



# UGANDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL SUMMARY** REPORT 2016



Women groups supported by UCAA with funding from Women's Bank Finland, through Finn Church Aid interacting with visitors from Women Bank.



## Review of 2016

During the year 2016 UCAA implemented activities that contributed to its Vision: An empowered and self-reliant society living in harmony with dignity and its mission of promoting the participation of rural communities in the decision -making process through knowledge and skills training for self-reliance and equitable development. The implemented activities fed into the programme thematic areas of the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan. Below are the achievements per thematic area.

**Specific objective:** To contribute towards livelihood enhancement through, promotion of viable economic activities for self-reliance and sustainable development of the most impoverished rural communities.

As a means to achieve this objective, UCAA conducted the following activities.

- Trained women in VSLA in Gulu and Oyam districts: A total of 60 women had been trained in 2016. The number has now accumulated to 300 women trained since 2015. These women have been able to utilise the skills and have started up income generating activities. This has enabled them to provide for their families, for example paying school fees for their children meeting medication bills etc.
- Review Meetings. Four Review meetings were conducted for the project in Northern Uganda



The photo above shows women in group work exercise.



A group photo of Women after the training.

- Trained Self-help groups in Village savings and loans association Methodologies (VSLA) in Napak
- District. A total of 25 participants (12 Female and 13 Male) attended VSLA training at Kangole C.O.U. These were drawn from Iriiri Sub County, Lorengecora, Matany, and Lokopo sub counties. They gained knowledge/skills on VSLA by understanding the methodology of Group formation and general assembly, Development of bye laws, VSLA

concept, Record keeping, Conflicts resolution and meeting procedure, First saving and payment meeting, Graduation and first share out (Action Audit) Through VSLA members were able to accumulate incomes so that, they can easily access credit from their own sources and thus solve their domestic financial needs without begging. At the Moment, UCAA VSLA groups, in Napak are performing well. In Oyam and Gulu districts where UCAA 39 Beneficiary women groups collected UGX 206,900,000= as their own savings during the year.

- Trained Women in Entrepreneurship & Enterprise selection in Gulu and Oyam districts: 110 Women were trained in 2016 and the number has now accumulated to 231 since 2015. UCAA conducted training on entrepreneurship and enterprise selection to the household members and some children who were integrated back in Karamoja. 25 people (14 Female and 11 Male) participated. Members where drawn from Lokopo, Iriiri, Matany and Lorengecora sub counties of Napak district. During Entrepreneurship trainings beneficiaries gained skills on how to spot business opportunities around them, controlling the market, Budgeting



Women under training in Group work exercise in Oyam District.



LC V counselor of Oyam District, in Otwal sub county addressing newly trained Village Change Agents.

and costing plus how business records are kept and the training was participatory, they had small group discussions and presentations, and there was also development of business plans at the end of the training.

- Trained teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs) in Village Savings & Loans Association skills in Napak district.

Twenty six (26) teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs) (7 Female and 19 Male) were trained as VSLA agents in their schools. The Selection of the schools was on the basis that Children at Risk partners (CaR) had children they support. They would thus keep on encouraging parents and communities to

organise themselves into VSLA groups, save and start up income generating activities.

The participants were from St. Daniel Comboni, Lorengecora Primary school, Kapaut Primary school, Longalom Primary school, Lomaratoit Primary School, Lokopo primary school and Kokorio primary school in Napak district. They completed a three day residential training at Kangole Church of Uganda in November 2016

They were taken through understanding the following VSLA Methodologies. Group formation and general assembly, Development of bye laws, VSLA concept, Record keeping, Conflicts resolution and meeting procedure, first saving and payment meeting, Graduation and first share out.

- Trained children aged 14-17 years and caregivers in best agricultural practices in Napak district. UCAA conducted training on improved agriculture practices in Iriiri Sub County for both the care takers and children between the ages of 14 – 17 years. In the training there were 24 participants of which 12 care takers (9 female and 3 male) and 12 children (6 boys and 6 girls), the participants were drawn from three parishes of Nabwal, Tepeth and Iriiri. Participants acquired knowledge and skills in agriculture on back yard gardens to see that they cultivate food to improve on their nutrition at household level and each participant selected their own enterprise. The participants were given their enterprise of variety of seeds and each participant received



One of the VSLA groups under an entrepreneurs training in Napak District



Teachers and School Management Committee members during the VSLA training at Kangole Primary School in Napak District.

a hoe to help them boost their agriculture practices and the distribution was done. Reports which we receive from the beneficiaries of this intervention indicate they started harvesting from their own gardens and are able to supplement their diet on what they get from their gardens other than from the markets. In Gulu and Oyam 40 women were trained on best agricultural practices.

