it is recommended that the duration of support to farmer groups be extended to a period of 3-5 years. This will allow for recoveries from weather vagaries, farmer groups will have ample time to plan their adoption activities for instance procuring seeds for first time enterprises etc. Note that it is very difficult to realize climate smart activity impact within a short project life span.

#### Flexibility in Enterprise selection by farmer groups

NURI support under CSA is structured around a strategic crop model, farmer groups have been taken through selection criteria for the strategic crops and made their decision based on the sensitization provided. Also, at the district level, the production department has been very involved. This model has been very successful because planning, implementation and monitoring of extension activities based on this model has been effective and efficient as opposed to when farmer groups have a wide range of enterprises.

Although this has been very successful, it has been observed that after one year of engaging with the farmers, their needs and priorities change and yet by design, this complicates implementation. In the future, NURI should exercise more flexibility, based on farmer needs and market factors. Refugees in women groups and mixed groups have had the liberty to change enterprises seasonally and response rate has been good. This can be expanded to all groups in future.

#### Introduction of major and minor strategic/field crop

The strategic crop model has been used since the earlier DAR/RALNUC2 programme. It has been effective however reference is made to the weather vagaries which sometimes leaves farmers with no fallback position. In the case of refugees either in women groups or mixed groups, they are allowed to select a field crop and a minor.

It is recommended in the future programmes that farmer groups are supported with two crop types as major and minor or for purposes of intercropping. Performances of crop types vary according to weather and seasons. In the current programme 2019 and 2020 were all considered as bad years for most strategic crops. Having two crop types would provide fall-back position to the farmer groups.

#### Co-funding model

NURI worked with a total of 755 farmer groups to implement special projects using a co-funding model where the groups contributed 50% of the total project cost. The selected groups were ones that succeeded under the previous DAR/RALNUC programme and were moving towards commercial production. The model helped to monitor sustainability of the previous programme in terms a market-oriented production and possible linkages to other development entities. To a great extent groups were able to play their part and all the projects have been completed. With

a view to work with farmer groups that are looking towards commercial production, such a model should be carried forward. There will be need however to conduct a rapid assessment to understand the views of beneficiaries before rolling out.

#### Integrating VLSA and CSA activities

VSLA is an important part of CSA activities with the aim of helping farmer groups deal with shocks, needs and other challenges that affect their production life. The activity came in after CSA activities has kick started with the farmer groups. Production planning is considered very key under CSA, farmer groups prepare their production and marketing plans with three goals and each year they review the plans to gauge extent of achieving the plan goals. In VSLA, the concept of household planning and visioning is being promoted. By way of implementation, it was discovered that farmer groups that register high success rates are those that are committed to VSLA activities. It is recommended that in the future, VSLA should start right with the CSA activities to allow integration of savings and production goals.

One other core element under VSLA is linkages to micro finance institutions and credit facilities that could broaden the fund base for the farmer groups for production. This should be taken up right from the start of implementation and should include initial assessment of MFIs and credit facilities, exploration into other development agencies that build on from where the programme takes up beneficiaries.

#### AEO to farmer group Ratio

By the current design, an AEO working with the new national farmer groups works with 15 groups and in the refugee context 12 groups. This approach has worked successfully and made planning for capacity building activities easier. The extension staff have been able to meet their demo establishment targets however in terms outreach to individual farmer group members has been difficult. By the current standard the ration means that one extension staff has to reach out 450 households to provide extension advise. Group member practices also influence monitoring like farmers tendency of moving to virgin land for production which makes it impossible to monitor, preference of traditional seed planting methods and other cultural practices like burning fields.

In the future, it is recommended that the number is reduced to 10 farmer groups per AEO to enable thorough one on one engagement between the AEO and farmer. In this way, more time would be spent on providing on-farm extension advise to increase on adoption rates.

#### Integrating tree planting and agro-forestry into CSA

The concept of tree growing is being piloted in South West Nile by AFARD with support from NURI CF as part of climate smart practices that farmers should be encouraged to take up. The tree seedlings should be procured from within the districts or region to increase on survival rates after conducting site species matching.

