



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Thriving and Peaceful Families  
in West Nile, Uganda



# Message from the Chair, Board of Directors and Executive Director

Welcome to the Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) annual report 2020. On December 21, 2019, the Board of Directors approved a new six- AFARD Strategy (2020-2025) for management to commence its implementation from January 2020. This reporting period (2020) therefore marks the first year of implementation of this new strategy that aims to contribute to scaling the socio-economic transformation in West Nile through its “Inspire - Empower - Account approach.” The AFARD Strategy theme – Thriving and Peaceful Families seeks to ‘reduce hunger and extreme poverty in 20,000 households, directly benefiting 138,500 people (70% nationals and 30% refugees; 60% females, 25% youth, and 15% men). This will be achieved through the following four pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Nutrition-sensitive agriculture for more production and consumption of diversified foods;
- **Pillar 2:** Inclusive market participation for decent employment in strategic agribusiness and vocational labour markets;
- **Pillar 3:** Voice and accountability for responsive and people-centered decentralized local governance;
- **Pillar 4:** AFARD organizational development to strengthen AFARD’s operational capacity and financial base.

Amidst the covid-19 pandemic, AFARD secured UGX 10.1 billion (up from UGX 4.1 billion in 2019) and implemented 10 projects in the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani using the traditional livelihoods, unconditional cash transfer and child rights programming approach. Overall, 152,350 people were served (of whom 15% were South Sudanese refugees). In addition, AFARD signed two additional projects that will start in 2021 with Manos Unidas (for Sustainable and Resilient Smallholder Farmers [SURE] Project) and Caritas Switzerland (for Street children – Prevention through Sustainable Graduation from Poverty Project).

Through these various projects positive results were achieved as compared between 2019 - 2020:

- Hunger free households increased from 60% to 67%
- Extreme poverty free households reduced from 54% to 49%
- Access to latrines with hand washing facilities increased from 75% to 77%
- Use of any family planning method increased from 3% to 57%
- 100 trained youth established own-account enterprises for their self-employment
- 06 producer cooperatives were established
- On average, every beneficiary household planted 89 trees
- Child poverty remained unchanged at 99%

The results we have attained above were made possible by our partner’s support for which we are grateful. We continue to invite like-minded partners to collaborate with AFARD towards the socio-economic transformation of West Nile.



Rt. Rev. Dr. Ocan Odoki Sabino  
Chairman, Board of Directors



Dr. Alfred Lakwo  
Executive Director

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# Acronyms

<b>ACREP</b>	Atyak Child Rights to Education Project
<b>AFARD</b>	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
<b>ALENU</b>	Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda
<b>ATT</b>	Animal Traction Technology
<b>CAO</b>	Chief Administrative Officer
<b>CDO</b>	Community Development Officer
<b>CG.</b>	Children Group
<b>CLA</b>	Cluster Level Association
<b>DCA</b>	Dan Church Aid
<b>DIT</b>	Directorate of Industrial Training
<b>FFS</b>	Farmer Field School
<b>FFSF</b>	Farmer Field School Facilitator
<b>FG</b>	Farmer Group
<b>GALS</b>	Gender Action Learning System
<b>GGE</b>	Girls Get Equal
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>IGA-SPM</b>	Income Generating Activity – Selection, Planning and Management
<b>JSFP</b>	Jangokoro Food Security Project
<b>KNH</b>	Kindernothilfe
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>LIFE</b>	Level Income for Equity
<b>MAYEP</b>	MANZO Youth Empowerment Project
<b>NIDP</b>	Nebbi Inclusive Development Program
<b>NURI</b>	Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>PCDP</b>	Panyango Community Development Project
<b>PMC</b>	Project Management Committee
<b>PSE</b>	Private Sector Enterprise
<b>RDC</b>	Resident District Commissioner
<b>RELIP</b>	Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project
<b>SHG</b>	Self Help Group
<b>SSF</b>	Social Structure Fund
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UGX</b>	Uganda Shillings
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
<b>VHT</b>	Village Health Team
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>WENAGIC</b>	West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation Project
<b>YEPP</b>	Youth Economic Empowerment Project

# Who we are

The Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), an indigenous NGO founded in 2000, operates in eight districts (Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Madi Okollo, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani) in West Nile region. AFARD is currently implementing its new 6-year Strategy (2020-2025) worth UGX 42 billion that was approved by the Board of Directors in December 2019. Through the strategy, AFARD is committed to scaling socio-economic transformation in West Nile through its “Inspire - Empower - Account approach” through capacity building with the right knowledge and skills, technologies and connections.

The AFARD Strategy theme – Thriving and Peaceful Families seeks to ‘reduce hunger and extreme poverty in 20,000 households, directly benefiting 138,500 people (70% nationals and 30% refugees; 60% females, 25% youth, and 15% men). This will be achieved through the following four pillars:

- Pillar 1: Nutrition-sensitive agriculture for more production and consumption of diversified foods;
- Pillar 2: Inclusive market participation for decent employment in strategic agribusiness and vocational labour markets;
- Pillar 3: Voice and accountability for responsive and people-centered decentralized local governance;
- Pillar 4: AFARD organizational development to strengthen AFARD’s operational capacity and financial base.

## Our Projects

Our work is supported by the generous contribution of several donors. With their support AFARD successfully implemented 10 projects at the height of COVID-19 pandemic reaching out to 152,350 people.

Name of project	Donor	Districts	No of groups	Target HHS	Total HH Pop
Northern ganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)	Danida	Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo	615	16,177	80,885
Migration Project	ADA/HORIZONT3000	Yumbe	20	707	3,571
Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)	BMZ/AWOinternational	Yumbe	12	300	2,120
Action for Livelihood Enhancement for Northern Uganda (ALENU)	EU/OPM/CACH	Nebbi, Zombo	34	850	5,950
West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation (WENAGIC) Project	Sall Family Foundation	Yumbe	15	450	4,079
Panyango Community Development Project	KNH	Pakwach	66	1,253	6,000
Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)	KNH	Zombo	-	3,179	6,000
Girls Get Equal - Reducing Child Early and Forced Marriage Project	NORAD/Plan International Uganda	Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Adjumani	40	1,200	8,400
Nebbi Inclusive Development Project (NIDP)	INclusion	Nebbi		78	345
Response to Increased Demand on Government Services and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda (RISE) Project	EU/GIZ	Adjumani, Odong, Arua, Terego	200	5,000	35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1002</b>	<b>29,194</b>	<b>152,350</b>

# Our Donors



**Development Initiative for  
Northern Uganda - DINU**



International e.V.



