



AGENCY FOR ACCELERATED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AFARD)

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

**Nebbi, Uganda
December 2007**

AFARD's Core Values

*Respecting human dignity, equality, justice and freedom * Empowerment* Local ownership; *Use of participatory methodologies
* Reliance on local resources* Localizing research * Genuine partnership ** Linkage and collaboration** Transparency and
accountability.*

Did You Know?

The Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) is a local professional, not-for-profit, non-denominational NGO currently operating in Nebbi district, West Nile region of Uganda. It was formed in July 2000 by professional sons and daughters of the West Nile because **first**, West Nile is located in the poorest northern region of Uganda where 6 in 10 people live below the daily US\$ 1 poverty line. **Second**, many development interventions have been 'external to local context' with mainly physical structures and dysfunctional committees in place but a people hardly changed. **Third**, given the hitch of 'democratic centralism' of decentralized governance, the people are reduced to subjects and not citizens of the state. **Finally**, the region has experienced a high human resource flight thus limiting the enthusiasms to work for self development.

The vision of AFARD is, "a prosperous, healthy and informed people of West Nile". Its mission is, "to contribute to the moulding of a region in which the local people, including those who are marginalized, are able to participate effectively and sustainably and take a lead in the development of the region". To achieve these mandates AFARD undertakes **Skills development** (management and technical training); **(Participatory) action research** (to make interventions locally sensitive); **Information gathering and dissemination** (for the promotion of knowledge-based growth); **Resources mobilization** (with external resources only seen as supplements for specific non-substitutable purposes); **Networking and linkages** and **Advocacy and lobbying** (to promote the human rights of the "voiceless" marginalized people while making government accountable).

Legally, AFARD is registered with the NGO Board as an NGO (Reg. No. S.5914/3753) and with Registrar of Companies as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Reg. No. 45170). Besides, AFARD is an affiliate member of the Uganda National NGO Forum, Uganda National AIDS Services Organizations (UNASO), Participatory Ecological Land use and Management – Uganda Chapter (PELUM), Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET), and West Nile Private Sector Development Promotion Center Ltd., Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF), and Nebbi AIDS Services Organization Network (NASON).

Why we exists:

Income insecurity	Food insecurity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 in every 10 people live below US\$ 1 poverty line About 70% of the people lack income generating activity About 80% of the people lack access to financial services Livelihood asset endowment status index = 0.4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of households are food secure (with 38% having food available all year round, 28% eating adequate foods, 51% able to buy food, 79% eating non-traditional foods, 75% women eating forbidden foods, and 89% sharing food equally). Only 15% know of balanced diet 24% access government extension services While only 13% and 7% know of improved crop agronomy and livestock management only 9% and 6% practice respectively
Unsafe water and sanitation	HIV/AIDS pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% have access to safe water but comprehensive safe water use is 26% 44% access latrines Safe sanitation and hygiene index is 0.4-0.7 as personal, home and food hygiene are poor 77% causes of morbidity are preventable but still cause 3 productive days and Ushs 40,000 lost to sickness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VCT sero-positivity rate range from 10-30% 40% have comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge on transmission Median age at first sex is 15 years 21% use condoms during sexual encounters 28% of 14 years and over have many sexual partners 31% of 14 yrs and over engage in transactional sex 10% of 14 yrs and over engage in cross-generational sex
Community based organizations' capacity	Social exclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 633 community based organizations. Only 17% have access to external support. CBO organizational capacity index is 0.5 with extra low status (0.3) in programme, financial, and human resource management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginalized groups with high horizontal inequalities exist with respect to women, Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA), Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), and Fishing communities. Under 5% of women participate in local government planning processes while OVCs & PLWA receive no budget allocation

From the Board of Directors

In the year 2007, AFARD started to implement its 5-year Strategic Direction. This Strategic Direction, operationalized in the Annual Plan and Budget 2007, focused on:

- Promoting wealth creation among the marginalized poor men and women through income generation support.
- Enabling the translation of such wealth into better well-being through food security and safe water and sanitation chain management and HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation.
- Ensuring the ordinary, often invisible, marginalized poor women gain presence, voice and accountability in local governance.

