End of 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):	Kyangwali Sub county-Kikuube District
Prepared By:	Lucy Akello Ayena - Executive Director, Email: ed@ucaa.or.ug Tel: 0772 335898.
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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.

Uganda change Agent Association in partnership with CARE International implemented the Climate Innovations for Resilience in Karamoja and Kyangwali (CLIRK project); it aimed at strengthening the agency through building capacity of communities and stakeholders, learning and advocacy. UCAA advocated for the uptake of the food solution innovations to achieve the aim of the project. The activities implemented aimed at building the capacity of communities to anticipate and respond to climate shocks enhanced.

The advocacy that UCAA has done in the community has resulted into increased agency of the role model men and women and they are able to participate on the available platforms such as the available sub-county council meetings to which they were invited.

There is improvement of the women in decision making in their homes, it is evidenced that women can influence their husbands to make decisions in regard to land use and uptake of the innovation solutions to improve on the beneficiaries' livelihoods, food security as evidenced by field success stories from the beneficiaries.

The climate adaptation action plan has been developed for Kyangwali sub-county and this is used as an advocacy tool as well as a fundraising tool. The actions should be implemented by other stakeholders for the development of the community. This has been successful through effort of the change agents and other relevant stakeholders including the leadership of Kikuube district local government.

With support from CARE the project scales up innovative agri-based solutions which optimize space and land productivity to support multiple enterprises and value chains that are built around successful solutions to generate both food and income for beneficiary households (user groups).This will strengthen their resilience to climate change, if formal policies, legislation, multilateral agreements, programs and budgets are influenced and support the change agents to build and act upon their capacities.

About gender it should be noted that this project aims at improving the agency especially for women and it looks at 60% women involvement. Active engagement and participation of women

at house hold level decision-making is crucial. The recommendation is that: Women and youth are agents of change who must equally be part of the solution for a sustainable future. Equal voice and active participation is key to adapt and transform in the new climate reality therefore women are able to make decisions in relation to uptake of the innovation solutions and participation on the available platforms to influence change for their community issues like advocating for water in kyeya village through community meetings, local government platforms etc.

Females and males make joined decisions about innovation solutions and other alternative food and income generating activities away from traditional charcoal making to reduce pressure on the ecosystem.

Women have equal say in decisions related to selection of crop varieties to be planted in the food forest and other innovation solutions. Paid/unpaid household and productive work is equitably shared between adults and finally women and men have equal access to and control over productive resources, services and markets, and both participate across the whole value chain, strengthening their coping mechanisms to deal with climate shocks and stresses.

Therefore continuous monitoring activities will be maintained with improved tools: focusing on the trainings UCAA Project staff in Kyangwali and head office, received from CARE for example Gender, planning meetings, MEL and FAM to effectively capture and document project progress (success, challenges, recommendations), and feedback on new numbers of beneficiaries up taking the innovation solutions in Kwangwali should be emphasized.

One key activity was not implemented following advice from CARE that the activity had to be halted because it needed enough time to allow CARE also to participate in. This was the dissemination of best practices at the regional level in Hoima, however below are some other recommendations captured over the project period:

1. Continuous support to the community change agents, to lobby for environmental budget allocation of the identified issues in the CAAPs document in the sub-county budget
2. There is more need in encouraging and advocating for afforestation in the community by the role model men, women leaders in Kyangwali and water conservation initiatives especially in Kyeya

3. Collaborate with Local Leaders for Project Monitoring of the climate crisis issues, Engage local councilors and community representatives to monitor project innovations and how they are targeting vulnerable communities to climate change
4. Promote value addition for local produce**:** train farmers on initiatives of value addition techniques,
5. There is need of ensuring that the previously developed CAAPs document is upheld and fully taken up by the private sector, Local government, Linked minded Ministry, CSOs and community members

2. Introduction:

- ***Project Background:***

Briefly describe the context and need for the project,

Kikuube district like any other districts of Uganda is being affected by extreme variation of weather/climatic conditions. These extreme climatic conditions are mainly affecting farmers who are the majority with over 80% of the population engaged in Agriculture. Climate change is affecting farmers in the following ways: they experience delayed start of the rain season, in-season droughts, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, leading to reduced/low crop yields, poor nutritional quality of crop produce due to poor growth, in some places flooding and increased incidence of pests and diseases for both crops and livestock.

The changes and consequences due to variation of climatic conditions are expected to exist for many years or even stay forever negatively affecting sustainability of livelihoods. Dealing with changed climatic conditions even by long term interventions is very hard. Thus requiring building resilience and adaptation capacities of communities to deal with shocks and uncertainties brought about by climate change.

