End of Year 1 Project Narrative Report.

Project Name:	Climate Innovations for Resilience in Karamoja and Kyangwali (CLIRK)
Project Duration:	1st October 2023 to 30th September 2025
Implementing Organization(s):	Uganda Change Agent Association
Granting Agency:	Care International in Uganda
Project Location(s):	Karamoja districts of Kotido (Maaru Sub County), and Karenga (Kapedo Sub County).
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Date of Report Submission:	21th October 2024

1. Executive Summary:

Provide a concise overview of the project's objectives, key achievements, and challenges. This section should summarize the project's impact and any recommendations/best practices for future programming.

The overall objective of the programme in Karamoja is ***"inclusive, sustainable and productive valley dams as drivers of increased drought resilience of pastoralists and agro pastoralists in the districts of Kotido, and Karenga"***. Key achievements were focusing on OUTCOME 1 and 2: of Capacity of pastoralists and agro- pastoralists to anticipate, absorb and adapt to drought related shocks strengthened. And Increased support and response by relevant actors in addressing the needs of valley dam user groups: As listed below.

35 women leaders and 50 role model men (RMM) were identified and trained; they represented and sensitized the community members who participated in all the project activities. The RMM and Women leaders also participated in advocacy for the community.
Winning confidence and participation of the local leaders in the sub-counties, where they specifically attached themselves on to follow up of particular action points to the sub county offices, communities and district leaders after some trainings, for example participation in community sensitizations on uptake of the innovations around the valley dams.

There has been an improvement in shared gender roles among families, and women leaders are currently participating freely in decisions making at household and community levels. There has been an increase school enrolment rate of children also attributed to sensitizations of women leaders and role model men. The role model men and women leaders also grouped themselves and stared VSLA groups for saving, this has improve on their self-reliance, confidentiality due to the regular meetings they conduct.

Developed Climate adaptation action plans (CAAPs) for Kotido, with participation from community members, district, sub county stakeholders and likeminded CSOs.

The activities implemented strengthened the capacities of districts of Karenga, and Kotido districts in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and SGBV aspects. This resulted into the review of the local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans based on a climate sensitive Vulnerability Capacity Assessment, hence enhancing their decision making for disaster preparedness in the two districts of Kotido and Karenga.
Functionality of community early warning systems has been strengthened through meetings with the stakeholders, use of traditional knowledge, local radio talk shows and community meetings.
In addition, There is an increased knowledge and skills on aspects of DRR and SGBV, and awareness of climate DRR and SGBV in collaboration with key project stakeholders such as the District leadership, District Disaster Management Committee, water user committees, role model men, women leaders who were supported to temporarily integrate SGBV and DRR aspects

without losing their own cultural identity since interrelated legal, economic, social and cultural dimensions were taken into consideration. It is noted that throughout the implementation of these activities the project was built on existing venues and platforms to create avenues for a stronger dialogue that restored trust, promoted integration of DRR and SGBV aspects and allowed for the emergence of better ownership by local communities.

Engagement at multiple governance levels of influential stakeholders with an interest and prior experience in gender integration helped to facilitate harmonization, institutionalization, and scaling of gender mainstreaming activities and initiatives at different levels by influencing other actors thus, enhanced gender awareness and capacity development that has challenged gender stereotypes and got the stakeholders' buy in to the integration of gender in implementation of climate change adaptation strategies at the districts of Kotido and Karenga. The water user committees, and the DRM committees at sub county, and village level established a nursery bed of 300 cassia trees seedlings which they are going to transplant in their villages for restoration of lost trees due to practice of charcoal burning in their communities.

Based on the above lessons learnt, the following are some of the recommendations;
Care International in Uganda together with UCAA and solution partners should consider a project extension to allow completion of all the planned activities and consolidation of more results and plan for a better phase-out of the Project.

UCAA will continue nurturing the partnership of the established structures like water management committees, Parish and village level disaster risk management committees, role model men and women leaders, and user groups, the Local leaders, Stakeholders, Change agents, and the project team for continued and consistent support.

The practise of sensitizing local, cultural and political leader of the importance of gender mainstreaming brought about already established structures like Water management and Disaster risk reduction committees enrolling females into the structures, as well as assigning them roles.

It should be noted that the Innovation partners (ATEI, FARM AFRICA and KAYESE) for Karamoja came in late; as a result some activities were not implemented, since they needed the Innovations to have started by their phases in the community. Those activities were delayed and spilled over into the following year as listed below:

1. Identifying the facilitators at the district, Sub- County, and train those on how to develop the Climate adaptation Action Plans (CAAPs) in relation to the issues obtained from the ICVCA in Karenga.
2. Conduct 2 community meetings in Karenga with 60 participants each to develop CAAPs in each
3. A validation meeting for the CAAPs with relevant stakeholder (Community representatives- in Kapedo, district, sub-county and relevant partners.
4. Mapping and profiling actors in relation to CAAPS

5. Hold consultative meetings with PDM Dept to establish the available opportunity and find out how our key issues in the CAAPs can be addressed with support of PDM.
6. Look for any existing opportunity from different actors in relation to CAAPs (Partners, Local government, etc) and empower community change agents to front them.
7. Support the documentation of the identified best practices and share the lessons learnt. – Karenga
8. Identify and map likeminded actors within the Local Governments and responsible ministries, departments and agencies who can support in advocacy on key issues in the CAAPs and innovative solutions – Karenga
9. Follow-up with CSOs and climate actors to establish progress in terms of advocacy to climate issues and best practices.

There is need to ensure that the previously developed CAAPs document in Kotido is upheld and fully taken up by the private sector , Local government , Linked minded Ministry, CSOs and community members to achieve its efficiency and effectiveness to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change crisis. As well as develop CAAPs for Karenga while supporting the Innovation solutions for resilience.