Food forests and woodlot establishment is implemented as part of RI activities, but could be better managed by the CSA implementing partners as the CSA workforce has a number of individuals who have trained in environmental management and agro-forestry.

#### Identifying implementing partners should be regionalised

Identification of implementing partners within the region as is done for CSA, could also be applied to RI and WRM activities. Regionalising the selection of a partner would improve not only quality of projects but also quantity of projects, by reducing cost.

## 8.2 Success Factors and Future Perspectives from NURI CF Perspective

The success of the NURI programme builds on many years of learning and adapting based on lessons learnt as well as changing circumstances. The long-term engagement with Districts, lower-local governments and communities, as well as a number of long-term staff gives the programme a depth of trust and insight that gives a foundation to all the activities carried out.

#### CSA extension activities

An assessment of the NURI extension model undertaken in preparation for the Mid-term review found the NURI approach to be effective, efficient, relevant and cost effective. The full report goes into detail on various aspects, but important conclusions give insight into the success factors of the NURI CSA model.

The length and intensity of extension activities, along with the integration of VSLA and financial literacy training, lies at the heart of the success of the CSA component. The relationship between extension staff and the communities which develops over 2 to 3 years of implementation, not only provides technical learning, but also builds the confidence of the group, strengthens trust within the group and strengthens their ability to network. While much of the monitoring of activities focuses on production and marketing figures, the resilience of the households, as a result of belonging to a well-functioning group, is a less tangible, but no-less important, impact. AEOs visit each group at least 13 times per year, with more visits in the earlier years, reducing towards graduation, while CBTs, supporting VSLA, visit at least 20 times per year. On top of this each group will be visited by a VSLA supervisor, an AES and/or Unit Coordinator once or twice per year.

#### RI and WRM projects

An assessment of the on-going projects was carried out in late 2020, in preparation for the MTR, sampling 26 sub-projects. The general finding was that infrastructure was implemented according to specifications and mostly, meeting the expected standards. While there were a number of recommendations, the overall assessment was positive, also in terms of value-for-money, as compared with other similar programmes. The balance between labour-intensive activities, and

the need for increasingly complex infrastructure as areas open up and bottle-necks emerge, has been managed in the programme, but is an increasing challenge.

#### Engagement with District and Lower Local Governments in all Outputs

Involving DLGs and LLGs in decision-making processes from selection of strategic crops, to approval of investment plans under RI and WRM activities ensures ownership of activities, along with quarterly monitoring and the annual IMC meeting. The good relationship is reinforced by DCB activities which support DLGs in building their capacity to implement and monitor activities through provision of tools of work, from cars to soil testing kits, as well as training opportunities for DLG staff of the departments most closely linked to NURI implementation.

#### Programme management

The flexibility in programme management resulting from the close relationship between NURI Coordination function and the Danish Embassy, and the Coordination Function and the implementing units has provided opportunities for learning lessons, adjusting and piloting new ideas.

Focus on maximizing staff motivation through transparent recruitment, meaningful annual assessments, decent employment conditions and opportunities to learn and build skills ensure the investment in staffing gives value-for-money in programme implementation.

Balancing the need for uniformity across a large and complex programme, with the need for local adaptation is achieved through the regional presence of NURI CF, with Regional Coordinators in each of the 3 regions the programme is divided into, and with a sub-office of NURI Kampala HQ located in Arua, as well as quarterly meetings with all CSA Coordinators, and semi-annual meetings with management of the 3 components.

## 9.0 Implementation of recommendations

### 9.1 Recommendations from NURI midterm review

During the first quarter of the reporting period a Mid-term review of the RDE Country Programme was carried out, covering all programmes including NURI. Details of the review are included in the Semi-annual progress report 2021.

The report contains details of several issues that were shared with the RT for consideration. Where actions were required based on the teams' responses these are outlined below.