**Austrian  
Development Cooperation**



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



**Dreikönigsaktion**  
Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar

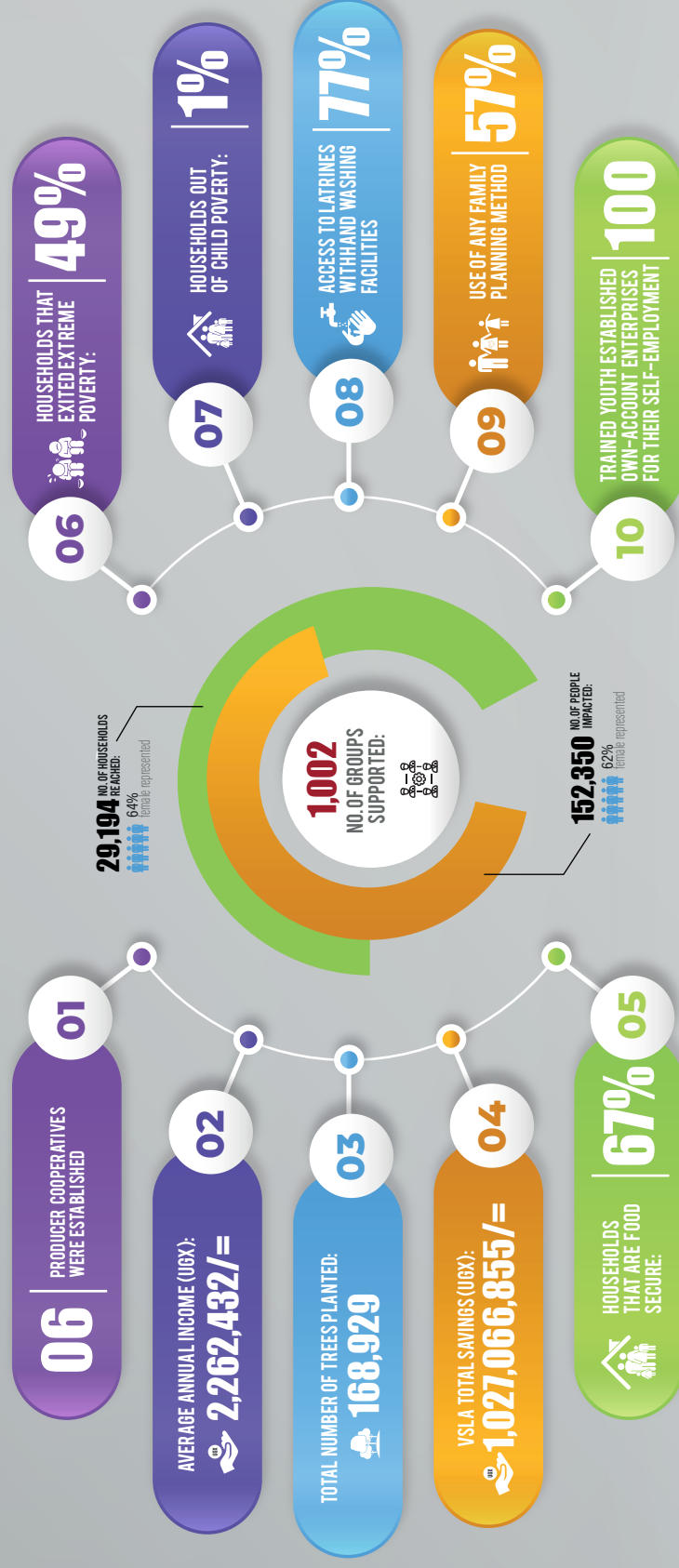
**BRUDER UND  
SCHWESTER  
IN NOT**



**Caritas**

# 2020 IN NUMBERS

TOTAL REVENUE (UGX): **10 Billions**  
NUMBER OF PROJECTS: **10 Projects**  
NUMBER OF STAFF (UGX): **99 personnel (Fulltime)**



**89 trees** ON AVERAGE, EVERY BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLD PLANTED



# OVERVIEW OF 2020 IMPLEMENTATION

2020 was AFARD's first year of implementing the new six year strategy 2020-25. Emphasis in the year was placed on three of AFARD's four implementation strategies: Traditional livelihoods with a focus on agriculture, agribusiness, youth skilling, and alternative income generation; Unconditional cash grant for the very poor; and Child rights. The fourth strategy - graduation approach will be piloted in 2021.

In 2020, West Nile region experienced significant changes that impacted development programmes and AFARDs activities in the region:

- World Food Programme (WFP) reduced refugee's food ration by 30%. This accelerated tension within the refugee settlements and increased hostility towards humanitarian workers.
- Adverse climate change was experienced in the form of delayed onset of rain in some parts (until May), and Nile basin districts from Pakwach to Moyo were affected by the rising water levels that submerged homes and gardens, and displaced many people to camp in public schools under deplorable conditions of food scarcity and poor sanitation.
- Rebel activity in Zombo district created fear and resentment towards non - natives. AFARD staff from Acholi and Lango sub-region were affected.
- The COVID-19 pandemic further slowed down operations and economic activities in the communities. The ban on public transport and closure of shops/markets affected the timely delivery of agricultural inputs and escalated their prices. As a result, acreages reduced with many farmers planting late in the season. Thanks to HORIZONT3000, AWO International, KNH, EU/CACH, and Danida for the provision of personal protective equipment that were distributed to staffs and beneficiary communities.

## **AFARD COVID-19 Response Measures**

Following the Presidential and Ministry of Health guidelines on COVID-19 pandemic, AFARD rolled out its business continuity plan to ensure operations continued unimpeded. The following were undertaken as part of the continuity plan:

- All projects were reviewed, and activity plans adjusted accordingly in line with the standard operating procedures (SOP) issued.
- Weekly meetings for project managers and senior management were moved to zoom.
- Farmer group trainings and meetings were restructured to small working groups of not more than 5 participants.
- Agro-inputs were delivered by AFARD to group leaders who then distributed the inputs to their members.
- Project Officers conducted home-to-home (and members' field-to-field) visits accompanied by group leaders and community-based extension staff to provide the needed extension services to the members.
- All staff were tested for COVID-19 and the 27 who turned positive were supported during their public and home-based quarantine.



## 2020 PROJECT PERFORMANCE

*Felix sitting in his wooden boat*

### GOAL SETTING, MY EYE OPENER

Goal setting and budgeting transformed the life of Jayik Felix, a 30-year-old fisherman and member of Achope Farmer group in Pakia central Village, Pokwero Parish Panyano Sub County, Pakwach District. Prior to becoming a group member in his VSLA group supported by NURI Project, he was earning little daily income from his fishing activities. However, he struggled with growing his income. As a result, he consumed whatever earnings he made.

When he joined the VSLA group in February 2020, Felix and his fellow VSLA members were trained in goal setting and budgeting. He started saving the minimum UGX 5,000 weekly required by the group. Felix had his eyes on acquiring a bull within one year.

'During the trainings, we were guided on planning and implementing short term goals that would help us achieve the long-term goal.' He says he set a plan of selling produce and buying a wooden boat that he would hire out to generate additional income for his savings. He then borrowed a loan of UGX 200,000 and topped up with his savings of UGX 150,000 that his family had accumulated from the sale of cassava flour. With the money Felix bought a boat worth UGX 350,000.

The wooden fishing boat is earning Felix a daily average income of UGX 5,000 which is able to support the family's produce business and weekly savings. Felix is optimistic about the future and believes the skills he has acquired from the integrated VSL methodology will help eradicate poverty from his household.





*Ocaki at his vending business*



## VSLA, A GOLDMINE NEXT DOOR

Ocaki Emmy Ocungi is a 58-year-old Ugandan and a member of Can Ucuka Farmer group in Odogo village, Afere parish, Warr Sub- County, Zombo district. Ocaki also doubles as the Chairperson of the group. Ocaki has a total of 12 household members. This includes his children and grandchildren. He and his wife Irachan Knight have been saving for close to 5 years with no significant change in their family welfare. When their group was assessed and taken through VSLA support, the concept of visioning and budgeting caught his attention. Ocaki and his wife decided to implement what they had learnt. He said “japonji uwachu umaku wagoi kite ma wamitu anyim mwa ubed kudu” translating as “our teacher (CBT) asked us to visualize what we want our future to be.” One of the things Ocaki and his wife wanted was a better house.

Motivated by their visioning board, Ocaki and his wife started planning how to get the funds. The family planted an acre of beans intercropping with groundnuts. To bring in extra finance for the household, Ocaki added vending of cooking oil while his wife sold local brew (kwete and nguli). Subsequently Ocaki and wife Knight saved about UGX 750,000 and borrowed additional UGX 500,000 from their VSLA to kickstart their construction. However due to the global covid-19 pandemic, the family could not construct the size of house they wanted as their income reduced. The family opted to construct a smaller house for the start with the hope of constructing a bigger

one in the near future.

The family is slowly realizing some of their saving goals, like paying school fees, buying livestock and a bicycle to transport produce to the market. “kenangu pi bola ungo nangu angeyu ngo kenia wapichobu. Ku Corona kwo dong udoku tek re wabetagu asu.” Translating “if it wasn’t for saving I don’t know how we would manage. With Corona virus life has become hard but we are still hustling.”



*Ocaki and his household pose in front of their recently constructed family house*





## Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI)

The Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) is one of the three Royal Danish Embassy engagements under the Uganda Program on Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy (UPSIDE) for the period 2019-2022. It pursues enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities by supporting: Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA); Rural Infrastructure (RI); and Water Resources Management (WRM). AFARD is implementing the Climate Smart Agriculture component in Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo districts with a goal, “to increase agricultural output of small-scale farmers and for refugees.”

### Achievements

- Strategic Crop Enterprises (Irish potatoes, bananas, onions, sesame, cassava, rice, beans, soybean) were selected and 615 groups develop production and marketing plans and 405 groups set up demo plots that they used for various trainings.
- To facilitate learning the project provided improved agro-inputs (129 Kgs of sesame, 72Kgs of rice, 2,415Kgs of beans, 1,125Kgs of soybean, 89Kgs of onions, 648 bags of Irish potato and 590 bags of cassava cuttings).
- 210 old groups were supported with 33 stores, 127,550 tree seedlings, and 1,282 tarpaulins on a 50% cost sharing basis worth UGX 70,498,000.
- 260 groups were enrolled for VSLA support and were provided VSLA kits. The 53 CBTs hired trained and mentored them on VSLA methodology, financial literacy and business management. As a result, 6,957 members developed household plans; and VSLA savings amounted to UGX 608,805,000.
- To build strong agribusiness 5 progressive farmer groups (Canber Kukwer, Can Ber Kumer, Kudiol, Fur Ber and Dikiriber) were trained and registered as Producer Cooperatives.
- 1,035 trained Produce Marketing Committees facilitated collective marketing worth UGX 335 million.