Therefore Climate Innovations and Resilience Project in Kyangwali sub-county, Kikuube District is being implemented to contribute to improved food and nutritional security for land poor and climate vulnerable communities in Kyangwali.

The program in Kyangwali responds to the emerging need of building self-reliance of refugees amidst cuts in humanitarian aid in Uganda. The program tackles two key barriers to food production that is, limited access to land and climate change.

In response, the program develops, test and roll out innovative Agri-based solutions which optimize space and land productivity to support multiple enterprises. The project is being

implemented together with other partners that include; Vertical and Micro-gardening limited, Obuntu bwa Kasalina and the Bug Picture.

User groups and community change agents were supported to identify and implement local adaptation actions based on a clear understanding of climate change trends in the area and the resultant localized shocks and hazards.

The program multiplies the impact of these interventions in Kyangwali by linking them to national, regional and global discourses, policy processes, and actions. Additionally, impact is multiplied through empowerment of community change agents, and end user groups to lobby for increased support towards implementation of local climate adaptation actions which is supported by Uganda change agent association.

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

The overall objective of the programme is **"Improved food and nutritional security for land poor and climate vulnerable communities in Kyangwali"**.

The program seeks to reduce exposure, vulnerability and impact of climate change on refugees and the immediate host community which have limited access to a key productive resource – land. All the key program interventions were geared towards addressing these two barriers (access to land and climate change) to production of sufficient nutritious food. The program intervened in two ways, to build resilience and self-reliance.

Specific objectives

1. Adoption of innovative climate adaptation solutions by land poor communities increased in Kyangwali/ Kikuube district.
2. Enhanced support and response to the needs of climate vulnerable communities by duty bearers in Kyangwali/ Kikuube district

- ***Highlight the organization approaches implemented and how it aligns to the project goal and objectives.***
  To achieve the above, the organization has used several approaches;

UCAA has used the already existing local established structure to implement her activities in Kangwali such as role model men and women leaders identified and trained by CARE international. These are the people who serve as an example in their areas and in total they are 50 role model men and 30 trained women leaders.

The role model men and trained women leaders belong to the savings and loans groups, so UCAA tapped into their platform to create advocacy and uptake of the food innovations by the people who are not the target beneficiaries of the project.

Through organized meetings, UCAA implemented her activities in meetings that were well organized targeting the change agents, like minded CSOs and the district local government. These meetings were at community, district and regional level. The people that are always engaged took messages back to their peers for a broader advocacy.

UCAA used Social media handles to create advocacy. It created an active Whatsapp group that included the key stakeholders' that is to say the district and sub-county leaders, the community change agents, UCAA staff, innovation partners. This enabled information sharing and creating advocacy about their community needs.

These approaches have been successful and have supported the team to reach out to the communities using the locally available structures in the community. Approaches managed to bring the key stakeholders together to discuss the community concerns, share knowledge hence supporting the uptake of the innovations and increasing food security for the land poor.

UCAA approach of self-reliance and sustainability made the implementation approach to be efficient, considering that a key interpretation of efficiency is 'cost-effectiveness' and 'optimum use of resources'. This is due to the project strategy which has an in-built Change Agent volunteers as well as a participatory M&E system and more so commitment among the beneficiaries who have undergone several stages of interaction with the capacity building offered. 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.)?***

- ***How has local knowledge informed the implemented activities and what has been done to ensure that the Project local communities been engaged?***
- ***Describe any activities the Project has implemented to support advocacy, policy-dialogue, and promotion of enabling innovation eco-systems.***
- ***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?***
- ***Have climate-smart solutions developed with support from CARE and partners been promoted at local, national, and global level? How?***
- ***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?***

Activities implemented	**Results /Achievements**
Entry meeting at District Level to identify action on DCP for Kikuube district Entry meeting with OPM in Kyangwali and Baseline survey was conducted.	30 (18 Females and 12Males) district, sub county and CLIRK project stakeholder attended the entry meeting. The Status of the District Contingency Plan (DCP) was revised; district hazard and risk profiles and action points were documented to support advocacy work for CARE and UCAA. The climate innovations for resilience in Kyangwali and Karamoja (CLIRK) project was introduced to the stakeholders of Kikuube district local government. Quantitative and qualitative data on climate risks affecting the host community and the refugees' communities in Kikuube was captured; this helped for reference on the outcomes of the project impacts, during comparisons of before and after the project interventions.
Meetings with UCAA structures to embrace and support the project.	19 (10 Females and 09 Males). The project concepts, work plans, objectives, and implementation plans focusing on feasibility, approach, partnership and sustainability were discussed with the change agents. UCAA established structures from within the hot communities, refugee communities and sub county official whom it partnered with throughout the project implementation period, this eased sensitizations, advocacy and community participation for sustainability.