Some of the encountered challenges were: the late coming of the Innovation partners affected some activities' implementation.
Delayed disbursement of Funds which caused a standstill of implementation activities for some months

2. Introduction:

- **Project Background:**
  Briefly describe the context and need for the project

Karamoja region in Uganda is a predominantly pastoralist area with the main source of livelihood being livestock and seasonal crop production. Like the rest of the world's experience in global warming, Karamoja has experienced a growing trend of prolonged droughts resulting in acute scarcity of water, food and pasture. Between March and July 2022, the region suffered acute food insecurity and all the nine districts of the region were classified as phase 3 (Crisis) of the acute food insecurity classifications (IPC AFI), affecting about 41% of the population.
According to the project baseline study conducted by CARE, in 2022, decrease in food yield, failed harvests and death of livestock were mentioned as the three most experienced climate shocks in the last five years within the districts of Kotido, and Karenga with women/girls, youth and children being the most affected populations in these crisis, hence being the project target population.
Along with disasters of climate change, Karamoja has suffered with internal and external insecurities, despite the government initiatives that have been put in place, the region still remains insecure for economic development as a result of increase in incidences of livestock raiding. In a November 2022 real time review of the humanitarian crisis in Karamojai, livestock

theft, commercial raiding, and associated insecurity were sighted by communities and the most important hazards, followed by agricultural drought.

The program in Karamoja therefore was targeted to address the key challenge of drought, which continued to negatively impact food security at household level, health of livestock, and consequently income security and peace in Karamoja region.

The approach to building drought resilience is a two-fold; the program developed, is testing and later intends to scale innovative solutions for effective and sustainable utilization of valley dams in Karamoja, as a means for strengthening drought resilience of water dependent communities. In doing so, the program developed and intended to scale a model for inclusive and sustainable water landscapes in dry land areas, which could be adapted, replicated, and scaled in other dry land areas. The program intended to catalyze local climate adaptation actions through facilitation and implementation of Climate Adaptations Action Plans in selected parishes of Rutom, Kalimon and Maaru, and Kapedo sub counties of targeted districts of Kotido and Karenga. Impact of these interventions would be multiplied through documentation, packaging and dissemination of lessons, and good practices, promoting local participation in sub national, national, regional, and global climate discourses, and using evidence from local actions to influence policy, legislation and strategies at all these levels.

- **Project goal and specific objectives:**
  Outline the overall goal and specific objectives of the project.

The overall goal of the project

The overall objective of the programme in Karamoja is "inclusive, sustainable and productive valley dams as drivers of increased drought resilience of pastoralists and agro pastoralists in the districts of Kotido, and Karenga".

Specific objectives of the project

1. Increased support and response by relevant actors in addressing the needs of valley dam user groups.
2. Capacity of pastoralists and agro- pastoralists to anticipate, absorb and adapt to drought related shocks strengthened.

Highlight the organization approaches implemented and how it aligns to the project goal and objectives.

UCAA operated within the key implementation strategy, and below is an alignment with the CLIRK project goal and objectives.

1. Capacity-building and awareness rising: the project involved capacity building of the beneficiaries and established structures that is: Water management committees, Disaster risk reduction management committee, Role model men and women leaders, district and

sub county stakeholders as well as like mind CSOs. With this the community (pastoralists and agro- pastoralists) were sensitized, informed to anticipate, prepare to climate related shocks and eventually adapt to achieve and sustain resilience in the community.

2. Community Empowerment: Community led advocacy for sustainability purposes as well as encouraging social inclusion: UCAA has an in-built strategy of training community Change Agent all over the county, these are community members that can describe and give informed decision within their community, along with the community change agent play a big role to influence mindset set change since they operate within their people. In addition, there was significantly high element of commitment among the beneficiaries who have undergone several stages of interaction with the Capacity building offered and sensitizations for uptake and sustainability of the project interventions.
3. Human Rights-Based Approach to development (HRBA):
   UCAA intentionally target populations are the Rights holders including: women, children, youth, and the disabled and marginalized communities. Duty bearers include both civil and moral duty bearers. Central government ministries, District and Lower Local Governments and Politicians and the other Duty bearers are: Donor/INGOs, Development partners, local and national CSO, Development Consultants, traditional/religious leaders. Of which all the above are the main targeted populations of the project to achieve support and response by relevant actors in addressing the needs of valley dam user groups for inclusive, sustainable and productive valley dams as drivers of increased drought resilience of pastoralists and agro pastoralists in Karamoja?
4. Gender and HIV/AIDS mainstreaming:
   To achieve *an empowered and self-reliant society living in harmony with dignity, UCAA ensured gender equality and fairness in its project implementation approaches, these contributed to the project's inclusivity hence aiming at sustainability of the communities'* productive use of valley dams to address drought, and improve food production.
5. Building networks/consultation mechanisms: The continuous involvement of the sub-county and District local government staff particularly in monitoring and training made them to become part and parcel of the project.

3.1 Project activities implemented, and the results of the different outcomes based on the activities implemented:

Describe key activities implemented during the reporting period. Use the following guiding questions to focus the description:

Guiding questions:

- *Which key activities have the project implemented, provide all the required disaggregation as much as possible, i.e. (sex, district, region etc.)?*

Activities implemented	Results /Achievements
Conducted baseline survey and reporting covered the three (02) districts of Kotido and Karenga.	The status of knowledge on whether climate change is affecting their community, 100% of the respondents in Karamoja region indicated that climate change was affecting their community. The capacity of local organizations and structures to take action to address climate change, the majority of respondents in Karamoja (85%) agreed that there was nothing they could do about it
Entry meetings at District Level to identify action on DCP in Kotido and Karenga Districts.	22 Participants (6 Females & 16 Males). Introducing the project (CLIRK) to the stakeholders of Karenga and Kotido district local government for them to get key project insights and reviewed the District Disaster Contingency Plan and came up with the action plan to support the advocacy work for CARE and UCAA.
11.5. Conduct a meeting to review the district hazards and risk profiles and come up with action plans.	9 (05 Females and 04 Males) participants reached. This was aimed at reviewing the profile of hazards for Karenga and Kotido districts and come up with the new profile of the hazards that currently are facing districts. In attendance were the members of the district disaster risk management committee for Kotido and Karenga districts and the staff of UCAA. The hazards affecting the two districts are known and other development partners can build on the CLIRK project work to design other appropriate interventions.
Revised UCAA DRR training curriculum and manual-	01 Training manual was reviewed and aapproved by Management.
16.1 Conduct meetings with key stakeholders to develop a strategy and themes for awareness creation on GBV and DRR	48 stakeholders (19 Females and 29 Males). Key stakeholders participated: the departments of Natural Resource, Production, Environment, and Gender among others, and UCAA documented Strategies and themes to be used for awareness creation on GBV and DRR. Activity implemented successfully.
16.2 Conducted an assessment to identify	5 Radio stations (03 Karenga, 02 Kotido) where assessed in the process and a List of appropriate media selected.