- Staff capacity was built in preparation of production and marketing Plans; climate smart agriculture (CSA); enterprise selection; monitoring and evaluation; collective marketing; post-harvest handling; reporting and case study writing; kitchen gardening; child protection and rights; Integrated VSLA methodology and SAVIX data entry; and Gender Action and Learning System (GALS) methodology

## Outcomes

- The agribusiness approach adopted led to a shift in the selection of strategic crops away from the traditional cash crops (simsim and cotton) to rice and cassava in Pakwach and Nebbi districts. In addition, farmer group members adopted climate smart agricultural practices in order to increase their yields and income.
- After developing family development plans, many beneficiaries increased their acreage in order to meet the goals they set for themselves. Equally savings in VSLA and collective marketing of farm produce improved





*Mrs. Lilian in her store*

## ADOPTION OF IMPROVED ONION DRYING AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Atimango Lilian a 48-year-old wife and mother of 8 adopted onion growing as an enterprise following the training on onion production by AFARD.

Before the intervention, Lillian and her husband Oribi Samuel used to grow beans, cassava and soybeans on small scale majorly for home consumption. This changed when her group- Winjiri Ber farmer group during enterprise selection prioritized onions and were provided inputs and trainings including in soil and water conservation, nursery bed management, integrated pests and disease control, and post-harvest handling (PHH). With the training, Lillian and her husband decided not to wait for demo plot seed multiplication.

They bought their own seeds and tried the new enterprise on 0.5-acre plot of land. To her surprise, she got 1,280Kgs of good quality onion bulbs and an excited Lilian exclaimed, “this was unbelievable.” However, immediately they harvested, the family was faced with the challenge of space for storage aware that onions are bulky and highly perishable. “Our major challenge was how these bulbs would be safely dried and stored as we wait for the good market price” says Lillian. But as she further stated, “after the practical PHH training, I and my husband adopted one of the simplest drying and storage methods; the use of tied up strings hanged around the wall and roof ceiling because it saves a lot of space, facilitates efficient aeration in the room that quickens quality drying.” In deed with this method, the family managed to store all the onions waiting for a better marketing time where they hope to sell their onions at UGX 2,000 a kilo as opposed to the current UGX 800 price.





## Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)

Under the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), a Government of Uganda programme supported by the European Union (EU) and supervised by Office of the Prime Minister, Caritas Switzerland in partnership with AFARD, Advance Afrika, and Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalization received a grant to implement ALENU in the districts of Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Amuru, Omoro, and Agago. The purpose of ALENU is, “to consolidate stability in Northern Uganda, eradicate poverty and under-nutrition and strengthen the foundations for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development” and its specific objective is, “to increase food security, improve maternal and child nutrition, and enhance household incomes through support to diversified food production and commercial agriculture and through improving household resilience (notably to climate change) and women empowerment.”

### Achievements in 2020

Working with 100 registered farmer groups with 2,500 members (1,500 females), the following were achieved:

- 08 strategic commodities (Irish potato, groundnuts, apiary, beans, soybeans, local poultry, and onion/tomato) for their market-oriented production were selected; 126 paravets (27 females), 100 VSLA mentors, and 148 agroecology champions (26 females) were trained and equipped to support peer extension service provision side by farm clinic visits by local government extension staffs.
- Provided farm inputs such as 5,000 hoes, 2,500 watering cans, 2,500 spray pumps, assorted vegetable seeds, 2,500 tarpaulins, 7,500 moringa and 5,000 fruit seedlings, 1,950 local poultry, 336 bags of Irish potato, 750 Kgs Beans, 2,625 Kgs soybeans, 12,750Kgs groundnuts, 25 tins of tomato seeds, 300 tins of onions, 625 hives and accessories, and value addition equipment (honey extractor, groundnut sheller and weighing scales).
- Trained all FG members on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM skills and financial literacy conducted 600 training sessions for their group members. With VSLA kits provided to each

farmer group, UGX 130,539,500 was saved, and UGX 93,091,450 taken as loan,

- 170 marketing committees were trained in market information and intelligence and equipped with mobile smart phones for access to digital market information.
- Trained 50 VHTs, midwife/clinical officer, Sub- County extension worker and project staff on nutrition, sanitation and hygiene and maternal child health and provided them IEC materials. With Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB), trained 48 VHT's, health workers, and cultural and religious leaders on natural family planning method. With these structures, Infant and young child feeding groups were formed, cooking demonstrations and hygiene promotion were conducted.
- Conducted monthly integrated health outreaches with Orussi HCIII, Abongo HCII & Paminya HCIII, Jangokoro HCIII & Kango HCIII to provide services like antenatal care, post-natal, family planning, immunization, deworming, Vitamin A supplementation, nutrition screening and counselling, and general health and nutrition education services. Also supported were quarterly emergency referral for mothers with fetal distress and labor related complications to major facilities for better management.
- Formed 36 out-of-school adolescent boys and girls' groups, and in collaboration with Straight Talk Foundation trained adolescent peer mentors and equipped them with IEC materials for peer SRHR dialogues.
- Supported the District drug medicine management supervisor to conduct monthly stock supervision and monitor the supported health facilities for family planning commodities.

## Outcomes

- The use of good agricultural and climate smart (GACS) practices led to better yields. Irish potato farmers in Kango harvested 80 bags per acre as opposed to 50 bags before.
- Groundnut farmers started selling shelled groundnuts at a fairly higher price and are using weighing scales to sell their produce instead of basins and cups as before.
- The health team home-to-home visits has improved practices related to family care for children, immunization, hygiene, food preparations and kitchen gardening.







Mandhawun and her children

## Malnutrition requires foods! Jenifer Mandhawun smiles after her 3-year-old child recovers from Severe malnutrition.

“As a young woman, I used to be so stressed especially the months when my Child (Malengrwoth Peace, 3 years old) was sickly, she became exceedingly thin, with no appetite, not playful and looked like a 1year baby,” Mandhawun Jenifer a 30 year old mother narrates. In July 2020 when ALENU project started, Parmu Denis- the Village Health Team (VHT) was screening children using Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape, Peace- was in RED (10.6cm). The VHT then referred Mandhawun and the baby to the hospital though she did not want to go for fear of being laughed at because of her thin baby. The VHT later escorted her to Paminya health center III where the health worker gave her child medication and counselled her. She was encouraged to cook a variety of foods like silver fish, beans, groundnuts, green vegetables, fruits, and feed the baby. “We used to spend 2-3 days without eating food, depending on mostly porridge. With the encouragement of the VHT who used to visit Jenifer to check on the child, Jenifer started taking up casual work so that she could cook nutrient-rich food for her baby.

When she received the vegetable seeds (Sukumawiki, dodo, eggplants, African egg plants) and other materials (hoes, watering can, spray pump) from the ALENU project, she felt nice, Jenifer recalls happily. She planted them so that she could have ready food for home consumption and extra to sell. With monthly screening by VHT and her efforts to feed her child nutritious foods, her child’s health started improving. During a training by HNO for ALENU Project in November 2020 on cooking food for young children, Jenifer paid attention and it paid off. I learnt new skills which I did not know, like how to prepare silver fish, millet flour, Dodo (Muziri, Kalanga, mucicha), meat, millet flour, pounded groundnuts (Ringo, kale, Kalanga) all mixed in the same saucepan” She was amazed, adding silver fish and eggs in porridge which was totally new to her, yet she could even afford those items in small quantity for her child to get completely healed. Right now, Jenifer’s child is measuring GREEN (13.0cm), which is normal and is normal, active and eating well.

With the small business of silver fish that Mandhawun using a loan she got from ALENU VSLA group, she is now able to save UGX 2,000 every week, and still have some left over to buy food & other essentials for her family. She intends to plant a quarter acre of tomatoes in 2021 so she can raise money for her daughter’s school fees. Mandhawun has become an advocate for her fellow women advising them to take their children to hospital when they fall sick and feed them on balanced diet to prevent them from malnutrition. (She now walks with her child without shame.



## Panyango Community Development Project (PCDP)

Panyango Community Development Project (PCDP) is a 6-year project funded by KNH. It aims to empower extremely poor households and youth in Panyango subcounty, Pakwach district. The project also builds the capacities of duty bearers' capacities so that children enjoy the right to live in a community that respects children's rights.

### Achievements in 2020

In 2020, the project reached out to 4,981 children (with 2,147 boys), 1,883 adults (with 869 men) through 66 Self Help groups (SHGs) and 4 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) and carried out the following activities:

- Held 3 community awareness meetings and trained 10 CFs on the SHG and CLA concept and book writing and facilitated monthly meetings
- Supported the establishment of 18 new SHGs with 296 members and 1 CLA with 09 SHGs who were trained on SHG/CLA concepts. These People's Institutions were supported to hold periodic self-monitoring and performance assessment meetings.
- 30 SHGs (with 563 members) were trained on safe nutrition practices such as making enriched porridge and 20 SHGs (with 376 members) were trained on kitchen gardening and energy saving stoves.
- 4 CLAs were trained on the new CG modules and 5 CG Committees on child rights and the roles of sub-committees, CLAs, SHGs and CFs in ensuring that children go to school.
- 148 local leaders and SHGs members (102 women) were trained on child and women rights and they sensitized 348 people in Padoch and Pakia in child protection initiatives.