Conducted a meeting to review the district hazards and risk profiles and come up with action plans.	9 (05 Females and 04 Males) district disaster risk management committee members attended plus UCAA staff. The reviewed documents were profile of hazard for Kikuube district including: Migratory population, Human disease, Food insecurity, Environmental degradation Human disease, Food insecurity and Road accidents. The hazard profiles were found outdated and needed revision with experienced district staff especially the ones that were on disaster risk management committee for districts and this would continue to help UCAA and CARE to have updated information to be used in their advocacy work. The outcome of the meeting was an updated hazard profile for Kikuube district documented and shared.
Design of IEC Materials with advocacy massages to address the project objectives 220 Wall Calendars, 02 sign posts and 03 Workshop Pull up Banners.	195 T-Shirt, 80 Cloth Bags, Wall Calendars and table calendars for 2024 were produced by UCAA and were all distributed to Stakeholders. So far, a workshop pull up Banner was produced for Kyangwali all with advocacy Messages for the project. Visibility materials were used by role model men and women as an identification attire especially T-shirts that helped them to be identified as participants implementing a project funded by CARE UG and outcome of the project objective such as 'Empowerment for self-reliance" brought about by equal participation in decision making of the women and men.
Conduct meetings with key stakeholders to develop a strategy and themes for awareness creation	20 (9 Females and 11 Males) stakeholders from the department of Natural Resource, Production, Environment, and Gender among others were reached

on GBV and DRR.	UCAA documented Strategies and themes to be used for awareness creation on GBV and DRR. **Strategies to create awareness;** Some of the strategies agreed upon included community Dialogue/Barazas and this was concluded on as the best strategy because it touched the masses at first sight, it strengthened community structure and enhanced interacting with the masses, Radio talk show, this had wide coverage and outside the target population, it created elements of easy sustainability, recruiting community change agents, this created an element of ease since these agents live within the area, Drama (Music and performance) and this summarizes the message very fast, it excites the community and IEC materials (Information, Education and communication materials), this was effective when looking at the learners, literate and cooperates, messages reach to many and it is eye catching **Themes** used to create awareness included the following; Disaster Risk and mitigation, Potential hazards and predisposing factors, Impact and vulnerability Risk analysis, Institutional /commitment capacity assessment (multi sectoral) on how to handle disaster and Participatory Action Plan
Conduct awareness creation through community sensitization, radio talk shows, art (MDD), and brochures.	Awareness was created through the radio talk show on DRR and GBV. Talk shows were conducted in local languages and where necessary translators brought on board ensure that most people understand and follow the discussion on the radio. The listeners had some knowledge about SGBV and DRR evidenced by the calls being made during the radio talk show. Radio talk shows are strongly recommended as it covers larger audience including outside the scope.

	The community members taken for the radio talk show felt honored and empowered to speak to the general public. From the various callers noted, it was evident that the message on climate change and Gender issues was well internalized by the listeners
Mapping and profiling of CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups, media coalitions and networks focused on climate and humanitarian action. Conduct Training and Needs Assessment for the identified CSOs, CBOs, activists, start-ups, media coalitions and networks.	Total of 28 CSOs, CBOs, activists, start -ups, media coalitions and networks mapped and profiled. 15 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 Kikuube. The like-minded CSOs are now known and it is now easy to network with them. 15 CSOs were reached: they were trained and equipped their capacity in DRR aspects, existing gaps and potential training needs such as how to mainstream GBV and DRR mitigations in the humanitarian interventions.
Follow up meeting with the trained role Model men to establish progress in terms of their contribution in advocating for the uptake of the innovative solutions, creating awareness on climate change issues and GBV in their community.	The trained role Model men were continuously followed ups and supported to establish progress in their work. First follow up: A total of 55 participants (52 males and 03 females) were reached. The Role model men are able to understand the need to advocate for the uptake of innovation solutions and the SGBV in their daily work. Second follow up: 60 participants (56 males and 04 females) reached. The key stakeholders included: 50 role model men, 6 area councilor 02 RWC.