media to disseminate information on DRR and GBV.	The selected radio stations are Etoil A Karamoja FM for Karamoja (Karenga and Kotido). The radio stations where assessed in the process and each radio station was given full understanding of its programs, the station Organogram, the listenership, coverage, Price Rates, audio quality, location for security purposes, among others.
16.4 Conducted awareness creation through community sensitization, radio talk shows, art (MDD), and brochures.	Awareness creation on DRR and GBV was conducted through radio talk shows. The listeners had some knowledge about SGBV and DRR evidenced by the calls being made during the radio talk show. Radio talk shows covered larger audience including outside the project scope. And the community gained knowledge on climate change issues affecting their particular region and the relation to climate justice.
17. Support design, lay out and production of documented evidences and best practices on climate and humanitarian action from CSOs, CBOs, activists, start-ups, media coalitions and networks.. (IECs Materials	Data was collected from the District leadership, Technical staff and the solution partners. Best practice identified included; Building Household Resilience through Access to Credit using, Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs), Greening Humanitarian Response through establishment of woodlots, greening humanitarian response through fuel-saving stoves, building climate resilience through cash for Work, Enhancing Climate Risk Management through Micro Irrigation System, Assess local participation in sub-national, national, regional, and global climate discourses.
20.1 Mapping and profiling of CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups, media coalitions and networks focused on climate and humanitarian action.	28 CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups, media coalitions and networks mapped and profiled. The CSOs and CBOs, start –ups, media coalitions and networks mapped and profiled focused on climate and humanitarian action in order to strengthen their adaptive capacity of existing spaces and improve on collaboration and networking in the districts of Karenga and Kotido.
21.7 Design of IEC Materials with advocacy massages to address the project objectives 220 Wall Calendars, 02 sign posts and 03 Workshop Pull up Banners.	Wall Calendars and table calendars for 2024 were produced with advocacy Messages and were all distributed to Stakeholders. 2 sign posts for Kotido were installed. 2 workshop pull up Banners were produced for Karenga and Kotido all with advocacy Messages. Plus T-shirts and cloth bags, as visibility materials for the CLIRK project,

	symbolizing CARE Ugandan and Denmark as well as UCAA' presence in Karenga and Kotido districts.
1:1 Conduct desk review to identify key issues highlighted in the ICVCA report and summarize them.	2 desk reviews conducted in Kotido and Karenga to identify key issues highlighted in the ICVCA report and summarized. Key issues summarized supported in developing Innovation focused Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis. This fostered the development of the community adaptation action plans (CAAPs) in Kotido and Ideation solutions to respond to the climate change challenges in the project area.
1:1 Conduct identification of representatives of Disaster Risk management committees at the parish and village level. Training for the identified DRR representatives in DRR and Early warning signs/systems Follow-up of the trained groups (identified DRR representatives at Parish and village level in DRR and Early warning signs/systems) to established progress and performance.	Two (02) identification exercises were conducted in Kotido and Karenga districts. 32 (20M & 12F) representatives (Parish Chief, LC2, and Village LC1s, VHTs,) of Disaster Risk management committees at the parish and village level were identified Capacities built in DRR and Early warning Signs. (Skills of the representatives who have key DRM responsibilities develop at the Parish and community levels in DDR and early warning signs). 32 (18 M, 14 F) DRMC Committees in Kotido and Karenga districts started disseminating weather forecast/ Early warning signs in the communities. **Achievements of DRMC in term of lobbying for support from the district stakeholders: as UCAA is yet to follow up on the feedback from the sub county and the DRMC on the lobbied issues below.** The DRMC reported to have lobbied to the sub-county: to support them with more water sources to reach their villages, so that they would be able to use it to water their vegetables more so those who are distant from the valley dams. They also requested the sub-county to simplify the monthly Weather forecast/ Early warning system messages produced by FAO in to the local language, since its technically detailed and quite challenging for them while they are disseminating to the community. The DRMC continued to lobby from the sub county to have frequent refresher training on

	their roles. In Kotido some CLIRK project farmers'/user groups have taken up the innovations/communications from FAO weather forecasts and bulleting of vegetable crop growing and tree planting, the use of small scale irrigation technologies for watering the land for vegetable gardens was efficient and it was applied on the already planted tree species around the dam, the technology was employed to address the challenge of low rainfall. Advocacy skills were gained by the participant where: A female Agro pastoralist (VDMC) member from Itanyia cell who represented the LC1, Kalimon ward in performance assessment of VDMC event said that she reported the malfunction of one of their boreholes to the area LC1 hoping for it to be repaired and she also reported to the Parish chief of Kalimon ward some strange pests destroying crops in the community for early prevention a clear sign that the training conduct in DRR and early warning systems continued to be valid hence impacting positively in the lives of communities. A religious leader(pastoralist) who is trained as VDMC member reported that he sensitized his congregation from Kapedo catholic Mission in two church services on family planning (proper child spacing in families) as such, the rate of unwanted pregnancies has drastically dropped in Kapedo T/C. The chairperson (pastoralist) water management committee trained as VDMC reported that they establish their own demonstration garden after the training however, the solution partner decided to incorporate the demo garden including all the water management committee under their program making them to achieve the implementation of action plan. The secretary water management committee reported that road was opened as also one of the action plan for water management committee i.e (800-meter road from the main road to the valley dam as DRR.