To achieve these focuses, the year 2007 witnessed marked changes in:

Foremost, the Board of Directors put more policy instruments in place, namely: Planning and Budgeting Policy and Finance and Accounting Policy. A job evaluation, as an input for the Human Resource Policy, was also conducted participatorily with AFARD staffs. And, the 2006 Annual Financial Audit was conducted and discussed. The Management issues therein were put to use as means and ways of strengthening the management of AFARD resources. Further, the Board developed an AFARD House plan: Construction plan, architectural design, and Bill of Quantities. This House will be constructed on AFARD land in Nebbi Town Council.

Besides, AFARD recruited the Finance and Administration Manager (who holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Accounting as a Major) and the Accountant. Their office space was also equipped. The two officers have remarkably improved financial management (including timeliness of reporting).

Finally, AFARD generated Ushs 501.8 million in 2007 to fund its operations. This sum excludes the Ushs 120 million that was directly spent by the community organizations that AFARD is working with. Hence, AFARD was able to reach out to 23 Farmer Groups with 1575 members (67% women), one fishing village with 12,700 people as permanent residents (55% women), and the 544 Women Council Executive leaders. And, on a positive note, the Nebbi Area Development Network has been expanded from 8-16 member organizations.

Anecdotes of results from periodic reviews held with the beneficiaries already reveal that AFARD is delivering to its expected results from the plan. For instance, cases of change in organizational transparency, involvement of beneficiaries in planning processes, changes in food sharing habits between men, women and children, and community care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS stands out. The current Monitoring and Evaluation Framework under design with the technical support from SNV – West Nile Portfolio Office will no doubt improve this reporting.

In all, for AFARD to continue to 'Deepen and Harmonize Impacts' we thank the Development Partners with whom we are working and also urge new ones to join hands with us in pursuing these dreams. Our aspirations are shared, tested, and based on local needs that all strives to make the people of West Nile prosperous, healthy, and informed. The year 2008 will then see more of programme mainstreaming, thematic networking, and AFARD's capacity enhancement.

Thank you.



Board members during the June 2007 Board Meeting. Left – Right: Mr. Michael, Fr. Geoffrey, Mr. Vasco & Ms. Grace.

Fr. Geoffrey Ocamgiu
Chair, Board of Directors

Promoting Sustainable Market-oriented Agro-technology Development

In 2006 AFARD realized that production zoning increases farmer productivity. As a result, Erussi sub county was zoned for Irish potato production and Jonam area for simsim production. Fualwonga was specifically marked for improved goat multiplication. This was pursued in 2007 .

During the year, with the support from Tudor Trust and Gorta funding, 23 groups with 1575 members (67% women) were worked with. That these groups were spillover from 2006 funded projects, the activities engaged in with them were also those that were carried forward.

Emphasis herein were put on:

- Income generation and management skills training. The focus was on building entrepreneurship for livelihood diversification.
- Nutrition education so as to: improve the eating of diversified foods; improve food sharing practices among the men who eat first and choicest foods as compared to children and women; change the culture of restricting the eating of certain food types especially against women; and improve food processing and storage practices.
- Deepening the adoption of improved farming methods for the crops and livestock being promoted.

Impact

- Adoption of improved agro-technologies increased.
- 65.9% of farmers now own businesses contrary to only 35.6% before. As such, there was a 6% increase among those with business capital of over Ush 500,000 while average savings increased by Ushs 126,413.

- The knowledge of balance diet increased by 73% and practicing balance diet increased by 79%.
- Groups' 'good performing indicators' score increased by 32%
- And, 39% increase in farmer households who

consider that they are food secure occurred markedly in food acceptability (55%) and food affordability (45%) when compared to 37% and 16% for food availability and adequacy respectively.



Planting of Irish potatoes under the instruction of Khemis the Field Officer



Nutrition education by Sr. Rose Orach

Some challenges

- Negative attitude towards new livestock management practices.
- Lack of capital for diversifying livelihood activities.
- Inadequate seed stocks as the initial quantities distributed were too small.
- High level of illiteracy retards farm records keeping.
- Inadequate marketing opportunities.

Lessons learnt

- Women are particularly more committed than men in fighting food insecurity.
- Working with groups is cost effective and time efficient.
- Unless all the facets of food production, purchasing power, and acceptability are holistically addressed, increasing food security will remain an uphill task.

Conclusion

While farmers have demonstrated their ability and zeal to fight food insecurity, it is now our challenge to scope-out. This can be enhanced by building on a community marketing strategy thereby enabling point-of-production to act as a point-of-sale for better prices and value-addition.