	The follow up activity was conducted for the role model men in Kilima Kavule and Kyeya villages. The participants were well aware of their roles and activities during brain storming. In terms of increasing uptake of the food solution innovation solutions that are being promoted under the project, the role model men are doing knowledge transfer to their peers at no cost, they do it willingly to whoever wants to learn and provide free seedlings to the people who are interested, a role model man quoted that "in one month i have registered a total of seven people from different families who were interested and were able to start the bug picture innovation" Action points: For uptake of food innovations, they suggested that radio talk shows should be conducted and some of them take part and talk about their food innovations being promoted. Need to share information about the food innovations to members in their savings and loans group to uptake them and improve on food production. There is need to establish more demo sites to ease referrals of the new people who want to learn about the innovations, they suggested at least one demo site per village.
Follow-up and reflection meeting to establish progress of the trained women leaders in terms of influencing their peers to actively participate in the innovative solutions, raising their voices to advocate for key issues that work for them and raising awareness on climate change issues in their	First follow up: A total of 39 participants reached (38 females and 01 male). Second follow up: 38 women leaders were reached (38 females) participants involving 30 trained women leaders, 03 area councilors and 03 RWC representatives The participants still remember their roles and responsibilities as the trained women leaders. They are trusted and engaged by fellow community members in times of the SGBV cases, they

community.	have reported that in their villages SGBV cases have reduced due to sensitization meetings conducted and nowadays they barely receive an SGBV case, if it happens it can be one in three months, one of them stated. Their self-esteem has improved and now that they are able to take some decisions in their homes whereby they can sit with their spouses, discuss and decide about any development and uptake of the innovation solutions. Mrs, Masereka Tom quoted that "*i sat with my husband and decided to remain a beneficiary of the bug picture and he decided that he will remain a beneficiary of Obuntu Bwa Casalina, am happy now that the two innovations can support my home in terms of improving the household income, nutritional levels since i have a big family of 8 members*."
Support like-minded CSOs, Climate change actors, and networks to advocate for the best practices and climate issues through training the CSO, & community change agents in the government budget cycles.	35 participants (22 males and 13 females) were trained in budget cycle processes and advocacy. Action planning for key action for follow up was generated and shared. They planned to mobilize the community to participate in the budget process at the different levels of the sub-county, developed the capacity of community members to advocate for climate change issues and community needs in their communities like acquiring safe and clean water for Kyeya village, Kasonga parish through community meetings and personal consultations, participate in budget conferences and Technical Planning Committee meetings (Sub-county) to have climate change issues and community needs integrated in the Sub county plan.
Create awareness about existing offers in the relevant policies,	54 (26 males and 28 females) participants participated in the training was reached.

plans, strategies and train the community agents to hold duty bearers accountable in delivering on existing key relevant policies, plans, and programs.	There was evidence that participants had some knowledge of the existing policies, plans and strategies that are available for them to tap in and advocate, though they lacked knowledge on how best to advocate for them and increase the uptake of innovation solutions and improvement of service delivery. It was learned from the meeting that young people's involvement in creating and delivering local development priorities is crucial because decisions informed by young people's experiences and perspectives are likely to have greater impact, consulting and engaging young people would help them become active citizens with skills, knowledge, self-awareness, motivation, and greater awareness of their rights to contribute at local level 1.
Conduct a meeting with solution partners to document best practices & lessons from the solutions.	13 participants (07 males and 06 females) reached. In the meeting the participants were introduced to the importance of best practices documentation of climate change innovations, identification and familiarization of the steps for best practices documentation in climate change innovations implementation and discussion of the best practices and lessons by each solution partner during their implementation of the innovations. 6 Success stories were documented from the beneficiaries of the food innovations, two stories from each of the solution partner.
Conduct Field monitoring to confirm the practices and capture success stories from the beneficiaries and Conduct video	The video documentary consisted of: 3 solution partners, 1 councilor of the project area, UCAA, local government representative and CARE also presenting about the CLIRK project approaches, achievements.