RT responses	Action taken
1. Approve DRC's revised RI target in light of "Resilience Design Approach".	Done
2. On youth engagement, working well in Outputs 2 and 3. For CSA consider targeting if new groups are formed.	New groups formed so far are VSLA, which are selected from existing groups.
3. On "Quality Assessment of NURI RI and WRM Projects" report management to implement those that are feasible and cost effective	On-going
4. On WAY Programme in NURI, NURI and WAY management with RDE Desk Officers should meet and forge a way forward to improve delivery	A concept note for programme improvement is in development with some adjustments made
5. On "Animal Traction Loan Product Collaboration" between NURI CF, Talanta Microfinance, scaling up should wait for the results of the pilot. If resources allow extended to other regions to strengthen lessons.	Pilot on-going, with various challenges addressed as they arise.

## 9.2 Recommendations from IMC, studies and RDE

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

### Actions/Implementations of the "Back to office" Recommendations

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

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)				
Sn	Observations /Findings	Recommendations	Actions	Status
1	<b>Need to ensure synergy among the three outputs of NURI.</b> Partners focus exclusively on their outputs and yet the community should benefit from all the interventions.	Need to improve on the partnership between RI/WRM and CSA partners. Mobilization and guiding farmers near projects to use of water for production.	<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	<b>A practical on-farm training on soil and water (moisture) conservation to avert adverse weather effects.</b> Beneficiaries are not aware of some of the available simple structures that can help to improve water and nutrient retention.	NURI CF and DRC should consider organizing such trainings. Introduce participatory planning. Utilization of created structures e.g., mitres/drainage structures	<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 cascaded training to all units.</li> <li>✓ Consultations and sharing of the weather forecast to guide implementation</li> <li>✓ F2F training was cancelled</li> </ul>
3	<b>Some farmer groups would wish to upscale to seed producers.</b> There is a huge demand of seeds	Support farmer groups with good potential to become Local Seed Producers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train the AEOs on Local Seed production/Business</li> <li>NURI liaise with DLG/MAAIF</li> <li>Train the potential farmer groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been Initiated as preparations for exit and only for few groups including cooperatives</li> </ul>

	and some farmer groups have potential to do LSB.			
4	<b>Resilience around strategic crops / farmer loss of interest in selected strategic crop.</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.	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"> <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	<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.	NURI CF and RAUs/IPs train the AEOs on the requirements for seed production, NURI CF is advised to liaise with MAAIF for expert support on quality declared seeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>✓ There is plan to train the staff on LSB.</li> </ul>
7	<b>CSA Training,</b> areas needing 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"> <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 /CSA partners conducted at the seed source and only delivered when approved</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Technical approval and supervision of construction work under CSA. Status of staff houses in some settlements and staff overload.</b> The DLGs were</p>	<p>NURI CF and her partners consults the DLGs when implementing civil works / engineering projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site clearing around stores and communities should build around isolated stores</li> <li>• Consultation with DLG engineers shall be taken up in future constructions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ramps have been put in place and groups selected the sites themselves.</li> <li>✓ DRC engineers helped to supervise the stores and</li> </ul>

	not involved in designs and supervision of construction work. Guidelines and standards were not followed in the construction works. The staff accommodation in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement are inhospitable. AEO for mixed groups complained of much work as they combine extension work with input distribution.	NURI CF investigate the concerns raised by the agriculture extension officers and respond as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups to be trained on store management and if funds allow buy basic store equipment</li> </ul>	<p>in future DLG engineers shall be consulted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Some readjustment on the Lifeshelter structures has been done and the structure is habitable now. Staff planting greenery to mitigate the heat effect.</li> <li>✓ Training in store management conducted across groups</li> </ul>
<b>RI/WRM</b>				
11	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implemented and ongoing in all project sites</li> </ul>
12	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implemented and ongoing across all DLGs/LLGs</li> <li>✓ Re-sensitization planned across the districts</li> </ul>

