



**UGANDA CHANGE  
AGENT ASSOCIATION (UCAA)**  
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SELF RELIENCE



# **UCAA**

## **Annual Report**

### 2022

Promoting the participation of vulnerable communities in the decision-making, control and protection of their livelihoods for Sustainable development

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## ACRONYMS

<b>UCAA</b> .....	Uganda Change Agent Association
<b>WID</b> .....	Women In Development
<b>QSN</b> .....	Quaker Service Norway
<b>FCA</b> .....	Finn Church Aid
<b>VCAT</b> .....	Village Change Agent Training
<b>VSLA</b> .....	Village Savings and Loan Association
<b>IGA</b> .....	Income Generating Activities
<b>PDM</b> .....	Parish Development Model
<b>GBV</b> .....	Gender Based Violence
<b>CaR</b> .....	Children at Risk
<b>LC1</b> .....	Local Council one
<b>LC111</b> .....	Local Council three
<b>LC5</b> .....	Local Council five
<b>VCAT</b> .....	Village Change Agent Training
<b>SHGA</b> .....	Self Help Group Approach
<b>CDO</b> .....	Community Development Officer
<b>CRM</b> .....	Complaints Response Mechanism
<b>REACH</b> .....	Rights Enhancement and Advocacy for Change
<b>EYEAP</b> .....	Enhancement for Youth Employment and Agency Project
<b>DTF</b> .....	Development Team Foundation
<b>SRHR</b> .....	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
<b>SC</b> .....	Sub County



## WORD FROM UCAA CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Uganda Change Agent Association, I congratulate you upon completing the year 2022. There has been resilience and creditable performance with delivered outstanding results within the organization during the year compared to the last two years of which involved challenging headwinds with the Covid-19 Pandemic that hit nations globally.

Over the years, UCAA has endeavoured to have and has maintained a strong operational performance on ground to the communities we serve. As is our tradition, we have maintained a continuous working relationship with the communities, the stakeholders and donors.

UCAA Board of Directors and management at large recognises the UCAA competent secretariat staff that have enabled a smooth implementation of all project activities running through different regions of the country. The UCAA management and team has continued to work hard to secure the projects in place; though some have phased out, more have been won. The team works under the designed policies, follow donor requirements that fit within government of Uganda guidelines, Uganda National Strategic plan and the sustainable development goals (SDGS).

UCAA continued to align their objectives and goal to address some of the issues as indicated in the sustainable development goals for an inclusive and sustainable social economic development. We shall continue working hard with God enabling us as a team in the struggle to enable our communities live an improved quality of life while utilising the available resources in the communities.

Appreciation goes to my fellow Board of Directors, UCAA donors, partners, local leaders, the community we work with and the UCAA Secretariat staff for your efforts towards the 2022 annual achievements. Let the struggle continue.

Thank you,

*Balwana Philip Kagodo*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2022 marked the end of Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) three-year strategic plan that is titled “Promoting the participation of vulnerable communities in decision making, control and protection of their livelihoods for sustainable Development” for the period 2020 to 2022. In general, it was a successful year for UCAA during which most of the planned activities were carried out for the achievement of our mission to ensure that poor rural communities in Uganda empowered and self-reliant, living in harmony with dignity. UCAA's desire is to increase local capacities and provide opportunities through the change agent process for self-reliance with improved income as well as improving their access to basic services.

Activities intended for the stimulation of economic empowerment were carried out that enabled vulnerable youth, women and men to work together in self-help development groups through which they are successfully operating their own group savings schemes, their own group credit schemes and earning income for investment in micro businesses as a result of their membership in these groups. Individual disadvantaged rural and urban women, youth and men were enabled to initiate, invest in and manage their own viable income generating activities.

Activities intended for the stimulation of political development were carried out that enabled poor rural men and women to become consciously awakened, to begin to question why conditions around them are the way they are, to realise the need for them to take responsibility to reverse trends that negatively affect their livelihoods. Self-help group members and other community members reached were able to participate in leadership and decision making processes.

Activities intended for the stimulation of social development were carried out that encouraged the formation of local people's parliament for advocacy and networking purposes and enabled self-help groups under UCAA support to link poor rural men and women to other service providers. Self-help groups were motivated to establish formal linkages with their respective local administrations and other stakeholders. UCAA gender policy was actively implemented in ensuring that the knowledge, attitudes and practices of men and women in Uganda were improved with regards to gender issues.

Activities intended to End Violence Against women, children and girls and also promote Sexual Reproductive Health Rights were carried out that resulted into increased access to gender based violence prevention interventions and improved SRH for vulnerable women, girls in the targeted communities.

UCAA continued to maintain its asset base and to utilise its assets in a frugal manner. These assets included visible and invisible assets such as full-time paid professional staff, volunteer Change Agents and development workers, financial resources, buildings and land, vehicles, training and office equipment.

UCAA was able to generate its own income that contributed 5.1% of its expenses in the year 2022. UCAA funding partners continued to show confidence and trust in the work of UCAA through their generous financial contributions that contributed to 94.9% of the income that covered UCAA's expenses in 2022.

UCAA is satisfied that its work and that of the trained Change Agents countrywide is impacting positively on the lives of thousands of vulnerable children, youth, women, common-interest self-help groups and communities in Uganda.

It is with great pleasure that UCAA shares with you this remarkable progress towards the achievement of the targets in the strategic plan 2020 -2022 as we close the year 2022. The world, our nation Uganda and the communities we serve have changed considerably as a result of COVID 19 pandemic crisis. Despite the difficulty and uncertainties of the pandemic, we managed to redesigned and effected the best approaches that enabled us to achieve our objectives. This report, therefore, covers the period from January to December 2022. It is an end of year report detailing UCAA's work during the year 2022 and at the same time it is a progress report indicating UCAA's achievements, so far, in relation to UCAA's three-year strategic plan. In this regard, this report attempts to analyse UCAA's success in 2022 in achieving the set objectives as stated in UCAA three- year strategic period for 2020-2022.

It is important to note that the 54 UCAA District Change Agent Associations (DCAAs) and the 230 UCAA branches countrywide are autonomous. These DCAAs and branches carried out their own activities that are not included in the UCAA national plans and budgets and are, therefore, not included in this report. Each of the DCAAs have prepared their own District Annual financial and Narrative Reports and are being discussed and approved during their respective District Assemblies that are being conducted during April to June 2023.

The UCAA management team prepared this report in close consultation with the UCAA project officers. This report was approved by the UCAA Board of Directors during their meeting held on 30th March 2023.

A summarised version of this report is being circulated in April through to June to members of UCAA attending UCAA district assemblies for discussion. The summarised version of the report will be presented to the UCAA National Delegates Assembly scheduled for July 2023 for final approval.

Copies of this report will be circulated to all UCAA DCAAs, UCAA Funding Partners, relevant government departments, in particular the District Administrations, members of parliament, and selected NGOs with whom UCAA is networking with internationally and nationally. It will also be published on the UCAA website: [www.ucaa.or.ug](http://www.ucaa.or.ug)

Uganda Change Agent Association works towards improving the quality of life of the most rural and impoverished communities through providing an environment that catalyzes sustainable development processes at community level, providing voice and space to the most marginalized groups to exercise their rights in the decision-making process, support people to access and develop the capabilities, services and opportunities needed to live a healthy, productive and otherwise fulfilling life, while sustainably using the natural resources they depend on.

This report covers UCAA's progress in achieving our mission and contributing to our vision during the year 2022.

With best regards,

*Lucy Akello Ayena*

## WORD FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## UGANDA CHANGE AGENT ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Over the years, Uganda Change Agent Association, has grown and transformed itself not only from a nationwide membership organization but also into a specialized development organisation for the promotion and empowerment of vulnerable women, youth and men through sustainable self-reliant participatory development initiatives in Uganda, thus contributing to the socio-economic and political development.

During the year 2022, UCAA implemented a number of projects including: the Women in Development (WID) project in West Nile region with funding from Women's Bank Finland through Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Karamoja Children at Risk Project- with funding from Kerk in Actie (KIA), the Enhancement of Youth Employment and Agency (EYEAP) in West Nile region with funding from European Union (EU), the Rights Enhancement and Advocacy for Change (REACH) project with funding from Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund through UN Women in Acholi and Karamoja regions and Improving livelihoods of women and children in Agago District through Self Help Group Approach with funding from Kindernot Hilfe.



**UCAA Board of Directors November 2022.**



**UCAA staffs introduction during the National Delegates Assembly 2022.**



## PROJECT 1: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (WID) -WEST NILE REGION (YUMBE AND TEREKO DISTRICTS)

### i). Project overview

UCAA has been implementing Women in Development (WID) project in West Nile Districts of Yumbe and Terego since 2018. The project is funded by Finn church Aid with support from Women's Bank Finland.

### ii).Overall Objective/Goal:

The main objective of this Project is to contribute to enhanced socio-economic empowerment of poor women from refugee and host communities of Yumbe and Arua districts in West Nile region.

54 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) have been formed supported where 4 of these groups are purely formed up of refugees from South Sudan and the Republic of Congo that settled in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in West Nile in Uganda. The 54 groups consist of 1,620 women and each group has 30 members.

The sustainable Exit strategy for women in development project 2021-22 was coined with a goal to economically empower women to manage their businesses economically and profitably. This was after the closure of a three-year project that had been implemented from 2018-2020 whose goal was to make women economically empowered to save and access credit so as to take active roles as members of their communities. Both phases of implementation have been funded by the women's Bank of Finland through Finn Church Aid.

