



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CLIMATE ACTION MODEL VILLAGE PROJECT

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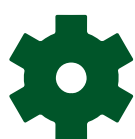
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Project Background

The living situation of people in Nebbi and Pakwach districts is characterized by extreme poverty and a high dependence on traditional subsistence agriculture with very low knowledge and market participation and a high susceptibility to climate change. Discrimination against women is immense as only 20% of women own land, only 27% of them make decisions regarding the use of family land and only 10% decide on the use of family income for major expenses.

The high pressure on natural resources resulted in enormous environmental degradation (only 3.3% of the land is still forested). This situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic as many households (58%) reported a decline in income; they spent their savings (37%) and depleted their assets; boys resorted to theft (8%) and girls to survival sex (10%) and child marriage (18%); women faced more sexual gender-based violence (23%).



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Together, these factors have reduced the resilience of many households and the prospect for independent recovery is considered very low. In order to strengthen the resilience of communities in Nebbi and Pakwach in regard to climate change, health and livelihoods, AFARD in partnership with AWO International secured funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and AFARD was awarded with a contract of up to EUR 931,400 for direct implementation of the 3.5-year (Oct. 2022 – March 2026) Climate Action Model Village (CAM) Project.

The overall project goal is, “Communities in Nebbi and Pakwach Districts are resilient to climate change, health and economic shocks” and its specific objective is, “Targeted communities in Nebbi and Pakwach districts have food and income security and serve as replicable examples for Climate Action Model Villages by March 2026.” The project direct target group will consist of a total of 3,190 people (60%, at least 10% individuals with special needs, about 15% will be younger than 14 and about 80% will be poor or extremely poor).



Project Approach

The CAM Project is planned to empower the population of at least ten villages in Nyaravur and Alwi sub-counties to transform their villages into Climate Active Model Villages through: 1) the establishment of 15 Climate Smart Champion Groups (CSCGs) and 05 School Health and Environment Club (SHEC); and 2) capacity development of these civil society structures on sustainable agricultural intensification, income generation and management, gender equality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), preventive public health, environmental conservation, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

A cooperative will be formed with members from at least 06 CSCGs to drive inclusive and sustainable value-added market participation. For these civil society strengthening to attain the above results, the project will use a 4-pronged interlinked approach:

1. Increasing agricultural production and productivity through intensification of production, technologies used and practices, training in climate-smart agricultural skills and value addition.
2. Livelihood diversification for alternative income generation through promotion of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), Income Generating Activities (IGA) and financial literacy trainings to target households to enable them to save, identify locally viable investment opportunities, take necessary loans and start/build businesses.
3. Promoting public health and prevent avoidable diseases in schools and target communities.
4. Preserving the environment and biodiversity by creating awareness, setting food forests, enabling communities to value an intact environment, take action against environmental degradation, green their villages and thus protect the climate.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS, 2023

CLIMATE -SMART AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE INTENSIFICATION



Outputs 1 - 375 vulnerable smallholder households (60% female headed and 10% persons with disabilities) adopt climate smart agriculture and produce and consume diversified foods for healthy diets for all household members.

1. 15 CSCGs were formed, registered at sub county, and strengthened in group dynamics.
2. 10 villages developed village by-laws aligned to the 10 CAM project standards. An annual byelaw compliance assessment was conducted and 3 best performing villages with more tangible and visible adoption of good practices were provided awards.
3. Selected, trained and equipped 45 agro ecology champions (30 Lead farmers and 15 Poultry paravets). They developed annual production calendars and cascaded training to their CSCGs members.
4. Procured and distributed 2,430 bags of cassava cuttings, 1,875 chickens, 375 PIC bags, 375 tarpaulins, 375 pairs of gumboots, 375 hand hoes, 375 spray pumps, 45 Overalls, 375 watering cans, 1,950 Kgs of sorghum seeds, 2,850 bags of orange flesh sweet potato vines, 3,750 banana suckers, and two cold chain systems. Also supported establishment of 45 acres of demonstration gardens.
5. For animal traction, distributed 60 bulls, 30 ox-ploughs and 15 oxcarts in addition to training 75 oxen handlers who by year end opened land and saved UGX 335,000.
6. Collaborated with Pakwach District Veterinary department and participated in the mass vaccination of oxen against Foot & Mouth disease (FMD) and Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). CAM project also conducted poultry vaccination against new castles, Fowl pox and Gumboro diseases.
7. Conducted refresher training of lead farmers on the crop agronomy of orange flesh sweet potato and Banana crops, Organic pesticide preparation. Likewise, the poultry paravets were supported by Sub counties Veterinary Officers on drug and vaccine administration, general management in the poultry house and feeds and feed mixing.
8. Conducted resilience design training and established two resilience design (RD) learning sites on average 0.25 acres of land provided by group members).



LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION



Outputs 2 - 15 CSCGs and 01 Cooperative actively contribute to economic diversification of livelihoods and to healthy living without (gender-based) violence.



1. 15 VSLA mentors were trained on VSLA methodology, IGA-SPM, and financial literacy, 15 VSLA kits distributed together with training manuals. Mentors trained their CSGS members.
2. Trained 60 peer trainers (Lead Farmers -30, Paravets - 15, and VSLA Mentors - 15) on the GALS methodology (especially vision road journey, challenge action tree, empowerment map and gender action tree) and they cascaded training to the CSCG members and held 10 community dialogues on gender equality.
3. Trained 75 production and marketing committee members on farming as a business and collective marketing.
4. Formed Alwi Cooperative Society through mobilization, supporting election and training of 34 Board and executive leaders.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Outputs 3 - Strengthening community health and disaster preparedness

15 CSCGs and 5 SHECs promote improved community health through disaster preparedness and gender sensitive interventions.

1. Conducted 84 awareness sessions in schools and communities on ideal households, Open defecation, Disease transmission, dental hygiene, person hygienic practices, and food hygiene management and 5,814 (3,072 females) attended.
2. Trained 375 households on kitchen gardens, provided them vegetable seeds and conducted 10 food demonstrations for 303 people (139 females) at community and 5 food demonstrations in schools for 444 pupils (186 females).
3. Conducted 28 sessions on family planning and education for 2,193 people (1,246 females).
4. Held 43 integrated health outreaches for 4,841 people (3,050 females). Services offered were Health and Nutrition education, Nutrition status screening, Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, Antenatal Care Services, Postnatal care services, HIV and malarial screening.
5. Trained and equipped 30 (15 Females) Community Health Champions on integrated Community Health.
6. Distributed 375 hand washing facilities, and 1,500 mosquito nets.
7. Conducted 33 sessions on SRHR and gender equality awareness and education in 5 schools for 1,561 pupils (931 females).
8. Conducted 5 sessions on making re-usable sanitary pads in 5 schools for 127 learners (81 females). To date, a total of 68 re-usable sanitary pads have been made and this has assisted the girls improve their menstrual hygiene.



ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

1. In collaboration with the District Natural Resources offices of the two districts conducted awareness on environmental conservation and tree growing in target communities and schools and trained 5 schools and 15 CSCGs on tree growing.
2. Trained 30 Energy Saving Stove Champions on making and marketing energy saving stove technology and the Champions are making stoves for both CSCGs and non-CSCG members at a fee. Additionally, the 15 CSCGs were provided with startup tools to support construction of the energy saving stoves.
3. Established 20 Food Forests with a total acreage of 32.5 acres of land and 80,000 tree seedlings. Also provided were 120 food forest manuals.
4. Distributed to 375 households a total of 12,750 multipurpose tree seedlings (oranges, lemon, mandarin, giant lira, G-melena, Cashew nut, calandria, soursop, guava, tamarind, jackfruit, macadamia, among others).



Outputs 4 - Environment and biodiversity conservation is promoted in 10 villages to improve livelihoods and climate resilience



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT REVIEW

In addition to the above, the following were delivered:

1. Conducted a Local climate adaptation study and shared the report with relevant stakeholders.
2. Conducted a baseline study and shared the report with relevant stakeholders.
3. Had monitoring visits from various teams including AWO International, District and Lower local government officials, the Board and AFARD management that updated stakeholders on the ongoing progress of the project implementation, innovations, and challenges.
4. Two mobile radio broadcasts were conducted and group members, and opinion leaders shared their life change stories
5. Two radio talk shows were conducted on Radio Maria and Pakwach FM discussing the project envisaged changes and results. Listeners' feedback were received from the entire West Nile region, Acholi, Bunyoro and parts of DR Congo.
6. Video documentation has been conducted in two communities and in two schools.

