

UGANDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION



Some of the Change Agents commemorating 25 years of UCAA existence in May 2017.

2017 Annual Summary Report

Projects implemented:

No	Name of the Project	District of implementation
1.	Economic Empowerment and Self –Reliance for Women Project.	Gulu and Oyam, Northern Uganda
2.	Karamoja Children at Risk (CaR)	Napak, Karamoja Region
3.	Media Focus Africa (MFA)	Nothern Uganda
4.	Self Help Group Approach (SHG)	Agago District
5.	European Union Aid Volunteers' for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	All regions of Uganda

Introduction

Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) by its nature is both a grassroots membership and a service provision national organisation. It was established in 1992 and registered as an NGO on 11th October 1993, and has been renewed regularly as required by the law. The Association is also registered as a non-profit limited liability company under the Uganda Companies Act. It has over 4,000 members (Trained Change Agents) organised in 230 branches country wide.

Since then, UCAA has been funded by a number of donors and has implemented a number of projects which some phased out.

At the moment, UCAA is implementing over five projects including; Women Empowerment project, Children at Risk Project, Conflict Transformation Project, Self Help Group Approach and the Disaster Risk Reduction Project with European Union.

Project 1. Economic Empowerment and Self –Reliance for Women Project

Northern Uganda was peaceful and implementation of activities for the year 2017 was successful and was not disrupted by any factors.

Below are the activities that were implemented.

- 300 women were trained in VSLA development and management
- 286 women were trained in entrepreneurship skills,
- 30 Women were taken to Western Uganda for exchange visit, they acquired skills and put into practice
- Trained 140 Women in group leadership and management.
- Conducted Village Change Agent Training for 30 groups of women with 194 women
- 380 women were trained in best agricultural practices
- 310 women were trained in Lobby and advocacy skills with 37 government officials
- 555 Women and community members were Sensitized on gender and culture issues
- Sensitized 900 women on land rights.
- Dialogue meeting with local leaders and older stakeholders
- Monitoring and support visits

Physical count of the women who benefited directly on the project totalled to 1,084. This was mainly through access of credit but those who participated directly in activities such as trainings totalled 732. The men that participated in the project during the year at functions such as VCAT Ceremonies, and trainings in Gender, Culture and Women's rights totalled to 125. UCAA estimates the number of children who enjoyed direct benefit such as school fees and medical care to be 2,520 children (taking an average of 2 children per household of the 1260 women) who had direct benefit during 2017.

Men (125), Women 352, and Political leaders est. 40, who had a platform to pass the development communications through the women gatherings benefited indirectly.

Some men's cooperation with their spouses has been realized after UCAA sensitization on Gender & Culture. We noticed a mismatch between the project budget and the numbers that were targeted by each intervention. UCAA applied a model of following beneficiaries into their groups. This enabled UCAA to reach all beneficiaries.

The key objective for the project was to increase the incomes of women in Northern Uganda leading to an improved standard of living by 2017. This objective has been achieved through 2 sub themes;

1. Increased participation of women in economic activities in Northern Uganda by 2017.

The project results for this sub theme were as follows: Key findings in our 2015 monitoring report indicated that those women beneficiaries who had started businesses on average earned UGX 150,000 as profit each month. Their total saving during 2015 was approximately UGX 151,968,000.

The project contributed strongly to the expected long-term impact, for instance, member's savings increased by 28% in 2016 compared to that of 2015. This was reflected in their standard of living as well. It was further revealed by stories we received from them highlighting numbers of family assets acquired, self-esteem gained and the ability to provide school fees & scholastic materials for their children. The data collected in 2016 indicated that total savings by beneficiaries was UGX 206,900,000 saved by 1,260 women but the number of women borrowing was 1,084. UCAA had expected total savings to be more than this, however, harvests were poor as a result of prolonged drought during the year under review which lowered the amount of total savings

In 2017, total savings was approximately UGX 332,966,340=, the average savings per member was 264,259. The total number of women with own IGAs was 1,260.

