

UGANDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION

BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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GRANT INFORMATION

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Program Director: Bwambale Christopher

Program Officer: Imuko Julius

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ACCROYNMS

CBM&E- Community based Monitoring and Evaluation

ICCO- Inter-Church Cooperation

KOPEIN- Kotido Peace Initiative

M&E- Monitoring and Evaluation

TEWPA- Teso Women and Peace Activists

UCAA- Uganda Change Agent Association

UJCC- Uganda Joint Christian Council

VSLA- Village Savings and Loan Association

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PROGRAM GOALS:

Progress Monitoring Protocol

In the Teso- Karamoja cluster arrangement UCAA was to contribute to the following Objectives:

Milestones	Target	Progress for UCAA 2014
i) Conduct dialogue forums in Katakwi and Napak Districts on Service delivery.	6 Dialogues Conducted in Katakwi and Napak on Service delivery by Dec 2015	4 Dialogues have been conducted in two districts since 2013 and a total of 380 Participants (181 males and 199 females) attended these Dialogues. The remaining two will be conducted during the 2 nd half of 2015.
ii) Train Change Agents and Duty bearers , and rights holders in Service delivery, Land and domestic Violence	A total of 60 duty bearers, Change Agents and community members trained by December 2015	The target of 60 People have been trained and have fully participated in the discussion on issues affecting the communities since 2013 to date
iii) VSLA Training will lead to personal and group development as it comes with both social and economic benefits for	UCAA was also charged with a responsibility of training 60 Change agents into VSLA by December 2015	60 Change agents have been trained since 2013 to date. The target has been met

<p>individuals and group members thus strengthening the social fabric and group cohesion. This would automatically lead to attainment of peaceful co-existence among the communities of Ngoloriet and Usuk Sub counties.</p>		
<p>iv) UCAA was through a small team of Change Agents trained in Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>A total of 120 Change Agents are to be trained in Community based Monitoring and evaluation by December 2015.</p>	<p>80 community agents of change have been trained since 2013. Theremaining 40 will be trained during the 2nd half of 2015.</p>
<p>v) Train (10 Change Agents) Collect data on Security issues, Land conflict, and Domestic Violence or Issues affecting</p>	<p>(10 Change Agents) trained to Collect data on Security issues, Land conflict, and Domestic Violence by 2015</p>	<p>10 Change Agents were trained as Data Collectors and they are supporting the community by collecting and analyzing data on issues which affect them and need the</p>

the community		attention of their leaders.
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BACKGROUND

Introduction

ICCO and Kirk in Actie are supporting UCAA, KOPEIN, UJCC and TEWPA as the Teso-Karamoja cluster to implement the Conflict transformation and democratization (CT&D) Project. The Year 2015 is the 3rd year of the project implementation. This is a report on UCAA activities of Jan-June 2015 but includes the monitoring protocol for the whole project cycle. Activities actually done were Mobilization, Cluster Meetings, A training in resource Mobilization, 2 trainings on community safety and domestic Violence for the duty bearers in Katakwi and Napak districts, 2 trainings on VSLA for Katakwi and Napak, Monitoring of the project beneficiaries in the districts, Meetings in preparation for the Peace week, kick starting data collection in both districts on Domestic Violence.

Activities still pending to be completed for the year 2015 include: 2 trainings in community based monitoring and evaluation system (CBM&E) for Katakwi and Napak, completion of data collection in the two districts, provision of VSLA boxes and passbooks to groups which have not yet received, peace commemoration due in September, Monitoring & Evaluation, and 2 Dialogues meetings one in each district.

PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)

The left photo below shows, all members witnessing to count and confirm the votes during VSLA training in Napak, while the right photo shows the five (5) elected leaders seated in front as per the sitting arrangement.



During the period Jan-June 2015, UCAA conducted 2 VSLA trainings one in Napak and Another in Katakwi districts. Each training had 10 participants as follows: Napak training had 3 males and 7 females all drawn from Ngoloriet Sub County, while Katakwi had 6 females and 4 males from Usuk Sub County. The turn up was good, participants appreciated the course content and promised to utilize the knowledge gained to improve their livelihood.

The training for Usuk Sub County took place at Petima Guest House in Katakwi Town Council while that of Napak was in Kangole Hall.

Some women participants at VSLA training in Katakwi June 2015



Data Collection.