Women Leaders Walking the Talk

Women’s empowerment is not given on a silver plate. The disempowered must fight to secure it. This was the focus of the AFARD’s Civil Society Capacity Building Programme co-funded project - ‘Engendering Services delivery in Decentralized Local Governments in Nebbi District’.

This project is a response to the lack of **presence** (inadequate participation of women), **voice** (responsiveness by local government officials) and **empowerment** (in exerting demand for the accountability of presence and voice from duty bearers) in the public policy processes.

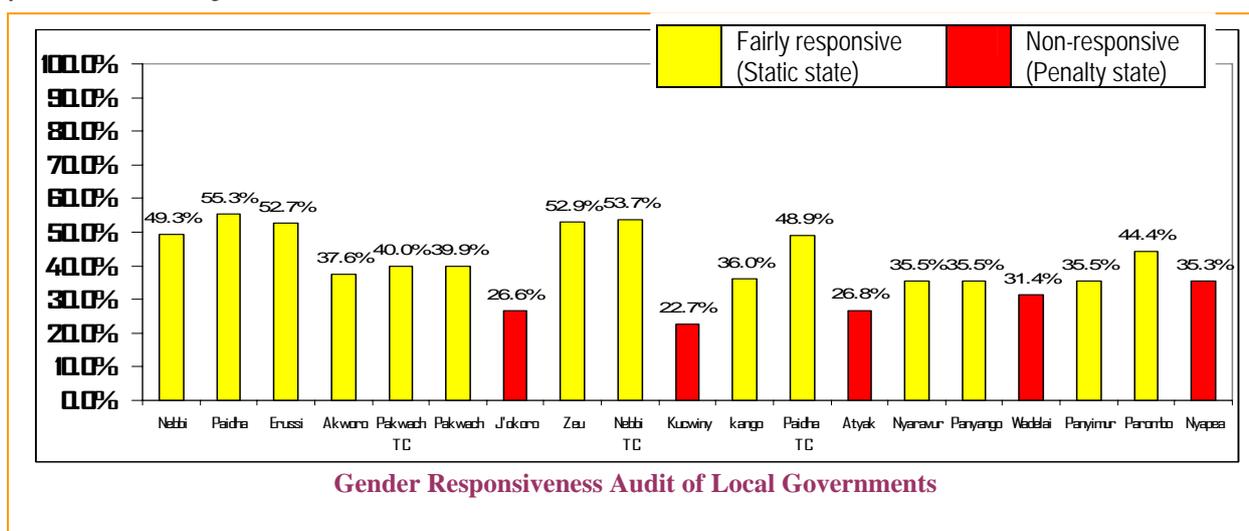
While in 2006 the project focused on capacity building of Women Council Executive leaders together with local government staffs, in 2007 attention was paid on ensuring that the acquired skills were put into practice to win women presence, voice, and eventually empowerment to act in local government policy processes. In doing so, it was maintained that AFARD

- Gender Responsiveness Audit of all Lower Local Governments to ascertain whether or not they were engendering their plans and budgets.
- Information sharing meetings with Women leaders as a feedback avenue to understand the returns to their efforts as well as to strategize on how to approach and provoke positive government response.
- Advocacy and lobby meetings with local government leaders in order to present to them their inactions and the consequences thereof.

Visible results

According to the September Progress and other field reports, it is evident that:

- The **(presence)** participation of women in planning processes at the sub county level increased by 30% from 3.3% in 2006 to 33.1% in 2007.
- Strategically, women leaders now mobilize women’s needs prior to formal local government meetings during which they simply echo similar views (**Voice**).



simply provide technical backstopping while keeping the women took the lead in all the field-based activities.

Key activities undertaken

The following activities were implemented:

- Promoting teamwork among Women Councilors and Women Council leaders. The District team were funded by AFARD and Action Aid to meet all lower local government women leaders and also to interact with political and technical leaders whose actions affects women’s well-being.
- Facilitation of women leaders with information and cash in order for them to mobilize women to participate in the planning processes.

As a result, local government plans now bear gender disaggregated data (18 of 19 units) and affirmative actions (all LLGs).

- This has resulted in a tilting of budget allocation away from administrative sectors in favour of service sectors (in 12 of the 19 LLGs).

The above results demonstrate that women are active change agents. Supported, they can face the hardest of tasks. Our challenges remains in ensuring (i) gender responsiveness demand can be institutionalize and enforced in LLG systems; (ii) women leaders can sustainably champion the interest of women; (iii) and how such gains can translate into gender equality.