2. Increased women's access to productive resources by December 2017.

The number of assets owned by women increased as well. Two Schools were established. One in Achaba Sub County by a member of Can Mito Yele group in Atekober Parish, a Nursery School from Baby to Upper. Another school is an Adult Literacy School organized by members of Mat Itam Pit for them to learn to read and write. The indicator is further evidenced by 74 women who reported to have acquired land and 140 with own houses. In addition to this, the data collected by UCAA revealed that the women have acquired a total number of 205 cows, 574 goats, 194 pigs, and 1,146 birds, i.e. chicken and ducks. This was the statistics as of December 2017.

Looking at what is happening to the beneficiaries; one has to believe that the project is yielding better results for its beneficiaries. Much as not all women could have received the same training, all of them were reached in one way or the other. There was also an element of learning from each other and have endeavored to put into practice.

The project has strong ability to contribute to the expected long-term impact. For instance, members savings increased by 28% in 2016 from 2015. This is a reflection in their standard of living too. This is further revealed by stories we receive highlighting number of family assets acquired, self-esteem gained, provision of school fees & Scholastic materials for their children. The 2016 data collected indicate that total savings by beneficiaries was UGX 206,900,000 saved by 1,260 women and the number of women borrowing was 1,084.

The project has involved the local leadership, civil servants and police on a number of occasions. Those involved get an opportunity to get an audience through which they also pass a message of development & encouragement to the beneficiaries.

People Living with HIV/AIDs (PLWHAIDs), People with Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly are also part of the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Sub county	Women with IGAs							Assets owned by Women					
	RS	H	LB	P	V	F	B	Land	Houses	Cows	Goats	Pigs	Birds
Otwal	25	03	51	21	49	27	34	27	33	74	219	56	377
Achaba	20	07	48	26	22	18	19	18	15	39	57	58	177
Awach	17	06	89	57	67	26	15	10	16	55	153	48	269
Unyama	30	09	83	120	77	51	22	19	23	37	145	32	323
TOTAL	92	25	271	304	215	122	90	74	140	205	574	194	1146

KEY

RS- Retail Shop (92), H-Local Hotel or Restaurant (25), LB-Local brewing business (271), P-Produce buying and selling (304), V-Vegetable selling (215) F –Fish monger (122) and B- Bakery business (90)

Each beneficiary member has a story to tell, however, UCAA cannot be able to record everyone, but below is what we recorded for 2017

Women Stories

Story 1. The Success of Abang Christina.

Christina is 51 years old. She is a member of Oporiwegi Women's Group. She has 09 (nine) children. Below is a publication of her work under the women's project in the Rupiny Local Newspaper that appeared on December 26th, 2017.



Interpretation of the story from a home visit where we met Abang Christine as she was further explaining about her success and the story that was written in the Rupiny newspaper. (Not exactly as it appeared) Simsim growing is compared to gold mining.

Abang Christine had for so long suffered with poverty and could hardly get any person to help her. She told UCAA team during the visit. She was so worried and living a frustrated life.

In 2014, she used to see Uganda Change Agent Car around their village and would see them gather people and she was concerned thus inquired about what was going on. She was told by one of the participants that UCAA was mobilising women to join Village Saving and Loan Associations, and informed her about the knowledge she had acquired so far about the methodology. Christine picked interest and endeavoured to join one of the groups that had formed up, that is Oporiwegi Women's Group. She learnt a lot of things and got knowledge through training from Uganda Change Agent Association with support from Finn Church Aid in Finland. Using the knowledge attained, the women, young girls and old women from Acaba Sub County in Oyam District are accumulating money through saving. She testifies that life has improved since she joined the group.

Christine borrowed and got a loan of 900,000/= (nine hundred thousand shilling only) and used it for simsim growing in 20 hectares of land. She also bought some goats for rearing. She has been able to do a number of things from the profit of simsim. Abang Christine says that she is not a beggar any more, she no longer takes loans because the money she gets from simsim is enough to cater for all her needs. She has built a permanent house and says her children are studying in good school. The challenges she faces is that land is not enough for both farming and animal rearing and the unfavourable weather that sometimes affect her farming activities.

Abang Christine's advice to women. 'Women should not depend on their husbands but they should do something, especially farming as one of the solutions to reduce poverty and improve the status of living in their respective families.

Story 2. Akello Dorcus: Dorcus is 37 years with 03 children. She is from Anyek Parish, Acaba Sub County, Oyam District. She was mobilised by UCAA and joined Oporiwegi Women's Group. She has learnt a lot from a number of capacity building trainings conducted by UCAA.