The data collection exercise has been kick started in both districts and the key issue is on the cause of Domestic Violence, what interventions are already in place, existing gaps and community views on what should be done. This is what shall form the basis of discussions in Dialogues during the second half of the year.

Trainings on Service delivery, Change Agent Skills and Domestic Violence.

Two trainings were conducted one in Katakwi and another one in Napak. The training was on Community safety and domestic Violence Act. That of Katakwi was attended by 30 (14 males and 16females) while that in Napak was attended by 24 (14 males and 10females).Categories of this Participants included the duty bearers , leaders of the community development groups, police, student on industrial training and the UCAA staff. The training in Katakwi was Facilitated by a female experienced trainer , Counsel Jane Apino while that in Napak was by another experienced male Counsel , ILukolMichealwho is at the same time the Head of Family and Child protection Unit of Uganda Police in Napak district.The training was an eye opener to the participants by enabling them with knowledge on the Domestic Violence Act, community safety

and local examples which participants were familiar with in their communities were also reviewed.

Involvement of the local leaders and change agents.

The local leaders and change Agents were trained in Community safety and Domestic Violence Act. The Chiefs, Councilors both for the District and those for Parishes, Local council chairpersons, group leaders and a few change Agents attended the training in Katakwi and Napak district as well.

This training resulted into a commitment by the sub county leaders to ensure that they sensitize their masses on Domestic Violence Act since they realized it is affecting community development as it was leading to misery and insecurity in their families and communities.

Support to Academic Institutions.

During the period UCAA had 4 Students on internship from institutions of higher learning whobenefited on the CT &D. They were AKOL TINAH from Makerere University Business School, EBONG PETER& Nabukera Martha from Kyambogo University and Kamusiime Eve of Makerere University. However, other 3 students all Male from Kyambogo University attached to Usuk Subwere also allowed into the UCAA orientation and induction of the Duty bearers in the Community Safety and Domestic Violence Act. The students were excited upon the new knowledge they had acquired on the project.

Fundraising.

UCAA staff attended training on resource mobilization organized by TEWPA but funded by ICCO. The Staff Acquired new skills in the area of resource Mobilization. As a result of this,they were able to registered UCAA with EU PADOR System and a Joint concept note with one of its partners for fundingwas written and submitted to EU.

International Day of Peace

UCAA is involvedin the preparation of this year's International Peace day celebration which are being planned to be held in Mbarara district. So far staff has attended one preparatory meeting organized by UJCC.

Administration component

The Administration Budget enabled UCAA to meet its Administration costs and maintenance of the Regional Office.

UCAA was able to mobilize for the Annual Delegates Assembly of May 2015 using this budget although the activity was majorly funded by other internal sources. But in this General Assembly, of its 110 members country wide. ICCO contribution was highlighted and appreciated by all.

Project Results

The General finding and Observation on the Project was that group members continue to enjoy improved livelihood and increased peace. This was from reports obtained from 4 groups in Katakwi and twogroups in Napak. From the UCAA Monitoring exercise, Both Karimojong and Iteso Project beneficiaries accept that the project has contributed to peace and stabilization in their communities because it provides an alternative means of survival. Consultation with Community members indicated that the community was happy with the outcome of the previous dialogues on roads and Health in Usuk Sub County –Katakwi district and also on Roads & Education in Ngoloriet in Napak district. The community members reported some improvement in the way they are treated by medical staff, the way teachers report at school and that their leaders were working on the roads.

Some Members from different groups in Katakwi and Napak were interviewed as follows the results of VSLA:

Hellenlcweet

Group Name: Arimarit Women’s group, Village: Ameriteke, Parish: AAkum and Subcounty: Usuk.

lcweet revealed that their group has 30 (27females and 3 males). The group’s main activity is Savings & credit. By mid-June 2015 this group’s Savings had increased by 25% as compared to the 2014 cycle i.e. they had already collected 8 Million Uganda shillings while in the 2014 cycle they collected only 6 Million Uganda shillings. She attributed this achievement to the capacity building which UCAA was offering using funds from ICCO. She said families from which group members come have stabilized because they are able to quickly meet their basic needs without begging.

AiroHellen

Group Name: KoritokOtira Vulnerable Group, Village: Amalera, Parish: Koritok, Subcounty: Usuk.

