

JANGOKORO FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

UGA/ 68355/ LVIII D (62).

Annual Report

(September 2017 - October 2018)



Submitted By:

Dr. Alfred Lakwo

Executive Director

Agency For Accelerated Regional Development

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ACRONYMS

AFARD	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CDO	Community Development Officer
CHFA	Community Health Frontline Advisor
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DLG	District Local Government
DPO	District Production Officer
DWO	District Water Officer
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
FMC	Facility Management Committee
FO	Field Officer
GAP	Good Agronomic Practice
HIV	Human Immune Virus

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>ACRONYMS</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>1.0 Introduction</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>2.0 General Project Update</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>3.0 Achievement of Activities Linked to Results</i>	<i>5</i>
3.1 Project context	5
3.2 Summary Outlook	5
3.3 Progress of Implementation of planned activities	6
<i>4.0 Achievement of Unplanned Activities Linked to Results</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Support supervisions to CHFAs</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>5.0 Achievement of Outcomes</i>	<i>15</i>
5.1 Group leadership and growth	15
5.2 VSLA and income diversification	16
5.3 Water, sanitation and hygiene.....	16
5.4 HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation.....	17
5.5 Adoption of good agricultural practices for better yield and income.....	18
5.6 Asset acquisitions.....	19
5.7 Disease burden	19
5.8 Food security.....	20
5.9 Poverty status.....	20
5.10 Women empowerment	21
<i>6.0 Challenges</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>7.0. Conclusion</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT TARGETS</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>BUDGET PERFORMANCE</i>	<i>26</i>

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1:	Summary of progress of project implementation	5
Table 2:	Volume of seeds, fertilizers distributed and group cash contributions	7
Table 3:	Enrolments in FAL classes.....	10
Table 4:	HIV/AIDS related knowledge and practices (%).....	17
Table 5:	Experience with Irish potato.....	18
Table 6:	Irish potato production	19
Table 7:	Preventable disease burden last month	19
Table 8:	Poverty distribution by gender	21
Table 9:	Summary of project budget utilization rate.....	26
Figure 1:	Adoption of better business management practices	16
Figure 2:	Availability of safe sanitation and hygiene facilities	17
Figure 3:	Adoption of good agricultural practices (%).....	18
Figure 4:	Proportion of households who own productive assets.....	19
Figure 5:	Food security status.....	20

1.0 Introduction

In October 2017, the Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD) signed a 2-year (2017 - 2019) grant funding agreement with Manos Unidas for the implementation of Jangokoro Food Security Project in Jangokoro Sub-County, Zombo district, West Nile region, Uganda under the contract number **UGA/68355/LVIII D (62)**. The overall goal is, “to contribute to inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction in Nebbi Catholic Diocese” and its specific objective is “to improve self-reliance and livelihood security of smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro sub county in a gender sensitive manner.” The project seeks to increase agricultural productivity by 85%; reduction in preventable sicknesses by 75%; and ensure that project beneficiaries are active citizenship able to hold their leaders accountable. Targeting 230 households, the project will increase income, access to safe water sources, literacy levels, and advocacy skilling.

2.0 General Project Update

AFARD commenced with project implementation in November 2017 and the following major activities were accomplished:

- an inception meeting was held with 40 people (9 females) invited from Zombo District Local Government (DLG) and Jangokoro Sub county, and the project group leaders;
- agro-inputs (e.g., 585 bags of Irish potato and 81.6 bags of NPK fertilizers) was provided together with training in good agronomic and climate smart practices conducted on group demonstration plots. Group members contributed in cash (UGX 10,462,000) for the purchase of fertilizers as was directed by the District Production Coordinator;
- Community secured land and 02 boreholes were drilled. The District Water Officer (DWO) trained 20 people (8 females) as Facility Management Committees, and the community groups pay monthly user fees that is deposited on the water source bank accounts (current value saved is UGX 400,000);
- 25 Community Health Frontline Advisors (CHFAs – 50% females) were trained and they have effectively conducted community health education to 145 people (59 females);
- 05 Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) was conducted for 365 people (189 females);
- 10 mentors (50% females) were trained and 05 Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) classes commenced and are conducting weekly literacy classes for 243 members (including 71 non-group members);
- Village savings and loan association (VSLA) methodology was introduced and all members are saving;
- 05 petition and accountability day sessions were conducted with the Sub county leadership;
- Monitoring was conducted through farmer group performance review meetings (20 review meetings) and 06 management visits;
- 01 annual financial audit conducted and 05 groups were provided refresher leadership training and they renewed their registration certificates with Jangokoro Sub county;

As a result, the project is known to and supported by local government officials and community leaders; 05 smallholder farmers groups are working together with strong group cohesion. Group leadership and management has also improved. Members feel they own

their groups. Sanitation and hygiene practices have improved in the homes as 85% of the group members use improved pit latrines. With improved comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, all the group members tested and know their HIV status. The groups saved UGX 31.3 million and loan out UGX 29 million for various income generating activities. The exposure to Irish potato production improved the adoption of good agronomic practices, yields and income. Meanwhile better income (increase in net worth from UGX 3.3 million to UGX 3.8 million led to more acquisition of productive assets, 21% reduction in asset poverty from 77% to 56%, 11% rise in food security from 66% to 77%, and 12% increase in women's voice and visibility from 57% to 69%.

The key challenges faced in the year included: the uneven and erratic rainfall distribution that affected crop yield especially in Cana and Can Mwa groups; the drop in the market price of Irish potato from UGX 130,000-85,000 due to increased supply coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mbale region, and the high inflation rate that increased cost of inputs such as fuel.

3.0 Achievement of Activities Linked to Results

Below are the current performance of the activities planned for the year.

3.1 Project context

The implementation of the project commenced in November 2017 with the recruitment and induction of the project staff. However, three critical factors affected the project. First, the second season rain stopped and this allowed for group reorganization (profiling, leadership strengthening, and introduction of VSLA). Second, the political conflict in Southern Sudan poured into West Nile, Uganda over one million refugees (as at September 2017). Together with a fragile economy there was high inflation rate both for food and general merchandize that affected operation cost such as increase in fuel prices.

3.2 Summary Outlook

The table below presents an overview of the progress made on planned activities. Overall, all the outputs planned for the first year of the project were delivered.