Dorcus' saving culture has improved, she says before she never used to save, but after the trainings, she is focused and plans for every money she gets. She takes loans and has put up a number of projects including rearing cattle, making bricks from home and she is constructing a permanent house at the moment.

Akello Dorcus with her cows, and working together with her husband to put up a permanent brick house- December 2017.



Akello Dorcus with her cows, and working together with her husband to put up a permanent brick house- December 2017.

Project 2. Children At Risk Project (CaR) (Implemented in Karamoja, Napak District)

UCAA ended the second year of implementation for the Children at Risk project.

UCAA is a lead agency in the CaR consortium, leading five other implementing partners which include; Dwelling Places (DP), Katakwi Children's Voice (KCV), Cooperation and Development (C&D), Katwe Youth Development Association (KAYDA) and Karamoja Integrated Development Programme (KIDEP). So far, the project has ended the second year of implementation and has one more year to implement before a general and detailed evaluation is done. However, this reports includes only UCAA activities.

During the year under review (2017), the climate in Karamoja sub region was favourable. The region experienced two seasons of rainfall and the indigenous people have been fully involved in agriculture, unlike the previous year (2016). This has led to increase of food amounts in households as well as practicing growing of different types of food, hence improved food security in homes and reduced malnutrition levels basically for children. The community has put into use the knowledge and inputs they received from CaR partners, especially in the area of improved livelihoods and improved agriculture practices. This has enabled the integrated families to cultivate as stimulating initiatives on income generating activities.

The CaR partners have joined hands with the stakeholders in Karamoja to provide basic education for the integrated children, provide medical care, provide rehabilitation services, and provide capacity building to the resettled households as well as resolving the land conflict issues within the community.

UCAA was able to implement the planned activities and recorded some achievements as below;

Objective 1: Children's out-migration from Napak district reduced through responsive community and local government structure.

- 68 local leaders (47 males and 21 female) including police officers were sensitised about the objectives of CaR consortium in Napak District
- 20 (4 Female and 16 Male) media representatives sensitised and trained regarding Gender based violence and child out-migration in Napak district
- Objective 2: To increase sustainable access to basic social services (including education, health, water and sanitation) and knowledge on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and awareness of women's rights, children, and their families in Napak District

Outputs.

- A total of 582 parents (331 Male and 251 Female) participated in positive parenting and legal clinics awareness meetings and acquired knowledge on how to take care of their families
- 50 children from Lokopo and Matany Sub counties were mobilised by UCAA and participated in the international day for the girl Child as well as Independence Day.
- A total of 60 girls from Longalom primary school in Lokopo SC and Kokorio Primary school in Matany SC got skills on menstrual hygiene and making their own re-used sanitary pads
- 120 pupils received scholastic materials from UCAA, 41 from Kokorio primary school and 79 pupils from Longalom primary school in Napak District.
- A total of 80 community leaders (21 Female and 59 Male) were trained on how to report gender based violence issues within their communities

Objective 3: To strengthen sustainable livelihood options that are adaptable to the Karamoja climatic and cultural context

- 55 participants (32 Female and 23 Male) attended a Village Savings and Loan Association training at Kangole C.O.U
- 55 people (34 Female and 21 Male) participated in the residential training about entrepreneurship and enterprise selection which lasted for three days at Kangole Church of Uganda
- 26 teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs) (7 Female and 19 Male) were trained as VSLA agents in their schools
- 14 children (5 boys and 9 girls) between the ages of 14 – 17 years were trained in VSLA and enterprise selection. They came up with different business plans accordingly and UCAA provided them with start-up items basing on their selected enterprises. 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.
- UCAA supported the running of 3 (three) Radio jingles on Nenah FM radio based in Moroto district. The Jingles and talk shows were putting emphasis on ending domestic Violence through positive parenting thus elimination of children out migration. This was moved by child protection and family unit officer of Napak district and one senior change agent member in Napak.
- UCAA organized and conducted a Financial and Grant Management Skills Training for CaR partners which was at Kayegi Hotel in Mbale district. It was attended by finance officers and administrators.
- UCAA conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation Training for CaR partners, 12 participants attended, 7 males, 5 female
- UCAA contributed and participated in the joint activity that was conducted at Napak district headquarters
- UCAA participated jointly with CaR partners and the Karamojong leaders from Kampala and visited the families that were reintegrated back in Karamoja.
- 5 (five) Village Change Agent Trainings (VCAT) were conducted. A total of 91 (female 58, male 33) care givers and 37 (females 29, males 8) children attended the trainings from four different sub counties.
- UCAA conducted a Lobby and Advocacy training for 12 (Twelve) CaR partners (7 males and 5 female)
- UCAA conducted a financial and grant management training for CaR partners for 12 (Twelve) people
- Also conducted a forum for Karamajong leaders including those from Katwe and Kisenyi in Kampala to design a way forward for street children from Karamoja
- UCAA visited re-integrated families with CaR partners and Karamajong leaders
- UCAA organized a learning trip for Ugandan CaR partners. They travelled to Kenya visited and shared experiences with Kenyan CaR partners found in the western part of Kenya.