Technical capacity building of staff of District Local Governments on climate change, disaster risk mitigation and adaptation and humanitarian action	49 (15 Females and 34 Males) DRMC was formed. Some of the action points that were derived and worked upon immediately after the training by the committee members were: Monthly community sensitizations on early warning systems, weather bulleting forecasts produced by FAO. This has been on-going on a weekly basis in Maaru Sub county and Kapedo Town council plus the neighboring home steads.
1:1 Identify the key stakeholders to engage in the valley dam assessment issues.	24 (07 F, 17 M) Key stakeholders identified to engage in the valley dam assessment issues in Karenga and Kotido districts. ***Achievements of the stakeholders engaged*** LC3 Chairperson of Maaru Sub County in their meetings committed that the Sub County will from time to time make efforts to follow up on the performances of the established committees to assess their performances, challenges and participated in deriving way forward in the utilization of the valley dam and when the resource base allows will as well support in maintaining and improving the access road to the valley dam to easy its access in the community. The committee led by chairperson including his executive, LC 1, 2 mobilized community members to open road to the valley dam. It was done as agreed on the action in June, and the second routine road maintenance was done on 22nd of September 2024. It was discovered that all the specific activities or action plans drafted or activities agreed upon by VDMC during the training were all implemented. For example, the sub county extension worker in charge of crop husbandry testified that each time he went for monitoring in Kalimon ward, he would always sensitize community members on good agronomic practices like early land preparation/planting, early & prompt weeding, pest and diseases control and post-harvest handling. The LC3 chairperson of Kapedo T/C shared an experience where he said, on three occasions where community members of Kalimon Ward invited him for some socio cultural events like marriage ceremonies & funeral rites and used those opportunities to update the community members on current weather/rain fall patterns provided by Uganda National Meteorological

	Authority both monthly and quarterly weather focus bulletin of Karamoja sub region shared through UCAA s project officer. He also added that he sensitized community members of Kalimon and other parts of the town council on disadvantages of too much selling of agricultural produce to middle men as remedy to famine. The LC3 also reported that as one of the action plans during the training in DRR & early warning systems conducted by the CLIRK project, he lobbied successfully from Uganda Wildlife Authority for more deployment of game rangers to protect the people of Kalimon ward crops from being destroyed by wild animals from Kidepo National park. Due to this the game rangers were deployed on ground to support the community from animals destroying their crops. The male LC1 of Loyoro cell in Kalimon ward shared an experience where he said; immediately after the training, he went and conducted a village meeting to sensitize his community members on the disadvantages of tree cutting, bush burning and swamp reclamation as a remedy to prolonged drought hence leading to reduction of cutting down of trees and bush burning in the ward.
2:1 Conduct dialogue meetings with key stakeholders at community, sub-county, district and national level on the identified valley dam issues.	38 (15F, 23M) participants reached in Kotido and Karenga districts with key stakeholders at community, sub-county, district and national level on the identified valley dam issues. Stakeholders identified key advocacy issues around the valley dam, Analyzed and developed the key advocacy and governance issues
3:1 Validation of water management committee in consultation with the community/local leaders and in close collaboration with the solution partners for Karamoja.	A total of 02 Validation exercises 18 (07 F & 11 M) participants were validated
	02 capacity building/training 18 (07F & 11M) participants reached. Water management committee members were assigned with roles and responsibilities. Improved governance in the maintenance of the valley dam, and sanitation and hygiene both

4:1 Capacity building of the water management committee and, Monitor and evaluate the performances of water management committees.	at the house hold and at the water source (Valley dam). **Achievements of Water management committee** The Water Management Committee engaged some community members and participated in the routine road maintenance of the road to Kayoliyoli Valley dam in Maaru Sub County, Kotido district. Water Management Committees coordinated with the Disaster risk management committee in setting up of tree nursery beds in Kayoliyoli village, Maaru Sub County as one of the action plans of the DRMC. The water management committee has continuously engaged the Sub county officials in their activities where the LC3 Chairperson of Maaru Sub County in their meetings committed that the Sub County will from time to time make efforts to follow up on the performances of the established committees to assess their performances, challenges, and participate in deriving way forward in the utilization of the valley dam and when the resource base allows will as well support in maintaining and improving the access road to the valley dam to easy its access in the community. The committee led by chairperson including his executive, LC 1, 2 mobilized community members to open road to the valley dam. It was done as agreed on the action in June, and the second routine road maintenance was done on 22nd of September 2024. The user group (water management committee) established 5 acres of land as demonstration garden near the valley dam which with mutual agreement was coordinated to the other innovation partner “Farm Africa” to grow vegetables for demonstrations. The water management committee together with role module men also took a remarkable step whereby they lobbied from their area woman member of parliament to clearing of two acre of land to grow some vegetables near the valley dam. Over the subsequent months the water management committee with role model men lobbied for vegetables seeds planted into the previously cleared two acres of land by their Area MP, 6 packets of watermelon seeds were delivered pending planting around the valley dam.

Monitor and evaluate the performance/activities of the water management committee in addressing the issues/gaps identified.	**Note**: An acre out of the two has been given to Role module men. The committee conducted meetings mainly to balance the number of women in the executives of the committee and about how the committee could establish a VSLA as a get together activity for the committee members. All these were achieved from the continuous lobbing by the water committee to their leaders and at the district and sub county stakeholders management. 24 (10 M, 14 M) Water management committee members were reached. With the increased advocacy for gender transformation on all project activities, the Water management committee in Maru sub-county Kotido, engaged 4 females to join the committee, as sensitized by the Project officer, there are also arrangements to sensitize the new females on their roles in the committee, in regards to water/valley dam management, and Gender transformation. The water management committee members reported that they alerted the UWA officials from Kidepo national park on the continuous threat paused by the crocodile (reptile) in the valley dam and later during the launch/handover of the valley dam event organized by solution partner ATEI, chief warden presented and then pledged to send the responsible officer to remove the reptile.
1:1 Identify the role model men and women leaders in relation to the selection criteria (community meeting). 2:1 Training of the role model men & women leaders.	299 (140 males & 159 females) community members were mobilized from 9 Villages around the Itanya-loyoro valley dam. 46 men and 4 aged (13-19) years youths, making 50 role model men identified 35 women leaders were identified. **Achievements of RMM and women leaders** Role model men conducted sensitizations for community meetings as one of their action plans drafted during training in the Engagement of Men and Boys and gender to communicate and