Improving Safe Water and Sanitation Chain Management among Fishing Communities

Access to and utilization of safe water in Nebbi district and especially by fishing communities is extremely very low. This is worsened by the pathetic personal, home, and food sanitation and hygiene practices. Therefore, it is not surprising that in Panyimur sub county bi-annual cholera outbreaks are a normal occurrence.

In July 2007, The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Uganda granted AFARD a one-year funding support of Ushs 56,028,600 for implementing Singla Safe Water and Sanitation Project. The project objective is, 'to promote safe water and sanitation chain

management for improved health status of the fisher community in Panyimur sub county by increasing household access to safe water (by 39%) and improving utilization of safe sanitation and hygiene practices.'

With 80% of the approved funds disbursed, AFARD has so far accomplished the following activities:

- A baseline survey was conducted. It revealed that only 1 in 10 households have a comprehensive safe water use for drinking, cooking and other domestic consumption. Besides, 41% of the households lacked latrines, 32% lacked bathing shelters, and 31% and 69% simply scatter their solid and liquid wastes respectively. And, 45% and 29% of the people do not wash their hands with detergent before cooking and eating respectively.
- Thirty Village Health Team (VHTs) were trained and equipped each with a bicycle, T-shirt, Umbrella, and gumboot.
- Facility management committees for the borehole and VIP latrines were also trained, to ensure sustainability, in community based finance management system.
- Construction of facilities are on-going. The Sub county Local Government pledged to contribute Ushs 2.5 million towards these works.
- Community education is on-going using a multi-channel communication approach involving the VHTs, radio talk shows, posters, and drama shows.

- Local leaders as the Village local councils and beach management committees were also trained in mobilization for health and enforcement of community bye-laws.
- Community hygiene education through home hygiene campaigns and home visits done on a village-by-village outreach strategy are also on-going.



VHTs engaged in cleaning the Singla Landing Site

- The VHTs are also involved in the cleaning of public places especially in Singla Central fish market as a demonstration.

Visible impacts

- Public cleanliness in facilities like eating houses, the market, and shop verandahs is now accepted.
- Many homes have embarked on the construction of safe home facilities like garbage and soak pits, latrines, and bath shelters.
- Hand washing with detergent before cooking and eating of food is now emphasized by many adults even in public places.
- The VHTs have become accepted and respected change agents and are provided opportunity to work side by the Health Assistant.

The main challenges ahead of us are, first ensuring that the influx of people from far-off areas during market days do not bring unsafe sanitation and hygiene practices. It is also to ensure that tenants acquire land for latrine constructions.

It is our hope that the process of formulating the community policing strategy – the local bye-law in which acceptable standards and enforcement agents are endorsed – will enhance the realization of promoting preventive health practices in Singla fishing village. We will continue to bank of the support of the sub county local government.

Community Care and Support for People Living with HIV/AIDS

In 2005 Development Cooperation Ireland (now Irish Aid – in the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda) extended a 2-year financial support to AFARD for the implementation of Lakeshore AIDS Initiative Project (LAIP) in Dei Fishing Village, Panyimur Sub-County, Nebbi District. The focus of LAIP was in sensitization on positive behavior change for HIV/AIDS prevention among the vulnerable fishing communities.

The LAIP implementation witnessed a vigorous community awareness creation and support for Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services from Pakwach health sub-district.

What eventually came out was that many people who had known of their sero-status before and during the VCT outreach publicly declared their status. And, together with

some of the trained Peer Educators-cum-Counselors they formed the Dei Post Test Club (DPTC) with the aims of educating the community about HIV/AIDS and providing community care and support for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA). The DPTC now has 116 people (of whom 35 are PLWA).

Further Irish Aid Support

As a young Club that has a shared vision, further support was provided to it in the form of:

- Integrating Club PLWA members in community sensitization seminars.
- Training in organizational development aspects especially of transparent leadership, periodic planning and reviews, among others.
- Training in income generation skills for members.
- Savings and credit scheme management.
- Home and group based counseling skills.

The glamour of community care and support system

The shared conviction of the Club is that PLWA deserves positive living attributable to their own lifestyles and community support. The Club members note that, 'being infected with HIV/AIDS is not the end of life'.