UCAA SUPPORTS DIFFERENT CARETAKERS WITH SPECIFIC IGA INPUTS IN NAPAK DISTRICT – KARAMOJA REGION

- Under objective three, UCAA has identified a number of young boys and girls who are at a risk of unsafe outmigration, while others have been intercepted and resettled from the streets. These boys and girls were given a chance to make choices of their favourite income generating activities where some of the girls were interested in running saloon. Some of the youth joined groups and received several trainings from UCAA and have also benefitted through utilizing the loans and have established businesses. Below are the human-interest stories of the different enterprises.

1) A Salon Enterprise

Nakiru Betty, (above photo) is a mother of one child, she was intercepted, trying to board a bus from Iriiri Trading Centre with other colleagues to travel to Kampala due to peer pressure. She has been empowered by UCAA, in different training programs like entrepreneurship, enterprise selections, village change agent training and village savings and loan associations (VSLA). Among the enterprises, her interest was in salon management, hence UCAA decided to support her fully with all the necessary inputs she needed to start as seen in the picture above. The sub county officials were present and witnessed the handover.



Nakiru Betty as she received salon items to start up with from UCAA

2) Craft and Bead Business

Logono Betty, is a hardworking orphan, committed to take care of her siblings. She deals in hand craft material business and needed more support to boost her craft business. UCAA identified her from the community through UCAA change agents. She has been trained on different programs like village change agent training, gender issues, village savings and loan association, entrepreneurship skills, improved agricultural practices and enterprise specific selection, that has equipped her with more skills and knowledge. Since Logono is still young and looking after her young siblings, UCAA decided to involve her for support in order to protect her and the young children. This is to prevent against unsafe out migration from Napak to other cities in Uganda. She has become an ambassador and a role model for other young people in her community. Longonos received recognition from UCAA and the Sub County Chief in Lire. She has been rewarded with items such as



Nakiru Betty as she received salon items to start up with from UCAA

included beads, masai clothes, strings, wood glue, wires, scissors, paper glue, etc. to support her business.

3) Local Brew (Cassava and Sorghum) and Sunflower:-

From the left is **Abraham Loiria, Akongo Siaria, Lochora Sarah, Achia Mary and Akello Hellen** pose for a photo next to their items including the Iriiri Sub County Chief and UCAA program Officer at the back, they have also been involved in different other trainings with UCAA including VSLA, enterprise selections, entrepreneurship skills etc. Abraham was supported by retail trade items and sacks of soghum, sun flower and cassava for brewing.



4) A Group Craft Business

The group is located at Lorengecora town council, it has 30 members (17 Male and 13 Female), Who were trained on village change agents followed by several trainings in savings and loans. In addition skills in entrepreneurship and gender issues were given to the group.

The group produces hand crafts materials and endeavor for sell and profiting. UCAAs support to youth groups has encouraged young people in the community and reduced the syndrome of un-necessary out migration and makes the hand craft materials and endeavor to sell together for more profit. This has really encouraged the young people to work hard and reduced the syndrome of unnecessary out migration.



In the above photo, Members of Lorengecora Progressive Savings group receive a support of items for the hand craft business

Objective 4: To provide cost-effective and sustainable rescue, rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration services for children living or working on the streets

In the efforts of resettling children from the streets, UCAA encourages and involves them in capacity building activities as seen in the stories. A number of young people have benefitted from the trainings offered as shown in the stories below.

