

Acting against Disaster Risks Reduction (DRR) Project update

All of UCAA's work is aimed at alleviating poverty and empowering the people at the grassroots to analyse their situation and to help themselves. This itself is addressing some of the underlying drivers of disaster risk by reducing people's vulnerability to hazardous events. A member of a savings and loans group, for example, has more capacities to deal with unexpected shocks and might even be able to invest in better protection of their health, their homes and livelihoods.

UCAA's Acting against disaster risks project is funded by EU under the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative Program. The aim of the project is to contribute to more effective humanitarian response, DRR and resilience in the five countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Nepal, Bangladesh and Cambodia) through strengthening 48 local NGOs and 300,000 vulnerable and disaster prone communities.

Since 2017, UCAA has participated in the ACTing against Disaster Risk Consortium and has hosted volunteers through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative to increase our capacity in disaster risk reduction. In this context, over 200 UCAA staff, board members, Change Agents and local government officials have been trained in community-based disaster risk reduction. The training has covered the key concepts of disaster risk reduction as well as hands-on training on how to conduct participatory risk assessments.

With the help of the EU aid Volunteers, UCAA conducted capacity building in all the regions of Uganda as follows: West Nile (Arua): 29 participants (17 female, 12 male) , Northern Uganda (Lira): 23 participants (11 female,12 male) ,Eastern Uganda (Iganga): 27 participants (18 female, 9 male), South Western Uganda (Ntungamo):24 participants (15 female, 9 male), Western Uganda (Fort Portal): 20 participants (13 female, 7 male) , Karamoja (Moroto): 24 participants (18 female, 6 male- Karamoja Children at Risk Consortium Partners, and District Leaders) Karamoja (Kangole):25 participants (13 female, 12 male- Change Agents & Community Members). The trained change agents have sensitized their communities on control of disasters that may come their way.

Central Region Training Report

Jonas Mortensen (EU Aid Volunteer)

Wednesday, 23 January 2019

UCAA staff and EU Aid Volunteer Jonas Mortensen facilitated a Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) workshop for Central region in Mukono district. The training was attended by 22 participants composed of Change Agents from the districts of Kampala, Kiboga, Masaka, Mubende, Nakasongola, Luwero, Kayunga, Wakiso, Mpigi among others. The training went very well and the participants expressed an overall satisfaction and approval of the workshop training. The following topics were covered:

Key concepts of DRR

Following the introduction participants familiarized themselves with the key concepts of disaster risk reduction, i.e. disaster risk, hazard, capacity and vulnerability. This was done through a matching game where participants had to match terms with definitions and illustrations, a watching a documentary on floods in Kasese and plenary discussions in which participants were also introduced to the pressure and release model of disasters. In the second part of this session's participants were introduced to the concepts of prevention,

mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery through another matching exercise and the disaster management cycle.

The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)

In this session, participants were shown the video "*The Art and Science of a VCA*" by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to introduce them to the idea of participatory risk assessments. This was followed by a short plenary session on the methodology, process, benefits and the tools used in the video. This allowed participants to reflect and share experiences on tools and methods they already know and have used before. The following exercises made up the biggest part of the workshop. Participants worked in groups according to the disaster they identified earlier in the workshop. This also provided an opportunity for participants to draw on their own experiences and analyse their circumstances. The groups started by ranking hazard by experience, consequence and probability. Afterwards, they used these hazards to create maps, seasonal calendars and historical timelines. This was a bit challenging for some of the groups, as they struggled being "creative" and as they were very fixed on doing it precisely as exemplified during training. After this exercise, participants practised analysing the hazards and created hazard and vulnerability analysis tables in the groups, based on the earlier chosen hazards.