To this end, the Club is prominently involved in Accumulated Savings and Credit Scheme. While members

make periodic contributions to the fund, the booster fund of Ushs 7 million received from LAIP enhanced their loan portfolio and its accompanying profits generated from interest charged on loans.

To date, the Club has about Ushs 13 million loan fund. The loan default rate is less than 1% although occasional delayed repayments (up to 1 month) occurs.

With this fund, the Club is able to provide 27% of its total income as direct financial support to PLWA. This social protection system is meant to ensure that all PLWA, monthly,

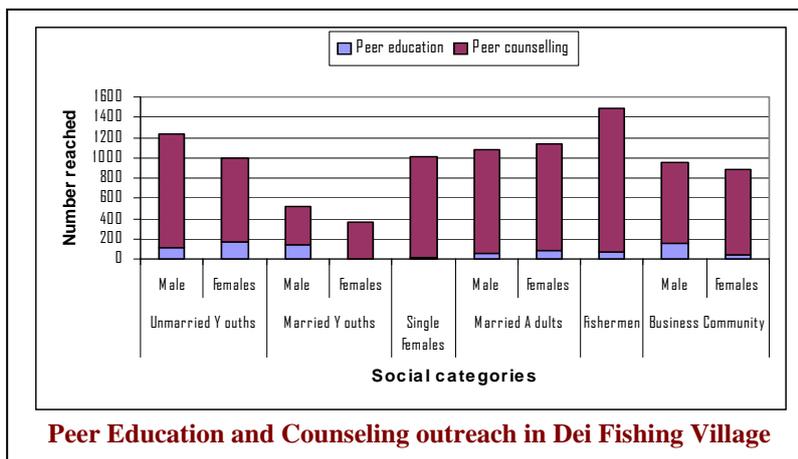
access ARVs from Arua Regional Hospital (> 100 miles away), Angal Private Hospital (> 50 miles away) and Nebbi District Hospital (> 60 miles away).

With their loans, the Club also challenged the effort of food support for PLWA from Nebbi hospital that was meant to benefit a few. Members had to negotiate that their Club is for Collective and not Individual Support.

In sum, PLWA are not helpless people. All they need is an effective social insurance system in which they can, side-by-side with non-PLWA, pool their resources to undertake affirmative actions that promote their well-being. Income generation together with counseling skills support therefore provides a critical mass for community care system building.

Income	Amount (UGX)
Grant from LAIP	7,487,000
OVC Grant	1,270,000
Members cash contributions	515,400
Income generated from loans	8,684,030
Total	17,956,430
Expenditure	
Support to PLWA	4,844,150
Loans disbursed	13,079,980
Cash at hand	32,300
Total	17,956,430

Cash statement of the Dei PTC



Networking for Rural Development

Gorta-Ireland support towards the Nebbi Area Development Network (under the supervision of AFARD) continued into 2007 with all the eight member organizations fully engaged in income, food, and health security and vocational skills enhancement. These member organizations are all engaged in rural areas like Zeu, Paidha, Kalowang, Erussi, Parombo, and Wadelai.

Achievements in 2007

During the annual participatory review conducted in October 2007 (and attended by 40 representatives (16 females) from the 8 old and 8 new member organizations), it was noted that:

- Health, food and income security promotion reached out to 660 households (with 3,960 beneficiaries) while Orphans and Vulnerable Children support were given to 250 children/youths.
- Capacity building support was offered to all the 8 old member organizations mainly in financial management and to a lesser extent in governance and leadership.

Organizational Achievements

- Cohesion of member organizations improved.
- Financial management (bookkeeping) improved.
- Networking with local government established.
- Participatory leadership is emerging.
- Transparency and accountability appreciated.

Achievements at beneficiary level

- Adoption of better agro-technologies increased.
- Cohesion among the beneficiaries improved.
- There is now social harmony in marriages.
- Better nutrition practices especially in food sharing

Persistent challenges

- Lack core project management skill.
- Weak towards better financial management.
- Poor management of construction works
- Conflicts in the community due to poor beneficiary selection by church-based organizations.

- Inadequate livestock management skills.

From the above, it was recognized that in the last one year:

- There are limited impacts in the lives of the beneficiaries.
- As a result, there is low appreciation of whatever development support we are offering (a sign of high-unmet needs and non-responsiveness).
- These scenarios were because more attention was paid, in part, to member organizations' development without ensuring that they too focused on the effects of their action among their beneficiaries.