### Outcomes

Being part of groups has improved poor women's esteem and visibility. In the SHG member households - 59% saved weekly, 60% took business loans, 6% owned IGAs, and 72% had improved sanitation facilities. Among children in these households: 62% are aware of their rights; 43% are aware of existing child protection structures; 43% eat 3 diversified meals daily; 87% attended schools; 77% accessed medical care from qualified medical personnel; and 91% felt that they live in an environment that was safe for children, meets their basic needs and respects their rights.





*Dorothy with her goat bought with money she earned selling her rabbit (Picture taken by Apiso)*

## Savings group brings hope

Chanpara Dorothy is a member of Mungubitimo SHG in Lwala Village, Pakia Parish. Mungubitimo SHG was formed in 2017 and has a total membership of 20. members.

Before joining SHG used to live from hand to mouth. Her inability to produce more than 1 child made her life worse with her husband neglecting her

In 2017, SHG Approach was introduced in Dorothy's village. She joined SHG and began from nothing. "I could not afford the weekly saving of UGX 500 in the first few weeks of our meeting. When she joined SHG, little did she know that she would also sit with fellow women who had different experiences and exposures in life. With the different trainings in saving, credit and business management and motivation from fellow women, Dorothy begun to save the UGX 500. "With time I took a loan worth UGX 20,000. I used it to buy avocado and tomatoes which I sold earning a net profit of UGX 15,000", Dorothy narrates. She continued with the same business for one year and saved up UGX 240,000. With a well-drawn vision, Dorothy set her focus on getting out of poverty. In 2018, she diversified her business, venturing into rabbit rearing. She invested UGX 20,000 from her saving into the business. Dorothy bought a pair of rabbits that produced 5 pairs. She sold three pairs at UGX 20,000 each. With the UGX 60,000 she had earned she bought a goat. "Over the years the rabbits multiplied. Now I have twelve pairs which I intend to sell in December, 2020", she explained.

With the income she earns from her businesses, her marriage has stabilized. She can now afford to pay tuition, meet medical bills and cloth her and the children. "My husband has become so supportive. We share ideas, consult and plan together", she smiles. Dorothy's future plan is to send her biological child Blessing and the other children she takes care off to a better school and start saving for construction of a permanent house.





## Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP)

Atyak Child Rights to Education Project (ACREP) is a 3-year KNH-funded project whose goal is to increase enrolment and retention of children in schools with “30% more girls and 20% more boys enrolled and retained in schools in Atyak sub-county, Zombo district by 2023.” In 2020, the project reached out to 1,186 children (525 girls), 557 community members (195 female) composed of parents, teacher, religious, cultural and local leaders and Justice Law and Order Sectors actors. Amidst the COVID-19 lockdown challenges that made it impossible to implement school-based activities, the following key outputs were delivered:

### Achievements in 2020

- Conducted 8 awareness creation on the importance of education for 186 parents and local leaders (52 female) and 622 children in- and out-of-school (276 girls) and 04 community dialogue meetings for 369 people (147 female) on the dangers of teenage pregnancy.
- 4 Child Rights Advocacy Committee (CRAC) and 04 Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were formed and their members were trained on their roles and responsibilities and supported to hold their quarterly meetings.
- 47 children (25 girls) were trained on making and using re-usable pads for girls using locally available resources.
- A7-member Project Management Committee (PMC) was instituted and oriented on their roles and responsibilities and supported to monitor the project. In addition, 06 management meetings, one Board monitoring visit, and one annual review meeting was conducted to improve learning.

### Outcomes

Although the covid-19 lockdown affected all school-based activities, the outreach to the community improved the realization that children, especially girls, have equal rights as boys to be in school. Many mothers testified to the mistakes they have made to deny their girl children education and to force them into teenage marriages and pregnancies. In addition, children are able to identify child abuse cases and report them to responsible persons and through advocacy CRACs and CPCs are able to fight for their right and the right of the children in the community.





*Sylvia reporting to the LCI Chairperson.*



*Sylvia reporting to the CDO.  
Photo by Okot*

## Children champion their rights

Yikpamungu Sylvia is a 13-yearold girl from Ajigu Village, Ogusi parish, Atyak Sub-County, Zombo District. She is the third born in a polygamous family of six children (3 girls). Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Sylvia was in P.4 at Ogusi primary school. However, life was not easy for her and the siblings as their father would not provide for their basic needs including feeding. She was constantly being beaten, insulted and sometimes denied going to school in order to do household chores.

Being a child, Sylvia did not know her rights and where to report cases of abuse against her and her siblings.

Late August 2020, Sylvia attended the awareness meeting organized by ACREP at Atyak sub-county headquarter on child rights to education and how to report abuses. She paid keen attention to whatever was being discussed on child rights and where to report cases of child abuse. In September 2020, Sylvia was beaten and shot at with arrows for failing to go to the garden when she was sick. Fortunately, the arrows did not reach her. “I ran and escaped the arrows as my father shouted from behind that I am no longer his daughter,” she said. Sylvia ran straight to the LCI Chairperson’s office and reported the case. Unfortunately, the LCI Chairperson did not do much to help her with the situation. She decided to report the case at the Sub-County to Community Development Officer (CDO) and OC Police at Atyak Police Post. “My father was summoned to the sub county and he complied” she added. Mediation meeting took place at the sub county including all parties and it went on well. Her father was counselled by the Project Staff, CDO and OC Police Atyak not to resort to beating and other forms of abuse, but rather resolve issues/cases amicably and to take every situation positively.

From that time, Sylvia started seeing a change in her father’s attitude. He stopped beating the children. “My father has become responsible and supportive in the family”, she reiterated. I thank the AFARD’s referral pathways intervention that has left a positive impact in my life and that of the community.



## (Migration II) Project

AFARD is implementing the Migration II Project in Yumbe district with funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation and HORIZONT3000 (while Palm Corps oversees Arua district). The project goal is to support “refugees and host communities have secure livelihoods and contribute to sustainable development within Rhino and Yumbe resettlement areas, in West Nile Region, Uganda.” Directly the project works with 750 households (572 females; and 366 refugees) and 110 new youth (54 females, 56 males; 55 refugees, 55 nationals).

### Project Achievements

Below are the key activities that were implemented in the reporting period.

- Conducted refresher training for farmer field school facilitators (FFSF); Established 60 Farmer Field School learning sites with COVID-19 prevention measures e.g., hand washing facilities, hand sanitizers and re-useable face masks); and provided start-up agro-inputs for both demo plots and individual households (seeds of onions (470 tins), egg plants (520 sachets), kale (500 sachets), tomato (50 tins), cabbage (20 tins), water melon (30 sachets), pumpkin (120 sachets); Sorghum (2,091 Kgs); Sesame 2 (1,000kg); and pawpaw (1,100 seedlings); hoes (500 pcs); cassava NARO CAS 1 (1,516 bags); and Wheel barrows (10 pcs).
- Conducted training of trainers on kitchen gardening facilitated by Kulika Uganda and the trained staff conducted 90 training sessions with FFS groups. In addition, 40 nutrition training sessions were conducted, where married couples attended with their spouses.
- Mentored trainings on the agronomy of the selected crops to support uptake of farming as a business. For value addition, provided 50 tauplins, 03 digital weighing scales, 07 cassava chippers, and 01 cassava mill with a production house to support the formation of Bidibidi United Cassava Producer Cooperative.
- To improve marketing, 20 FFS collective marketing committee were formed and trained and the FFS members trained in collective marketing coupled with business mentorship and coaching and market linkages to input suppliers and produce buyers.
- For women economic empowerment, a labour market scan was conducted and 80 youths received vocational skills apprenticeship training and business mentorship and coaching.



- To promote peaceful co-existence for refugees and host communities, 30 awareness sessions were held together with the District Environment Office and Local Environment Committees on natural resource conservation; 15,000 tree seedlings were procured and distributed, and 8 dialogue meetings were held resulting in refugee acquisition of 119 more acres of land and 20 acres for planting commercial community woodlot.,

## Outcomes

The focused promotion of climate smart agricultural practices led to an increase in adoption rate (early land opening 89%, correct spacing 84%, integrated pest and disease management 64%, soil and water conservation 88%, and post-harvest handling 90%) and kitchen gardens (Rhino Camp 99.2% and Yumbe 94.2%). The annual performance assessment indicated positive gains against the baseline in the 750 targeted households as: 89% ate at least 3 meals daily compared to 73%; average annual income rose from UGX 140,636 to UGX 334,836; and the average monthly savings increased from UGX 17,182 to UGX 35,315 although the ownership of productive assets dropped from 60% to 32% due to COVID-19 lockdown effects.