13	<p><b>Support for WRM.</b> 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"> <li>• DRC shares quarterly report with UNWMZ for consolidation and submission to CF</li> </ul>	<p>✓ Implemented and ongoing</p>
14	<p><b>Quality assurance.</b> 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"> <li>• Tree seedlings procured locally from within the districts/regions.</li> <li>• Water quality test conducted before and after construction.</li> <li>• Testing of samples of materials e.g sand, murrum, 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>	<p>✓ Implemented and ongoing</p>
15	<p><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.</p>	<p>Continuous sensitization on the importance of equal participation by both males and females in the project activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with community with emphasis on gender participation and youth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Improvement in women participation registered.</li> <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>

16	<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 implemented.</li> <li>• RD structures created to direct water for production</li> <li>✓ Spot gravelling done on some selected CARs</li> </ul>
<b>Cross cutting CSA, RI and WRM</b>				
17	<b>Synergy with other programmes.</b> NURI farmers can benefit from complementary programs in the districts in production and marketing. 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.	Responsibility for follow up lies in the units and DLGs  DRC should involve the agriculture extensions officers, CDOs and LCs right from project planning and through implementation.	<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> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Exit meetings for Old groups were conducted and groups shared with LLGs.</li> <li>✓ Coordination meetings held and planned for every quarter</li> <li>✓ Commissioning and equipping the stores accomplished jointly with all stakeholders</li> </ul>
18	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Continuous activity and Ongoing</li> </ul>

# Annex 1: Achievement of Activity indicators and targets

## Output 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture

### Main activity 1.1 Identify and train target farmers' groups

- Assessed and selected 536 farmer groups for support in 2021 all of which were mixed groups (new nationals and refugees) and women refugee groups.
- Supported enterprise selection for 918 groups supported as refugees and mixed groups (382 continuing and 536 newly selected).
- Trained 3,348 farmer groups in CSA practices; 825 new national groups started in 2019, 1,365 new national groups started in 2020, 799 mixed groups and 359 refugee women groups, fully achieving targets.
- Established 2,963 demo plots for new national groups and mixed groups as per target.
- Facilitated new national groups in South West Nile and Acholi sub region selected in 2019 and 2020 to review their PMPs, new nationals in North West Nile and mixed groups selected in 2021 to develop new production and marketing plans for the strategic crops selected
- Planned and conducted specialised trainings for extension staff on CSA and related topics

### Main Activity 1.2 VSLA training of Farmer Groups including refugees

- Assessed and selected a total of 1,575 farmer groups to be supported and trained in VSLA in 2021 (includes new national and refugee groups).
- Facilitated the recruitment of 234 CBTs to train farmer groups selected for support in 2021 based on the number and geographic location of groups.
- Trained 2,270 farmer groups in VSLA methodology during the reporting period.
- Monitored savings and loans for farmer groups under support and guided them in household planning

### Main Activity 1.3 Capacity of IP/RAU staff built

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

### Main Activity 1.4 Capacity of DLG built (Production department)

- Plans were developed and approved. Procurement of retooling items was done and distributed to the respective districts.
- Training and short courses were approved, most of them on going, some delays were recorded due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Main Activity 1.5 Sensitize farmer groups to SRHR & GBV issues

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

**Output 2: Rural Infrastructure**

Main Activity 2.1 Prepare infrastructure investment plans

- All the activities under the line have been implemented, basically planning and preparatory activities.

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Main Activity 2.2 Approved investment projects implemented

- Formed 564 groups for nationals consisting of 15,939 community members for participation in 564 projects.
- Trained 439 project management committees
- Conducted site dialogue meetings and signed voluntary land agreement forms for all projects
- Procured and distributed tools for construction work

**Output 3: Water Resource Management**

Main Activity 3.1 Develop WRM micro-catchment plans

- Developed 8th micro catchment plan
- Process of formulating bylaws for 4 micro catchments started

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Main Activity 3.2 Approved WRM infrastructure projects constructed

- Approved implementation of 388 projects, 56 were completed.
- A total of **256** community groups were formed for implementation of projects in **7** micro-catchments of Yelulu, Nyivura, Ora, Ogwapoke, Nyarwodho, Iboa and Ayila-Abongo.