	sensitize the community against negative effects of Gender Based Violence in families. Although there was a low turn up of only 28 (12M & 16F) participants. They added that the sub topic for the meeting was negative effects of GBV in families. The meeting was conducted in Itanya village and it attracted community members from Itanya, Itanya south, Kanyakur, Loyoro and Napokolong villages, Kalimon parish, Kapedo T/C. The women leaders formed a drama group of 30, and they started drama practices communicating messages against GBV and promoting Gender equality. The women leaders formed a VSLA group of 30 members; they eventually split into 2 VSLA Groups: that is 15 per group for better management/coordination of their activities and savings. The 30 identified key representatives of the agro-pastoralists user groups (women and girls leaders) continued sensitizing fellow community members on what they learnt in the training, GBV, campaign for school dropout to go back to school, promote personal and home hygiene, human wild life conflict, among others. The same women and girls also reported that they performed using music dance and drama (MDD) during the official launch or handover of the valley dam by district leadership and UWA official from Kidepo national park on 6th of August 2024. The communication in their performance was on "how communities have suffered from animal problems" and with this performance the Chief Warden of Kidepo national park awarded them with UG shillings 150,000. 36 (32 F, 04 M) participants reached during the follow-up exercise. The purpose of the follow-up was to assess the performance and track progress of the key representatives on amplifying their voices on key issues in relation to training conducted in advocacy skills. Mobilized community of Kalimon ward to participate uptake innovative solutions for creating multipurpose and sustainable valley dams. This is evidenced with a total of 300 beneficiaries

	enrolled to the innovations by the solution partners. Improved Shared genders roles among the community members and women participate freely in decision making both in community meetings and in household levels. This Fostered unity and participatory decision making in the communities hence collectively work together which is very crucial for endorsement of innovative solutions, but also prioritizing the solutions for the benefit of the communities. The interventions of role module men through has led to increased new enrollment rate of pupils in schools with a total 120 (60 girls and 40 boy) new pupils enrolled. This is due to continues sensitization on the importance of school and mobilization of children to enroll in schools. Two VSLA groups established by the role model men which has been very effective to quickly influence the role model men towards a self-reliance mentality and attitude for savings for personal initiation of micro-enterprises and small businesses.
Identified and mapped key representatives of the agro-pastoralists user groups (women and girls) to amplify their voices on the issues around the valley dams. 1:2 strengthened the capacity of key representative groups in Advocacy Skills	35(30F and 05M) key representatives of the agro-pastoralists user groups (women and girls) identified and mapped **Achievements** The 3 selected RMM are leaders in the formed VSLA group hence the idea of them to attend with the women leaders. From the sensitizations, guidance and counseling of the women/girls leaders, there has been a reduction in the Gender Based Violence cases in the communities. This was confirmed and evidenced by the police at the sub county where they said the rate of GBV cases from Kalimon ward had reduced.

Conduct follows up to assess performance of the key representatives on amplifying their voices on key issues in relation to training conducted in advocacy skills.	The trained women leader practiced skills acquired in training and already started advocating against alcoholism, environmental degradation, GBV, discriminations against women/girls/children/youth in communities. As such, rampant alcoholism, environmental degradation, GBV, discriminations against women/girls/children/youth in communities has greatly reduced by over 60% in kalimon ward. The vice chairperson of the women leaders shared an experience saying "*with the skills the women have acquired from the training of the advocacy, many of them have gained confidence to become leaders within their communities; some of them shall aspire as LCs, councilors among others*". 25 out of 30 women leader advocates have gained confidence to become leaders within their communities and the women added that come 2026, some of them shall aspire as LCs, councilors among others". A representative shared an experience that after the training, as group of women, they requested their fellow counterparts' i.e the role module men in promoting hygiene and sanitation in households within Kalimon ward which hygiene promotions started with households of the user group representatives and the role module men. She added by saying generally the sanitation in parish has greatly improve hence reducing communicable diseases like diarrhea among other which is a clear sign that the voices of the key representatives were amplified (the experience share was confirmed by parish chief of Kalimon ward)
2:1 Identified the facilitators at the district, Sub- County, and trained them on how to develop the CAAPs in relation to the issues obtained from the ICVCA.	26 (20 males and 06 females) participants were trained This will therefore be developed as a practical guidance tool for community, Sub County and district level actors for all steps needed. The action plans focused on building resilience and adapting to changing climate conditions, and steps to develop a Climate Action Adaptation Plan were discussed during the training.

	The participants sampled the interview guide tool that will be used to collect data among themselves to get acclimatized to the questionnaire that they will administer to the community members in Maaru Sub County
3:1 Conducted community meeting (1 Maaru) with 60 participants to develop CAAPs at Maaru Sub County, Kotido district.	68 participants reached from the communities in the 9 villages in Rutom Parish (33 men and 35 women) disaggregated in to 8 male Local Councils, 30 youth (15 F, 15 M), 20 female adults and 10 male adults. The percentage of women who attended was 51% against 49% for men. The Community meeting was held in Maaru Sub County among to gather data that would be used to develop the climate action adaptation plan. During the meeting the key primary climate risks and hazards identified and proposed management included: Droughts, erratic rainfall, and bush fires, • Rehabilitation and removing accumulated sediments in the dam • Changing planting schedule Low crop yields due to lack of water for crops, • Rehabilitation of the dam to store more water for crop growing • Irrigation during dry period using the valley dam water Lack of organized community structures, • Support to traditional leadership structures • low level of awareness on new technologies/practices • Community sensitization on new farming technologies/Practices such as Climate smart agriculture, use of renewable energy stoves among others