### Throughout the project life, our implementation scope has been the Yumbe and Terego districts with focus on 5 sub counties in both districts as summarised below:

Beneficiary target were 1,620 women that UCAA together with FCA managed to reach and empower women by building financial inclusion structures and equipping them with skills to establish profitable small business enterprises. However, some women benefited indirectly as presented below:

No	District/Refugee settlements	Sub county	Parish
1.	Imvepi Refugee settlement	Odupi	Utumbali and Orivu
2.	Bidibidi refugee settlement	Kei	Palaja and Rukuja
		Odravu	Ludaru and Ibadiri
		Romogi	Chabiri and Locomgbo
		Ariwa	Okuyo and Awinga

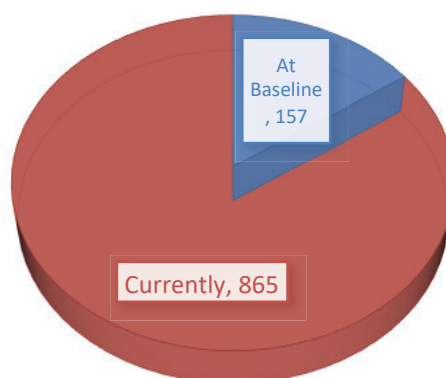


Iyete women's group in Bidibidi Refregee settlement together with UCAA Executive Director, Ms. Lucy Akello and Board chairperson, Mr. Balwana Philip Kagodo interacting during the monitoring visit on 25/02/2022.

## WID Indirect Beneficiary table, 2022

SUB COUNTY	MEN	GIRLS	BOYS T	OTALS
ARIWA	300	1200	1200	2,700
ODUPI	331	1500	1102	2933
ODRAVU	299	1800	1500	3,599
KEI	233	1500	1200	2,933
ROMOGI	253	1200	1200	2,653
BIDIBIDI REFUGEE 3	0	152 8	0	262
IMVEPI REFUGEE 3	5	100 6	0	195
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>7,452</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>12,440</b>

## NUMBER OF WOMEN ENGAGED IN BUSINESS



The project initiated, facilitated and promoted proactive linkages to various financial institutions. Through linkages with the district cooperatives and trade development offices, all the 1,620 women groups have been supported to boost increased productivity and market oriented farming to generate surplus income for savings through organising into beneficiaries of the government projects- including the Parish Development Model (PDM). Through the project, the local government found these organised groups easy to facilitate to link them to sources of financial support. This stimulated and provided activities to boost savings; e.g. linkages to input suppliers and to local and outside markets. This is how the project was able to invite different financial institutions to initiate and undertake proactive linkages of women's enterprises to financial services providers by opening bank accounts and exploring how to introduce banking services to VSLA groups in the refugee settlements. The linkages were as well part of our sustainability strategy.

Despite the challenges, UCAA ensured that all the project activities in this year were conducted as planned; including all the field follow-ups and data collection. And as the project comes to the end, we are convinced that the women have acquired adequate knowledge and skills to sustain them and will always utilise them to earn a living.

### iii) The outputs met by the WID Project in 2022

Fifteen meetings were conducted between VSLAs and Local Governments officials for Linkage of groups. To ensure effective sustainability of the project interventions, all the meetings were conducted together with the local government officers to ensure all the achievements are well aligned with government expectations. Ownership of UCAA interventions at government level has guaranteed continuous government support of the project interventions through



sustainability of the community structures such as the VSLAs and Cooperatives formed. As a result of these meetings, 5 Women groups are already benefiting from the government Programme of PDM fund after recommendations by the local government officials. The local government officials are much more comfortable in supporting these women since they are already trained and able to run their businesses profitably, thereby giving credit to the district due to their high prospect of success. The groups include; Letasi women group, Goalkeeper women group, Mugulara women group, Adukua women group and Orivu cwad women group in Odupi Sub County. The groups are expected to continue working closely within the Local Government structures for them to be recognized and profiled.



**A one day training held together with Umaruku women and interested youth groups in Odravu sub county with support from Affirmative Art Uganda and the training at Ludara parish zinjo village Odravu sub county Yumbe District.**

UCAA conducted 8 Covid-19 awareness meetings in the first two quarters of 2022. During the third and fourth quarter, 6 meetings were mobilized and done. On 19th September 2022 were conducted in: Ludara Village, Ludara Parish in Odravu Sub County, on 20th September 2022 in Tokiri village Palaja parish in Kei sub county, On 21st September 2022 in village seven Azapi parish Odupi sub-county and on 22nd September 2022 in Darjini village Onoko parish Romogi sub-county; Gbangi village Okuyo parish, Ariwa sub-county. The meetings were carried out among the groups of Wandi women group in Odravu sub county, Tokiri women group in Kei sub county, Moribingi, God with us women group in Odupi sub county Imvepi settlement, Imbasi 2 women group in Ariwa sub county and Jajanga women group in Romogi sub county. The aim of Covid-19 awareness meetings was to ensure the participants and communities continue to be vigilant and protect against Covid-19 and the Ebola outbreak. The use of masks especially in public places, frequent washing of hands and vaccination was one of the issues discussed during the meetings. This improved the resilience of women who equally were better than non-beneficiaries due to their savings and loan initiatives. As a result of their enterprise resilience, despite covid-19 challenges, they continued saving. None of the group members and hardly any community member lost their lives to covid-19, meaning the project had strongly empowered women to withstand livelihoods challenges in their community.



**Covid 19 awareness meeting with group members of Shida women saving group in Ludara village Ludara parish Odravu Sub County. In September 2022 and on the right are group chairpersons and secretaries of Kei groups participating in the record keeping training.**



Group chairpersons and secretaries of all the 54 groups (2 from each group) from the sub county of Kei, Romogi, Ariwa, Odravu and Odupi Sub County in Terego District were trained. The trainings were conducted on the 12th September, 13th September 2022, 14th September 2022, 15th September 2022 and 16th September 2022. The aim of the training was to equip the participants on how to implement record keeping skills for business and financial growth. This has been quite successful because at least each of the 108 trained women has been enabled with skills to start small businesses. They are now able to make their own individual business plans, keep business and financial records and monitor growth challenges. This has strengthened record keeping among the project beneficiaries at both group and individual levels.



**Group leaders of God with us women group in Imvepi refugee settlement on the left and some of the group leaders of Odupi Sub County introducing themselves before the training on record keeping commenced. Photo taken by project officer on 14th/09/2022.**

Follow up was made to the response mechanism (CRM) training that was offered to the Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) and the UCAA trained change agents. During the follow-up, it was found out that; Romogi sub county CBF had trained 5 groups in the area of CRM, In Kei they trained 6 groups, in Ariwa the CBFs managed to sensitize 4 groups, in Odupi 3 groups, in Odravu 4 groups, and in the refugee settlements 2 groups in zone 5 Ariwa and 2 groups in Imvepi refugee settlements were also sensitized on (CRM).



**The UCAA Executive Director Ms. Lucy Akello, UCAA Board chairperson, UCAA trained change agents and the UCAA staff during the monitoring visit on the 25/02/2022 at their Yumbe District field office.**

Meetings were held between VSLA groups & Financial Institutions for creation of Linkages i.e. Vision Fund, BRAC Uganda, Alpha Cooperative Savings and Credit, Post Bank and Centenary Bank. This resulted into at least 7 groups opening Bank Accounts for the safe custody of their finances and for future credit opportunities. UCAA has established strong group systems to effectively manage and monitor the VSLA operations and banking transaction to ensure sustainability upon project exit. The Banks were invited and they sensitized groups and individuals in the group to open Bank accounts to enable them access credit finance and to keep money safe as they strive to expand their businesses. They were enabled to open accounts when directly informed by the custodian of their hard-earned cash.

54 VSLA groups were trained in Financial Literacy. This has resulted into improved saving, adherence to loaning and repayment agreements, improve personal business management and record keeping, among others. This has as well helped them to keep focus and appreciate more about the value of money and avoid extravagancy. Compared to the baseline situation when 72% of women depended on annual sale of crops produced, followed by 58% relying on casual labour, with only 24% using small businesses as supplements to livelihoods. By the end of the project all 1,620 women had at least used savings, loans and small businesses as sustainable and resilient sources of livelihoods. This marks a landslide transformation from dependency of weather-prone disaster and undependable labour towards managing own businesses profitably and sustainably. By the project end, they reliably understood how to calculate their business margins, which helped them reduce unnecessary expenses and instead maximize profits and improve household livelihoods.

UCAA supported the formation of 5 sub county women associations in five sub counties through which the sustainability of the project activities is ensured and their capacity in financial management and continuous growth of saving and enterprises is enhanced. UCAA is supporting them to come up with simple continuous monitoring and evaluation processes that will help them continue to track performance at both group and household levels. The 5 sub county women associations bring together VSLAs in the sub counties of Ariwa, Kei, Romogi and Odravu of Yumbe District and Odupi Sub county of Terego District. They have started lending to the women groups at 5% per monthly interest, from which women groups lend to their members at 10% interest per month. These groups have been sustainably established and can independently manage their own affairs. At the same time, they are able to facilitate their members and others as a result of the ToT conducted by the project. This means UCAA can now proceed to new locations to initiate new processes while expanding cooperatives, SACCOs and marketing linkages in collaboration with private sector and state institutions for the continuous improvement of women's livelihoods enhancement opportunities.



**LEFT: The project officer training the Odravu sub county association leaders on how to collect data at group level and on the Right are sub county association leaders of Kei Sub County also attending the training on data collection.**



Some Women groups have Launched Successful Advocacy Campaigns with the purpose of improving social service access and infrastructure, for example Tokiri women group in Kei Sub-county succeeded in their Lobbying Campaign and the construction of a community school which made primary schooling easily accessible for the children. The project has enabled women to open up to participate in community activities and directly champion their own interests and that of other vulnerable women, children and wider community. Coupled with the UCAA self-reliance and SRPD methodology that was chipped-in by UCAA volunteers and staff, the beneficiaries have been able to lobby and advocate for wider service delivery to their constituencies by also being actively involved in elective leadership positions, thereby influencing the development of their communities. Through the UCAA disaster risk policy and advocacy mandates, the project has built the resilience of women and community beneficiaries to be prepared for disaster response including climate-smart environmental activity initiatives at individual, group and community levels. This included introducing environmentally sustainable technologies through specialised agencies that target household environmental resilience as indicated in an attached illustration photograph indicating samples of project success stories.