## The Power of value addition for better income.

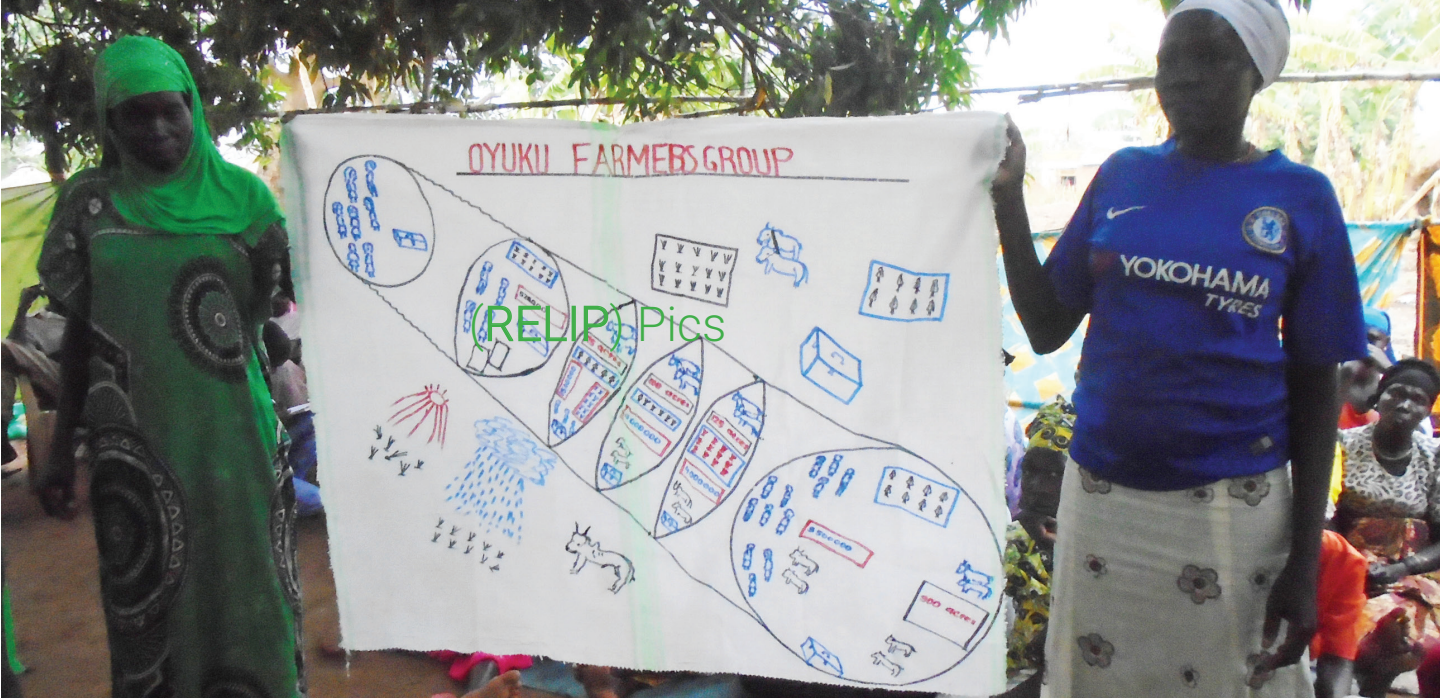
Ms. Chandiru Sauda is a 38-year old member of Kiri FFS located in Kiri village, Locomgbo parish, Romogi sub- county, Yumbe district. She is married with 5 children. Before joining Kiri FFS, Sauda was practicing a subsistence farming.

After joining the FFS, Sauda acquired knowledge on value addition for simsim that she had grown for many years.

“For the last seven years I have grown simsim and the highest amount of money I have earned from one acre in a year was UGX 350,000. Yet, through value addition I have learnt that I can double my income.” As a start-up support, the project financed her purchase of a simple simsim paste making machine and three periodic business mentorship and coaching visits to help her improve her business with skills in customer care services, negotiation and business record keeping, and stock taking.

Since she started value addition, Sauda has saved personal savings of UGX 700,000 and UGX 500,000 with her in her FFS VSLA which she used to buy 2 sheep, a goat and one hen. During lean supply seasons she diversifies, selling silver fish, tomatoes and onions. She has trained her son to operate the machine and plans to purchase another paste grinding machine to increase her sales volume. Sauda has since stopped growing simsim, preferring to buy from other people and making more income from value addition.





## Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods Project (RELIP)

AFARD received funding support from BMZ and AWO International to implement RELIP in Yumbe district. Targeting 12 Farmer Groups (FGs) with 300 vulnerable households (196 females) directly reaching 2,614 people (1,767 females), the project aims to integrate and build resilient refugee and host communities in Yumbe district

### Project Achievements

During the reporting period, the following activities were implemented;

- Provided improved agro-inputs for food production (312 bags of cassava cutting, 200 hoes, 520 Kgs of sorghum, 260 Kgs of Pigeon peas, 300 sachets each of Okra and kale seeds, 1,560 Kgs of beans, 200 watering cans and 84 spray pumps) and for income security (2,156 Kgs of upland rice seeds, 108 tauplins a diesel engine rice hurler with polisher, 1,500 local birds (with 300 Kuroiler cocks)).
- Trained and supported 12 lead farmers (06 female) as volunteer peer extension agents on good agricultural and climate smart practices. In addition, 99 AFARD staffs (40 females) were trained as trainers on kitchen gardening and 36 AFARD staff and group leaders (12 males) were trained as GALS methodology Champions.
- Trained as trainers 06 VSLA mentors (02 females) on VSLA methodology and business management skills and they cascaded the training in their groups. Thus, the groups saved UGX 16,489,000.
- Provided 05 farmer groups with animal traction technology (ATT) - 10 pairs of oxen (20 bulls), 10 ox-ploughs, 10 ox-carts, and 10 planters and trained 40 volunteers (50% females) oxen handlers.
- Trained 06 farmer group members on collective marketing and supported their marketing committees to conduct participatory market surveys. Through business mentoring and coaching visits to individual microenterprises, 12 business deals were brokered between farmers and input suppliers.



- With the District health department, conducted trainings on COVID-19 pandemic, family planning, and safe nutrition and organized a competitive cooking gala.
- With the District Environment Office conducted 12 awareness creation campaigns to promote tree planting and discourage bush burning; trained farmers on tree management; distributed 7,100 tree/fruit seedlings and assorted implements; held 03 dialogue meetings on peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities.

## Outcomes

These initiatives led to access of 6,956 seedlings from UNHCR, planting a 6.5 acres commercial woodlot and drilling a borehole in Illanga village. In addition there was increased ownership of kitchen gardens (90%), use of good agricultural and climate smart practices (57%), eating three meals daily (88%), and weekly intake of diversified foods (98%) as more women and girls started to eat traditionally forbidden foods (91%) and men and boys ate green vegetables without complaints (82%). The monthly average saving in VSLA increased from UGX 2,772 at baseline to UGX 4,684 with 90% of the members accessing loans while 48% set up alternative IGAs. The average annual household income increased from UGX 200,000 to 900,000. At the family level, more women are gaining the power to own productive assets (47%), participate in decision-making (55% rise), and use family planning services (75% rise). In addition, 59% of the beneficiary households adopted the use of energy saving stoves and 27% of women reduced the time spent in search of firewood.







Mr. Mark Marsuk

## Training in Income Generating Transforms Refugee Livelihoods.

Mr. Mark Marsuk is a 35-year-old refugee and a VSLA mentor in Amazo Farmer Group that was formed in 2020 by the Strengthening Resilient Livelihood Project (RELIP). His household of six people depended on the insufficient refugee food ration that he complements with subsistence farming and bicycle repair services at Tuajiji trading centre. Life was not easy for Mark and his family as they had to depend on the UGX 15,000 he earned each month.

As a member of a group Mr. Mark participated in and completed the hands-on practical training on the selection, planning and management of income generating activities. What struck him was the “simplified business identification matrix tool” as he noted, “it helped me to come up with a general merchandise shop that was lacking in my community. He then turned to their group VSLA for capital mobilization. He took loans of UGX 100,000 to top up his personal savings of UGX 50,000. With this fund he started a small shop at Tuajiji trading centre in June 2020. Using his customer care, stock taking and separation of business and personal money skills by December 2020 his business had grown to UGX 1,300,000.