	Insecurity • Disarmament efforts, Community peace meetings, community participatory conflict resolutions High illiteracy levels especially among women • Restoration of Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja (ABEK) curriculum for the women in the communities Poor livestock management • Livestock Feed Supplementation strategy Inadequate water sources for human consumption Construction of more boreholes and spring water sources in valley and swampy areas
2 Identify and map advocacy issues around the valley dams from completed processes (iCVCA, baseline, and stakeholder engagement meetings.	A total of 40 (20 F, 20M) participants in 4 meetings. Some identified advocacy issues included; Scarcity of water for domestic use in Kapedo town council, Food security, Human wild life conflict, and High illiteracy levels among the agro pastoralists. This created a focus for the innovation partners: ATEI, FARM AFRICA and KAYESE
CAAPs report compilation, analysis and documentation	A total of 05 participants reached during the compilation of the CAAPs report (03 females and 02 males). The purpose was to further to address and analyze the collected data for the development of the CAAPs report. With this they were able to attach and link Climate change likeminded CSO to particular roles/ climate actions, derive adaptation measures, as indicated in the CAAPs document. For example, UCAA, Mercy corps, NARWOA, MWE, MAAIF in Kotido. A follow up interaction with the district production, environment natural resource and community development departments was conducted Some identified advocacy issues include; 1, Scarcity of water for domestic use in Kapedo

	town council, Food security, Human wild life conflict, High illiteracy levels among the levels among the agro pastoralists It was recommended that: New boreholes are constructed within the village and repair of the broken ones, Wild life authority should be approached to find a way of stopping the animals from crossing to the community such as increasing on the number of monitors, digging trenches, or putting an electric fence as it is the case with other national parks
Conduct validation meeting with relevant stakeholder (Community representatives in Maaru sub-county, district, and relevant partners.	A total of participants 15 reached during the validation meeting with relevant stakeholder (10 Females and 05 Males). The purpose of the meeting was to give key stakeholders an opportunity to review and validate the CAAPs document developed for Maaru Sub County in Kotido district. The participant includes; district and Sub county technocrats (Production department, Office of the CDO, DRMCs from district to Parish level, and Water User Committees among others), selected Adult Agro pastoralist, Adult female pastoralist, Adult Male pastoralist and youth Agro pastoralist. The meeting provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to discuss and review the findings in the CAAPs document hence the participants passed the document for approval by both district and Sub County Council to make it a working document to address climate change impacts and GBV related issues in Maaru Sub County, Kotido district.
Conduct exposure visits for the user groups	25 participated both from Karenga and Napak districts (15 F and 10 M) participated. The objective of the exposure visit was to enable user groups of Itanya-Loyoro Valley dam of Kapedo T/C in Karenga learn on governance and utilization of valley dams in order to re-plicate the best practices or approaches in their context hence strengthening governance of the valley dams in Karenga. The user groups learnt about Small scale irrigation schemes, Agro forestry, Apiary farming/honey production and its management, Horticulture i.e. making of organic

	manure/biochemical, backyard gardening, high value crops, good agronomic practices among others **Achievements:** The users groups learnt: The economic importance/various activities around the valley dam of Napak district like vegetable growing, fishing farming/harvesting, animal rearing; the roles and responsibilities of water management committee of da; small scale irrigation schemes; apiary farming; agro-forestry; best agronomic practices like backyard gardening, making of organic manure & bio chemical for pest and disease control. And from the explanations they learnt that they could establish the same processes to improve the governance and maintenance of the Itanya-loyoro valley dam in Kapedo town council Karenga district.

- *How has local knowledge informed the implemented activities and what has been done to ensure that the Project local communities been engaged?*

During the implementation of the activities, Capacity development approach was integrated at the systemic, institutional and individual levels, according to needs expressed during the implementation of the activities. This included building systemic and institutional capacities through the provision of support for the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms, the revision and strengthening of legal texts and frameworks, and the development of awareness raising activities hence, this enabled them to participate actively in decision-making and planning.

- *Describe any activities the Project has implemented to support advocacy, policy-dialogue, and promotion of enabling innovation eco-systems.*

Training of the role model men and women leaders: 35 women leaders and 50 role model men were identified and trained; they represented, sensitized and also participated in advocacy for the community in all the project activities

Developed Climate adaptation action plans (CAAPs) for Kotido, with participation from community members, district and sub county stakeholders and likeminded CSOs.

Established functional water management committee structures, and strengthen their governance around valley dams, conducted Exposure visits for learning from other established functional water management committees
Involved the Uganda Wild Life authority about the influence of the human wild life conflict in Kapedo Town council Karenga district

The established structures were trained in advocacy and lobbying issues around the valley dam issues, key governance issues around the valley dams were mapped with the community members and the stakeholders, and the RMM, Women leaders have been advocating and lobbying for identified issues limiting utilisation of the valley dam issues.

Identified and mapped like-minded CSOs, climate change actors, solution partners and networks

Trained CSOs as and community change agents in government budget cycles to participate to push their issues of CAAPs, best practices be captured in government budgets

Conducted stakeholders meetings to capture further information on the advocacy issues identified
Analyze and capture advocacy issues

- *How have the implemented activities facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement of civil society, private sector, academia, and local authorities in the work to define, innovate and develop sustainable solutions?*

Through the implementation of activities, the collaboration of government structures and other stakeholders were strengthened as such, they fully supported the project interventions hence resulting to ownership of the project for sustainability purposes, they pledged to fully integrate gender, environmental and climate issues in district level budget lines, along with supporting the establishment of stronger local legal frameworks and continuously create awareness as they do implement other activities about SGBV and DRR in order to tackle gender inequalities and enhance gender transformation in project area.

In addition, the stakeholders and community members recognized the existing power structures and stakeholders' relations that have influenced the equal treatment of women and men, considering other factors that intersect with gender, e.g., age, ethnicity and geographical location. This was only made possible with the trainings of EMB (Engaging men and boys), Women Leaders on gender and establishing effective mechanisms for communication, co-learning, and knowledge sharing to advance and mainstream gender in biting climate change impacts in the communities of Maaru Sub County. This has built scientific credibility in gender smart climate change strategy implementation.

- *Have climate-smart solutions developed with support from CARE and partners been promoted at local, national, and global level? How?*

Yes, the CLIRK project in Karamoja is being implemented by 4 partners that is UCAA focusing on advocacy, up take and scaling up of the innovations. Plus 3 innovation partners: KAYESA, FARM AFRICA and ATEI: all targeting to contribute to the problem of drought, water scarcity and human wild life conflict in Karenga district.

All the partners with their innovations have established structures and groups within the community to work with for sustainability and utilization of local resources. With capacity building the groups of people have been equipped with knowledge to effectively participate in the project activities along with the partners as a contribution towards the identified issues in the communities..