Joint planning meeting for new groups

Therefore, it was agreed that for the next 1-2 years both old and new groups should focus on ensuring that their services translate into adequate food and income, good health, and economic independence through:

1. **Impact deepening** by working with the current outreach beneficiaries so that they can experience better lives sustainably.
2. **Income generation promotion** by ensuring that beneficiaries' skills to raise adequate incomes are enhanced.
3. **Beneficiary impact monitoring** by conducting quarterly reviews both at AFARD level and at member organization levels for management and impact monitoring.

In all, the participatory review meeting provided avenue for old and new Gorta-partners to meet and know each other. They also had the opportunity to sheave through what works and what does not. As such, all the 16 groups have finalized their funding proposals. While the new groups have planned for only 1 year, the old groups planned for 2 years. The totals budget is about €240,000.

Human Resource Development

AFARD believe that its human resource is very valuable for its continued existence and success. The human resources are also seen as the best guarantee and assurance of quality services delivery. In this view, the enhancement of staff performance is inevitable.

Therefore, during the year staffs were provided with various opportunities to enhance their performance-related skills. These included:

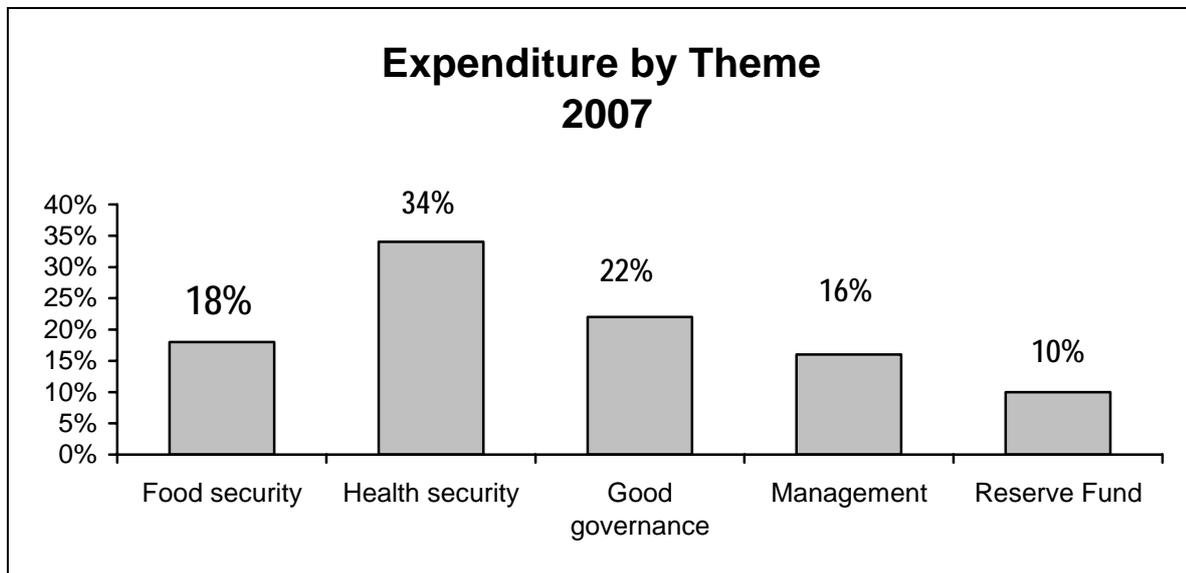
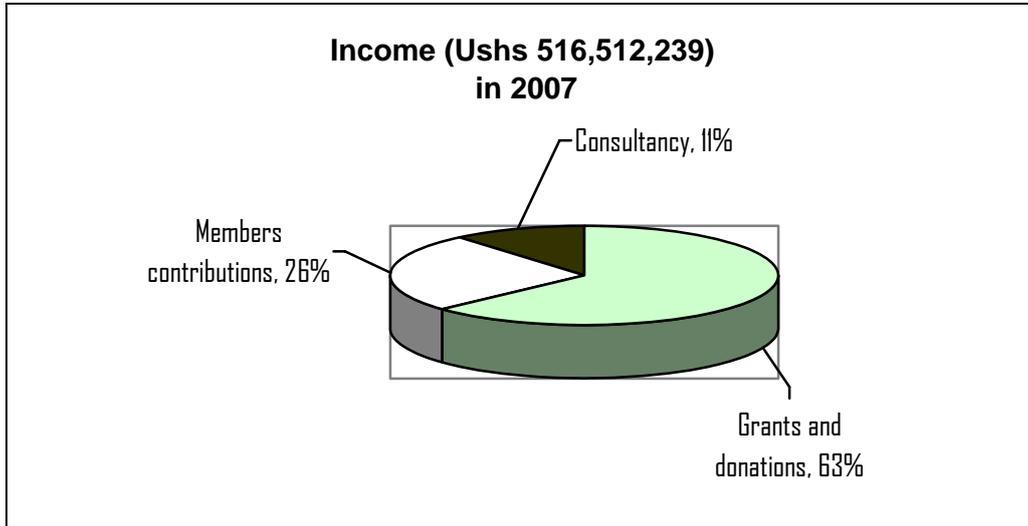
- Programme staff in-house coaching, by the Programme Director, in participatory impact-oriented planning, beneficiary-led and process reporting, and Step-in-step planning approach.
- Field Officers' in-house coaching, by the Accountant, in basic computing (word processing) skills.
- Field Officers' in-house coaching, by the Community Development Manager, in basic motor cycle maintenance skills.
- Mr. Albert Ogwiri participation in Monitoring and Evaluation training organized by PELUM Uganda in Kampala.
- Mr. Wilfred Cwinyai and Albert Ogwiri participation in Monitoring and Evaluation training organized by PMU – Civil Society Capacity Building Programme in Arua.
- Mr. Kemiss O. Pimundu participation in Farmer-led Documentation (and accountability and advocacy) training organized by PELUM Uganda in Kampala.
- Mr. Wilfred Cwinyai and Mr. Albert Ogwiri participation in Advocacy skills training organized by PMU – Civil Society Capacity Building Programme in Kampala.
- Dr. Alfred Lakwo and Mr. Wilfred Cwinyai participation in Finance for Non-finance Managers' training organized by PMU – Civil Society Capacity Building Programme in Kampala.
- Supporting Mr. Norbert Oyirwoth – the Accountant - continued B.Com studies in Makerere University, Kampala.
- Mr. Norbert Oyirwoth participation in the twinning exercise organized by PMU – Civil Society Capacity Building Programme.
- Co-learning forum with 4 intern students from Uganda Christian University, Mukono and Gulu University.
- The Programme Director was also provided the opportunity by PMU – Civil Society Capacity Building Programme to facilitate their national Intermediary Agencies in Gender Mainstreaming (in Arua) and Grantees in Strategic Planning in Development Organizations (in Kampala). He also trained Nebbi District Community Development Officers in Gender Mainstreaming in Local Government Plans.
- Field Officers' participation in internal evaluation and baseline studies. Through these studies, the staffs who were directly involved gained basic research knowledge and skills.
- Undertaking joint monitoring visits to project sites so as to instill in the staffs requisite skills for conducting monitoring and also to deepen programme cross-learning by staffs involved in other programmes.