- Trained Re-integrated children from the streets in Entrepreneurship & Apprenticeship skills including carpentry Bicycle repair and tailoring in Napak district. 14 children and youth (5 boys and 9 girls) between the age of 14 – 17 years old after attending enterprise and VSLA training came up with different business plans looking at the environment they come from in Matany and Lokopo sub counties. UCAA provided them with start-up items basing on own enterprises they had selected. Items given included charcoal stoves, basins, Jerri cans, cooking oil, cartons of chapatti flour, frying pans, chapatti roller and others received sorghum for local brewing and silver fish, cereal banking plus items for starting a restaurant. We opted for these because it's what they wanted and each of them was attached to a mentor who has experience to guide them to see that they improve in their incomes hence having a better life so that they do not think of moving to the streets.



Participants attending practical session in improved agricultural practices

## Programme Area 2: Education and skills development

**Specific objective:** To contribute to knowledge and skills development through a practical change agent training for economic empowerment and self-reliance.

The Karamoja Children at risk project which UCAA implements together in Napak, UCAA was able to conduct the following to achieve the objective.

- **Sensitization of leaders in Napak District**

UCAA conducted sensitization meetings in Lorengecora, Matany, Lokopo, Iriiri and at the Napak district headquarters on the issue of children un safe out Migration from Karamoja to the streets. UCAA met with the technical and political leaders including the police all totaling to 68 leaders (47 male and 21 female). During the sensitization meetings, the leaders appreciated the intervention the CaR partners were doing in Karamoja sub region since they understood the risks the children go through when out of home and also those that may be experienced by the region in the near future as a result of Child Migration. They pledged to work together with the CaR partners to see that this problem reduces in Karamoja sub-region

- Gender based violence and child out migration. UCAA conducted trainings of media personnel in GBV and prevention of Child out-migration from Karamoja sub region in Moroto and Napak districts. A total of 20(6.Female and 14Male) media reporters were trained in Moroto district and a total of 20 ( 4 Female and 16 Male) media representatives were trained in Napak district, they acquired knowledge on



Sensitisation meeting being conducted with local leaders in Napak District.



The Child and Family Protection Unit Officer of Napak District with the Sub County Community Development Officer facilitating the Gender Based Violence awareness training for community leaders.

Gender based Violence (GBV). Nena FM in Moroto gave UCAA free air time which was used to conduct lessons on Positive parenting to the entire Karamojong community. UCAA conducted trainings of community leaders and opinion leaders in Gender based Violence (GBV) and prevention of child out-migration from Karamoja sub-region in Matany, Lokopo, Lorengecora and Iriri sub-counties. A total of 80 Community members attended these sensitization meetings. Two Radio talk shows were also conducted on NENA FM in Moroto to supplement this.

- Distribution of Scholastic Materials to the vulnerable children

UCAA Provided Scholastic materials to children of Kokorio and Longalom primary schools in Napak district and in these schools they have formed Change Agent Clubs, where they will continue engaging with other pupils and empowering them on the different skills they have acquired to see that they continue encouraging others to be at school as its their right to be in school.

They now feel comfortable while at school without thinking of books and sets to be used, they only need to make themselves available to attend classes.

### Karamoja Leaders Forum

UCAA contributed and participated in the joint activity that was conducted at Napak district headquarters that involved the karamajong leaders from Katwe and Kisenyi suburbs in Kampala that tasked the administration of Napak district and CaR partners to find the way forward for the children in the streets of Kampala.



The pupils at Longalom primary school received scholastic materials from UCAA in Napak District

In addition, 50 children from Lokopo and Matany Sub counties were Mobilised and Facilitated and participated in the international day for the girl Child and Independence Day as well. The functions were well represented under the themes; ***'Protection of independence through Promotion of Patriotism, Unity and Hard work'***

**National Delegates Assembly.** UCAA conducted a National delegates Assembly at the Namugongo Kyoto Spiritual resort on 25th June 2016. A total of 84 delegates including one Guest from the Uganda National NGO Forum and 11 Staff attended the Assembly.