Table 1: Summary of progress of project implementation

Statement of Activities	Target	Actual	% achieved	Remarks
Activity 1 of R1: Provide agro inputs	575	585	100	Extra 10 bags was procured for the group demonstration gardens
Activity 2 of R1: Train in agronomy skills	35	35	100	Completed
Activity 1 of R2: Securing land for drilling water points	2	2	100	Completed
Activity 2 of R2: Drill 2 boreholes	2	2	100	Completed
Activity 3 of R2: Train Community Health Frontline Advisors	25	25	100	Completed
Activity 4 of R2: Conduct voluntary counselling and testing	05	20	25	To be completed in year 2
Activity 5 of R2: Conduct health education	05	10	50	To be completed in year 2
Activity 1 of R3: Initiate Functional Adult Literacy classes	05	05	100	On-going

Activity 2 of R3: Create awareness on human and women's rights	3	0	0	Planned for year 2
Activity 3 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in advocacy skills	3	0	0	Planned for year 2
Activity 4 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in LLG monitoring	3	0	0	Planned for year 2
Activity 5 of R3: Conduct petition and accountability Days	2	1	50	To be completed in year 2
A0.1: Staff recruitment and induction	01	01	100	Completed
A0.2: Stakeholders briefing meetings	01	01	100	Completed
A0.3: Conduct a baseline study	01	01	100	Completed
A0.4: Develop training manuals			100	Adopted AFARD's existing manuals for all trainings
A0.5: Management monitoring visits	08	06		More visits were inevitably conducted to secure DLG technical support and awareness. There will be need to revised the budget to ensure adequate monitoring in year 2
A0.6: Beneficiary review and learning workshops	40	20	50	To be completed in year 2
A0.7: Conduct annual financial audits	02	01	50	To be completed in year 2
A0.8: Conduct terminal evaluation	01	-	-	Planned for end of project

3.3 Progress of Implementation of planned activities

Below is the project implementation progress.

Activity 1 of R1: Provide agro inputs

The project procured from Kabale in Western Uganda a total of 585 bags of pure foundation Irish potato seed (Rwangume variety that is preferred for table use, high yield, long storage period, low destruction level while on transit and high disease resistance) to facilitate production of Irish potato seeds in seasons 1-2. Each member received 2.5 bags to plant $\frac{1}{4}$ an acre. Equally, each group received 12 bags of seeds to plant an acre of group garden. The yield from this start-up input was expected to provide continued access to seeds in the subsequent seasons. Additional inputs (220 Kgs of malathion dust for use in storage) was procured by the project and distributed for use in their individual and group stores.



Nyagak group receives their Irish potato seed

It is important to point out that during the project launch, the district leadership shared their good experience of how Irish potato production can be improved by use of fertilizer and the District Production Coordinator emphasized that all farmers in the project must use NPK

fertilizer. This prompted the farmers to locally contribute cash money (UGX 10,462,000) that the PO together with the District Production Officer used to buy and distribute 4,080 Kgs of NPK fertilizer to the farmers.

Table 2: Volume of seeds, fertilizers distributed and group cash contributions

Group name	No. of members	Quantity of seeds (Bags)	Quantity of fertilizers (Bags)	Fertilizer contribution (UGX)
Nyagak	45	112.5	21	2,700,000
Cana	45	112.5	18	2,290,000
Canbithum	40	100.0	18	2,310,000
Canmwa	40	100.0	15	1,985,000
Adiober	40	100.0	9.6	1,177,000
Group garden	-	60.0		
Total	210	585.0	81.6	10,462,000

Activity 2 of R1: Train in agronomy skills

Due to the high interest of the district in Irish potato production as an income agri-enterprise that can hasten exit out of poverty for smallholder farmers, during the stakeholders' meeting the involvement of the Sub county extension staff was enlisted. As such, the project staff together with the beneficiary group members and the sub county extension staff participatorily developed in each group a production and marketing calendar. During this process, all the required 07 training sessions that corresponds to the different physiological stages of Irish potato crop growth were planned. In addition, each group was required to secure land for demo site and this site was for both learning (best practices) and seed multiplication hence 05 demonstration plots of 01 acre each were established.



Adiober group demonstrates Irish potato planting using NPK fertilizer

A total of 07 training sessions were conducted in each group (totalling 49 sessions) on land opening and crop planting, weeding, pest and disease management, post-harvest handling (PPH), storage and store management with 99% attendances rate. Cross cutting issues like soil and water conservation, hygiene and sanitation were also addressed. Practical demonstration was the main method used during the GAP training. On-farm advice was given to the famers to further improve on their skills.

Activity 1 of R2: Securing land for drilling water points

The two groups (Canmuwa and Nyagak) identified as the most hit with unsafe water sources were mobilized and they identified and secured land on which water points were drilled. The land use agreement was signed between the group leaders and the landowner in the presence of local leaders, elders and family members of the landowner to avoid conflicts in the nearby future. This process was guided by the District Water Officer (DWO) and the Field Officer to ensure that the groups adhere to ministry regulations e.g., land should be far from a pit latrine, should have access road for drilling and on-use of facility, etc.

Activity 2 of R2: Drill 2 boreholes

When the groups had secured land for borehole drilling AFARD engaged the DWO in drafting the “Turn Key Contract” for Royal Techno drilling company to survey the identified land and drill the boreholes. The advantage of this contract method is that the company can only be paid once it has secured water. In order to adhere to national standards, the District Water Officer (DWO) was charged with the supervision of the entire drilling works to ensure compliance with national drilling standards – depth, water quality, etc. The drilling of both sites was completed under the supervision of the DWO and Sub county local government leadership. Water quality testing and casting, installation and pump test was finally completed and then the DWO captured the GPS locations of both sites. The commissioning of both sites delayed because Cana site had technical problem which the contractor corrected and plan for commissioning by the political leaders is under way.



The Nyagak borehole under use

Before the drilling however two activities were undertaken. First, the Community Health Frontline Advisors (CHFAs) and Facility Management/ Water User Committees (FMC) were trained. While the first case was dictated by the local government to ensure that the safe water sources find the communities open defecation free, in the second case the DWO and Community Development Officer mobilized and sensitized the beneficiary groups on water source management. As a result, 20 people including the LC1 chairpersons of the two benefiting villages (8 females and 12 males) were identified and trained as FMCs. The first phase of training focused on the key roles and responsibilities of the committees, roles of individual members, and the need for facility maintenance fund (accounts opening) while the second training phased which was done after installation, casting and completion of the drilling works focused on general maintenance of the water source. To date both groups have bank accounts for their water sources in Centenary bank with a bank balance of UGX 200,000. The groups have also set up a monthly user fee of UGX 1,000. Up to date the groups have collected a total of UGX 550,000 as user fees. Out of the total collections, UGX 150,000 was used to procure cement, bricks and other building materials to construct wall/fence around the boreholes, and the balance of UGX 400,000 is in the bank account.

Activity 3 of R2: Train Community Health Frontline Advisors

Together with the Sub county Health Assistant, the Field Officer mobilized the groups and sensitized them about the need for a healthy life through preventive health practices especially sanitation and hygiene and HIV that are the primary causes of sicknesses. Thus, each group identified 05 people (totalling to 25 people) as their community health frontline advisors (CHFAs) charged with peer educators-cum-counsellors. These people were provided a 5-day training with major emphasis on basic principles and strategies of sanitation and hygiene and HIV/AIDS communication and surveillance.