- *How has the Project supported groups, organizations, and/or movements to influence formal and informal decision-making for global, regional, national and sub-national level advocacy?*

The project has established groups and structures within the communities, mapped like-minded CSOs and government stakeholders and line ministries.

The project identified and trained the above structures in advocacy skills, built capacity of groups members in relation to confidence, self-esteem, communication skills

Project has built capacity of community change agents on government budget cycles at parish and sub-county level and supported them to participate in sub county and district meetings, so as to advocate for their issues on behave of the community.

3.2 Changes Observed to Date:

- *Following the description of key activities, this section should account for the changes observed to date relating to outcome 1 and 2*
- *Guiding questions:*
- *Describe changes or indications of change relating to policy influence and/or scaling of the climate innovative solutions.*
- *Describe observed changes / improvements in the coordination and collaboration between partners and other innovation stakeholders?*
- *How has evidence from the Project informed advocacy and policy-dialogue?*

The implementation of the above action/activities (1 and 2) has positively impacted on the lives of user groups/communities (the village/parish/sub county disaster management committee, women/girls leaders, role module men/youth, water management committee and other community members who are not directly targeted by the project

However, all the changes can be observed on ground but the notably is by what the various user groups have done i.e in terms of increased levels of knowledge of lobbying/advocacy skills exhibited.

Uptake of the solution shown by the increased number of people participating in the project

Reduction of GBV cases/improvement of hygiene and sanitation in communities

Increased number of children who initially dropped out of school reported back in the third term of 2024

Increased levels of confidence in the women in terms amplifying their issues before other stakeholders and performance of roles and responsibilities assigned to each and every user groups as observed during the monitoring, evaluation, assessment of the performance of groups.

The political and local stakeholder structures like the village councils, councilors, environment/disaster management committees at Sub County level, and parish development committees among others at the different levels have been very crucial for endorsement of innovative solutions, but also prioritizing the solutions and supporting community-based adaptation actions particularly the key and main findings elaborated in the climate adaptation action plans (CAAPs) hence tackling climate change since they control public resources and service delivery.

In addition, the strong humanitarian network of actors in Karamoja region who are already implementing actions such as early warning systems, contingency planning, climate change

adaptation for the agriculture sectors and delivery of humanitarian assistance to people affected by shocks and disasters like the UN agencies such as World Food program (WFP), Food and agriculture organization (FAO) and Civil Society Organizations such as Nakere Rural Women Association, Mercy Corps, World Vision, GARD, Warrior Squad among others made building synergies with the partners easy since they integrated gender, environmental and climate issues in their interventions

4. Challenges faced during the implementation of the project and mitigation measures (steps taken) **implemented.**

- Discuss any obstacles encountered during project implementation, including external factors (political, environmental, etc.) that impacted the project and steps taken to address the challenges.

Effective June 2024 when CARE International in Uganda on boarded the solutions partners, UCAA's activities planned in the months of June-September 2024 collided during implementations hence leading to pushing of certain activities to the following months. However, as a mitigation strategy, the consortium partners started and agreed sharing their monthly work plans amongst themselves and also created a shared communication platform (What Sapp group) for the 4 partners to be updating one another during activity implementations

There were high expectations of project beneficiaries'/user groups, CBOs, CSOs members' and high dependence ratio in terms of training and transport facilitation from the participants. For example, whenever a project officer invited the participants for any community engagements like trainings, community meeting, among others, user groups would expect the officer to give them everything including those that can meet their household needs. This was addressed by the officer enlightening the user groups and other stakeholders in advance with what the organization can afford to provide like in terms of facilitations or not.

Delayed disbursement of funds affected implementation of planned activities like funds were not released for implementation in the months of March and April and August 2024 hence leading to continuous pushing of activities to the following months up to the end of the first year of the project.

The delayed onboarding of solutions partners led to none implementation of certain activities planned to be implemented in the first year of the project. For example, some advocacy related activities like CAAPS among other couldn't be implemented in Karenga.

Insecurity posed by both the wild animals and warriors to project staff & beneficiaries, Negative Cultural Norms, Political Interference, High level of Illiteracy. The challenge was addressed by continuous capacity building trainings organized by UCAA like used of EMB & WILie's models plus collaborations and coordination with district and sub county offices through the office of LC 3 of Kapedo T/C for security precautions and measures during given periods and areas in the district, as well as organizing of community dialogue meetings with community members, for safe spaces where they could share their ideas, voices amongst each other as well as to the stakeholders. The issue of wild animals is also being attended to.

5. Lessons Learned

- Highlight key lessons learned from the project, including insights that can inform future programming.

The supportive and long-term relationship with Care International in Uganda is a key factor responsible for the successful implementation for the project, coupled with the engagement of UCAA trained Change Agents resident in targeted communities as volunteers in mobilization of the beneficiaries made it cost effective for UCAA to implement the project since they were familiar with local language, customs and culture.

Coordination and building synergies with other agencies such as the like-minded CSOs, and government is very vital in strengthening community resilience, promotion of equality, and protection of ecosystems in the face of environmental, social and economic changes

It was realized that involvement of male and female adults, youths were crucial in creating and delivering local information on climate change impacts in communities, since decisions, experiences and perspectives of these categories of people have greater reach to their peers. For example, in a Karamojong setting of extended families, there are elders with specific experiences of noticing early warning signs using traditional forecasts measures; they then pass the information to the youth and women within their homesteads, who also share the information to their peers in the community

It was realized that coordination, consultations and partnerships with districts, sub-county level (village councils, environment/disaster management committees at parish development committees among others), CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups ,media coalitions and networks worked better through the engagement of local district officials and leaders at all levels of the project in order to guide technical designs, quality control and political acceptability of the project and there is a need for a strong monitoring and a thorough reporting and communication system.

The continuous involvements/engagement were necessary for key stakeholder like from bottom i.e. Village level, to the top in the district leadership, and other CSOs with like-minded implementing partners/private sectors enabled smooth implementation of activities

6. Sustainability and Exit Strategy

- **Sustainability Plan:**
  Describe any measures taken to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes after project closure.