1.0) Lilly Loumo, a 22-year-old girl, is a member of Lorengecora progressive VSLA group, found in Lorengecora town council. She has benefitted from being a member of the savings group that was initiated by UCAA. The group was taken through Village Change Agent Training plus other trainings like entrepreneurships, VSLA training and enterprise selection. Lilly fully attended all the trainings that were facilitated.

In their group, it's a mandate for every member to take a loan and either start up a business or do construction work. She took a loan of UGX 100,000/= (One hundred thousand shillings) and she was able to put up a grass thatched house. She is very proud that she has shelter and has a plan of starting a small business for income in the near future.



The above picture shows Lilly Loumo and in the background is her house.

1.1) **Lokee Samuel Agan, 21-year-old**, young man, from Lorengecora Sub County is a member of Lorengecora Progressive savings group located within Lorengecora Town council, Napak district. He took a loan of UGX 200,000/= (Two hundred thousand shillings) and started a salon. He also bought a small solar panel and the shaving machine. Right now, he is able to earn income for himself and is paying back the loan in instalments. His business is located at Namendera Trading Centre. He has seen his life change since the time he was trained through village change agent training and attended several more trainings with UCAA. He is also privileged to be the secretary of Lorengecora Progressive savings group.



Samuel Lokee handling a customer at his Saloon in Namandela Trading Centre.

1.2) **Longoli Santina 29-year-old mother**, she is a member of Kololo serious savings group, found in Matany sub county within the trading centre. She really appreciated the effort UCAA has put to see that their livelihoods improved, with the use of resources within their reach.

Santina is the treasurer of the savings group, she got a loan of UGX 100,000/= of which she used some for paying school fees and put some aside to start a business. She bought groundnuts and grinded them, she sells the groundnut paste, tomatoes and onions to supplement what her husband brings home.



The extreme above photo shows Santina Longoli at her business within Matany trading centre, In Yellow is Apio Madelina organizing her Sorghum in stock as she waits for a good market.

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

UCAA conducted a training on backyard gardening in order to improve nutritional levels at household level especially for children within the integrated families at Apeitolim Parish, Lokopo Sub County, Napak district. The training involved the best practices of handling seeds, the planting, weeding, harvesting and maintaining the gardens fresh. The families were also provided with improved seeds by UCAA.

The above shows the vegetable gardens at the home of Lochure Marikol. UCAA did not find him at home at the time of visit, however, he had done some as seen above, in Nakoreto Village. In other activities, UCAA supported Longalom Primary School with talking compounds. This was upon request by the school for important messages that will help to communicate and shape the children to keep required behaviours.



The above shows the vegetable gardens at the home of Lochure Marikol. UCAA did not find him at home at the time of visit, however, he had done some as seen above, in Nakoreto Village.

Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) as a lead partner for the Children at Risk (CaR) consortium together with the implementing partners organized and conducted a joint monitoring exercise from 10th – 13th October 2017. Six partners participated with a representation of one staff each, UCAA had two staff involved in the exercise, the M&E Officer and the Project Officer. The exercise was successful. Reference is made to the Joint Monitoring report for details and the Mid-term output summary report.



The above photo shows the installed messages (Talking Compound) supported by UCAA in the compound of Longalom Prima-



Activities conducted during the back home campaign in Napak District Subcounties

OTHER SUCCESS STORIES

BACKHOME STAYHOME CAMPAIGN

UCAA and the partners of CaR consortium, in conjunction with Napak district local government leadership successfully. Conducted a back home and stay home campaign, In the photo above left is the LC V while on the right above is the RDC Napak district. the campaign took place in the most affected Sub Counties of Matany, Lopeei, Lokopo, Lorengecora and Iriiri. During the campaign there were testimonies from the integrated caretakers and young ones on how life was while in Kampala and how they have found life back at home, educative songs were sung encouraging caretakers to take children to school than child labour, which affects the future of children.