CHFAS demonstrate the use of tippy-tap during training

The PO and the District Health Educators are currently designing posters covering topical issues on HIV/AIDS, safe water, sanitation and hygiene in the local language to aid community health education.

Activity 4 of R2: Conduct voluntary counselling and testing

To bring services nearer to the communities, AFARD engaged Jangokoro Health Centre III to conduct VCT in the 05 groups under JFSP. A total of 365 people (189 females) were tested of which 109 people (67 females) were group members, 80 people (35 females) were children of group members and 176 people (86 females) were non-members/community members. Out of the people tested only 03 people (01 females) tested positive. They were counselled and linked to the ARV services.



VCT mobile outreach at Cana group

Activity 5 of R2: Conduct health education

To strengthen health awareness in the communities, the project liaised with the Sub county Health Assistant and conducted 05 education sessions (one session per group) for 145 people (59 females). Topical issues affecting the health of members in the communities for instance natural family planning methods and dealing with emerging non-communicable diseases like plague and also personal hygiene were addressed during the health education sessions.

Emphasis was also placed on sanitation and hygiene education as a precursor for borehole drilling. In each group, 4 education sessions were held by CHFAs and 3 home visits were conducted to ensure that sanitation facilities were in place.

Activity 1 of R3: Conduct Functional Adult Literacy classes

This activity started with the discussion with the District Community Development Officer (DCDO) on the value added of functional adult literacy (FAL) in the project communities. His buy-in witnessed the support with the provision of 5 blackboards, 5 counter books, and 5 boxes of chalks. Thereafter the PO mobilized and sensitized group members on FAL component of the project. In this process each group identified two members using a set of selection criteria that was agreed upon with UPLIFT Uganda. Overall, the 10 members (4 females) underwent a 3-day training of trainers (ToT) as FAL mentors. This was followed by the provision of additional learning aids comprising of mentors' hand books, black boards, counter books, chalks, pens, football and netballs, and bells. Now, all the groups have functional FAL classes which started in January 2018 and have been on-going for 09 months. The total enrolment stands at 243 (125 female) learners (see table 3 below). Learners are aged 19-60 years. The classes are also attended by non-group members. Assessment and graduation of successful learners is planned for November 2018 (after 10-11 month).



FAL mentors receives their certificate after training of trainers course

Table 3: Enrolments in FAL classes

Name of Groups	Beneficiary groups		Non-beneficiary groups		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Adiober	19	20	0	20	59
Cana	16	24	6	0	46
Canmwa	18	21	13	6	58
Canbithum	16	10	18	8	52
Nyagak	12	16	0	0	28
Total	81	91	37	34	243

Monitoring of FAL classes by CDO

The CDO conducted 09 monthly monitoring of FAL classes from the time the classes were initiated in January to: (i) ascertain the different approaches of adult learning for the purpose of diverse needs of learners is met, (ii) to find out whether the on-going activity provide a link with other development programmes by enhancing individual competencies geared towards income generations, attainment of rights and gender equity,(iii) find out the progress and operationalization of the FAL centres and ensure that there is effectiveness and high quality of learning materials given to the learner, equip the mentors with knowledge, skills and practice in the implementation of FAL, and also find out challenges faced by both the learners and mentor, and way forward. Finding from the monitoring indicates that;



FAL mentor in yellow T-shirt and the CDO during monitoring of FAL learners in Canmwa group

FAL mentors and the learners are all committed to the learning process, all the 05 centres are operational, and learners are able to read and write and do some simple arithmetic.

Activity 2 of R3: Create awareness on human and women's rights: Planned for year two.

Activity 3 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in advocacy skills: Planned for year two.

Activity 4 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in LLG monitoring: Planned for year two.

Activity 5 of R3: Conduct petition and accountability Days

The local government officials hide under the guise that the Sub Counties are too wide for them to effectively reach out to all their constituency and therefore the major objective of this activity was to enable the 05 group members meet with the Jangokoro Sub County leadership and dialogue with them on their developmental needs. This dialogue was conducted in a participatory manner. Critical community issues that were identified during the engagements included:

- The dependence on unsafe drinking water sources in Adiober and Canbithum groups;
- Inaccessibility due to poor community roads and lack of a bridge at Nyagak group that curtailed their market access leading to selling their produce at low farm gate prices.
- Exclusion of group members as well as women and persons with disabilities from sub county projects e.g., agro-inputs under the various government programmes.



Members of Nyagak Group during the petition and accountability day

As a way forward, the Sub county leaders agreed to conduct both parish and village meetings to sensitise community members on government projects. They promised to work with the community of Nyagak and the neighbouring villages to construct the bridge using local materials. Meanwhile, at Adiober, the members were able to secure agro inputs (30 Kgs of bean seed) that they planted on the group garden.

b) Transverse Activities:

A0 Management and Project Coordination

As part of project management, AFARD management – the Executive Director, Programmes Manager, and Finance and Administration Manager – has been actively engaged in ensuring the project quality, leverage with other AFARD skills, and collaboration with local government. For instance, once the contract was signed with Manos Unidas, the Executive Director conducted a one-to-one debriefing for the district and sub county political leaders and the responsible district departments.

A0.1: Staff recruitment and induction

The management of AFARD advertised, interviewed and recruited one Field Officer (FO) using AFARD human resource policy. The FO was inducted on AFARD policies, the project results chain, and implementation strategy, expected deliverable of the project and key stakeholders. To date the staff has fitted within the bigger AFARD operations and is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project activities in the groups.

A0.2: Stakeholders briefing meetings

In line with Local Government Acts (amended), the project team met with various district and sub county political leaders and relevant technical departments in order to notify the leaders of the project and secure updated sector policy statements. Once this was accomplished, the project team mobilized and conducted a stakeholder-briefing meeting at Jangokoro Sub county headquarters. This meeting was attended by the Resident District Commissioner, the LC V, Secretaries for Production and Education, the Chief Administrative Officer and the District Production Coordinator and District Education Officer. Presents were also the executive



Stakeholder briefing meeting at Jangokoro Sub county headquarter

committee members of the five beneficiary groups as well as AFARD project team (31 males and 9 females) attended the meeting. A project brief was prepared highlighting the project funder, beneficiaries, budget, activities, and roles of stakeholders. The meeting: a) informed participants about the project, b) clarified stakeholders' roles and responsibilities, and c) explored best practices that can be integrated in the design for improved result achievement. Issue of concern were; hard work and commitment, close monitoring and technical support to all project activities by both AFARD and Local Governments, renewal of registration for all the groups at the Sub County, proper sanitation and hygiene issues, production for the market and assets, and strong leadership with clear sense of direction.

It was during this meeting that the local governments promised its full support for the project. They also emphasized the need for use of fertiliser in Irish potato production, the engagement of government staff, and where possible support the project with inputs such as for FAL.