Overall, we shall continue to enhance the professional capacity of the staffs to deliver quality services particularly where critical gaps exist. In this way, we will balance capacity building needs with performance needs in order to make skills enhancement relevant to both AFARD and the staffs.

Financial Performance

Budget out-turn

In 2007, AFARD mobilized Ushs 516.5 million¹ largely from grants and donations (63%, Ushs 327,928,700). Although this represents only 37% of the approved budget, it means that AFARD locally generated 37% (11% from consultancy services and 26% from members' contributions). This is a 14% increase in local revenue generation when compared to 2006 when grants and donations accounted for 77% of the overall budget.



Financial management

To strengthen financial management, the Final Accounts for 2006 was audited by Jasper Ssemu & Associates Auditors. Their report was submitted to the Board and was discussed. Issues raised therein like streamlining the accounting system (regardless of donor-specific demands), periodic (monthly) reports, and securing a better computerized accounting package were taken up by management. To date, a Tally Accounts (V9) has been procured and the staffs in finance department will be trained in its use.

¹ This value excludes Ushs 10 million from EU –CSCBP and Ushs 11 million from the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

AFARD, THE BEST GRANTEE AWARD WINNER 2007

For the last 2 years, AFARD has been implementing a project “*Engendering Services Delivery and Accountability in Decentralized Local Governments in Nebbi District.*” This project was funded under the (9th EDF) GoU - European Union Civil Society Capacity Building Programme. It aimed at improving social accountability in local governments by invigorating an active engagement of women, as a constituency, with Nebbi district local governments for engendering development processes and outcomes. The broad objective of this project was that, ‘local governments in Nebbi district provide gender sensitive and equitable services to the community’. This objective focuses at two fronts: first, changing the mindset of the people – politicians, technical staffs, the women, and civil society organization actors - towards gender needs as a human right in all services delivery; and second, enabling women to engage local government policy makers to ensure that gender concerns are duly integrated in their policy processes and outcomes.