“Life has become better for my family. I am no longer sitting and waiting for UNHCR to provide for my family because I am able to take care of my family on my own terms,” said Mark



## West Nile Agriculture Improvement and Conservation Project (WENAGIC)

With the funding support from Sall Family Foundation, AFARD is implementing the WENAGIC Project in Yumbe district, Uganda. The project goal is, “to support a sustainable and equitable food and income security of 450 smallholder farmer households.” In 2020, the project focused in increasing the market participation and voice of smallholder farmers in local development policy using the cooperative approach

### Project Achievements

Below were the key activities implemented:

- Kei – Rodo Rice Produce Cooperative was registered with 134 members (95 females) and given a rice hurler and start-up inputs and trainings on collective marketing.
- 7,314 tree seedlings were provided together with trainings on good agricultural and climate smart practices, and 60 follow-up visits on kitchen gardening.
- 10 new lead oxen handlers were trained, and 58 follow-up visits on animal traction and pasture propagation was conducted that enabled the groups to buy 04 new pairs of oxen, earning the groups UGX 6,210,000 from ploughing fees. An additional 3.25 acres of nappier grass was also planted.
- 105 VSLA follow-up visits were conducted to strengthen share-out, start of new savings cycles and to promote agro-input savings as a vehicle for rice agribusiness investment.

### Outcomes

Due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, there was a decline in savings from a total of UGX 107.3 million in 2019 to UGX 41.3 million and loan uptake from UGX 33.5 million to UGX 16.1 million. However, there were positive gains with a change in mindsets towards pursuing agribusiness as a way to improved food security and household income. However, with a shift from the sales of unhurled to hurled rice, the annual household income increased from UGX 1,192,329 to UGX 3,446,414.





*Gule's first grass thatched house*

## Case study of Gule Hamid the group secretary

Inzimile farmers group with now 25 members (19 females) is located in Aupi village, Aranga Parish, Apo Sub County. It is a beneficiary of the WENAGIC project. Mr. Gule Hamid, a 30-year-old, is one of the members of this group who has benefited from the group's saving activity. Using the VSLA loan of UGX 100,000, he started a poultry business in May 2018. He would buy poultry from within the community and sell in Yumbe animal market every Saturday. When his capital rose to UGX 500,000 he started selling goats in the same market and by the end of 2019 Gule started selling some of his goat in Arua market where he started to earn more money due to high demand and good prices. Mr. Gule then started using part of his business profits to build his first "mabati" house. In 2020, he finished roofing the house and is planning to plaster and put better doors for his house.



*Gule's new Iron sheet roofed house*





## Girls Get Equal: Ending Early and Forced Child Marriage Project

AFARD in a partnership with Plan International Uganda is implementing a NORAD-funded Girls Get Equal: Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage Project in Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo and Adjumani districts. This project seeks to address the rampant and socially accepted practices of child marriage in the West Nile region of Uganda. AFARD is primarily implementing Outcome Area 3: Education to increase girls' economic empowerment that focuses on increasing economic empowerment of 30,000 girls and 30,000 families at high risk of the vice.

### Project Achievements

#### During the year, the following were achieved:

**A market analysis** was carried out in all the project districts.

**TVET institutions training capacity assessment** was conducted and found that there are few TVETs (both government or private) in the project areas that also offer non-formal trainings. These TVETs had few facilities (50 students per semester); no facilities for mothers with infants; no tutors and facilities for persons with special needs (and disabilities); and charge an average of UGX 700,000 (excluding costs related to protective wear and learning materials)

**Co-ordination with private sector:** The above studies also found out that there were few private sector enterprises (PSEs) and artisans offering training opportunities mainly in agriculture (52%) than in services (44%) and manufacturing (4%) sectors but without any formal curricular and DIT certification.

**VSLA/cooperatives are supported and operational:** 40 mentors (19 females) were selected and trained in VSLA methodology, Financial literacy, Income Generating Activities and Selection Planning and Management. In return, these mentors formed 31 youth VSLAs with 930 members (552 females).

#### **Families receive support to improve economic situation**

Mapping and formation of family groups of 30 most vulnerable families each who do not need to marry off their daughters below 18 years was conducted and 11 vulnerable family groups were formed with 323 members (201 females).



The market study found out that among the youth:

- 83% stopped at primary school level and very few (11%) had attended any vocational training.
- Only 54% were employed in vulnerable own-account enterprises like small businesses, agriculture and sale of labor with meagre returns.
- Only 14.7% were members of at least one saving group where they save and access loans.
- There was a very low financial net worth (UGX 1,041,664) hence a high (76%) asset poverty.
- self-employment (93%) was preferred especially in non-agricultural trades but with gender biases (females for tailoring and a hair dressing and males motor mechanics) even when these trades were considered by the key market players to have flooded the market.
- 5% who selected employment in agriculture preferred Irish potato, onions, soybeans and tomatoes. However, the study found out that only Irish potato and onions had the potential to use the small youth land holdings to exit extreme poverty.
- Increase employability would require additional trainings in foundation skills such as entrepreneurship and business management, farming as a business, financial literacy and management, leadership skills, life skills, functional adult literacy, and computer skills.







## Nebbi Inclusive Development Programme (NIDP)

AFARD with funding from INclusion, a Netherlands based NGO, is implementing a 7-year Nebbi Inclusive Development Program (NIDP) in Welle – Atego sub-county, Nebbi district, Uganda. NIDP aims at contributing to “a dignified and income secure life for all people, free from the injustice of poverty and exclusion.” The programme provides unconditional basic income grant (BIG) called Level Income for Equity (LIFE) as a social protection intervention. The essence is simple: every individual is entitled to receive an income that is enough for basic needs, for full participation in society and for a dignified life, without any conditions in line with the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) definition that a basic income is “... an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement.”

### Project Achievements

In the year, the following were achieved:

- A village register was established and cleaned and 345 people (169 females) eligible beneficiaries were enrolled for support.
- A Community Covenant Steering Committee of 05 people (01 females) was instituted and a Community Covenant was signed for effective participation and transparency.
- 240 mobile phones were distributed to all beneficiaries aged 16 years and above. These people were also supported to secure and register individual SIM cards and a solar power system was installed in the community to facilitate phone charging.
- LIFE worth UGX 60,000 per person per month was provided to all registered beneficiaries for a period of 07 months. Children were paid through their mothers or guardians. The first payment was made by the RDC and LCV to the first beneficiary household on the village register and the community were filled with joy.
- earning the groups UGX 6,210,000 from ploughing fees. An additional 3.25 acres of nappier grass was also planted.
- 105 VSLA follow-up visits were conducted to strengthen share-out, start of new savings cycles and to promote agro-input savings as a vehicle for rice agribusiness investment.





## BASIC INCOME GRANT TRANSFORMS WELLE VILLAGE: BER-IWU WANTS A BETTER HOUSE FOR YOUNG FAMILY

Welle village located in Pamora lower parish, Atego sub-county is the poorest village in Nebbi district. All its 345 people composed of 169 females, 196 children (92 female) and 38 youths (11 female) live in abject poverty. The rocky landscape of the village hardly favours farming forcing families to depend on fire wood collection and charcoal burning for a living. Through a rigorous selection process, in 2017, the local government selected and approved the village as a project area for Nebbi Inclusive Development Program (NIDP). All the necessary steps were taken to ensure that the village register was developed, beneficiaries selected and validated to avoid ghost members. This was followed by intensive awareness creation about the project, formation of a steering committee and signing of a covenant by the community, AFARD and INclusion. In 2020, the project started paying the beneficiaries the monthly UGX 60,000 LIFE per household member. This money as the story below shows is impacting lives positively.

Earnings from temporary casual labour, commonly referred to as leja-leja throughout Uganda, tend to be seasonal and sometimes, gigs completely dry out. As a young man dependent on leja-leja, Ronald Ber-iwu did not have a stable monthly income stream until the Nebbi Inclusive Development Project (NIDP) was rolled out in his village; Welle, in July last year.

With a stable monthly income stream of UGX 60,000 from the project, Ber-iwu set out to start working towards one of his lifelong goals—to build a permanent, bigger iron roofed house. Using the savings from the grant, Ber-iwu has financed the making of 2,800 bricks. He has also acquired fifteen pieces of iron-sheets so far. “Without the money I get from this project, it would have been very difficult for me to make these bricks and buy the iron sheets. In the next few months, I will continue to get the materials, so work on my new house can start as soon as possible,” says the thirty two year old.



For now, Ber-iwu young family reside in a small traditional grass thatched hut. The hut has its drawbacks. Besides being limited in space, the grass thatched roof is prone to leakage in cases of heavy rain, and has to be replaced within a year or two. As a casual labourer in the village as opposed to a thriving urban centre, Ber-iwu's gigs mainly come during the planting season, when farmers are busy on their farms preparing and planting crops. During the dry season, Ber-iwu earns very little, if anything.

Ber-iwu is trying to improve his odds of thriving in future. He is keen on diversifying his income sources away from leja-leja. He has so far bought three goats, and two pigs. In the next few years, Ber-iwu envisions himself as a thriving goat's meat supplier in his sub-county. To work towards that goal, he plans to acquire more goats. "Goats are attractive because unlike cattle, it is cost effective to manage them. Also, goats reproduce much faster, and their meat is very popular in my area," he says.





# A Glance at AFARD Strategy 2020-25 Pillar Performance

AFARD seeks to deepen its impact in the region by reducing hunger and extreme poverty by 2025. This will be achieved through the following 4-pillars.