A0.3: Conduct a baseline study

A baseline study was conducted covering all the beneficiary groups and their members' households to assess the status of the different project performance indicators. The baseline report was produced (15 copies and a soft copy is on AFARD website) and shared with the different stakeholders of the project. The findings have been used to refine performance indicators and to review implementation strategy. For instance, the inclusion of VSLA was due to the noticed low-income levels and limited alternative income generating activities.

A0.4: Develop training manuals

The Programmes Manager together with the FO adopted existing training manuals within AFARD for Irish potato production, health, agribusiness and advocacy skills. These manuals are being used by the FO and local government officials to conduct training, coaching and mentorship support.

A0.5: Management monitoring visits

In the course of the year, AFARD top management conducted 08 visits to the local governments and the groups. During these visits, the Executive Director (ED) and the Programs Manager (PM) followed up implementation progress and offered back up support to the Project Officer.



The Programmes Manager during field review meeting at Nyagak Group

A0.6: Beneficiary review and learning meetings

Overall, 20 beneficiary group performance review meetings were conducted at the group levels involving group members. These meetings, facilitated by the FO, encouraged group members to assess their activities, emerging issues, innovations, challenges and possible solutions. In deed members shared their personal experiences which was enriching to the review process. It emerged that:

- The VSLA has enabled all group members to save weekly and access loans. A total of UGX 5,125,500 was also saved for agro-inputs to cater for what the project did not budget for.
- FAL mentors and learners are committed to teaching and learning. This has also attracted non-members. Some are able to write their names and read basic words.
- CHFAs are also conducting peer education, home visits and there was observed improvement in personal hygiene, availability of basic sanitary facilities, and reduction in sicknesses related to poor sanitation and hygiene.
- Group sustainability: From the sales of Irish potato, each group was able to secure plot of land for the group to boost production in the next season. The groups of Cana and Adiober whose seed got ready already planted another one acre of Irish potato each, Canmwa and Adiober also planted one acre of beans each. The other groups their seeds are not yet ready for planting and are preparing to plant as soon as they are ready.



Canmwa Group planting their beans

A0.7: Conduct annual financial audits

A certified public accountancy firm (PKF) was contracted and audited the project as part of the comprehensive AFARD's annual financial audit for the financial year 2017.

A0.8: Conduct terminal external evaluation: Planned for the final project quarter.

4.0 Achievement of Unplanned Activities Linked to Results

As a result of the stakeholders meeting and baseline study, some additional activities were deemed necessary to add value to the project success. These are as below.

Consultation with district leadership

Jangokoro Food Security Project is an integrated project that covers the department of production, education, health, commerce, and community development. That these departments have different policy guidelines, the project team engaged with them at the onset to ensure that guidelines are accessed for on-use. In this way, government support has been won.

Group profiling and refresher training in leadership

That this project started after about three years of group own operations, the stakeholder meeting with local government leaders noted that in many groups a number of changes had taken place in leadership, membership, and operations. Almost all the groups also had expired certificates. It was resolved that group reorganization was inevitable for the success of the project. As a result, the FO conducted a profiling exercise to ascertain group members, leadership structure (especially the 2/3 position of women), registration status, and the continuity of past project components – food security and savings. This exercise led to all the five groups: re-registration with sub county local government; inclusion of new members, election of new leaders, and finally training the new leaders to re-energise the group members and executive committees on their roles and responsibilities. From the training; women are slowly gaining confidence to take up to leadership positions.



Nyagak group during refresher training in leadership

VSLA training

In order to build strong groups with sound income stability and strong cohesion, the VSLA methodology was introduced in the groups so that members are able to save weekly and build a saving culture. This was also to ensure access to loans for both microenterprises and agribusiness. As a result, the FO was inducted on the VSLA principles to help in the routine monitoring of the VSLA activities. The groups were trained on VSLA methodology and best practices especially saving with a purpose based on family goals. The groups were then provided with saving kits and all have started to save. Supervision has been ongoing with close support from the AFARD VSLA Officer and the Project Officer.



Nyagak group during VSLA training

Support supervisions to CHFAs

During the year, the PO together with the CHFAs mobilized the groups and sensitized them about the need for a healthy life through preventive health practices especially sanitation and hygiene. This followed with home visits to check and monitor sanitation and hygiene in the member households and it was observed that all members' homes that were visited had utensil drying racks, pit latrines, cloth lines, etc. However, the issue of child hygiene remained unattended and a working strategy is being developed by both the PO, CHFAs and health assistant to improve on this aspect if the benefits of improved sanitation is to be achieved holistically.

5.0 Achievement of Outcomes

Some of the positive gains from the project include the following:

5.1 Group leadership and growth

With refresher trainings given to the groups, all the beneficiary groups held elections of new office bearers in line with their constitutions and these elections saw some old leaders who were performing well back into offices and also new ones elected. There was also an increase in number of women taking up leadership positions.

To date, the project is known to and supported by local government officials and community leaders. The 05 smallholder farmers groups are working together with strong group cohesion. Members also feel that they own their groups. In addition, through these groups there is increased demand for service delivery by the group members from the Sub County Lower Local Government. As a way forward, the Sub county leaders agreed to conduct both parish and village meetings to sensitise community members on government projects. They promised to work with the community of Nyagak and the neighbouring villages to construct the bridge using local materials. Meanwhile, at Adiober, the members were able to secure agro inputs (30 Kgs of bean seed) that they planted on the group garden.

5.2 VSLA and income diversification

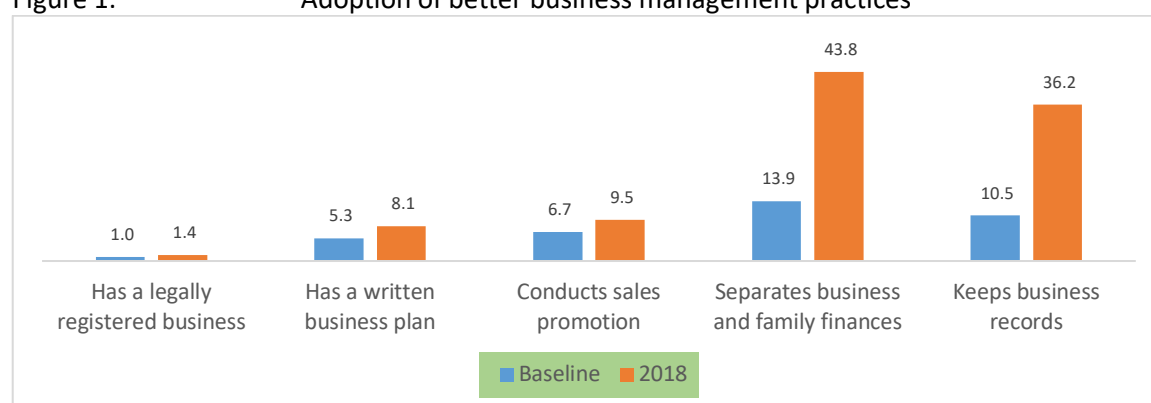
The initiation of VSLA members improved members financial inclusion. Group members save weekly and they have access to both emergency needs and business finance to invest in different income generating activities (IGAs). Overall as table 4 shows, the groups saved UGX 31.3 million and loan out UGX 29 million for various income generating activities.