documentary of the best practices targeting all the three solution partners.	The following best practices were captured; designing the "quick in, quick out" approaches to ensure sufficient time to gather evidence of what works and what does not, and implementation time to react and plug lessons learned back into the cycle and empower partners to grow their networks. Private partners are continuously innovating, adapting, and pivoting to scale their businesses. As partners grow in new directions, they will do so by connecting to new partners, which will in turn grow their networks.
Identify the facilitators at the district, Sub- County, OPM, UNCHR and train them on how to develop the CAAPs in relation to the issues obtained from the ICVCA.	19 (11 males and 08 females) participants were identified and trained.
Conduct 2 community meetings (1 host, 1 refugee) with 60 participants.	157 (63 men and 94 women) participants were reached for data collection that would be used while developing the climate action adaptation plan in the host and refugee community. Community meetings were held both in the refugee and the host community to collect information. During the meeting the key risks identified and proposed management included; (1) Drought and (2) Food insecurity due to prolonged extreme hot weather – to be managed through Vertical Gardening, Obuntu bwa Kasalina, Bug picture and Planting trees including irrigation. The opportunities that was discussed in the meeting include; Advocating for Vertical Gardening, Obuntu bwa Kasalina and Bug picture, Lobbying for more funds to support chicken raring, Advocating for capacity building in smart agro farming and liaising with CARE to lobby

	for more smart solar cooking stoves other than Loan Solar Cooking stoves etc. The climate action adaptation plan document was developed and shared to the stakeholders for use and reference.
Conducted validation meeting of the CAAPs with relevant stakeholder (Community-host and refugees, district, sub-county, OPM, CARE and UNHCR.	45(23 males and 22 females) participants were reached. The validation meeting was conducted mainly with the key stakeholders to ensure that their decisions are well captured, strategic, and aligned with their CAAPs goal for their community. In the meeting the participants contributed some additional information to be incorporated into the main CAAPs document that is: liaising with government, development partners and relevant stakeholders to promote renewable energy for smart solar cooking stoves and lighting to help conserve the environment and climate change impacts in Kyangwali.
Train community change agents in advocacy skill.	20 (08 females and 12 males) community change agents were equipped with advocacy skills to be used while advocating for change and access to social services from the government and other development partners. The skills enabled them to clearly document and phrase their issues for advocacy, gain confidence, to participate and present well in the sub county technical planning meetings they attended at the parish and council levels.
Hold a consultative meeting with PDM Dept,	As a result of the advocacy training, a total of 20 participants reached (09 females and 11 males). During the meeting with the 7 key members of Parish Development committee, 01 Innovation partners, 02 representative from the local government, 02 UCAA staff, 08 Role

	model men and women leaders. CAAPs implementation was linked to PDM, such that the available opportunity from different fora in relation to CAAPs i.e. partners, s/c, district among others is identified and action taken. **Below are some of the identified opportunities that the participants derived from the comparison of the PDM document and the CAAPS document.** Creating awareness about the innovation solutions through the already existing local structures such as the organized CBO groups promoting VSLA. Mobilize the communities to take over the water program by the government called Ugift to reduce on the issue of scarcity of water especially in Kyeya, Advocate for the irrigation scheme uptake in the second phase of Dr. DIP program such that it targets the communities who don't easily access water in Kyeya and Create awareness into the community upon the availability of the PDM SACCO funds so that they are able to access loans at the lowest in order to improve on their livelihoods and establishment of innovation solutions at their household levels.
Facilitated cross learning events and exhibitions to promote advocacy at local level.	25 (14 males and 11 females) beneficiaries participated in the cross learning visit at Kuliika farm and KSAM farm in Gobero and Bwikwe respectively This exposure resulted into Networking among farmers which were enhanced during the visit since it involved formal & informal discussions as well as development of personal friendship. Participants learnt and started some of these exposures encountered back in their homes/ farms

	in their regions: new Organic and Bio Fertilizers; how to make local remedy for the bacterial diseases in the crops that are grown, Composite fertilizers, and Bio fertilizers that is Natural microbes, supper macro, leaf fertilizer, and Bokash, Locally made Bio pesticides, local technique of weather forecasting and urban farming among others. During the feedback exercise, the beneficiaries appreciated the "jack beans" they were given each from KSAM farm, with guidance on how they should be used to improve and add nutrients in their soils, they could also harvest and feed their chicken. The beneficiaries planted the seeds in their farms, which are helping them control pests and boosting the fertility of the soils Also from the lessons learnt in making fertilizers using local resources, the participants are currently using local methods with the locally available materials in Kyangwali to make fertilizers and pesticides for their farms other than the artificial methods which are even costly.
Output 1.1 Capacity of communities to anticipate and respond to climate shocks enhanced Look for any existing opportunity from different actors in relation to CAAPs (Partners, Local government, etc) and empower	20 stakeholders (11 males and 09 females) were reached. The key stakeholders included: 4 district representatives, 5 host community, 5 refugee community, and 4 like-minded CSOs. A meeting was conducted to empower the climate change actors to front the available opportunities from the local government and other entities. The change agents presented themselves in the council meeting at the parish level and other preceding levels of creating advocacy about the community issues such as the budget