Challenges

- 1) Some roads become impassable as seen above on our way to Apeitolim Parish, Lokopo Sub County in Karamoja.
- 2) The long distances within the sub counties sometimes limits the timing and punctuality within the UCAA area of operation



Lessons learned

The local government leadership of Napak District has inadequate funding for interception of children most of the time they call partners to provide them with fuel and for monitoring purposes

There is too much internal migration within the region of Karamoja, making it difficult to keep track of some integrated families and you find that the local council does not know their whereabouts and due to lack of local council register about the people staying in that village

It was a rainy season, but due to lack of knowledge about water harvest, it was all wasted rain water, that would have been tapped and used later for backyard garden irrigation to be able to cultivate more food crop at household level to help boost the nutrition levels of children

Lessons learnt and recommendations from the joint monitoring for CaR Partners

- Reports should be shared right from baseline reports with the Districts departments periodically as recommended by the CAO – Napak
- Always consider provision of quality services. For example, for the Early Child Development Centers to be in place, the necessary facilities should be available e.g. shelter, latrines and trained teachers.
- CaR partners need to harmonize where they have same activities in the same area to avoid double counting and clashing, for example provision of talking compounds by two partners in the same school, though reported to be funded by a different donor, not ICCO Cooperation
- It is a good practice to carry out joint monitoring exercises because gaps can easily be identified
- The M&E system should reach on ground on a quarterly basis to document progress
- It would be good for children supported in school to be in boarding section since some of them are denied going to school on a daily basis to do home activities and do garden work

Project 3. Media Focus on Africa.

Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) implements a Conflict Transformation and Edutainment Project on behalf of Media Focus on Africa (MFA). MFA is Funded and Supported by European Union, in partnership with ICCO Cooperation and DOEN stitching.

UCAA has held a number of community dialogues including intercultural dialogues, aiming at harmonising families and communities. Some of the causes of conflicts in these communities include; Misunderstanding in the family, Drunkenness, Legitimate children, 'Wrong' advice from a woman, Land conflict, None Forgiving, Lack of money, Love or affair outside marriage.

The intervention has been of great impact in the communities of Northern Uganda. A number of reconciliations has been reached to and people have resorted to living in harmony in some of the communities. There is evidence that people can be able to work together regardless of their cultural difference; an example is Karamela, Otim and Logit from different cultural backgrounds, who was used not to agree with each other, but they are now working together in the community. They raised their cultural differences and land conflicts, but after UCAA with MFA intervened, they are the moral yard stick for the community.



Community members of Aromo Sub County in Lira District during intercultural community dialogues

Project 4. Self Help Group Approach (SHG).

Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) in partnership with Kindernothilfe (KNH) implements a Self Help Group Approach in Agago District, Adilang Sub County. The partnership started in September 2017 and UCAA is still in the initial stages as the year ends. An inception meeting was held with Adilang Sub County officials, Local leaders as well as Agago district leaders.

A transect walk and mapping of the community was done and members selected themselves and formed six groups, for the purpose of launching the project.



The above photos show the community of Adilang Sub County in Agago District during selection of the SHG women to be taken up in the project.

Project 5. Disaster Risk Reduction project (Acting Against Disaster Risks)

UCAA with the European Union aid hosts two European Union Volunteers. The volunteers shall be with UCAA for one year. Their main area of focus is Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

A number of activities has been conducted regarding sharing information about disasters and hazards and designing possible solutions to mitigate and avoid them. The EU volunteers have conducted several trainings and held community meetings with the UCAA staff, Board of Directors, Change Agents, Local leaders and the people in the community as seen below;

a) Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction for UCAA board members

On December 7th 2017, the EU Aid Volunteers Hodan Ismael Mohamed and Anna Ruerup were introduced to the UCAA board of directors and facilitated a one day workshop covering the basics of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.



UCAA staff and BOD members during a training in DRR

b) DRR Intervention in Kasese – Western Uganda.

UCAA Team and the EU Volunteers visited Kasese District in Western Region, Uganda as part of in-country induction. The UCAA Team was facilitating a learning workshop for the Change Agents in Westerns Region at Bukonzo Joint. During this mission the Volunteers interacted with UCAA staff, Change Agents and interviewed members of local community, a district government official and a journalist at the local radio. The purpose was to get a snapshot about the hazards, vulnerabilities and exiting effort in Kasese district. Other DRR trainings were also conducted in South-western Uganda. More trainings will be conducted in 2018.



Change Agents of South Western Uganda during DRR Training



Information collected.