VISIBLE CHANGES IN THE PROJECT AREAS

- i. A total of 967 acres of land have been put under production using climate smart agricultural practices.
- ii. The number of chickens increased to 3,942 birds with improved access to food (diet diversification using eggs) and income from sales of eggs and live birds.
- iii. A total of 130 adopted the use of organic pesticides in their fields.
- iv. All CSCGs started saving and by December had generated social fund of Ugx 5,409,000, Savings: Ugx 41,372,400, loans out: Ugx 42,325,088 and Agro-input fund: Ugx 8,991,400, and cash at hand: Ugx 12,669,000. Wacew CSCG used their Ugx 705,000 and opened a bank account with the SACCO.
- v. Beneficiaries had family development plans to acquire assets such as buying land, paying school fees, buying animals, household items among others to improve their livelihoods.
- vi. Gender equality and dialogues have led to more involvement of women in leadership positions and sharing of labor within the households. 60% of trained oxen handlers are females.
- vii. Men have become more aware and interested in participating in family planning. More women and adolescents are seeking family planning services especially during Community health outreaches.
- viii. 01 Cooperative (Alwi Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited) was formed. The cooperative members bought land for construction of produce store, mill house and office.
- ix. Increased use of safe hygiene practices as households use hand washing facilities and already 290 of 375 targeted households have adopted ideal household latrine with components such as hand washing facility, door, roof, pit cover and clean surroundings.
- x. 375 households established kitchen gardens where they also integrated other local vegetables such as spider plants, pumpkin, Amaranthas and Malakwang.
- xi. With Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) awareness, rate of absenteeism and dropout due to menstruation reduced.
- xii. 20 Food Forests have been established (5 at schools and 15 at the 10 villages) while many homesteads have planted a variety of tree species.

Some key performance indicators achieved

Selected Key Performance Indicators	Baseline	Actual 2023	Target 2025
Targeted households are food secure	9	54	75
Targeted households are income secure to withstand shocks (%)	41	38	65
Targeted households plan their family sizes (%)	26	57	45
Decline of infectious and vector-borne diseases (%)	22	4	14
Residents of the climate action model villages using the forest planted (Number)	0	0	13
Climate action villages serving as models for replication (Number)	0	0	6
A functional cooperative society is promoting cassava agri-business (Number)	0	1	1
Women in target households reporting gender-based violence (%)	16	8	8
Targeted households adopted safe practices to keep everyone healthy (%)	18	77	85
Targeted school children (11 to 14 years) aware of relevant health practices (%)	66	66	80
Targeted school children (11 to 14 years) who use relevant health practices (%)	24	79	56
Targeted households that use improved energy saving stoves (%)	22	57	75
Schools with functional SHEC (Number).	2	5	5

Case Study 1: Happy living through improved menstrual hygiene

A case story of Afoyomungu Samantha, Nyaravur Primary school.

Ms. Afoyomungu Samantha is a 15-year-old girl and a primary six pupil at Nyaravur primary school. She is a first born of 5 children (3 girls and 2 boys). Samantha's educational participation during her menstrual periods before the project was a struggle.

The training on re-usable sanitary pads has helped her overcome this challenge as she states, "Before the training on how to make the re-usable pads, it was so difficult to access pads as my parents had no money, Whenever I asked mummy for money to buy pads from the shop, there was nothing to provide.

I would get pieces of clothes from tailors to use when at home and handkerchiefs when at school. The handkerchiefs were always not enough and sometimes the blood flows out. To avoid being embarrassed, I would stay at home until the blood flow ends. When the senior female teacher informed us of the upcoming training on to make re-usable sanitary pads for School Health and Environment Club (SHEC) under CAM project, I was too excited and could not wait for the training. During the training, using local materials was very easy. After the training, I went home collected materials to make the pads. I involved my younger sister, and I am already



teaching her to make her own as well. I have already used my hand made pads this month. It's easy to wear and with no leakage at all. It is also self-fulfilling using something I made myself. I am now able to attend all school days. I will also make some very nice pads and sell to get some money to support my parents in educating me."

Case study 2: Kitchen gardening as a source of family unity and livelihood.

Mrs. Afoyorwoth Peace is a wife to a member of Ryeko lonyo CSCG in Warathum village, Nyaravur sub-county. Her household has six people. To Peace, establishing her household kitchen garden gave her more benefits as

she narrated, "Before my household was chosen to be part of this project, we used to grow only one type of vegetable and did not know the importance of having variety of green leafy vegetables. However, through CAM project AFARD gave us five different why grow vegetables and trainings on why grow different vegetables and how to establish the kitchen garden on the minimum space we have to generate high harvest.



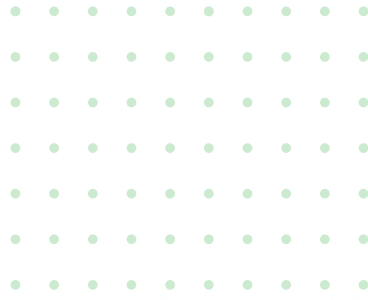


Setting up for Food Forest Establishment at Ngec En Elonyo CSCG



Demonstration on how to make measurements in feet at Pajau PS

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