Table 2: VSLA performance (July– September, 2018)

Name of group	No. of members	Total Savings (UGX)	Total Agro-input savings (UGX)	Total Social fund savings (UGX)	Total savings (UGX)	Total loans disbursed (UGX)
Canbithum	40	6,036,000	1,250,000	659,700	7,945,700	7,500,000
Nyagak	45	3,800,000	420,000	380,000	4,600,000	5,100,500
Cana	45	5,850,000	1,558,000	575,000	7,983,000	7,080,000
Canmwa	40	3,766,500	297,000	364,500	4,428,000	4,300,000
Adiober	40	4,080,000	1,600,500	620,000	6,300,500	4,990,500
Total	210	23,532,500	5,125,500	2,599,200	31,257,200	28,971,000

With the IGAs beneficiaries are now able to earn an average of UGX 27,233 monthly to supplement their income from farming. With this income group members noted that they are able to improve on their general welfare (buy food, pay medical bills, pay education costs. etc.). Importantly, as figure 1 shows some good business management practices such as separating business and family finances and records keeping are being adopted.

Figure 1: Adoption of better business management practices



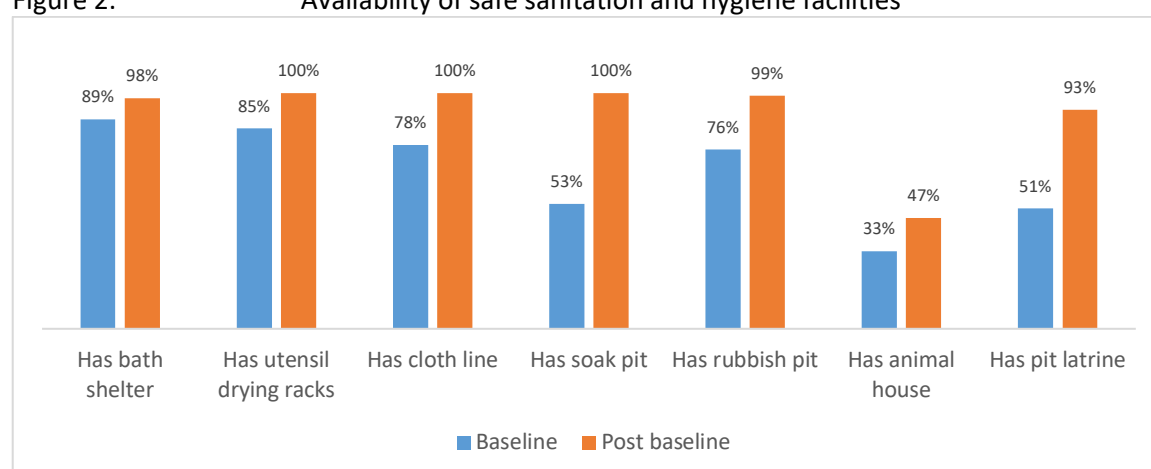
5.3 Water, sanitation and hygiene

The project provided two boreholes. All the water sources have functional FMCs, bank accounts in Centenary bank, and a cumulative balance of UGX 400,000 excluding UGX 150,000 that was used to construct fence/wall around the boreholes. The provision of the water sources has reduced the stress and distance for women in looking for water from far distant places as was in the past. Women testified that since water points are now nearer to their homes, they have ample time to attend to productive works and other domestic shores.

With increased awareness and joint monitoring of homes by CHFAs and the Sub county health team, as figure 2 shows, sanitation and hygiene practices have improved in the beneficiary households as 85% (out of the 93%) of the group members use improved pit latrines with hand washing facilities. A member pointed out that,

Before the training by CFHA my family used to defecate in the coffee field. We had no latrine. Neither did we have any privacy. More so, when we come from the bush no one bothered to wash his/her hand. However, with the training we noted that such practice was detrimental to our health and other of our neighbours. We then constructed a pit latrine with a manhole cover, door for privacy and set up a handwashing facility. Daily we put ash for washing our hand and fill the container with water. I now feel safer and without shame going to ease myself.

Figure 2: Availability of safe sanitation and hygiene facilities



5.4 HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation

The project provided HIV/AIDS education and VCT services to members of beneficiary groups. As a result, improved comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS (see table 5 below). All the group members also tested and know their HIV status. Three (03) people who tested HIV positive declared their status to the public and are all enrolled for ARV services at the Health Centre.

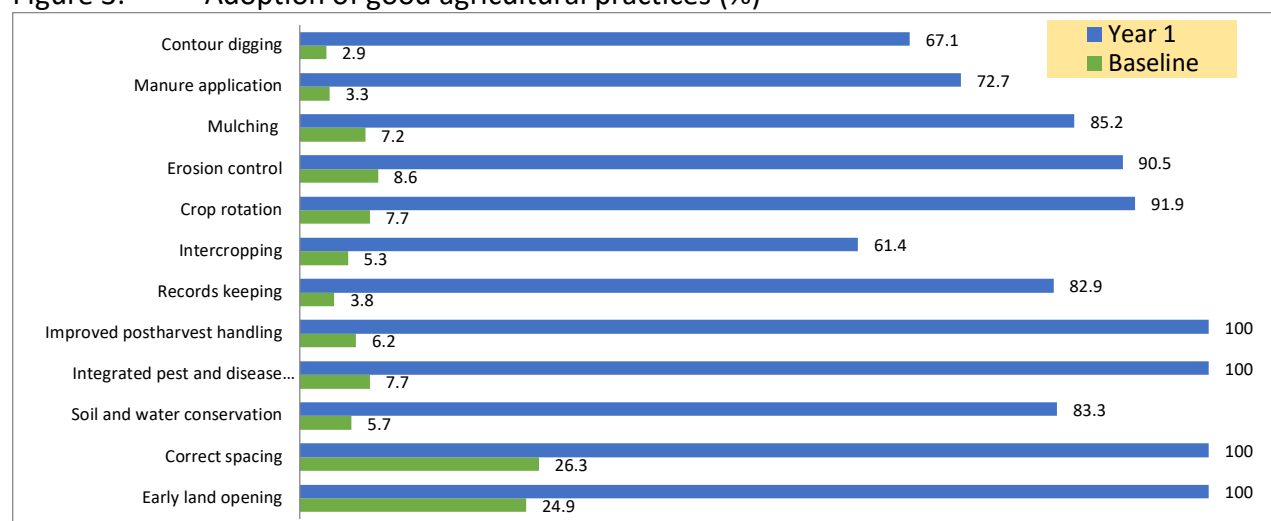
Table 4: HIV/AIDS related knowledge and practices (%)