## Pillar 1: Nutrition-sensitive agriculture

### Objective 1: Increase production and consumption of diversified foods in hygienic homes

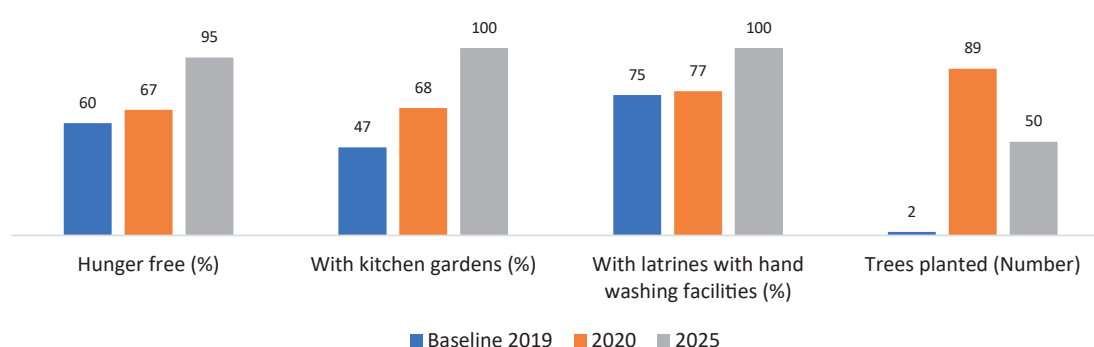
AFARD uses climate smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach to ensure food and nutrition security. Targeted families are empowered to ably: plan what nutritious foods to produce; diversify food intake to include staple foods with animal protein, fruits and vegetables; adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices; and promote green villages through tree planting and use of energy saving technologies.

### The following outputs were delivered during the year

Inputs and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed 5,700 hoes, 2,700 watering cans, 2,584 spray pumps, 7,500 moringa seedlings, 812 bags of cassava cutting, 2,611 Kgs of sorghum, 1,560 Kgs of beans, 260 Kgs of Pigeon peas, 1,500 sachets each of Okra, eggplant and kale seeds, pumpkin (120 sachets); pawpaw (1,100 seedlings) target groups and households. These were also trained on agricultural and climate smart practices.</li> </ul>
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 99 AFARD staffs (40 females) were trained as trainers on kitchen gardening by Kulika Uganda and they cascaded the training to farmer groups on safe nutrition and hygiene. Cooking demonstrations were held and cash prizes awarded to the best 3 groups.</li> <li>Monthly integrated health outreaches to the communities were conducted for deworming, vitamin A supplementation, nutrition screening and counselling.</li> </ul>
Sanitation and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constructed one borehole at Ilanga village.</li> <li>Sanitation and hygiene education was mainstreamed in all activities</li> <li>COVID-19 SOP adherence was emphasized - hand washing with soap, wearing face masks and social distancing.</li> </ul>
Environment conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted environment conservation awareness, trained communities on tree planting, distributed 168,929 tree seedlings to both refugees and nationals. Also is piloting refugee-nationals co-owned commercial woodlots.</li> <li>A total of 563 refugees and nationals were trained to make improved energy saving stoves and they made more than 870 improved stoves.</li> </ul>

### Summary of outcomes achieved

Household food security status



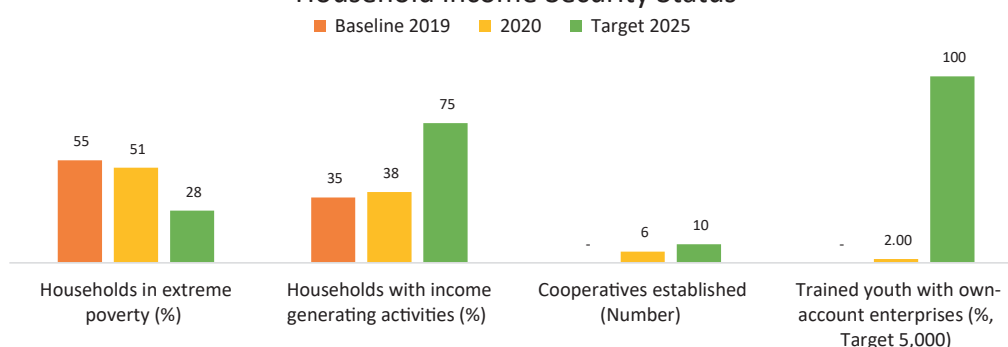
## Objective 2: Increase income from decent employment opportunities in diversified on-farm and non-farm labour markets

Market-led income diversification through climate smart agribusiness and youth skilling was promoted to support families increase their income and net worth. AFARD trained 20,838 households on village saving loan associations (VSLA) and business management and partnered with technical vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and private sector enterprises (PSEs) to train youth for self-employment in marketable labour markets.

### The following outputs were delivered during the year

Strategic Enterprises:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20,838 households engaged in profitable agricultural enterprises such as Irish potatoes, bananas, onions, sesame, cassava, rice, beans, soybean, groundnuts, tomatoes, cabbage, beekeeping and poultry rearing.</li> </ul>
Agro-inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved agro-inputs provided include, 1,129 Kgs of sesame, 5,228 Kgs of rice, 3,165Kgs of beans, 3,750Kgs of soybean, 984 bags of Irish potato, 2,974 bags of cassava cuttings, 30,250 Kgs of groundnut seeds, 404 Kgs of onions, 11 Kgs of cabbage, 19 Kgs of tomato seeds, 40 Kgs of water melon, 1,248 watering cans, 5,039 goats, 5,330 Kuroiler birds and 3,150 local birds (with 300 Kuroiler cocks) (with drinkers and feeder), 625 bee hives and accessories, and 4,200Kgs of NPK fertilizer.</li> <li>A total of 10 farmer groups received oxen, ox-ploughs, ox-carts, and planters for labour saving and improved seed rates and plant spacing.</li> </ul>
Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>126 paravets (27 females), 148 agroecology champions (26 females), 134 lead/model farmers were trained in peer extension service provision of agroecological practices.</li> </ul>
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constructed 33 produce stores and provided value addition inputs: 02 rice hurlers, 07 cassava chippers, 01 cassava miller, 01 honey extractor, 05 groundnut sheller, 35 weighing scales and 5,090 tarpaulins.</li> <li>Registered 06 produce cooperatives and trained on collective marketing and coordinated bulk selling through 1,205 produce marketing committee members.</li> </ul>
VSLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>238 VSLAs mentors were trained on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM skills and financial literacy and they cascaded trainings to group members</li> <li>360 VSLA kits were provided to facilitate savings</li> </ul>
Youth skilling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labour market, TVETs and private sector assessment was conducted and 80 youths received vocational skills apprenticeship training for self-employment.</li> </ul>
Cash grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A cash grant scheme was launched in Welle Village for 345 people (169 females) and every individual received through mobile money UGX 60,000 monthly.</li> </ul>

### Household Income Security Status



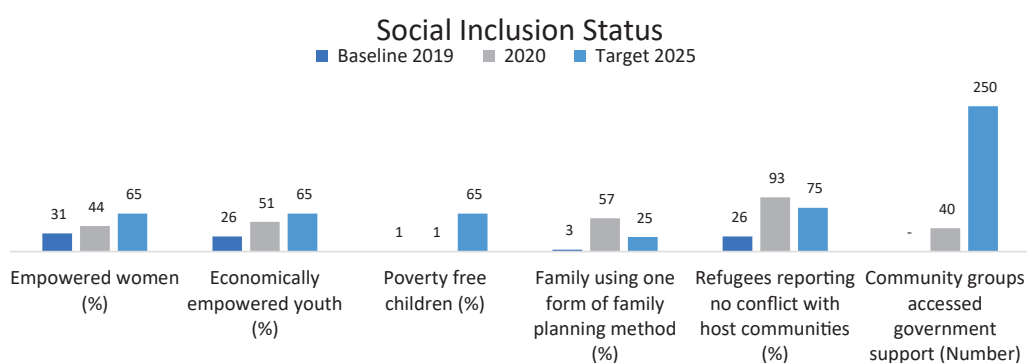


**Objective 3: Improve responsiveness and accountability of local governments and peaceful co-existence for refugees and host communities.**

To address the low participation of children, youth and women in the affairs of their local governance and abuses meted on them, AFARD promotes community connections with their local governments and amongst themselves through political capacity building, multi-stakeholder platforms and mainstreaming issues of food security, land, gender, child rights, environment, and youth employment in local development processes.