**Table showing the amount saved by the groups within the year 2022**

Quarter	Group Savings & Welfare fund	Accumulated balance
<b>1</b>	7,340,400	17,837,900
<b>2</b>	34,704,100	50,641,100
<b>3</b>	8,154,000	37,860,400
<b>4</b>	37,015,400	67,721,800
<b>Total in the year</b>	<b>87,213,900</b>	<b>174,061,200</b>

**WID BENEFICIARY TABLE**

Sub counties	Women with IGAs							Assets owned by Women					
	RS	H	LB	P	V	F	B	Land	Houses	Cows	Goats	Pigs	Birds
Odupi	00	03	50	57	30	18	18	00	01	00	182	10	124
Odravu	00	10	00	42	40	25	25	00	00	03	290	00	180
Kei	11	18	52	215	113	58	70	03	10	20	220	00	210
Romogi	18	24	00	167	90	62	56	00	05	10	170	00	213
Ariwa	11	10	10	60	57	60	22	26	01	01	118	00	173
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>1,838</b>	<b>1444</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3,810</b>

LCI- Local Council 1 (08), LCII-Local Council II (03), LCIII-Local Council (03), LCV- Local Council Five, (00), DLCV- District Local Council Five Representative (02), C@P/F-Female Councillor at Parish Level (02), WEC(NRM)– Women Executive Council NRM (04) and MP- Member of Parliament (00).



#### **iv). Outputs for WID Sustainability during the year 2022.**

The five (5) Sub-county Associations that were formed from the 54 groups have slowly taken over the role to unite the women Groups within their specific sub counties. Groups have learnt to make consultations with sub counties and have established a meaningful relationship. The sub county local leaders have seen them capable and they consider involving them in government programs including capacity building sessions and participation in crucial community meetings; including financial support in any case.

The capacity building provided to the groups in different areas were conducted through liaising with the respective technical officers of the local government or relevant financial institutions especially officers of commercial banks and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) from Yumbe town and Arua city. These skills included; business skills, savings and credit, improved agricultural practices among others. The technical resource persons used were from the district and sub-county offices in Yumbe, Terego and Arua. In particular; the production officers, the District Cooperatives, Marketing and Agricultural extension officers. This helped to make a permanent linkages of women to their local resources persons and institutions for sustainability and ownership.

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to enhanced socio-economic empowerment for poor women from the refugee and host communities of Yumbe and Terego districts in West Nile by 2022. There is evidence that this long term objective was achieved through the social economic trends being observed on the beneficiaries. Financial Literacy was positively developed as per the raising trends of 2021/2022 quarterly savings of the groups below:

#### **v). Benefits recieved by women under WID-Project**

The main beneficiaries of this project are women; however, the benefits trickle down to the family members, Spouses, Children and the community at large. During the year, a number of IGAs created increased as there was access to agricultural products because of favourable weather, also the number of Animals and Birds Owned by Women increased as follows: Cows from 112 Goats from 3,928 in a year, 90 pigs and 3,810 Birds.

#### **vi). Advocacy and Lobbying Capacity**

Women Negotiation Capacity has improved as they conduct advocacy campaigns and achieve. For example, the construction of the government community school in Kei Sub County was a result of advocacy and lobbying; this indicates that their lobbying capacity for funds from other service providers and Financial Management skills has improved.

#### **vii). Project Relevance and Success**

The local governments continue to appreciate UCAA for the work it has done among the beneficiaries. The stakeholders and beneficiaries expressed joy for the sustainable exit strategy for the project noting that; surely it will provide for the consolidation and improvement of the businesses of the beneficiaries.

The Ariwa sub-county association managed to open a bank account for the sub-county association that has also inspired other sub-county associations to start the process of opening up their banks accounts. This makes Ariwa Sub county women association to be the first to open up a bank account at that level.

More 2,000 trees were planted by 12 refugee women on a two-acre land provided for the refugee settlement. Women are being rewarded, and this will in the long run contribute to environmental protection of the area as part of climate change adaptation.

Seven (7) Women groups successfully opened up accounts with Alpha cooperative savings SACCO in Yumbe district.

Women Association in the refugee groups successfully started their savings and credit schemes.

Achieving lobbying of the construction of community school in Kei Sub County by Tokiri women's group through their own advocacy was a success.

## PROJECT 2: THE KARAMOJA CHILDREN AT RISK (CAR)

During the year 2022, UCAA continued to implement the Karamoja Children at Risk (CaR) Project with support from Kerk in Actie. UCAA implements this project in a consortium with other two partners (Dwelling Places and Cooperation and Development), where UCAA is a lead agent.

The primary target groups for this project are; children and their families in Napak district, children on the streets and their families in Kampala, community members in Napak district (sub counties of Lopeei, Lokopo, Lorengecora, Matany and Ngoloriet), village, sub county and district councils, community development officers, probation and social welfare officers, Elders councils, Kraal Leaders, Teachers, faith-based organizations, religious leaders, community based organizations, the police, KCCA, MGLSD and members of parliament.

The project objectives are aligned with goal 16 of the SDGs, and the specific targets on ending violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children; access to justice for all, reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms, and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

### Project outputs registered by UCAA in the year 2022 with the CaR Project as follows;

#### i) The CaR field staff orientation meeting.

UCAA as the lead partner organized the CaR field staff orientation meeting. Staff orientation was conducted from UCAA field office in Kangole Town Council, Napak District. The Program Director and monitoring and evaluation officer from UCAA, took the field staff through the new project document for 2022 – 2024 for proper understanding and better implementation. Staff committed that they are well conversant with the objectives and were ready to implement the project activities as expected.



**The CaR field staff project orientation meeting at UCAA field office in Kangole on 19th July, 2022.**

#### ii) Conduct Project Inception Meetings

UCAA organized and conducted Inception meetings for Napak District and sub county leaders for the new project phase that will run from 2022 - 2024. 84 participants attended the meetings. Leaders appreciated the efforts and contribution UCAA and the CaR consortium partners have given on the plight of the Karamojong children. Leaders agreed to work with commitment and pledged to do more interventions as well as continue to support the CaR consortium partners in



achieving its objectives. UCAA made a presentation of the previous phase and the current phase and pointed out the sub counties of operation plus the planned activities. All Napak District local leaders including the CAO, LCV and RDC officially welcomed the interventions of the new phase 2022 – 2024 and gave a go ahead to UCAA and partners to implement the activities as per the approved work plan.

**iii) UCAA has supported Child and Family Police Unit (CFPU),** Napak district and the counter parts along the transit routes from Moroto to Kampala to conduct interceptions, check through the vehicles to ensure that they are not transporting children or trafficking them, without a specific reason of their movements and through the help of the community whistle-blowers. In the months of January – December 2022, UCAA managed to rescue and resettle 156 children (123 Girls and 33 Boys) that were on their way out of Napak district to the big towns of, Soroti, Mbale, Busia, Jinja and Kampala city. UCAA trained them on enterprise selection, while the caretakers have been put into saving groups; also joined the drama groups while school going children have been enrolled back to school through C&D. They have also been linked to school clubs for continuous support, which has built the confidence of the children and are able to demand for their rights. These children have been linked to other partners for skilling. The project also supported the rehabilitation process of all these children that were rescued including support inform of fuel for counselling reintegration and the entire family tracing process and resettling them.



**The children at Risk after they were intercepted on their way to Kampala at Napak Police Station.**



**Stakeholders supported by UCAA including the RDC, CFPU (in a police uniform) and the LCIII Chair persons during community market sensitisation on unsafe migration to the streets.**



**The DCDO – Ngoleriet sub-county Napak District, addressing the male VSLA group members.**



**iv) In addition to child protection,** UCAA conducted sensitizations in two different markets of Kaiselem under Poron Sub County and Apeitolim Market under Apeitolim sub county bordering Teso region, from Napak district; it attracted over 1,000 people. The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) of Napak District, Probation officer, LC III and the respective market chairpersons, were part of the sensitization on dangers of unsafe out migration, negative parenting, child trafficking, and issues of insecurity. The parents/masses were encouraged to take their children to school, to reduce on to much consumption of alcohol, which has led to breakup of families and not giving a better environment for children to grow well. The referral paths were given to people and through this activity, we have realized that there is a decrease in children being trafficked, the network of whistleblowers has increased and the community is very much alert, and always informed about child protection. Issues of children have also been raised in all forums as cross cutting issues. This has highly helped in mitigating child abuse and trafficking.

**vii) UCAA trained and supported households on kitchen/backyard gardening** to the 52 groups under support and they all successfully got the knowledge and skills. Out of the training, 60 kitchen gardens have been formed, economically the participants are to earn income, have a source of food, boost the nutrition level of their children; UCAA was able to create 60 income generating activities. The kitchen gardens are a source of food, leading to improved standards of living and children will grow up healthy and then be able to contribute positively to the development of Karamoja region and the nation at large. The participants also received farm inputs like hoes, watering cans, and vegetable seeds for them to kick start the vegetable business. By the end of December, 2022, an increase in the numbers of people doing vegetable growing/ Kitchen gardens was noticed. This is one of the income generating activities (IGA) in Napak District. A total 585 people (450 Female and 135 Male) active caretakers and children managed to take up the vegetable growing activity as a business, that has improved on the standards of living because of the income, the families are able to have more meals like 2 in a day, it has improved on the nutrition of children, it has attracted young male into cultivation as a business, the caretakers are able to provide children with basic needs like paying medical bills, foods, acquire scholastic materials etc.



**Pupils of Matany Primary school, parents and caretakers receiving farm inputs from UCAA through LC III chairperson on 30th June, 2022.**



**The UCAA Youth VSLA members of Nawaikoro Parish, Ngoleriet sub county, Napak District at their backyard garden.**



**viii) UCAA village change agent training (VCAT) methodology empowered group members.**

The participants acquired knowledge and skills in the areas of group dynamics, income generating activities, leadership skills, gender issues, poverty analysis and book keeping. Trained members have been able to form 4 saving groups within the parish and have also started 20 enterprises including cattle trading, vegetable selling, fuel selling and local wine brewing among others. They have also gained leadership skills and their communication skills have improved. They can now speak to defend children rights and influence their peers to take children to school, and are practicing self-reliance.