In 2007, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) initiated the process of rewarding best performing grantees. This Best Grantee Award competition was open to all the 49 grantees in different parts of Uganda, working in diverse thematic focuses: Empowerment, Advocacy, and Services Delivery.

The assessment for the Award was two phased. First, a team of assessors drawn from Programme Management Unit (PMU), Intermediary Organizations (IOs) and Civil Society Steering Committee (CSSC) visited all the grantees and conducted a system competency test that evaluated Organizational Development: Governance, Management, and Learning. The second round of assessment was conducted by independent consultants who focused on organizational performance: Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impacts, and Sustainability.

Overall, AFARD passed the first litmus test that identified only 17 for the next round of

assessment. Without doubt, AFARD emerged number one as the Best Grantee.

The official award ceremony was officiated by Hon. Minister Adolf Mwesigye in the presence of Head of European Delegation H.E Ambassador Vincent de Visscher, Mr. Kees Groenendijk the Programme Manager, Mr. Warren Nyamugashira the CSSC Chair,



Best Grantee Award Ceremony. Left – Right: Mr. Wilfred (CDM-AFARD), Ms. Grace (Board -AFARD), Mr. Kees (PM-PMU), Dr Alfred (PD-AFARD), Mr Warren (Chair CSSC), and Mr. David (M&E-PMU)

PMU Staffs, 10 representatives, and all grantees (Board and management staffs).

From AFARD, Ms. Grace Kwiyucwiny Freedom (a Board Member), Dr. Alfred Lakwo (The Programme Director) and Mr. Wilfred Cwinyaai (The Community Development Manager) attended the function. AFARD received a Trophy, Certificate of Award, and A UGX 10 million cheque.

In his remarks, Dr. Alfred Lakwo reiterated his excitement with the Award. He pointed that this was a second award after the 2001 **Award of Merit**. Importantly he hinted that AFARD has set itself a quality assurance standard below which performance is unacceptable. However, he cautioned civil society organizations that it is important to ensure that such standards and professionalism translates into community responsiveness if a relevant poverty reduction is to be achieved.

Further Development

Development partners

In the year, we are proud to be in partnership with the following development agencies: UNICEF (Uganda Office), EU Civil Society Capacity Building Programme, Development Cooperation Ireland/Irish Aid, Gorta – Ireland, Tudor Trust (UK), the Royal Netherlands Embassy, SNV, Cordaid, and Maria Stroot Fonds. We are also grateful for being identified to participate in the government National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) in the lower local governments of Pakwach, Paidha, and Zeu.

Publications in the Year

- Odaga, J. & Ocokdhogu, B. (January 2007). *Orphans and Vulnerable Children Support Project – Nebbi (2005/06). Final Impact Assessment Report*. AFARD, CARITAS-Nebbi & UNICEF.
- Lakwo, A. (March 2007). *Impact Evaluation of Dei Safe water and Sanitation Project in Dei Fishing Village, Nebbi District, Uganda. Funded by Development Cooperation Ireland, Cordaid and Maria Stroot Fonds*. AFARD.
- Lakwo, A. (April 2007). *Gender Responsiveness Audit of Nebbi District Lower Local Governments. Final Report. Funded by European Union- GoU Civil Society Capacity Building Programme*. AFARD.
- Lakwo, A. (July 2007). *Final Study Report: An Impact-driven Baseline Study of Safe water and Sanitation Practices in Singla Fishing Village, Nebbi District, Uganda. Funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Uganda*. AFARD.
- Lakwo, A. (July 2007). *AFARD and Poverty Eradication Dilemma: The Relevance Question*. AFARD.
- Lakwo, A., & Cwinyyai, W. (July 2007). *Food Security Promotion Project: Internal Performance Audit*. Funded by Tudor Trust (UK). AFARD.
- Ocaya, J. A., (August 2007). *Second Organizational Capacity Assessment Report of Nebbi Area Development Network Members*. Funded by Gorta-Ireland. AFARD.