In May 2013 the rivers in Kasese district bursted their bank causing flooding in Kilembe, Kasese town and the surrounding villages as a result of heavy rains. The disaster resulting into the death of eight persons, destruction of property and displacement of person in the affected areas. Since then the Government of Uganda (Department of Disasters Preparedness and Management Nation Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre) together with international partners developed an emergency response and recovery plan. The aim is to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience to possible disasters.

It was noted that Kasese district is highly prone to landslides and floods. Also hazards such as prolonged sunshine, hell-stone and storms are common in the district.

The affected sectors of the hazards and their consequences include;

- Agriculture - creating food insecurity
- Negative impact on harvesting, death of crops (banana, meze, beans and coffee).
- Affecting livelihoods (loss of livestock and crops)
- Infrastructure: Destruction of bridges, roads and communication (limiting access to affected areas)
- Destruction of houses resulting in displacement (603 persons in 2013 and 100 in 2017)
- Affected social services especially health (Hospital in Klimebe flooded), water & sanitation and education – schools were destroyed.

Efforts:

The plan by the government seeks to enhance resilience, rebuilding and restore livelihoods. Moreover, to enhance early warning systems on natural disasters in the district. Initiative take and in process: Reforestation: Tree planting in the hills.

The Kilembe Mine Hospital post flooding in 2013, also led to the development of an evacuation plan. UCAA Trained farmers efforts

Bukonzo joint Cooperation has since 2012 had a climate change adaptation unit where measures towards climate change are taken. For instance, Hell- stones: provision of shades to farmers in the cooperation to mitigate against death of crops. Moreover, farmers are given training on irrigation systems. These members adopted the change agent methodology and have been able to progress since then.

UCAA shall support the Governments recovery plan as they implement the DRR interventions. Church of Uganda is already a partner operating in Kasese District with a EUVA on DRR. Therefore UCAA shall coordinate with them to operate in Western Region for better results.

Recommendation

There is need to train the Kasese community in DRR plans following the government plan.

c) DRR Intervention in Karamoja

EU aid Volunteers and UCAA Team were in Karamoja Region. The team was able to talk to four local government officials, Mary Agan Apuun, DCDO of Napak District, Jeremiah John Lodung Okol (lodungokoljoh36@yahoo.co.uk; 0772491230), Chairman of the District Disaster Management Committee and Timothy Correano, Chief Administrative Officer of Napak district. An interview tool was used . The following are the main findings of these interviews:

Napak district has a District Disaster Management Committee in place. This committee includes all partners

active in disaster management in the district and receives support from Save the Children. Disaster Management Committees are also supposed to be active at the sub-county level, but currently these exist only at the district level.

The district level has had some capacity strengthening in DRR issues and has a contingency plan which is currently at draft stage. However, limited resources remain a challenge, particularly for reducing climate related risks. Suggested actions include: Sensitisation, energy saving stoves, tree planting, dry lands integrated projects, fencing, cross-breeding of livestock and introduction of new crop types.

Other measures taken often in partnership with NGOs include encouraging farmers to stop cutting down trees and plant woodlots. Early warning information is there, but not adequate and more importantly not reaching the communities.

d) Introduction to Disaster Risk Reduction in for change agents in Northern Uganda

From Thursday February 8th to Friday February 9th an introductory workshop on disaster risk reduction was took place at the Agenda 501 Hotel in Lira, Northern Uganda. This workshop covered the basic concepts of disaster risk reduction and introduced participants to the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology – a method for carrying out participatory risk assessments and action planning to reduce disaster risk with community members. The participants of the workshop included 20 Change Agents from the Northern Region, 2 local government officials and the UCAA Project Officer for the Northern Region and was facilitated by the EU Aid Volunteers Hodan Ismail Mohamed and Anna Ruerup.



Other Activities

- UCAA staff and BOD conducted a planning meeting in 2017. The aim of the meeting was to design the UCAA 2017 annual work plan in consideration of the revised strategic plan 2017 – 2019 and it was successful.
- During 2017, four BOD meetings were held and action plans designed and followed
- UCAA held a number of networking meetings and mobilisation meetings with change agents in Lira, Napak, Yumbe and Arua regarding membership issues
- UCAA conducted capacity building trainings for staff under the CaR project including the M&E training, Child Protection Training and security training.