**Some of the parents and caretakers group members attending one of the Village Change Agent Training sessions.**

**ix) 18 old VSLA groups were given refresher trainings during the year 2022.**

They have been strengthened to continue with the saving culture, taken through group dynamics, benefits of group savings and income generating activities. However, due to the effects of COVID 19, members had reduced in their weekly savings & loaning. It was discovered that some groups had lost interest and moral in groups, but after the training, we have noticed a great improvement in group meeting attendances and increased amounts of shares saved per week than before. Some have resumed taking loans to add capital in their businesses and thus more earnings are expected. In addition, UCAA formed more 27 groups in 2022 and provided them with the training on group dynamics and understanding the principles of village savings and loans association (VSLA), the groups are processing their requirements to be recognized at their local administrations.



**The old VSLA group members attending the refresher trainings.**



**Some of the cultural and community leaders during the community sensitisation on gender and culture.**

**x) UCAA conducted a sensitization of community leaders on culture and gender issues**

These were stakeholders that we work with and are always contacted by UCAA to train the parents and caregivers. The same category was also trained about child protection and guidance. Participants have continued to create awareness on gender and culture issues in the communities. And this has been noticed during UCAA capacity building trainings where some of these leaders request to be fixed and given some time to talk to the participants. This in turn has changed attitude of community members to respect their culture in line with child protection.

**xi) UCAA facilitated the formation of child protection structures.**

During the year, UCAA mobilised them and they were sensitized as this refreshed their minds about their roles and responsibilities in protecting children within their communities. They are aware that every child has the right to live free from violence, exploitation and abuse, thus children will be protected from their homes, schools and the community at large. They also appreciated that they learnt the different forms of violence like; physical, emotional or sexual and promised to protect children.



**This photo shows members of the child protection structures as they gathered for refresher training about child rights and protection.**



### xii) UCAA mobilized and empowered male participants as GBV champions.

They understood the GBV core concepts, the different types of roles and responsibilities and how they relate to GBV, the causes and contributing factors, the consequences of GBV, the guiding principles and how to apply them, basic understanding of a survivors needs and skills for supporting GBV survivors and making safe referrals. The participants are already talking to the fellow peers at different social gatherings, they handle and resolve some issues at village level or do the referrals and the effect of this is viewed from the way men are handling themselves and also participating in the group savings and credit scheme.



**The Child and Family Protection Unit Police Officer in charge of Napak Police Station facilitate a training of Male GBV champions in Napak District.**

### xiii) Commemoration of National Days

**Independence Day:** UCAA supported 200 children (100 girls and 100 boys) of Matany primary school to participate during independence day celebrations held at school level, for the pupils to understand the reason why Uganda is always doing such, so that they embrace the ideology of self-reliance and patriotism to promote our eco systems and creating opportunities for the future leaders and those our our children. The children promised to always remind their peers to embrace hard work and cooperation for the development of their families and country.

**International World Food Day:** UCAA mobilized 100 (60 female, 40 male) caretakers to participat in the event. The facilitator from production department of Napak district was facilitated to sensitize the caretakers on the importance of world food day, as the theme for 2022 is Leave NO ONE behind, UCAA could not leave the caretakers of the street connected children behind, looking at the high food product prices, on set drought and insecurity which has caused hunger in Karamoja region; affecting the nutrition of children. Therefore, the participants were emphasized on not selling the little harvest they have got in the last season, encouraged the caretakers to put up kitchen gardens that will provide vegetables for the home consumption and income. The caretakers have adopted the issue of not selling by having sacks for storage and some have started kitchen gardens, they are also seen drying their crops for better preservation.



**The 16 days of activism against Gender – Based Violence:** This is an annual campaign used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. This was marked by a launch on 25th November, the international day for elimination of violence against women and it ended on 10th December- the international human rights day. A number of invited guest attended that included; the district leadership, sub county leaders, community leaders, community members, partners, children from different schools, school head teachers, patron and matrons and other NGOs that work closely with the district to see that human rights violation comes to an end. The district of Napak joined the rest of the world to honor, and launch the fight against gender based violence that affects the majority of women and girls in Karamoja and Uganda at large as a county. The theme of the celebration of the 16 days of activism for this year was “UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls.”



**The local leader of Matany sub county addressing pupils during Independence Day celebration at one of the supported schools.**



**The Children At Risk caretakers and parents exhibiting their products during the International World Food Day organized at Napak district Headquarters.**



#### **xiv) UCAA trained School Management Committee and teachers on entrepreneurship skills.**

A total of 30 participants (24 Male and 6 Female) successfully completed the training on 15th August, 2022. They acquired the skills on business management, teamwork and leadership skills, communication and listening skills, customer service skills, financial management skills, problem solving skills, critical thinking and the planning skills. The participants came up with different business plans, in the areas of; brick making, bakery shop, liquid soap making and those were some of the plans. UCAA has seen participants borrowing money from their saving groups to facilitate them to start selling silver fish, tomatoes, cooking oil and salt, the other members have been encouraged to join and start new savings as one way of teamwork to mobilize and accumulate income for easy borrowing at a low interest rate, so as to improve on their standard of living and be able to take care of their children by providing for the family needs.

#### **xv) UCAA supported Health workers to sensitize 200 (124 F & 76M) children on Sexual Reproductive Health including issues on Ebola outbreak and COVID 19 pandemic.**

The pupils of Longalom primary school were mobilized and the health workers, empowered them with the knowledge and skills on sexually transmitted diseases, for example, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and unwanted pregnancy, the pupils got the skills of making re-usual pads using the available local resources. Through these the pupils have been able to stay in school and complete their primary level of studies, the caretakers will be able to save income for other home use, and the pupils will appreciate their growth processes.



**Health worker from Matany Hospital sensitize pupils on Reproductive Health rights.**

#### **xvi) Establishment of drama groups in Lokopo Sub County, Lopeii Sub County and Ngoleriet Sub-Counties.**

Three drama groups were formed in Lukopo and Lopeii Sub Counties and they are disseminating child protection messages, through songs and role plays at any gatherings within the community, these drama groups were formed within the month of September, 2022. They are always mobilized during international days, market days and any other community gatherings to come and sensitize the mass, inform of entertainment, which is interesting for the children to attend and listen to the message being passed, it indeed attracts very many people.



**The three different drama groups established in Lokopo, Ngoleriet and Lopeii Sub Counties.**



**xvii) During the year 2022, UCAA hosted a donor representative from Kerk in Actie - Netherlands by the names of Hette Domburg.**

He visited Karamoja children at risk program in Napak District and the visit was successful. The team visited Napak District and shared with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Two savings groups were also reached, one at Matany Sub County and another one in Lokopo Sub County. Groups shared their success stories on how they have benefited from the project and especially being part of saving groups. Members shared their testimonies. One of the re-united families was also visited and they shared how they had broken up due to gender violence, but UCAA intervened and they reconciled and re-united.



**Above photo shows Hette Domburg from The Netherlands, representing Kerk in Actie, with the UCAA CaR team as they visited Napak District CaR parents and caregivers group in June, 2022. Photos taken by Julius, Project Officer.**



**Hette Domburg from Netherlands, representing Kerk in Actie, with the UCAA CaR team as they visited Napak District CAO's Office and the VSLAs group in June, 2022.**



**xviii) UCAA mobilized and facilitated the stakeholder's resettlement meeting that took place at Kobulin Centre.**

21 rescued girls from Kampala streets were handed to Kobulin centre for rehabilitation, later tracing and resettlement was done. UCAA followed up and identified the parents and other children caretakers and have linked them to different saving groups near them while others formed new saving groups. They have also been encouraged to have different entrepreneurship, vegetable growing at backyard gardening e.t.c. The district officials also promised to link these families to government programs, so that the household income levels are improved to reduce on unsafe out migration, the school going age will be enrolled in school and others will join skilling programs.



**Napak District leaders attending the resettlement meeting at Kobulin Rehabilitation centre.**

**xix) IEC visibility materials**

UCAA procured and distributed the following material: T-shirts, Bags, reflector jackets and calendars. The IEC visibility materials were distributed at all levels within Napak district, directly to the beneficiaries, sub county officials, District officials and at National level “Stop child abuse and child trafficking” as the powerful message evolved in most of the IEC materials, therefore, the information has been passed to a wider area and its sustainable.



**Bodaboda riders with reflector jackets recieved from the CaR team.**

## CAR PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN PICTORIAL



**CaR Monitoring Team interacting with children under project support in Lorunget Primary School.**



**VSLA groups sharing their records with the change Agent facilitators during one of their savings and credit meetings.**



**CaR partners presenting reports to the Local Leaders of Napak District.  
RIHGHT: Vice chairperson LCV giving his closing remarks.**





**UCAA Executive Director together with CaR staff having a light moment with two different VSLA groups during a monitoring visit.**



**CaR staff together with UCAA Executive Director visiting resettled children who received the tailoring training through C&D and the school kitchen garden supported by the project at Matany Primary School.**



**Matany Primary School Management Team with CaR team pose for a photograph after a review meeting with the CaR team.**



**Napak District project inception meeting for the new phase of the project 2022-2024.**



## PROJECT 3: ENHANCEMENT FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND AGENCY IN WEST NILE (EYEAP) REGION.

The Project for Enhancement of youth employment is implemented in Yumbe, Moyo-Obongi and Adjumani districts, where 60% of the population constitutes young people. For various reasons (including technological advancement, limited resources, low levels of education among others), the category of the youth aged 18-35 are the most affected by unemployment.

During the year 2022, youth have started to initiate savings and small-scale self-employment initiatives. With the decline in the Covid19 new cases, the project was able to undertake other project actions that need more person-to-person interaction. At the time of reporting, the target beneficiaries were engaged in activities like harvest crops, income generating activities like poultry, hand crafts, small businesses, crop production, among others.