UCAA works in collaboration with like-minded organizations, individuals, and local authorities with diverse background to support the implementation of the project to ensure environmental and social sustainability, whilst also supporting women in challenging unequal gender relations and structures. Through this multi-disciplinary team, solutions will be sustained through market mechanisms and innovation solution governance committees since expertise have been drawn from the following relevant areas: disaster management and climate change mitigation, resilience

building, public policy advocacy, conflict management, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response, among others hence plays a big role in sustainability of this action. In addition, UCAA will Disseminate and replicate sustainable, socially and economically viable climate resilient practices and business models

Identification and engagement at multiple governance levels of influential stakeholders with an interest and prior experience in gender integration which will help facilitate harmonization, institutionalization, and scaling of gender mainstreaming activities and initiatives at different scales by influencing other actors. This will enhance gender awareness and capacity development to challenge gender stereotypes and get the stakeholders' buy in to the integration of gender in implementation of climate change adaptation strategies.

UCAA also established structures within the communities like the role model men and women leaders, water management committees, disaster risk management committees and built their capacities on the role and responsibilities they play on the project, on advocacy: The innovation partners have equally established structures and groups they are working with, trained them o the roles and responsibilities, activities they play on the CLIRK project. Above all in the established groups are sections where the district and sub county leaders are taking responsibilities. However CAAPs in Karenga have not yet taken root.

- **Exit Strategy:**
  Detail the steps implemented to transition activities or responsibilities to local stakeholders, partners, or government bodies.

During the interpretation, analysis and report writing of CAAPs being developed, the project team collaborated and engaged local authorities at the district technical departments (Community Development, environment, natural resource, Education, Health and Production), Sub County Chairperson, Councilor, Parish Chief, Water User committees which built and facilitated collaboration, fostered synergies and networks in targeted project area of Maaru Sub County, and complementarity of each other’s initiatives hence this plays a big role in addressing advocacy and governance issues, strengthened capacities of the local leaders, therefore sustainability of the action.

The stakeholders (Karenga District Local Government, Uganda wildlife Authority, WFP, FAO and other CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups, media coalitions and networks) were engaged in the project inception and their inputs were integrated into the overall project implementation arrangement. During the inception, the stakeholders were also informed about the project scope and budget.

Further, UCAA established and empowered functional community support structures (women/girls leaders, Role Model men, water management committee, sub county/parish/village disaster management committees and Akirikets) who actively and independently engage in advocacy, prevention, response and management of climate resilience and agricultural smart strategies and GBV cases in their communities

The capacities of user groups already built and who are working with farmer organizations and other community members to continue with trainings at the end of the program period. Farmers will be linked to commercial agro-input dealers and produce buyers for future independent transactions.

VSLAs (a development way to keep the groups functional in terms of meetings) have already been established by the participants themselves: these will also be connected to financial institutions to help ensure that they will be able to access business growth capital and other financial services. Further, VSLAs will evolve into investment hubs by the end of the program period, whereby members will save to acquire investments instead of sharing it out, as well as set up an agro-input savings ledger, which will retain funds to buy seeds if crops fail especially farmer groups.

6. Financial Report.

Summarize the total fund received by the organization to implement the project activities detailing a summary of fund disburse, total expenditure and any balance. – See Financial Report.

The Climate innovations research Project in Karamoja and Kyangwali was allocated 800M, for both insecurities: Some activities could not be implemented in Karamoja pending the establishment of Innovations by the innovation partner while in Kyagwali, Dissemination at Regional level was also not implemented.

Halting of the implementation of some activities was an advice from CARE and this resulting into an unspent balance of about 41 Million altogether. The activities not implemented will be implemented in year two of the project.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations.

Provide a final assessment of the project's success, and any recommendations for future interventions. Discuss how the project has contributed to long-term development goals or outcomes in the target area.

Below are some of the recommendations;

There is need for documentation of the evidence from the different testimonies and successes from the innovations, achievements in advocacy for the communities and also incorporating it into the formal news bulletins to benefit and reach many populations.

The project should coordinate with already existing projects in order to promote synergies where necessary, support other interventions, share knowledge and resources when possible, avoid duplication and ensure value-addition to the development sector among the districts.

The water user/management committee reported a challenge of limited support from the community, in regards to facilitation for maintenance of the road to the valley dam and bushes

around the valley dam, since the rains increased vegetation growth making the surrounding of the valley dam bushy and unsafe for the community. UCAA noticed that the tendency of some community not feeling like they own the valley dam existed amongst them. It intends to introduce its mindset change Model (SRPD – Self-reliance and Participatory development) Model which will support the community to be able to own and start seeing the Valley dam as their own and not thinking it belongs to external supporters.

Need to establish FAL classes mostly targeting females in the region, this can help build their agency/ competency to appropriately represent their peers with the necessary skills and self-confidence to face and communicate in offices, sub-county and district meetings.

In conclusion, the CLIRK project in Karamoja aimed at ***"inclusive, sustainable and productive valley dams as drivers of increased drought resilience of pastoralists and agro pastoralists in the districts of Kotido, and Karenga*"** **to their** build resilience to climate change through enhancing the adaptive capacity of the local communities: With activities of trainings and capacity building of the established groups in the communities in the districts of Kotido and Karenga set a community participation strategy. Furthermore, the integration of gender mainstreaming, through engagement with influential stakeholders, has facilitated gender awareness and challenged stereotypes, leading to the incorporation of women in decision-making structures, hence a growing commitment to sustainable environmental practices in the 2 districts.

Despite the notable achievements, a one-year extension of the project is recommended to complete planned activities that were not implemented and facilitate capturing of success storing from the project beneficiaries, for scaling up and uptake of the innovations by more community members and in other regions. As well as achieve a more effective phase-out and lasting impact in the community and regions around. More strengthening of the established groups, partnerships and fostering continuous support will be crucial for the sustained success of climate change adaptation, resilience to disaster/ risk reduction, and gender mainstreaming in the region.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Beneficiary story/-ies
Annex 2: Activity reports (
Annex 3: Action Photos
Annex 4: Scanned Attendance forms for all activities.
Annex 5: Data base (Excel file) of participants engaged in the project activities during the period.