**Review of the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan.** UCAA contracted a consultant to support staff and BOD to Review the 2014-2016 strategic plan. After the review, UCAA came up with a new Strategic Plan for UCAA 2017-2019 which was approved by the UCAA Board Of Directors (BoD).

**BOD Meetings.** The Board of Directors Conducted Four BoD Meetings in which secretariat presented plans,



Children that were rescued by CaR partners under the CaR project and are supported in school. UCAA mobilized them for the international day for the girl child and Independence Day.

budgets for approval. Through these meetings the BoD provided its oversight function to the secretariat which did translate into UCAA good performance during year 2016. In addition to these the Board of Directors (BoD) and staff conducted one Development retreat.







Delegates at the UCAA National Delegates Assembly 2016 discussing issues.

**Children at risk (CaR) Kenya Partners Learning Visit to Uganda.**

UCAA successfully hosted the CaR partner organizations from Kenya. The CaR Kenya visited their counterparts in Uganda, in October to share experiences on how Uganda implements its projects and the challenges they encounter.



The photo above shows a staff and BOD retreat during the review of the 2014 – 2016 Strategic Plan.

They had a good time with Uganda CaR partners in Kampala. They visited Dwelling places and KAYDA offices as well.

**Regional Youth Forum on Countering Violent Extremism, held from 29th – 31st August 2016 at Methodist Guest House, Nairobi – Kenya.**

The theme of the forum was; **Strength-**



Members of the Board of Directors and secretariat management in a meeting at UCAA head office.

**ening Youth Resilience against Violent Extremisms in Eastern African Region.** The forum was organised in order to;

- To think about solutions to change the mind of youth positively. They are being used for violence
- Africa is 18 years old and still need intervention of leaders to influence change and find a solution



Kenya CaR partners visit to Uganda. Above, they pose for a photo at UCAA change agent house

**ToT in Entrepreneurship.** UCAA with support from Caring Hands Uganda trained staff and Change Agent Facilitators in Entrepreneurship as ToTs. The training took place in Gulu during the month of July 2016. This training helped UCAA execute its mission to train its Beneficiaries in Entrepreneurship skills.

**Solar Management and Renewable energy.** A training was conducted for staff and some selected change agents. After the training, UCAA made the first purchase of some solar panels with the help of Kenya Change Agents. Bright one degree 127 panels, Niwa 100 wts 16 panels, Niwa 300 wts 4 panels, and Delight 24 panels. These are being marketed by UCAA Secretariat and Change Agents.



**CaR Partner Implementers coordination meetings**

UCAA organized a meeting for the project implementing staffs of CaR partner organizations, at G.1 Hotel, Rubaga road in old Kampala, in December 2016. Another coordination meeting of the CaR Partner Directors during November 2016 was held in Moroto. Directors of all CaR Partner Organizations attended.

UCAA staff and facilitators during the TOT Entrepreneurship training in Gulu District.

The ICCO Programme Officer attended this Meeting too. In this meeting, the CaR directors agreed on Modality of resettlement by delivering all children from Kampala at Koblin Government Centre in Lorencegora and then resettled to their homes by Cooperation & Development (C&D) and Katakwi Children's Voice (KCV).



Change Agents and UCAA staff just after the Solar Management and Renewable energy training as the change agents from Kenya display the solar equipment.

### Coordination Meeting with Beneficiaries

UCAA Organized coordination with beneficiaries of its interventions in Napak where a total of 20 people attended. In this meeting with beneficiaries, UCAA was encouraged to extend sensitizations especially on Gender Based Violence (GBV) to Lopeii Sub county since it was where most of the children going to the streets were coming from.

### Karamoja Leaders Forum

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### Visit to reintegrated families



The team of Karamoja leaders from Kisenyi and Katwe as they were in Napak District for the forum.

UCAA participated jointly with CaR partners to take the Karamojong leaders from Kampala to visit the families that were reintegrated back in Karamoja to find out how they were doing. The leaders had time to talk and ask them questions on how they find life back home in Karamoja compared to being on the street. The Resettled families appreciated the effort of the CaR partners for resettling for life was better because they had food and their children were in school.