community change agents to front them.	conferences. The change agents' self-esteem was built and they ably presented their community issues in the council meeting, their needs were captured by the parish chief and these will be forwarded in the technical planning meeting at the sub county level, More follow-up to be done by UCAA.
Implemented key actions on the identified opportunity and document the outcome. The activity involved exposure visit of the leaders of the PDM groups to Kavule learning Centre	25 (13 females and 12 males) participants were reached involving leaders of the PDM groups (Chairpersons and secretaries of the PDM groups), area councilor, BUG Picture staff. The purpose was to expose the leaders of different groups to the solution innovations of the project for scalability purposes. The leaders mobilized 15 more people and took them for the exposure visit to learn about the innovations, which contributes to adaptation and scalability of the innovations. UCAA to do follow up with the participants and document the outcome of their learning visit.
Change agents were facilitated to participate in government platforms including Sector and technical planning meetings.	40 (26 males and 14 females) participants were reached The meeting was attended by Change agents, Role model men, women leaders, Council members and UCAA Staff. The purpose of this activity was to: enable change agents to participate in the council meeting for Kasonga parish that is mainly organized in line with the government program and it follows the budget cycle of the local government. It enabled the councilors together with the change agents to work together towards improving social, economic, and environmental viability and sustainability for the benefit of their district

	as well as promoting quality of life for the people who reside in their communities especially Kyeya the host community with the water issue. Role model men prepared issue document which was presented by Mr. Tom Masereka from Kyeya, to the council highlighting their community needs listed below; Need for water sources in their community, Need for schools at least one in Kyeya village, Need for a health Centre for their community During the meeting the council members understood the views of the people they represent and the recommendations were made that the community issues be further discussed in the parish budget conference meeting.
Change agents were facilitated to participate in government platforms including Sector and technical planning meetings.	A total of 52 participants were reached (32 males and 20 females). The meeting was attended by Change agents, Role model men, women leaders, Council members and UCAA Staff. The climate change agents were supported to attend and lobby for support from the technical arm of the local governments and relevant Ministries and Private sectors. The climate change agents participated in the budget conference for Kasonga parish Kyangwali Sub County as it was recommended and a resolution in the previous council attended council meeting. From the budget conference meeting the key resolution was take infrastructure development for Kyeya community especially on access to water is taken as the first priority to be considered in the budget cycle for the coming financial year. Action Point; It was agreed that the issue will further be discussed with the sub county

	leadership during the technical planning meeting that was due in October 2024 and the issue be presented by the parish chief of Kasonga. It enabled the councilors and the village chairpersons together with the change agents to work together towards improving social, economic, and environmental viability and sustainability for the benefit of their district as well as promoting quality of life for the people who reside in their communities especially Kyeya the host community with the water issue.
Conducted Field monitoring to confirm the practices and capture success stories from the beneficiaries.	8 (04 males and 04 females, where 1 female was a youth) participants were involved in the documentation of success stories. The field activity was conducted to the partner's beneficiaries to document the success stories. It was supported by the Innovation solution partners and UCAA staff. Two success stories were documented and shared. These were disseminated to increase advocacy on the uptake of the innovation solutions in the region. During the field interactions some of the immediate outcomes of the innovations that were reported include; -Improved nutritional levels at household level since there is continuous production of the vegetables throughout the year -Improved income at household level, they sell vegetables at least UGX 2000 a week. Households can easily have access to the basic needs at home, due to improvement in their incomes. Below is a quote from one of the success stories: "I earn about Ugx 100,000= per month by selling leafy vegetables and other crops in my village and to avoid losses due to middlemen, i

	travel from village to village to sell vegetables, farming gives me self-confidence and an opportunity to be a role model man in my community and a considerable income to run his family and maintain a comfortable living standard.”
Conduct video documentary of the best practices targeting all the three solution partners	9 (04 males and 05 females) persons participated in the video documentation exercise. Three beneficiaries of each solution partners, CARE staff, innovation solution partners’ staff, and the representative of the local government were captured in the documentary which aimed at sharing the project wins and success of the innovation solution partners. In the documentary the participants shared about the innovations they are promoting to increase agriculture productivity that is: the bug picture, Obuntu bwakasalina and the vertical gardens. The best practices and the impacts of the project were documented and will be disseminated to the stakeholders to ensure scalability of the project innovations in Kyangwali. The wins about advocacy work were documented in the video documentary from the local government representative and the UCAA staff. This will create more awareness of the innovation solutions being implemented in Kyangwali and booster up take of these innovations.
Support the change agents and like-minded actors to follow-up on the existing offers in the plans, policies and document the outcome of the follow-ups.	41 (21 males and 20 females) participants were reached. The meeting was attended by Change agents, Role model men, women leaders, Council members, CARE and UCAA Staff. There was creation of an active Whatsapp group that is being used by the key stakeholders of the project for communication and providing the updates on the upcoming engagements with