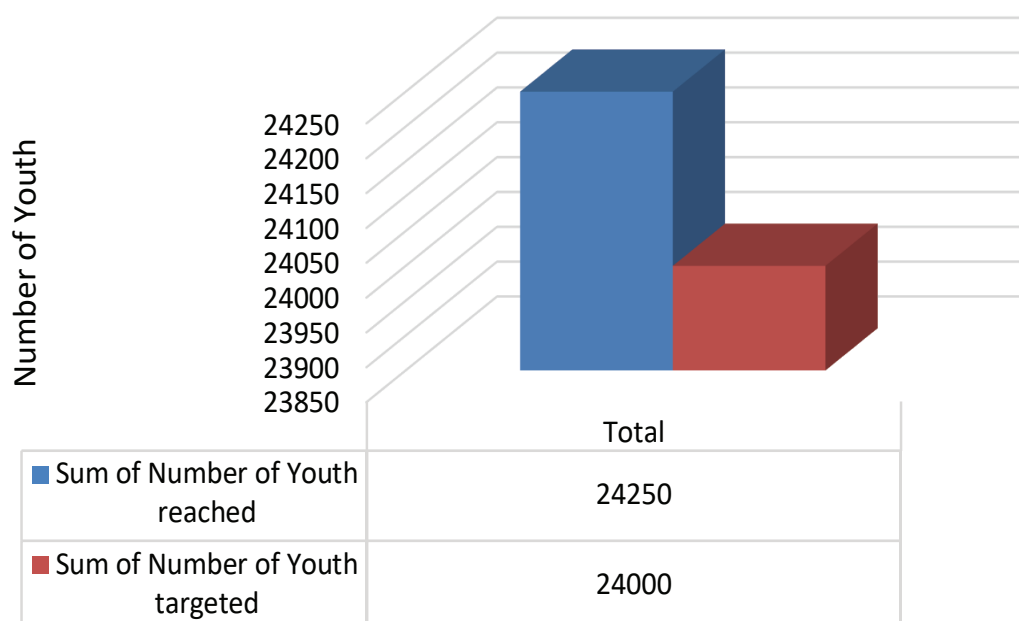
Beneficiaries were trained in Parenting & Sustainable Skills, Basic Business skills, Advanced Business skills, Life skills plus positive mind-set skills, lobbying and Advocacy skills, financial literacy, Vocational skills such as, backyard gardening, training in salon/hair dressing and cutting. Financial linkages, Village Savings & Loan Association, Entrepreneurship, Income Generating activities, Journalism in Print Media and FM Advocacy, and the Youth were mobilized through Football, Netball and Drama Events.

By the end of 2022, all planned actions were implemented. The details of the Results, Outputs and Outcomes and impact are below;

The Project used a group approach to mobilize the youth beneficiaries. The total number of youth-group beneficiaries reached was 24,495 youths (Adjumani 8,320, Moyo-Obongi 8,075 and Yumbe 8,100). This number later reduced to 24,250 youth because 245 youth mainly in Moyo-Obongi migrated to other districts but were not replaced. This depicts approximately 101% of the 24,000 targeted youth reached in West Nile; organised in 807 groups by the year 2022.

The training of beneficiaries contributed to a tremendous positive mind-set change of Youths towards work hence Self-Sustainability of the Youth beneficiaries. This is evidenced by 17,840 (Males 8,109 & Females. 9,731) who established own IGAs thus creating self-employment and remaining balance of 6,160 does casual labour to make money. Some of these IGAs

### UCAA-2022 YOUTH COVERAGE FOR EYEAP PROJECT



includes; Retail business shops, food Vending, Produce Business, Local Hotel/Restaurant, Local Brewing, Farming, vegetable selling and Fish Monger, Salon, Welding among others. This particular intervention funded by the European Union, helped to supplement on the government's interventions such as the Youth Livelihood Fund (YLF), a policy response to address development challenges in Uganda as per the National Development Plan (NDP) as well complement other funding instruments for CSOs such as the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) which addresses advocacy and accountability issues and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). This project has also contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 1 (No poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth) and 10 (Reduced inequalities) as evidenced by a higher number of girls (9,731) than boys (8,109) creating IGAs. These were linked to other plans intended to guide the provision of sustainable quality services, minimize vulnerability of Youths and propel them into responsible citizens.

In order to achieve the above outcome, four result areas were planned to achieve four specific outputs. These outputs included baseline survey, development of capacity-building plan and updating of curriculum and training manual. These prepared the ground for the outcome of having capacity of targeted youth built for self-employment. The community at large with the local leaders have shown gratitude and youths have presented their stories of change within a short time since project inception. This gives them hope to earn a living and they shall be able to cater for household needs and economically develop within their communities. These outputs are summarised below:



**European Union delegation to the Republic of Uganda staff Elizabeth Ongom (middle) in a project review meeting with the UCAA team at Ajumani District field office.**

A total of 3,750 (1,875 female & 1,800 males) Youths from the youth groups were trained in Income Generating Activities and group dynamics. The key objective of the trainings was to enable the youth who are the direct beneficiaries under the project to identify, plan and manage income generating activities (IGAs) for the purpose of providing self-employment. Through transfer of knowledge, UCAA and DTF supported these to transfer knowledge to fellow youth and this eventually resulted into the creation of 17,840 IGAs by the youth in West Nile as laid down in the tables below.



### NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO HAVE STARTED THEIR OWN IGAS AND ITS TYPES IN MOYO-OBONGI DISTRICTS

Sub counties	Youth beneficiaries with IGAs		Common IGAs in Moyo
	F	M	
Moyo	273	236	"Retail shops, Produce Buying & Selling Business, Local Brewing, Farming, vegetable selling and Fish Monger Retail business shops, , food Vending, Local Hotel/Restaurant, Building and Construction works, <i>Boda-boda</i> riding, Casual labor, Hair Saloon Business, selling of fire wood & charcoal Burning among others "
Moyo Town Council	314	228	
Lefori	406	223	
Aliba	874	530	
Gimara	250	149	
Itula	212	373	
Palorinya	251	282	
Metu	346	362	
Laropi	361	313	
Dufile	231	258	
<b>Refugees</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>105</b>	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>3,059</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>6,741</b>		

### NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO HAVE STARTED THEIR OWN IGAS AND ITS TYPES IN YUMBE DISTRICT

Sub counties	Youth beneficiaries with IGAs		Most common IGAs in Yumbe
	F	M	
Ariwa	188	190	Produce buying and selling, general merchandise, local restaurant, keeping and rearing of animals, selling of agricultural products like greens (farming), selling of birds, butchery, making handcrafts,  Tailoring and gourmet cutting, graphics, welding & metal fabrication, building and construct, bee keeping, <i>Boda-boda</i> transport, cash for work (casual labor), saloon & hair cutting, selling of fish, making and selling of chapatti (Rolex), car washing, selling of fire wood & charcoal, mechanics, local stone quarrying, mobile money business, sand mining.
Odravu	291	121	
Drajini	133	115	
Lodonga	294	98	
Kululu	113	161	
Kuru	181	150	
Kei	276	150	
Yumbe Town Council	398	290	
Apo	261	240	
Romogi	260	288	
<b>Refugees</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>1,730</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>4,206</b>		

NUMBER OF YOUTH WHO HAVE STARTED THEIR OWN IGAS AND ITS TYPES IN ADJUMANI DISTRICT			
Sub counties	Youth beneficiaries with IGAs		Most common IGAs in Adjumani
	F	M	
Adjumani TC	189	222	Food vending, baking, beekeeping, brewing, brickmaking, casual labour, fish selling, gardening, goat rearing, piggery, poultry, retail trade, soap making, charcoal burning, crafts, basket weaving, produce buying and selling.
Ciforo 3	643	15	
Itirikwa 2	943	38	
Ofua	386	342	
Pakele 4	223	88	
Dzaipi 3	263	31	
Arinyapi 2	763	17	
Ukusijoni	331	314	
Adropi 4	123	28	
Pachara	355	320	
Refugees	218	205	
<b>Sub total 3</b>	<b>,573 3</b>	<b>,320</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>6,893</b>		

The mind-set of youth and their positive attitude towards work tremendously improved. This was also because UCAA incorporated stakeholders such as the parents, religious and cultural leaders in the project implementation particularly in trainings of parenting & sustainable skills, life-skills, as they are often supportive of the cultural and social practices that have positive implications for women, youth and children. This was made possible with building their capacity in the field of protection and explaining the law and policies, and emphasising their responsibility as traditional community leaders since this action increased the youth's involvement in positive practices and contributed to their positive roles enhancement. The training of beneficiaries in life-skills, lobby and advocacy skills contributed tremendously to positive mind-set change of youths towards work hence Self-Sustainability of the youth beneficiaries as well as improved level of parenting and life skills which resulted into youth self-assertion and positive attitude to work. This benefited 4,251 individual youth in Yumbe and Moyo districts selected from the groups to benefit from Parish Development Model program due to lobby and advocacy skills that the youths attained thus Fostered unity and participatory decision making among the youths and the communities hence collectively work together to solve problems among the beneficiaries.

The linkage of the groups and individuals to micro finance institutions such as BRAC Uganda, Moyo and OTCE SACCO and other relevant government structures like CDO offices to legalize their business engagement continued to provide additional financial services and grant support services to the youth groups and individuals. This is evidenced by a total of 4,351 youth (3,121 in Moyo and 1,230 of Yumbe district), individual members who benefited from Parish the Development Model program of government of Uganda. In addition, from the data collected, 17,840 youth (Moyo/Obongi 6,741, Yumbe 4,206 and Adjumani 6,893) including 850 refugee youth have established own IGAs thus creating self-employment. This has stimulated intellectual and technical growth of young people who have become more productive members of the society. With existence of craftsmen, technicians and other skilled human power will in the long run support local industries within the area.