**During the year, the following were carried out:**

Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>248 local leaders and 102 women were trained on child and women rights</li> <li>04 Child Rights Advocacy Committees (CRAC) and 4 Child Protection Committees (CPCs) were formed, and their members trained on their roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>47 children (25 girls) were trained on how to make re-usable pads for girl's menstrual hygiene using locally available resources.</li> <li>Trained 98 community extension worker on modern and natural family planning method by Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB).</li> <li>Trained 36 AFARD staff and group leaders as GALS methodology Champions.</li> </ul>
Awareness and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitized 348 parents and local leaders (52 females) and 622 children in- and out-of-school (276 girls) on child protection initiatives and girl child education.</li> <li>Held 04 community dialogue meetings for 369 people (147 females) on the dangers of teenage pregnancy.</li> <li>Held 11 dialogue meetings for refugee access to land in host communities and planting commercial community woodlot.</li> <li>Conducted 18 trainings on family planning and married couples attended with their spouses.</li> </ul>
Family planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with government health facilities to conduct integrated health outreaches to provide antenatal care, post-natal, family planning, immunization and emergency referral for mothers in fetal distress and labor related complications.</li> <li>Trained 08 adolescent peer mentors and formed 36 out-of-school adolescent groups for peer SRHR dialogues.</li> </ul>

**Summary of outcomes achieved**


**Objective 4: Improved capacity of AFARD's to partner, manage, account and learn.**

To ensure that AFARD is organizationally fit for purpose, emphasis was placed on strengthening the Board's oversight function, building technical competency of the staff, and capital investments (logistics, software, office space, etc.).

**Below are the key activities carried out during the year:**

Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board and Committee meetings were held.</li> <li>2019 institutional and project audits were conducted by PKF auditors</li> <li>AFARD Communication Strategy was developed.</li> <li>Assets were revalued and ownerships rectified.</li> </ul>
Human Resources Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staffing increased from 70 in 2019 to 100 fulltime.</li> <li>Medical and group personal cover insurance was provided for all the full-time staff.</li> <li>14 staff continued with long distance professional training in various fields.</li> <li>Volunteers (03) and Internship placement (04) were offered for students from Bukalasa Agricultural College, Makerere University, and UCC Pakwach.</li> <li>Staff capacity was built in production and marketing planning; climate smart agriculture; enterprise selection; monitoring and evaluation; collective marketing; post-harvest handling; reporting and case study writing; kitchen gardening; child protection and rights; Integrated VSLA methodology and SAVIX data entry; and Gender Action and Learning System (GALS) methodology.</li> <li>Healthy living and medical check-ups including for COVID-19 was encouraged.</li> </ul>
Organizational Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 24-month income tax exemption (Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2021) was secured together with a change of accounting period (January – December).</li> <li>AFARD migrated from Tally to SAGE 200 accounting software system.</li> <li>AFARD retained membership and participation in district and national networks such as: Uganda National NGO Forum and District NGO Forum in Nebbi, Yumbe, and Moyo; PELUM-Uganda Chapter; Uganda National Aids Service Organizations (UNASO) and Network of AIDS Service Organizations in Nebbi; and Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET)</li> <li>Teleconferencing facility was installed in Zombo, Yumbe and Nebbi offices.</li> <li>Periodic staff and management planning, coordination and review meetings were held in-house and with stakeholders (UNHCR, OPM, Sector working groups, local governments, etc.).</li> <li>Conducted financial literacy to encourage “save and invest” for personal development.</li> <li>Strengthened spiritual growth through joint prayers, and counselling, etc.</li> </ul>

**Summary of outcomes achieved**

	Baseline 2019	2020	Target 2025
AFARD HQ completed and furnished	0	0	1
A profitable social enterprise developed	0	0	1
Reserve fund in place	0	0	500



## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2020

### Revenue Performance

In the financial year 2020, AFARD's revenue more than doubled to UGX 10.2 billion from UGX 4.1 billion in 2019. Of this, UGX 9.97 billion was new revenue while UGX 206 million was funds carried forward from 2019. Donor funds accounted for 93% of the total revenue and the main donors were DANIDA (22%) and Caritas Switzerland (33%). While in real terms members' contribution increased from UGX 703 million in 2019 to UGX 753 million in 2020, as a share of total revenue, local revenue declined from 17% in 2019 to 7% in 2020. Compared to 2019 when UGX 4.1 billion was realized. The financial performance in the year shows a 68% increase in total revenue. This was due to funding of 5 new projects during the year and increase in budgets of 4 existing projects.

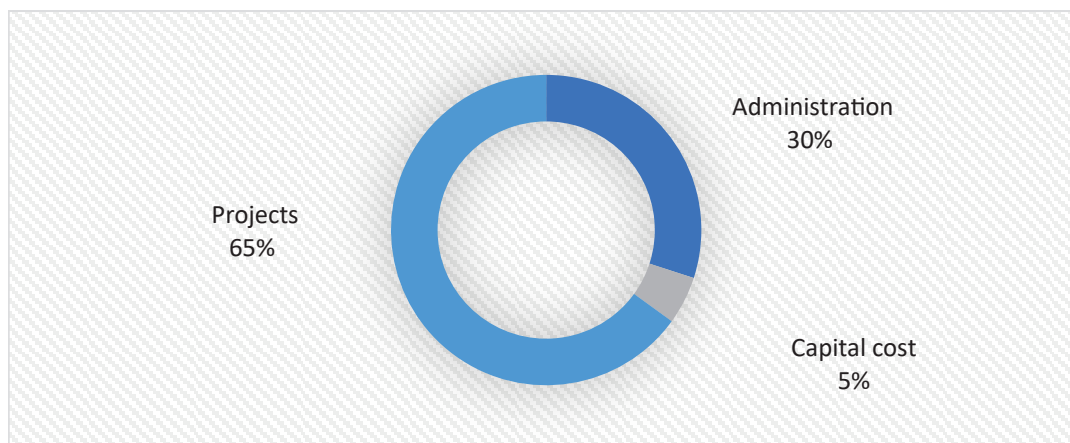
### Total revenue by sources, 2019-20

Revenue sources	Projects	2020	2019
DANIDA	NURI	3,402,716,836	1,633,480,750
EU through Caritas Switzerland	ALENU	2,238,032,010	-
Agriculture & Finance Consultants GmbH	RISE	782,065,245	-
AWO International	RELIP	686,422,094	236,332,584
Austrian Development Agency/ HORIZONT3000	Migration II	677,659,910	448,675,061
Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH)	PCDP & ACREP	566,465,296	390,685,317
Plan International Uganda	GGE	505,298,004	-
Sall Family Foundation	WENAGIC	382,373,246	320,875,000
INclusion, The Netherlands	NIDP	119,545,855	-
AWO International	SSF	26,618,256	189,740,000
University of Nothumbria	Skills Acquisition Project	19,265,259	-
Private Sector Foundation Uganda	Poultry management and post-Harvest handling	11,980,580	13,826,735
European Union through SHA	MAYEP	-	43,294,724
European Union	YEPP	1,105,755	67,547,000
Manos Unidas	JFSP	231,724	80,934,770
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods Support for Improved Resilience and Self-reliance of Refugees from South Sudan in North and Mid-western Uganda	-	77,488
AFARD (Local Revenue)		753,720,844	703,331,613
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>10,173,500,914</b>	<b>4,128,801,042</b>

Note: Total excludes UGX 1.1 billion deferred income from Manos Unidas for SURE project (UGX 284 million), Caritas Switzerland from PSPG (UGX 446 million), and Sall Family Foundation for WENAGIC project (UGX 364 million).

## Expenditure Performance

Out of the UGX 10.2 revenue generated in the year, total expenditure amounted to UGX 9.1 billion (i.e., 89% burn out rate). Of this fund (as the figure below shows), UGX 5.9 billion was spent directly on project activities, UGX 2.7 billion on administration, and UGX 410 million on capital development. The COVID-19 lockdown and strict ministry of health prevention guidelines from March to October greatly affected activity implementation.



## Project Audit

The 2020 institutional financial audit was conducted by RSM Eastern Africa. Specific project audits were also conducted for AWO SSF project, RELIP, Migration Project, and Girls Get Equal Project, by PKF, BVL & Co. and Kisaka & Company respectively. All the audits had Unqualified opinion.







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Firm number: **AF0199**

### **Report of the independent auditor to the members of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD)**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) the organisation, set out on pages 10 to 15, which comprise the fund accountability statement as at 31 December 2020, the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Agency For Accelerated Regional Development for the year ended 31 December 2020, are prepared in all material respects in accordance with the accounting policies described on page 12 of the financial statements.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use**

Without modifying our opinion any further, we draw attention to page 12 in the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting used in preparing these financial statements. The financial statements are prepared to provide information to management and the organisation's donors. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the organisation and its donors and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the organisation or its donors. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### **Other information**

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



## Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies of the organisation and financing agreements and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

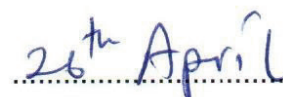
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not Detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report was CPA John Walabyeki, Practising Certificate No. P0301.

  
 CPA John Walabyeki  
  
 RSM Eastern Africa  
 Certified Public Accountants  
 Kampala, Uganda

 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021





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