Comprehensive knowledge	Baseline	Year 1
• Heard of AIDS	93.3	100.0
• Know that HIV exists	91.9	99.5
• Know at least 3 ways of HIV transmission	98.1	100.0
• Know at least 3 symptoms	90.9	99.5
• Know at least 3 ways of HIV prevention	98.6	100.0
• Know at least 3 essential services for prevention/mitigation	91.4	100.0
• Know at least 3 ways of positive living	91.9	100.0
Total	93.7	99.8

5.5 Adoption of good agricultural practices for better yield and income

With provision of improved agro-inputs, all group members planted Irish potato on at least 0.25 acre of land. Given the hands-on training according to the crop, figure 2 below shows marked increased in the adoption of recommended agronomic and climate smart practices right from field selection up to post-harvest management. Such good practices were also applied on the fields of beans and maize.

Figure 3: Adoption of good agricultural practices (%)



With good agronomic practices farmers got good yields. The 57.5 acre of Irish potato planted yielded 1,591 bags (an average of 27.7 bags per acre). Although this was much higher than the yield of local variety (a 52% increase in yield per acre), it was about half the yield potential. This difference emanated from the adverse weather condition – dry spell during the flowering stage.

Tables 5 and 6 shows that the groups sold Irish potato worth UGX 32,3 million. The groups earned more money because they sold their potato as seeds while members sold theirs as table potato. Yet the groups and their members saved seeds worth UGX 200 million (and if all these were sold each member would earn UGX 1.1 million). As a result, members have seeds for second season planting. Both groups and their members have increased their land sizes to over half acre. In addition, Cana group acquired office equipment (05 plastic chairs, 01 office table).

Table 5: Experience with Irish potato

Characteristics	Baseline	2018
Grew the commodity (%)	7.2	100.0
Grows improved varieties (%)	45.5	100.0
• Average land size (acres)	0.8	0.25
• Average yield (bags)	13.2	6.7
• Average yield used for food (bags)	2.6	1.0
• Average yield used for seeds (bags)	3.5	4.0
• Average yield given to others (bags: corrected)	0.8	0.0
• Average yield sold (bags)	6.3	1.7
• Average income (UGX: corrected)	1,701,000	139,260

Table 6: Irish potato production

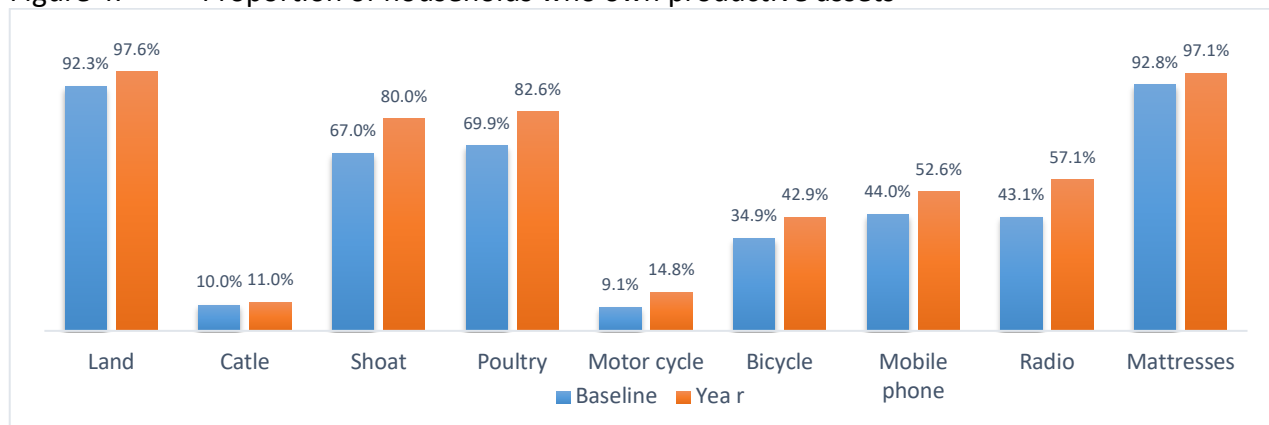
Levels	Volume Harvested (Bags)	Volume Sold (Bags)	Volume for seed (Bags)	Value of sales (UGX)	Average sales price (UGX)	Average income (UGX)	Income saved in seeds (UGX)
Group	193	31	160	3,155,000	101,774	631,000	32,000,000
Individual	1,398	347	840	29,105,000	83,876	138,595	168,000,000
Total	1,591	378	1,000	32,260,000	85,344	146,636	200,000,000

5.6 Asset acquisitions

Figure 4 shows that with increased income from both potato production and VSLA, beneficiary income increased. The net worth rose from UGX 3.3 million to UGX 3.8 million. As a result, many beneficiaries bought more productive assets such as land, goats/sheep, poultry, bicycles, mobile phones, and mattresses. With these assets, self-esteem is improving as one member said,

Since I was born I had never slept on a mattress. When I got my money from the sales of Irish potato, I immediately bought a mattress. At least we have now moved from sleeping on the hard papyrus mat onto a soft mattress. Next season we will buy a wooden bed.

Figure 4: Proportion of households who own productive assets



5.7 Disease burden

Table 7 compares the disease burden beneficiary households faced. While the number of days declined, there was increase in expenditure on health due to improved income and health seeking behaviour.