A total of 1,500 (601 Males and 899 Females) youths have been linked to financial service providers such as BRAC Uganda, Moyo and OTCE SACCO and are receiving financial assistances from the institutions as an exit and sustainability strategy for the project. DTF provided linkages with financial institutions such as banks, SACCOs & micro finance institutions for the formed VSLA groups in Adjumani. (Adjumani TC SACCO, Pakele SACCO, Equity bank, Centenary bank & Vision Fund. The purpose of this linkage was to build the capacity of the groups, equipped them with knowledge and skills on linkage banking modalities & rational for linkage banking.





**ABOVE: European Union Representative interacting with the Youth Project beneficiaries in the West Nile Region.**

UCAA and DTF management, led by the Executive Director (ED), Chairperson BoD of UCAA and Programme Director (PD) of UCAA have periodically conducted Field Visits in West Nile to check on performance of the field team, in light of refugees and host-community project implementation progress. During such routine field visits to the project sites they advised field staffs on Project Implementation, they met and discussed project implementation issues with Local government leaders and other stakeholders in the region. The management had such review meetings with staffs and Volunteers in the district local governments.



**Promoting youth employment for self reliance .**



## PROJECT 4. IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE WOMEN OF AGAGO THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP APPROACH

UCAA continued to implement the Self Help Group Approach project to improve livelihoods of women and children in Agago district. UCAA has implemented this project for six years now and implements within Acholi Sub-region, Adilang Sub County-Agago district. The Sub County has seven parishes namely; Ligi-Ligi, Orina, Kulaka, Labwa, Lalal, Lapyem, and Nge-kidi. UCAA has so far established 126 (one hundred twenty six) Self Help Groups. The project has also reached about 2,486 direct beneficiaries. With a total number of 12,518 children existing within the SHGs.

**Within the six years implemented so far, UCAA has been able to establish 7 Cluster Level Associations (CLAs), where 62 SHGs make up these clusters.**

CLAs have formed functional subcommittees for child protection who are in regular contact with different child protection actors such as local leaders and community structures at all times to respond to child protection issues in their respective communities. The CLAs are in regular contact with office of the CDO, LCs, VHTs and other partners who handle child protection issues within Agago district. CLAs helped in identifying cases of child rights violation and they report child abuse cases to the relevant authorities then they make follow up to ensure that proper services are given to the survivors.



**Vulnerable rural women actively participating in a community meeting during the formation of new Self Help Groups in Kilokoitiol ward, Adilang community in Agago District October 2022.**

### Some of the Achievement at CLAs Level.

CLAs within communities have been keen about health issues. They selected role committees within them and always discuss and lobby about health issues. An example is one of the CLAs (Kwiri aye lonyo) solved issues at the Health Centre (Orina HCII) where midwives were always absent and community members were always complaining. The CLA intervened with the LC1 committee and held a meeting with health workers and midwives and an improvement in attendance and time management has been noticed.

Among the role committees is also one in charge of education, and one of the CLA (Ribbe kacel kelo kuc) realized that they were missing a child development centre or nursery school within their community. Young children ready to begin school could not manage walking long distances; however, this CLA mobilized the community and lobbied for land (Kanyipa) and one nursery school (Dr. Ambosoli community nursery school) has been established.

In addition regarding health, the CLA (Ribbe kacel kelo kuc) above also established linkages with TASO and young mothers aged 19-24, who were mobilized and grouped and are receiving counseling and guidance.

The community (Kapel, Orina Parish, Adilang Sub County) and the Head teacher of (Orina



Primary school) was complaining about a few teachers on pay roll compared to the pupils in the school. Kwiri aye lonyo CLA intervened and mobilized the school and PTA committee where they held a meeting and decided to recruit casual teachers and it's in plan about to be implemented.

CLAs have advocated for many bore holes and have worked with LCs and community to ensure proper maintenance of these water sources

In addition, CLAs have also played mediation roles to ensure that peace prevails in the community and children realize their potentials and their rights observed.

During the year 2022, all the SHGs managed to save a total saving of 66,599,100/= (Sixty Six million, five hundred ninety nine thousand one hundred shillings).



**Youth trainees of Ribbe kacel kelo kuc CLA and some Community Based Training committee members, Local Artisans interacting with the Project Officer of ACORD during exposure visit in November 2022.**



**UCAA project officer sensitising the Community Based Training committee on their roles.**

## PROJECT 5: RIGHTS ENHANCEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE (REACH PROJECT)

Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) implemented REACH project in Kitgum and Karenga districts with funding from UN women under women peace and humanitarian fund, a project on elimination of violence against women and girl in the community. This was a two year project that was implemented from June 2020 to June 2022.

**The project registered achievements in regards to the objectives as follows;**

**Outcome 1:** Increased access to gender-based violence prevention interventions and SRH for women and girls in targeted areas

**Output 6.1** 5 women's rights groups including relevant civil society organizations have improved capacity to advocate for the rights of women and girls and support GBV interventions

**Output 6.2:** 3,000 women, 1,500 girls, 1,000 boys facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have improved access to Gender Based Violence prevention interventions

52 VSLA groups were formed and are functional with all the members attending and saving during the meetings and they have managed to save a total of over 15, 000,000 by the time of project closure. The group members started IGAs and have income for their households. A total of at least 810 members of VSLA have at least an IGA at home. This shows the positive impact that the project has brought in the life of these members and the community at large. The VSLA is helping them to support their families in terms of providing food, paying school fees for the children, and creating more IGA at home. In this period of faring, most of the members are borrowing money to help them in buying agricultural inputs and other agricultural activities. The IGA created includes; retail business, goats, pigs, cows and chicken rearing.

### GBV case management

During the implementation period a total of 10 cases of GBV were handled the cases include; 2 cases of physical abuse, 7 economic abuses and 1 cases of sexual abuse all these cases were handled by the GBV prevention structures in Orom subcounty both in Lolita and Katwotwo parish.

### Sexual Reproductive Health Outreaches

Basing on the data from the health centre, it shows that the rate of men accompanying their wives for Anti Nental Clinic (ANC) has increased this shows that men are slowly understanding the importance of escorting their wives to the health centre for ANC, 45 came for ANC and 55 came for family planning services at the health centre in total 100 women got SRH services from the health centre.

Sexual abuse	Physical abuse	Economic abuse	Total
1	3	6	10

### Leaving no one behind principle

In our project implementation activities, both male and female were engaged including PWDs and older persons. In the VSLA group that we work with, majority of the members are women which also include older person, people living with disability and people leaving HIV/AIDS. During the follow up on hygiene promotion and sex education activities, we made sure that even children with disabilities are engaged and their views were also heard.

### Summary of the beneficiary table

Sexual reproductive health indirect beneficiaries are 115 women  
Hygiene promotion indirect beneficiaries are 30 girls



**Beneficiary table for Kitgum district**

Direct					Total	Indirect					Total
Children			Adult			Children		Adult			
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female		
	0	0	0	0	0		30	0	115		145
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	115		145

### Communication activities

During the reporting period, we have been in position to update the sub county and district stakeholders through paying a courtesy call to their officer, we have been having regular communication with the senior management team providing updates and guidance on project implementation. We have also been having constant engagement with the partner organization (KAPLAS) discussing issue on project implementation. We have also been in position to updates partners during GBV coordination meeting on the project implementation activities within the district.

### Key lesson learnt

We have learnt that change is a gradual process which does not happen within the shortest period possible, this means that one needs to be patient with the beneficiaries while maintaining constant engagement with them.

Empowering cultural leaders and parents also helps in the reduction and elimination of GBV through mind-set and behavioural change within the community.

Creation of children's clubs at school helps in empowering the girl child which instil self-esteem and confidence; this can be achieved through debate and other life skills activities.



**Members of Tam pi women group in a meeting during a group monitoring visit in Lomule village Katwtwo parish Orom subcounty, Kitgum District.**

### Conclusion

UCAA, enthusiastically appreciates all the stakeholders who have worked hand in hand with us in implementing our projects while in a struggle to transform the vulnerable communities. A number of achievements have been registered since way back and there is improvement in the livelihoods of the households supported.

We did our best to serve the communities in consideration with their rights and have worked hard on building deeper relationships with our partners, the stakeholders and the people we work with. We continue to build from a position of strength and meeting the most vulnerable people's needs.

We extend our appreciation to donors, our partners, all the stakeholders and the government of Uganda for their trust and cooperation. We look forward to continue serving the communities

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**Group members of Ribe Aye Teko women's group during a meeting in Morulem village Katwotwo parish Orom subcounty, Kitgum District.**



**Ending Violence against Women and Girls stakeholders pose for a photograph with the UCAA programme Director Christopher Bwambale after the meeting in Karenga District, Karamoja Region.**



## APPENDIX

### A: SUCCESS STORIES FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**Thinking wisely to utilise the acquired knowledge as value addition is considered for increased income.**

Alekuru Harriet is the group chairperson of Injimile women group and she is also a female District councillor representing Ariwa Sub-county in Yumbe District. She has benefited from different trainings such as TOT training in business mentorship and coaching skills, VSLA methodology, agricultural enterprise selection and book record keeping.

Through her efforts and the group support, Harriet has been able to acquire a simsim and Ground nut paste processing machine as a result of the knowledge she gained from the trainings. She borrowed a loan of 250,000/- (Two hundred fifty thousand shillings) from the group of which she topped up and bought the machine. The machine has helped her to get income through processing people's ground nuts and simsim. At the moment, she is able to earn at least 3,000 Uganda shillings per 1 kilogram of ground nuts. The machine is located at Obama trading centre. She is mentoring her group members and many other women have learnt from her and are trying to be more creative to earn a living.

Harriet plans to upgrade to an electric grinding machine such that she can carry out more business for an increased income.



**Harriet Alekuru, serving simsim paste to her customers from her new simsim paste machine.**

**My vision drove me to where I am today.**

Nafsi Zainab is 38 years old and a mother of 3 children. She is a group member of Injimile women group in Ayago village, Okuyo parish, Ariwa Sub County in Yumbe District.