	the sub county, parish and village to ensure effective participation and creation of more advocacies of the community needs. The community change agents were able to participate in the budget conference at parish level, Change agents mobilized the community to participate in the budget process at the different levels, the change agents also developed the capacity of other community members to advocate for climate change issues and community needs in their communities like acquiring safe and clean water for Kyeya village, Kasonga parish thus was effectively done during the community meetings. It was emphasized in the meeting that leveraging on media as to advocate for water and environment issues, create awareness on the seed policy and other strategies available to increase the uptake of the food innovations they suggested to use radio talk shows on the radio stations that are used in both refugee and host communities e.g. Emambya Fm, A participant was quoted saying that " For Kyeya community where they have communication phone network issues, stakeholders can use radio talk shows and adverts on issues of advocacy since the radio network is stable in their area"

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 result win of the advocacy work implemented included the following;

The role model men and women leaders have improved on their agency and they are able to participate/ communicate in written and verbally on the platforms and advocate for the successes they have achieved in the innovation solutions.

The climate change agents participated in the budget conference for Kasonga parish Kyangwali Sub County as it was recommended as a resolution in the previous council attended council meeting. From the budget conference meeting the key resolution was to take infrastructure development for Kyeya community especially on access to water is taken as the first priority to be considered in the budget cycle for the coming financial year. Action Point; was agreed that the issue will further be discussed with the sub county leadership during the technical planning meeting that was due in October 2024 and the issue be presented by the parish chief of Kasonga.

It enabled the councilors and the village chairpersons together with the change agents to work together towards improving social, economic, and environmental viability and sustainability for the benefit of their district as well as promoting quality of life for the people who reside in their communities especially Kyeya the host community with the water issue.

There is improvement in the involvement of women in decision making in their homes, in the community it is evidenced that women can influence their husbands to make decisions in regards to land use and uptake of the innovation solutions for example making a decision on the food innovation (Vertical farm, food forest or the Bug picture solution) that is suitable and favorable for their home, the women leaders also participate in community sensitizations and decision

making for example speaking against sexual gender based violence in community gatherings of saving groups, church among others.

The climate adaptation action plans have been developed and this is used as an advocacy tool as well as a fundraising tool. The actions should be implemented by other stakeholders for the development of the community. This was been successful through the effort and partnerships of the change agents, community members and other relevant stakeholders including the leadership of Kikuube district local government.

Establishment of Role model men, women leaders' structures, capacity building to improve their agency, training on advocacy, supporting the groups to attend council meetings has contributed to advocacy by the community members to stakeholders at local government level and other likeminded partners/ministries. The advocacy win will contribute to resolution of water issues in Kyeya as well as increasing the uptake of the innovation solutions in Kyangwali to improve on the beneficiaries' livelihoods, food security evidenced by field success stories from the beneficiaries.

Empowerment of women and youth as agents of change facilitated social inclusion for them to contribute to the solution for a sustainable future development. Equal voice and active participation is key to adapt and transform in the new climate reality therefore women are able to make decisions in relation to uptake of the innovation solutions and participation on the available platforms to influence change for their community for example, they advocated for the inclusion of the issue of water in Kyeya to be intended on the order paper of Kyagwali sub. Issues like advocating for water in Kyeya village through community meetings, local government platforms etc. Women and men make joined decisions about innovation solutions and other alternative food and income generating activities away from traditional charcoal making to reduce pressure on the ecosystem.

Women have equal say in decisions related to selection of crop varieties to be planted in the food forest and other innovation solutions. Paid and unpaid household and productive work is equitably shared between adults and finally women and men have equal access to and control over productive resources, services and markets, and both participate across the whole value chain, strengthening their coping mechanisms to deal with climate shocks and stresses.

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.

It was reported that there is still need for men inclusion as their participation is low in the innovation solutions for the partners mainly the work is left for their women at their homes. UCAA solved this by engaging men to be part of their implementation process.