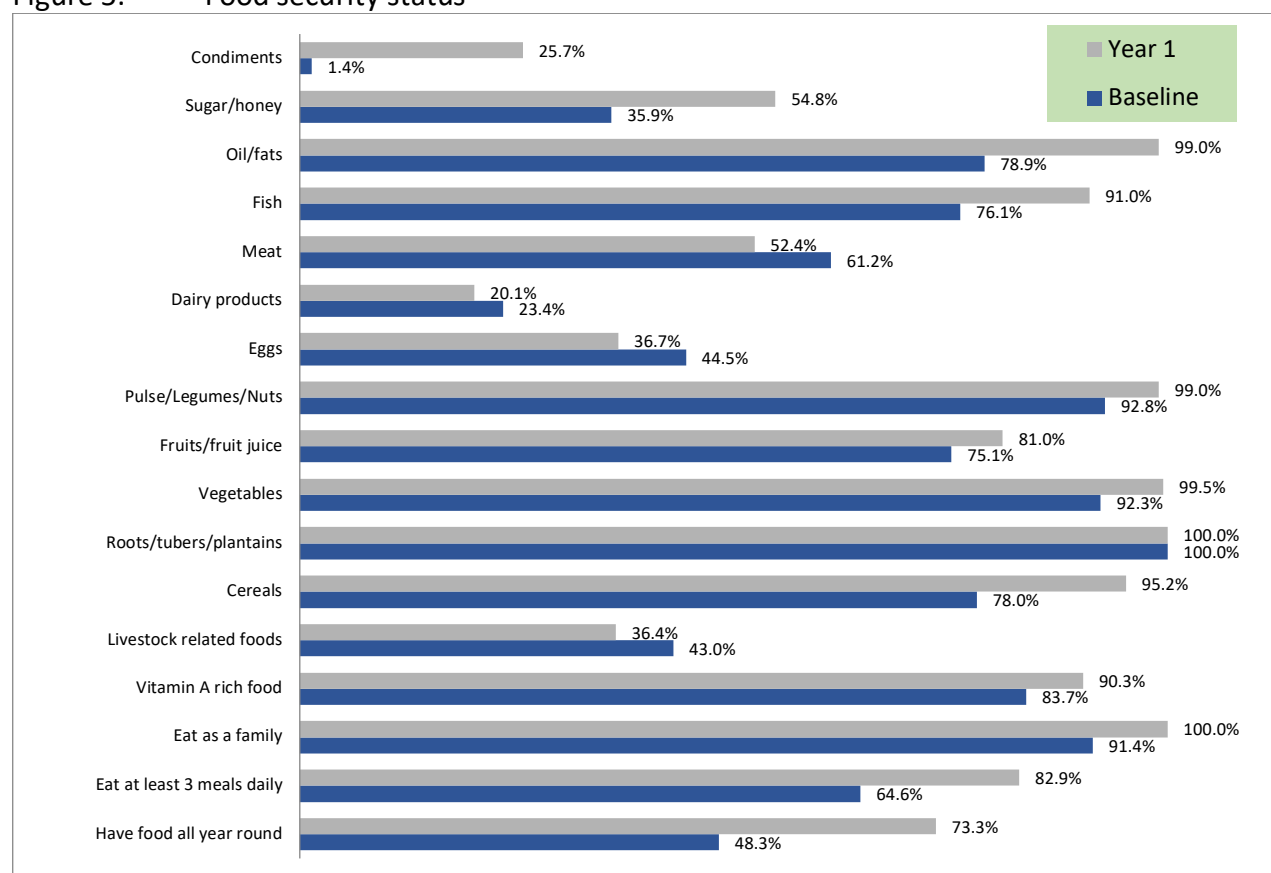
Table 7: Preventable disease burden last month

	Baseline	2018
• Average number of days lost to sicknesses	5.5	1.4
• Total number of days spent in a year	66.0	16.8
• Average amount spent on medical treatment (UGX)	37,075	38,100
• Average annual amount spent on medical treatment (UGX)	444,900	457,200

5.8 Food security

In the project food security is seen to accrue when all household members, at all times, have access to adequate nutritious foods that are socially acceptable. Critical is the access to three decent meals especially of vitamin A and livestock products by all family members throughout the year. Figure 5 shows that in the year, the beneficiary households experienced an 11% rise in food security from 66% to 77%. The households that had food all year round increased from 48% to 73%. Those who had three meals daily rose from 65% to 83%. More so, the uptake of Vitamin A rich foods was also increased from 84% to 90%.

Figure 5: Food security status



5.9 Poverty status

AFARD uses the asset poverty measurement approach as proposed by Haveman and Wolff (2004)¹ because it measures the economic ability, using productive assets, a household has to sustain a basic needs level of consumption during temporary hard times for a period of 3 months. By use of this method, a household is asset poor if its net worth is unable to meet its consumption needs over a 3-month period.

¹ Haveman, R., and Wolff, E.N. (2004) "The Concept and Measurement of Asset Poverty: Levels, Trends, and Composition for the US, 1983-2001." *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 2(2) 145-169. See also Haveman, R., and Wolff, E.N. (2005) *Who are the Asset Poor? Levels, Trends, and Composition, 1983-1998*. Discussion Paper No. 1227-01. Institute for Research on Poverty.

In the year, the beneficiary net worth increased from UGX 3,317,146 to UGX 3,784,385. Thus, there was a 21% reduction in asset poverty from 77% to 56. Table 8 shows that the asset poverty status reduced more for male beneficiaries (20%) than their female counterparts (2%). This is because men invested more in productive assets while women invested in expanding their IGAs as well as improving household welfare (food consumption, clothing, and paying educational cost).

Table 8: Poverty distribution by gender

	baseline	2018	Variance
Poor (Unable to meet 3-months consumption)	76.9	55.5	-21.5
Poverty status by sex:			
Males	47.1	27.3	-19.8
Females	29.8	27.8	-2

5.10 Women empowerment

The different positions of male and female beneficiaries require that project impacts are assessed against how much women benefited. To do so, AFARD uses a simplified empowerment index built around three core areas that matter most to the project area women, namely: (i) Ownership over major productive assets such as land, cattle, cash savings, bicycles and radio/phones that are considered critical drivers of production, consumption and communication; (ii) Decision-making power of land, family planning, fees for children, sales of farm harvest, and major use of family income that to women either makes one to live in peace or hell; and (iii) Exposure to gender-based violence which is not only an abuse to women's rights but a great demeanour to women's social status. Analysis of the data revealed that in the year there was a 12% increase in women's voice and visibility from 57% to 69%. Unlike during the baseline when women empowerment was mainly in the area of limited exposure to gender-based violence, in the year because of better income, women too made gains in joint asset ownership rights and participation in family decision making.

6.0 Challenges

Some of the challenges faced in the reporting period are below.

- Uneven and erratic rainfall distribution mainly in Cana and Can Mwa groups affected crop performance especially Irish potato crop which was the main groups' enterprise. the normal yield for Irish potato per acre is (50-60 bags) under favourable conditions, but the actual for this season was below 30 bags.
- The drop-in market price of Irish potato from UGX 130,000- 85,000 due to increased supply coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mbale region into the main Arua and Paidha markets greatly affected the farmers.
- Majority of the FAL learners are slow learners. This will require FAL mentors to continue with classes beyond the budgeted 10th month implementation period. The project is

exploring the opportunity of integration with other development programs like UWEP (Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Project).

- There was sharp increase in fuel price and this has greatly drained the fuel budget and will likely affect the future implementation of activities.
- The groups of Canbithum, Canmwa and Adiober still have limited access to safe water points.

7.0. Conclusion

Overall, the project start-up phase has kicked off well. All planned activities were implemented. The project team is working closely together and leveraging skills and knowledge and inputs from other AFARD projects. Importantly, the district and sub county local government have exhibited high levels of commitments and support to the project through training, sharing best practice, provision of inputs, supervisions and monitoring.

Fertilizer application an answer to high yield in Irish potato production; A case study of Ngabirombo Dominic, a farmer in Cana food security group in Jangokoro Sub county, Zombo District.