Nafsi had always desired to expand her local restaurant business by bringing it closer to the trading centre of Obama. She then decided to get a loan from her VSLA group worth 200,000/= (Two hundred thousand shillings). She added it to 150,000/= (One hundred fifty thousand shillings) she had gotten as profit from previous sales. She managed to increase on her capital and shifted her business to the trading centre. She has also been able to employ some two ladies who have also benefitted indirectly. She is grateful because she is able to earn a living for her family and can meet all the basic needs.



**Nafsi Zainab busy serving customers at her restaurant.**



**Avako Hellen busy sewing clothes with her newly acquired Tailoring machine in September 2022**

### **Acquired knowledge and skills well utilised for income generation.**

Avako Hellen is 28 years old and a mother of 3 children. She is a tailor at Kiri trading centre in Locombo parish Romogi Sub County in Yumbe District. She is a member of Ujata women group in Laigo village, Locombo parish. She attained tailoring skills from ZOA project. As soon as she completed the tailoring course, UCAA considered her as one of the member for the women groups under support and was trained in VSLA methodology, Business Management and financial literacy. She started working casually and learnt to save, with a dream of buying her own sewing machine. She inquired about the cost of the machine and she was told 400,000 shillings (four hundred thousand shillings). She had saved 182,000 shillings (One hundred eighty-two thousand shillings) a side. Hellen then picked a loan of 218,000 (Two hundred eighteen thousand shillings) that enabled her to get the machine and started her business at the trading centre. She appreciates that it's through joining the group that was trained by UCAA where she developed passion to move faster. She said that she has started realising meaningful income and her children are in school, while her husband is also happy about it and has also improved on his efforts to work hard and get more money as they support their family.

### **Jesica Candiru finds value in utilising animal waste for bio gas.**

Jessica Candiru is an active group member of Amitra women group in Minjara village, Palaja parish Kei Sub County. Jessica is 26 years old and a mother of 1 child. She was enrolled for support in the WID project in 2019 and was trained in improved agricultural practices, farming as business and VSLA management. As a mother and wife she has always looked for fire wood to prepare a meal for her family not until April of 2022, when an organisation called Farmers



Agricultural Organization came to her community identifying some women who have attended any kind of training in agriculture and disaster risk reduction and can read and write, Jessica had all the requirements. She attributes this to UCAA and she was one of the first women in her village that was selected to demonstrate the use of Bio gas system to reduce on cutting trees and burning of charcoal, thus Disaster Risk Reduction.

Jescia has been supported and she is an advocate for a safe environment. She is so happy that she no longer spends money on buying charcoal or firewood as this also reduces on the risk of environmental degradation. "I can easily cook and I have also been trained in utilising animal waste, like cow dung to make the bio gas system and I also plan to train my other fellow women to do the same".



**Jessica Candiru using her bio gas stove for preparing food for the family, while on the right, she collects animal waste to prepare bio gas.**

### **Joyce regains hope as her Business Progresses.**

Bako Joyce is a group member of Tokiri women group in Tokiri village Palaja parish Kei Sub County. She is married and a mother of two children who are in nursery school. She received trainings by UCAA in business selection enterprise, enterpuership training, VSLA methodology and many others.

In 2021 she started a small retail shop in her home that sold basic need items like soap, sugar, salt and tea leaves but with the knowledge from the trainings, she decided to expand the market and discussed with her husband and they decided to get a place at the trading centre. The demand for the items she was selling was high and could sell them all. In January 2022, she decided to get a loan from her VSLA group worth 700,000/= (Seven hundred thousand Shillings) and stocked up the shop. After two months, she was able to pay back the loan and the business expanded. Besides her shop, she also started selling dry fish and got another loan worth 300,000/= (Three hundred thousand shillings) and it picked up well. She also managed to pay it back within one month. In week she is able to earn a profit of 100,000/= (One hundred thousand shillings) from the fish business.

She thanks UCAA, FCA and Woman bank Finland for the support given to them as women in their communities and she plans to build a permanent commercial house where she can put her retail shop and also another stock fish and overcome paying rent, thus maximise her profits.

### **Dream comes true as women own livestock**

Badaru Molly is 27 years old. She is a mother of 2 children and an active member of Letasi women group in Ediofe village, Orivu parish in Odupi sub-county. She was trained by UCAA in



**Joyce in her retail shop as she waits for customers at Odupi trading centre on 30th /05/2022.**

managing Income Generating Activities and business / enterprise selection among others. She did not have any business before training but after training, she resorted doing casual work, especially garden work to enable her earn an income. This has helped her to raise money for saving on a weekly basis. She had always saved with a plan to start up a small business and stop casual labouring and wanted to also have some animal at home. She later decided to take a loan worth 100,000/= (One hundred thousand shillings) and topped up with money from her casual labour and bought two goats. Molly says she had never owned any animal before. She is very happy and says she will look after her goats well such that they can multiply and thus will get more money from them in future.

Molly is working hard to pay back the loan and has a plan to construct a shelter for her goats. She has a dream of expanding her goat project and concentrate on it and stop casual labour where sometimes her employers exploit her.

She appreciates UCAA and the Women in Development project as a whole that has enabled women like her to also contribute to the wellbeing of their family and community.

### **After Several trainings, Joy's mind opened up to earn a living.**

Drwaru Joy is 49 years old and a mother of 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. She is a group member of Ayikosusi Women Group in Ludara village, Ludara parish, Odravu Sub County. She established her business in tomato growing after getting a loan of 160,000/= (One hundred sixty shillings). She said in her first harvest she sold off tomatoes worth 100,000/= (One hundred thousand shillings). She somehow experienced a dry season but persisted by watering the garden. She is awaiting to harvest the second season and hope to earn over 500,000/= (Five hundred thousand shillings) since Tomatoes are scarce in the area.

Joy is thankful to UCAA for opening her eyes to see money next to her through the available resources.

She plans to plant more and major in selling of vegetables because it's simple and easy to manage which she can also train her children to do the same.





**Molly Badaru, a member of Letasi Women Group in Ediofe village, Orivu parish in Odupi sub county taking her goats acquired from hard work to graze.**

### **Imbaruba women group tree seedling growing enterprise.**

Imbabura women group is found in Luzira village, Bidibidi Parish, Romogi Sub County, Yumbe District. This group was formed in 2018 and has 30 members. The group engages in VSLA savings activities weekly, they received trainings in: VSLA methodologies & group, dynamics, Improved Agricultural practices, Farming as a business, entrepreneurship & enterprise, selection among others.

The group also benefited from Disaster Response Displacement Impact Project programme of giving out tree seedling to ready and organised groups. One of the members freely offered a piece of land to the group to start the project. The seedlings included pawpaw seeds, avocado, tick trees, and eucalyptus trees. So each tree is to be sold at 1000shillings and each member is to plant at least five trees immediately the rains start.



**Joy in her Tomato garden, watering and harvesting tomatoes.**

So the total number of trees adds up to 8000 trees and the members expect over 6,000,000 as profit after the sale of the tree seedlings.



**Imbabura women group organising their nursery bed project**

### **lyeta women group members taking up leadership positions**

This photo is of group members in lyete women group who have been elected in the RWC committee to take up leadership positions of secretary for finance, secretary for women affairs RWC1, vice chairperson RWC and secretary for health and Nutrition at all work in Bidibidi refugee settlement zone 5 Ariwa Sub county Obaci village.

### **UCAA Empowered her to do business.**

Lekuru Stella is a group member of Goalkeeper Women Group in Odupi sub county. She is 25 years old and a mother of 2 children. Stella joined UCAA in 2019 where she was trained together with the group members on Entrepreneurship and enterprise selection, book keeping and village saving loan association. She later on saved some money carried out some other casual work and saved an amount of 150,000 thousand shillings and she immediately stocked a few items in her shop and after the first stock got finished she realized a profit of 40000 shilling that then encouraged her to get a loan from the VSLA group worth 200,000shilling that helped her add more items in the shop and she was able to pay back the loan and use part of the profit to continue paying school fees and save in the VSLA group.

Stella is happy and thankful to UCAA and FCA for the skills they gave her she also plans to expand the shop more and get more profit to keep her children in school and acquire a means of transport where she can ride easily to buy her stock and cut off transport costs.



**Members in lyete women group who have been elected in the RWC committee to take up leadership positions of secretary for finance, secretary for women affairs RWC1, vice chairperson RWC and secretary for health and Nutrition at all work in Bidibidi refugee settlement zone 5 Ariwa Sub county Obaci village.**



## B: SUCCESS STORIES FOR KARAMOJA CHILDREN AT RISK PROJECT (CAR)

### Case 1

#### Adiaka Rose pronounces positive change in her life and household members.

Adiaka Rose is 45 years old. She stays in a household of 8 people where 6 are her children (4 Male and 2 Female) and all are school going children. Her household was identified as one of the most vulnerable families located in Kololo cell, Matany Town Council, Napak District. She joined the savings group in January, 2021, known as St. Theresa Mixed Savings group; after attending several trainings specially in the areas of income generating activities, entrepreneurship skills and the savings training, it attracted her to join the saving group where she learnt to save. Rose struggled to do casual labour to enable her make some savings that enabled her to acquire a loan for starting business. She first borrowed UGX 50,000/= and started selling eggplants and got a profit of UGX 10,000/= which was re-invested into the business, while in the process she kept adding other items like tomatoes, silver fish, onions, and cooking oil, she kept accumulating profits from all different items and in one month, she was able to make a profit of UGX 117,000/=. (One hundred seventeen thousand shillings).



**Lekuru Stella waiting to serve her customers in her shop.**



**UCAA board members in a planning meeting**



She appreciates UCAA for giving her knowledge and skills. When the husband saw her potential in providing for the home, he humbled himself and stopped domestic violence in the home. The children are now seeing him as the best daddy because he gives them his time and they feel loved and protected. The children's school fees is being paid, food is there, and they are able to meet medical bills and clothing. Rose Adiaka is a very active member of the group and adding more capital to her businesses.