There is limited information regarding climate change due to limited funding for both districts that include the non-functionality and none existence of critical instruments in some of the weather stations, including the lack of a Global Positioning System (GPS) to identify which specific localities are affected by what. This is particularly pronounced in some districts with micro-climatic variations, such as Kikuube. This calls for more funding such that information is always captured and spread to people on time to avoid loss of lives and other impacts that come with climate change.

Capacity limitations at district and sub-county levels in terms of what and how they should report was also mentioned as additional constraints. The situation means that District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) rely entirely on the Uganda National Meteorology Authority (UNMA) quarterly weather forecasts and on OPM's monthly bulletins for informing and preparing communities. More so the DDMCs are overwhelmed by the cost of delivering such information to communities in different languages, for which they have no budget.

5. Lessons Learned

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

Young people's involvement in creating and delivering local development priorities is crucial because decisions informed by young people's experiences and perspectives are likely to have greater impact, consulting and engaging young people would help them become active citizens

with skills, knowledge, self-awareness, motivation, and greater awareness of their rights to contribute at local level and also influence their fellow peers.

It should also be learnt that community meeting is the main platform for information sharing on advocacy issues in for the community.

It was noted that farmers are rational decision-makers whereby they consider different degrees of risk, like anyone else. For example, “copying behaviors” where farmers see benefit, they become receptive to ideas and are willing to take calculated risks if they have reason to believe that they will achieve a better result. Through combined effort and support from farmers and support system led by local private sector and NGO extension service providers, farmers see for themselves that investing in their farms would improve their income, living conditions, and food security.

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 especially the district leadership with diverse background to support the implementation of this project to ensure environmental and social sustainability.

Through sustained market through engaging the private sector, this will booster production and smooth running of the project even when the project has come to the end since beneficiaries have ready market.

In addition, UCAA will Disseminate and replicate sustainable, socially and economically viable climate resilient practices and business models, this will enhance the uptake of the innovation solutions in the region.

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 results into a self-sustained project even when funding stops.

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

UCAA works with and has empowered local government structures, the change agents, established and the already existing structures to be able to take over the innovations after the project closes. Engaging private sectors to develop partnership with the farmer producing food crops and vegetables for sale, and take over market of the products from the food innovations is also a sustainable exit.

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.

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 more need in encouraging and advocating for afforestation in the community by the role model men, women leaders in Kyangwali and water conservation initiatives especially in Kyeya to address the environmental issues caused by the depletion of Bugoma forest and water scarcity in host communities.

Continuous support to the community change agents, to lobby for environmental budget allocation of the identified issues in the CAAPs document in the sub-county budget. Through working with local leaders and government officials to ensure that funding is allocated for environmental resilience and conservation practices.

Collaborate with Local Leaders for Project Monitoring of the climate crisis issues, Engage local councilors and community representatives to monitor project innovations and how they are targeting vulnerable communities to climate change. This invests more on advocating for climate change solutions from local government participation in environmental monitoring and project implementation.

Promote value addition for local produce**:** train farmers on initiatives of value addition techniques, so that beneficiaries producing food in bulk are able to learn how to save, and utilize all the produce from the farms. For example a district official encouraged the use of sustainable practices such as solar drying of products like pumpkin seeds to boost local earnings.

Sustainability through change agent training**:** the training of CLIRK project beneficiaries as UCAA change agents will boost advocacy and will ensure the sustainability of project innovations by equipping beneficiaries with the skills needed to drive long-term change.

There is need for continuous documentation of the available 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 a hybrid forecast system to 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.

There is need of ensuring that the previously developed CAAPs document 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.

Basing on UCAA Experience of working with Communities, project exit should take place after the community has been fully prepared to adopt and sustain project achievements. Such a methodology, UCAA has Self-reliant and participatory methodology that had not been included during this current year of project implementation. If beneficiaries are not well prepared, there is a tendency of backsliding. Therefore, such mindset change training is needed to be provided to beneficiaries in the upcoming near future to create strong ownership of the innovations amongst them.

In conclusion, the innovation solutions implemented in Kyangwali to address the barriers of continuous food production on a small plots, gender inequalities and gender based violence are going on well, however their uptake is a process since it aligns with mindset change and adaptation, while advocacy for the innovations and achieving gender mainstreaming also takes steps from individual/household levels, to local levels and eventually global levels. To achieve these: a coordination and contribution from various departments of private sectors, local government, like minded ministries and community members is needed to achieve scaling up, increase in uptake of the food innovations for resilience of climate vulnerable communities.

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