Mr. Dominic Ngabirombo is a member and a Chairperson of Cana group in Cana Village, Afuda parish, Jangokoro Sub County, Zombo District. The group started in 2009 and has membership of 45 people.

According to Mr. Dominic, he has been growing Irish potato before mainly on a quarter acre of land. He always bought his seeds from the local market (meaning they were not improved seeds). Neither did he use any fertilizer. He also had no idea about other recommended agronomic practices. The results was always dismal yield as he said, "I could only get a total yield of 3 bags." Due to limited linkage to the market, Mr. Dominic used to sell from the farm gate at UGX 50,000 per bag to the middlemen (totalling UGX 150,000). In this way he notes, "I lived a miserable life with no hopes for the future because the low income I earned could not meet my household basic needs like food, school fees, and medical bills, etc."



Mr. Ngabirombo Dominic in his Irish potato store

This changed with effect from last November 2017 when the project introduced improved Irish potato seeds, mandated every farmer to use fertilizer, and provided timely hands-on training in good agronomic practices. Mr. Dominic narrates, 'with the demand of the project, I hesitantly mobilized UGX 130,000 to procure 50 Kgs of NPK fertilizer. As a result, I never missed any of the trainings because I knew I will also lose out on my money that I spent on fertiliser. Equally, I had to apply all the fertilizer and skills that I routinely learnt. In the end, I for the first time in my life harvested 16 bags of Irish potatoes from the same size of land I had farmed before."

While he left 01 bag for consumption and saved 12 bags for seed, he also bulked 03 bags for sale. With support from the Project Officer, the group was linked to a buyer from Nebbi where they sold collectively a total of 24 bags at UGX 85,000 and he earned UGX 255,000. With ready seeds, Mr. Dominic used the money to hire 02 plots of land to expand his production from $\frac{1}{4}$ acre to $1\frac{1}{4}$ acre in the next season. He projects to harvest 120 bags worth UGX 12,000,000. His plan is to immediately construct a permanent house for the family, buy more land, and expand is production with a focus Irish potato seed business in the region.

ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT TARGETS

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Baseline	Year 1	End target	Remarks
Specific objectives: To improve self-reliance and livelihood security of smallholder farmer households in Jangokoro sub county in a gender sensitive manner	<i>OO Indicator 1:</i> 25% reduction in extreme poverty	76.9	55.5	57.7	Will be achieved
	<i>OO Indicator 2:</i> 85% of female beneficiaries reported increased empowerment	57	69.2	85	Will be achieved
	<i>OO Indicator 3:</i> 25% increase in food security	66.2	76.6	82.8	Will be achieved
Results 1: 85% increase in agricultural productivity due to Irish potato farming	R1.1. 50% of beneficiaries farming at least 0.5 acre of Irish potato per season	6.7	0	50	Will be achieved in second season of year 1
	R1.2. 85% of beneficiaries using good agricultural practices	8.5	79.6	85	Will be achieved
	R1.3. 50% of beneficiaries producing at least 12 bags of Irish potato per season	12	0.5	50	Will be achieved with the current increase in acreage from own seed production
	R1.4. 50% increase in sales volume of Irish potato per season	6.3	1.7	9.5	Will be achieved as above
	R1.5. 50% increase in income from sales of Irish potato every season	1,701	139,3	2,552	Will unlikely be achieved given the market competition from Mbale and DRC
Results 2: 75% reduction in days lost to preventable sicknesses (malaria, GII and HIV opportunistic infections)	R2.1. 57% households use safe water sources	27.8	73.3	57	Has been achieved
	R2.2. 95% households use pit latrines with hand washing facilities	5.2	85.2	95	Will be achieved with intensive home visits by CHFAs
	R2.3. 95% of group members have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS	93.7	99.8	95	Has been achieved
	R2.4. 90% of group members who tested and know their HIV/AIDS status	63.6	100	90	Has been achieved
	R2.5. 25% reduction in preventable disease burden	37,075	38,100	27,806	Will unlikely be achieved because expenditures will rise with better health seeking behavior and income

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Baseline	Year 1	End target	Remarks
Results 3: Project beneficiaries are active citizenship able to hold their leaders accountable	R3.1. 98% of group members are able to read and write in the local Alur language	76.5	82.7	98	Will be achieved once FAL graduation is done
	R3.2. 90% of group members are aware of their rights to decentralized development	26.8	70.3	90	Will be achieved
	R3.3. 50% of group members who participate in local government planning processes	5.4	49.5	50	Will be achieved
	R3.4: At least 2 of the 5 groups received budget support from their local government	0	1	2	Will be achieved

BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Table 9: Summary of project budget utilization rate

Statement of Activities	Budget	Actual	% used	Remarks
Activity 1 of R1: Provide agro inputs	141,775,000	141,775,000	100%	Completed
Activity 2 of R1: Train in agronomy skills	5,437,500	3,440,000	63%	Balance to be spent in year 2
Activity 1 of R2: Securing land for drilling water points	6,000,000	6,000,000	100%	Completed
Activity 2 of R2: Drill 2 boreholes	57,488,984	57,305,984	99.7%	Completed
Activity 3 of R2: Train Community Health Frontline Advisors	22,949,000	5,669,400	25%	Posters for year 1 is being produce and balance for year 2
Activity 4 of R2: Conduct voluntary counselling and testing	15,500,000	4,125,000	27%	To be completed in year 2
Activity 5 of R2: Conduct health education	1,565,000	759,000	48%	To be completed in year 2
Activity 1 of R3: Initiate Functional Adult Literacy classes	42,230,000	28,717,000	68%	On going
Activity 2 of R3: Create awareness on human and women's rights	1,371,000	0	0%	Planned for year 2
Activity 3 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in advocacy skills	2,571,000	0	0%	Planned for year 2
Activity 4 of R3: Train members of 3 groups in LLG monitoring	2,915,000	0	0%	Planned for year 2
Activity 5 of R3: Conduct petition and accountability Days	11,850,000	6,225,000	53%	Balance for year 2
A0.1: Staff recruitment and induction	0	0		
A0.2: Stakeholders briefing meetings	0	0		
A0.3: Conduct a baseline study	7,649,700	2,582,200	34%	Balance for end of project evaluation.
A0.4: Develop training manuals	0	0		
A0.5: Management monitoring visits	6,440,000	3,060,000	48%	Balance for year 2
A0.6: Beneficiary review and learning workshops	5,320,000	2,660,000	50%	Balance for year 2
A0.7: Conduct annual financial audits	4,000,000	2,000,000	50%	Balance for year 2
A0.8: Conduct terminal evaluation				
0.0 Common activities(Personnel)	90,000,000	45,000,000	50%	Balance for year 2
0.0 Common activities(Running costs)	12,000,000	5,982,610	50%	Balance for year 2
Total	437,062,184	315,301,194	72%	

NB: Costs includes local contributions.