## UCAA IMPACT

### Success Stories

#### 1. Kodet Zachary.

Kodet Zachary, is a change agent from Bokora East Lopiida B Village, Lokoreto Parish, Ngoleriet Sub-County, Napak District. He is 27 years old in marriage. He was trained in 2011.

After the CAT course, Zachary utilised the knowledge, mobilised a group and trained them in Savings and Credit. He later trained them in Village Savings and Loan methodology. The group is Lokolete Mixed Group which still exists up to date. He has also trained other many groups and most of them have adopted the saving culture.

As of now, Zachary is a parish chief in one of the parishes of Ngoleriet Sub-County. He is also much involved in tree nursery raising as one of the important community activities. His future plans include; - Saving more and buying a motorcycle. – Educate his children.

#### 2. Aleper Peter

Aleper Peter is 67 years old. He attended change agent training in 1991 and completed the course in 1992. He has 8 children. He lives in Lopiida Village, Lokoreto parish, Ngoleriet Sub County, Napak District. He is from Bokora East branch. Since the training, Peter has much been into tree planting, agriculture Extension Work, Nurserly raising for seedlings and spear heading community work in digging water ponds and boreholes with support from Civil Society Organisations. He mobilises and conducts a number of community meetings for development and he is also the chairman LC 1 of Lopiida Village. His future plans include continuing with the above mentioned activities and training the community for the better management.

#### 3. Nyanga Emma

He is 25 years old and married with 3 children. Two of them are already in school and he is able to look after them well. Emma is from Lopiida Village, Lokoreto Ngoleriet Sub County in Napak District. He was trained as a change agent in the year 2011. He completed the whole 'CAT' course of 44 days. After the training, he acknowledges that knowledge increased and he improved in important and sensitive areas including handling money, good leadership and taking responsibility. Since then Emma has taken a leadership role. He is no longer a mere member but rather an active leader that encourages other members. Among his future plans is to go back to school to upgrade.

#### 4. Dengel Clare

Clare is 29 years old. She lives in Lotikokin village, Kautakou parish, Ngoleriet Sub County, Napak District. Clare says she grew up a very lonely life, her parents died at an early stage when she was still a child. Her mother was killed in 1988 when she was 1 ½ years. Her father died when she was in Primary Five, 11 years. Missionary then took her and cared about her, her education. She then married in 2004 and has five children, 2 boys and 3 girls.

Clare says her turning point in life was after the change agent training in 2011. Her life changed that she learnt to join groups, save, and also started getting involved in leadership. She has since been a parish councillor. She also joined NAADS Programme in Napak and became Community Based

Facilitator and she is still participating in running the programme. She is also the LCIII female councillor. She is an adult literacy / education facilitator, a chairperson of two VSLA groups. At the moment, Clare is running a piggery project. Her future plans include; shall ensure to keep the work of change agents move forward and start up big projects.



In the picture above, Clare is seen participating during the VSLA training in Kangole Boys' school, Napak District, Karamoja.

Clare also plans to enrol back to school and be a fully enrolled professional teacher. Thus she can be able to educate her children. She said she wants to be a role model in her community and empower community members with the UCAA self-reliant aspects.

## Bushenyi District Change Agents Association (BDCAs) facilitates a management training to 38 Self-Help Group members.

Bushenyi District Change Agents Association, Bunyaruguru East Branch still practice and have a spirit of voluntarism. The change agents mobilised 38 members of a self-help group. 20 of them were female while 18 were male.



Clare narrating her story to UCAA staff during monitoring exercise in Napak District.



In the picture above, Clare was monitoring her project with UCAA staff.



Clare feeding one of the pigs that just gave birth. It has to be outside the fence to protect the new born ones.

Clare feeding one of the pigs that just gave birth. It has to be outside the fence to protect the new born ones. UCAA believes that it is only 'conscientised' men and women who are the solution to the root causes of poverty and who can successfully fight corruption, demand good leadership and accountability and guarantee peace, stability and positive development.

We work towards improving people's standards of living, with their own initiatives to sustain development. Self-reliance and participatory development is our focus.