Airo said that the group has 28 (24 female & 4 male) Members. This group started in 2014. By June 2015, it had collected Uganda shillings 5 Million as savings. Hellen attributes this success to the skills they acquired from UCAA but which they passed on to the members. The group members according to AiroHellen the founder , was enjoying good relationship with their

spouses as a result of economic benefit they were enjoying from it. She said the project has resulted into peace of mind by the beneficiaries.

VeronikaImmingat

Group Name:Ocamunai Farmers Group, Village: Ongole, Parish:Cheleuko; in Usuk Subcounty.

Veronika reported that UCAA has trained a total of 7 members of this group in VSLA and Community based Monitoring. The group has 30(20 female & 10 male) Members. Last year in 2014, the group saved 4.8 Million for their first cycle while by June 2015 it has so far saved 5.8 million for their second cycle. As a result of the UCAA interventions, the group has been able to sensitize the community on community interventions that bring about peace. Crimes such as those committed from domestic Violence are not heard of now in her Village as a result of the project interventions. Families are enjoying peace and harmony.

Key Challenges reported by Veronika was that they had a lot of money that was redundant in their cash box because it was not being borrowed. The Monitoring team advised the group to entrust their money with a trusted institution such as a nearby catholic mission or keep their money on a fixed deposit Account in the Bank for the purpose of generating interest for the group.

There was also a joint Monitoring conducted by TEWPA, UJCC, KOPEI and UCAA early this year on February 23rd to 27th. During this joint monitoring, UCAA was represented by one of its field coordinators. Two groups sampled on the side of UCAA, included. Ekeunos Women group (the developing) in Usuk sub-county Katakwi district and found with a financial position of Three million eighty two thousand seven hundred shillings (Shs.3,082,700) and Lokoreto Mixed Farmer Group (the developed) in Ngoloriet sub-county Napak district had a tune of Nine million two hundred four thousand shillings (Shs.9,204,000) indicating a great change to the communities. The revelation on the side of the Karimojong was that one cannot think of going for cattle wrestling which destabilizes communities when he or she was benefiting from a VSLA like Lokoreto mixed farmers group.

The project impact was therefore contributing to the availability of credit in the community where one runs in case of financial need, acting as an alternative means of survival now that the Karimojong were disarmed which according to them was a means of survival. Given an average of 5 people per house hold, Lokoreto mixed farmers group alone is serving a minimum of 100 Karimojong who directly and indirectly benefit with in the community.

Nachap Clare Dengele, of Lopida A , Ngoloriet sub county, Napak district, Joined a VSLA in 2013 and belongs to NACURO A MIXED GROUP.



This is Clare Dengele a change Agent Beneficiary of the CT & D .Using the skills gained, and her dividends from a VSLA, started a piggery project in her area Lopida A village Napak district- Karamoja with only two pigs.This project has supported her home and thus leading to income stability. She currently has 25 pigs and isalso engaged in a brewing business. Dengele has helped two groups in her community to acquire business skills. She says rearing pigs is good because they multiply very fast. The most important thing is to ensure good hygiene. Dengele’s achievements have earned her respect in thecommunity. She has been able to buy land on her own, educate her 6 children and also care for her relatives. She was elected women councilor LC3 for Ngoloriet Sub County and through this she has gained respect of the community members



A *some of Dengele’s pigs*



The UCAA M& E officer-Rhona in Red and Programme Officer –Imuko for Eastern in White plus Dengele in Black Observe Dengele’s pigs as they feed.

Challenges

Challenge from the leaders and community members

The Leaders and community members appreciate the project but their main concern is that UCAA concentrates in few sub counties. They are urging it to expand the project to all sub counties in the districts. UCAA has not had any answer for this challenge.

Challenges reported by the group members include

- 1) Some leaders still lack some managerial skills
- 2) Some groups have redundant money that is not being borrowed
- 3) Some groups still have cases of late loan recovery

Measures put in place to combat these problems

- 1) UCAA has advised to create linkages with other financial like institutions which can provide custody of the group funds in the event that money is not being borrowed.
- 2) Groups have been advised to Utilize the services of Change agents for example KoritokOtira vulnerable group in Usuk sub county –Katakwi .
- 3) Groups were told to implement and go by the principle of Zero tolerance to arrears which they were taught during VSLA trainings.

END