## Case 2

**Lokorioi Anna 16 years of age, is a girl from Lopeei sub-county in Lorunget village.**

In June 2022, Anna was intercepted by the police, and referred to UCAA who did the rehabilitation and later took her back home for reintegration. During the data collection process, Anna said she was going to Kampala where her fellow village peers are. She said at home there is nothing much to do that can help her to get the basic needs and support for the family. She thought on streets she could earn a living through begging. The team however carried on psychosocial support and suggested for Anna other alternatives for surviving without necessarily going to the streets. She



**Adiaka Rose in green blouse packing tomatoes for the customer on 14th December, 2022.**

was informed about non formal skilling program on tailoring, hair dressing, and bakery courses to do. Anna opted for tailoring course.

The two teenagers amongst 16 teenagers and child mothers who were mobilized for the training positively turned up. Maria and Anna have greatly embraced this skilling course. They are now happy and have a belief that through this training skills, they will be in position to survive without going to the streets for begging and doing other risky work since they will have to rely on the skills given for survival.

Lokorio Maria highly appreciated and said she hope her child will surely not suffer due to the fact that she will be earning some money to help her meet the basic needs.



**Reintegrated street connected girls share a light moment with CaR staff after a follow up meeting.**





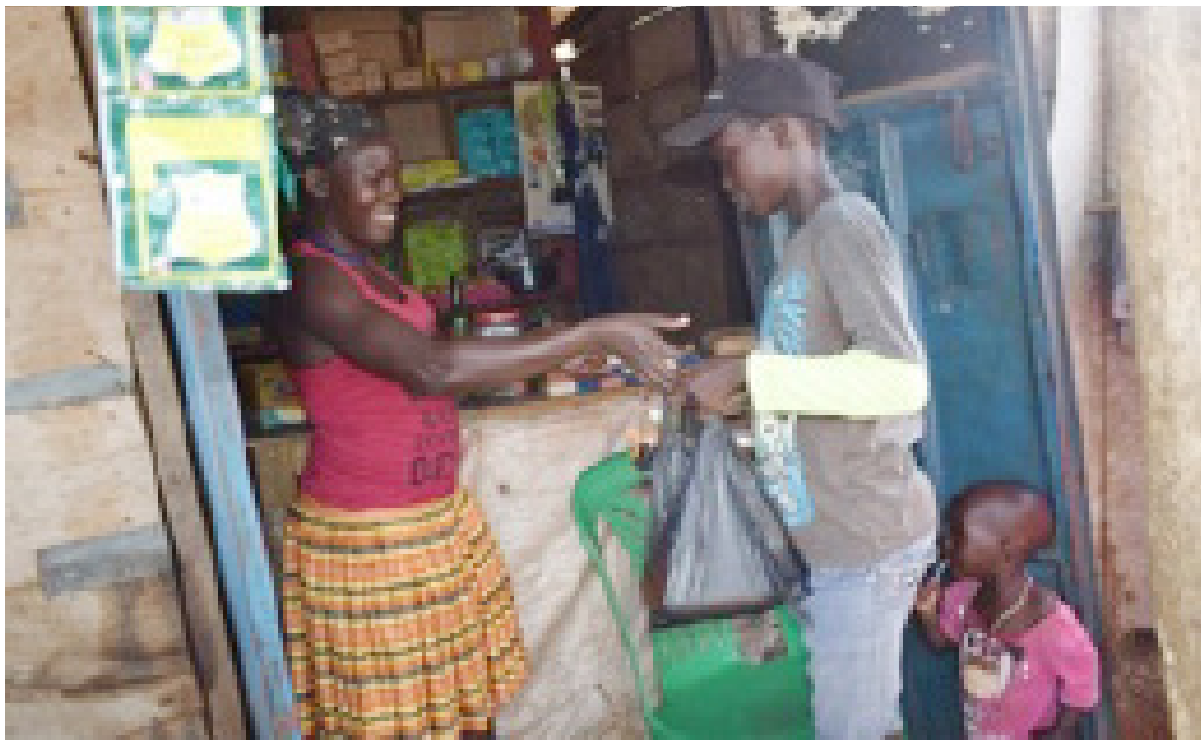
**Lokorio Anna and Koriang Maria during the field visit to check on how they are working. Maria opted to do tailoring and completely forgets about issues of going to the streets**



### **Case 3**

#### **Climate smart Agriculture in Napak District**

The above photo shows Nacun Mary from Acholichol village, Nawatom parish, Lorengecora sub county, Napak district. She was trained by UCAA on climate smart agriculture and back yard/ kitchen gardening, which she has put into practice. Through these she is able to provide a meal for her family. Her income has also improved through selling some of the vegetables. UCAA supported Mary with seeds and agricultural tools after successfully completing climate smart agriculture training.



#### Case 4

##### Intrepreneurship Skilling

Above photos show Betty Logono from Iriiri Town council, Napak District utilising the skills from UCAA trainings. She was trained in the areas of backyard agriculture and entrepreneurship skills and then she was supported by UCAA with some items to start a retail shop. She has maintained the shop and earns a living. She is able to take care of her child and her family. “I cannot think of going to the streets now” she said to the UCAA Project Officer as he paid a courtesy call. Through the profits from the business, as seen in the photo above on the right she has been able to make building blocks that she’s going to start to build a house for her child and as she plans to have other children soon.



## ENHANCING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND AGENCY C: PROJECT (EYEAP) SUCCESS STORIES 2022-23.

### “Choose Knowledge to earn you Money”

‘Looking at how far we have come, I now know why during the training. We were taught to value knowledge than money I will always cherish this lesson we were told if a sponsor comes and gives you two options: knowledge or money, do not choose money but choose knowledge through which you can liberate yourself from poverty’. Emma explained. Apart from the Enterprise growth and performance, the youths in this Enterprise are very proactive. The success of their Enterprise is reflected in their group & individual growth where every member has noticeable improvements.



**Group rice farm of Amanzora VSLA group in Ciforo Sub County, Adjumani District.**

### Piggery becomes a viable income generating activity

Anzoo Florence, 32 years old, married with three children, a resident of Marindi village in Pachara Sub County has established pig rearing as income generating project. She is one of the members of Amabia VSLA group formed by Development team's foundation in 2020 under the youth Project, she got the idea during the IGA & business skills trainings organized by DTF. She then had to wait until the end of cycle of their VSLA where she got 454,000/= from the share out this year in February 2022. Florence then used the money to purchase two piglets each at 100,000/=, male & female respectively she wants the female to produce which she is predicting between 6-10 piglets before she can sell their mother & the male one during December at around 350,000/=. Each piglet goes for 100,000/=. Then she used 50,000/= to set up tea vending business along Moyo road where she prepares breakfast. She usually serves tea with chapatti at a rate of 2,000/= per cup, she makes profits of 15,000/= daily from the business plans to use the profits to complete her house which is still under construction.

She has also been able to meet some scholastic materials of her child in primary two as a result of the IGA. DTF has encouraged all VSLA members to start their own projects in order to improve their own livelihoods. Like Florence, a large number of VSLA members are adopting pig farming due to high returns.

“We have also trained our children on how to manage the piggery business which keeps them busy when they are not at school”. Florence says. In most parts of Adjumani district, piggery is a very attractive enterprise. She gave reasons why she preferred piggery because they take short time to mature (6-9 months) and bring in income.

Pigs in West Nile region are mainly managed through backyard scavenging system, with majority of the pig keeping households having 2-5 local pigs.



**Florence piggery enterprise and also vending tea in Adjumani District.**

### **Goats rearing a means to survive.**

Lindrio Beatrice, 27 years old, expecting mother of one child married, a resident of Pachara Sub County has established goat rearing as income generating activity. She received entrepreneur knowledge from Development team's foundation under project funded by the European Union. Using the knowledge, she got a loan from the VSLA group to the tune of 280,000/= and purchased two Goats each at 140,000/= she then sold them during the year at UGX 350,000/= each & bought six young ones.' If I sell 4 of them I will earn 800,000/= " says Beatrice. Goats are easy to raise and are fast growing to bring in income.



**Lindrio Beatrice and Kario Christine are members of Amasibara VSLA group are in goat raring enterprise**

### **Chandiga Survives on Saloon Business**

Chandiga Ismail, 34 years old, single father of two children, a resident of Marindi village in Pachara sub county set up a hair cutting saloon along Moyo road in Adjumani as an income generating project. After successful formation by development team's foundation (DTF) from a funding by the European Union, he got a loan of 200,000/= from the group & started up stone quarrying business where he made four trips each at 150,000/= ending up with 600,000/=. When he was exposed to apprenticeship skills by DTF, He realised establishing a saloon would be less cumbersome than stone quarrying. Then used the 400,000/ out of the 600,000= and established hair cutting saloon from which he gets 15,000/= daily. This means in a month he goes us to UGX 450,000=. Money he gets in one position and after using less energy. He uses the money from the saloon to pay his children in school & supporting his old parents. He also stared a goat project and his goats have multiplied. This has given Chandiga some confidence since he has become self-reliant.



### Retail Business as a source of employment

Mondoa Joyce of Agojo refugee settlement, received a loan of 200,000/= from Anyinya VSLA group formed & supported by DTF through funding by European Union, Joyce is married mother of three children.

She sells produce including cabbage, rice, millet flour, maize flour beans, onions and silver fish to the local community. Profits from Joyce's business successfully cover her daughter's school fees and has enabled Joyce to work on renovations to her house and well as clothes for her daughter and herself.



**Joyce Mondoa and Awio William serving, a member of Anyi Nya VSLA group attending to their customer in Ciforo sub county, Adjumani District.**

### Brick making enterprise puts a smile on the face of Richard and their Group members.

When Richard completed his studies at Agricultural Institution Arapi in 2019, one of his worries was 'how he would get a job', because getting one was just Nightmare? Therefore, his worries increased each day after graduation since he did not know where to start.

"I did not have a job, I was just sitting at home & feeling very bad because I had the papers but no job", he says.

However, with time, Richard & his few friends decided to start something small, a business just to keep them going as they searched for jobs. "We needed something just to keep us, let alone basic needs & improve on our lives. Hence, we came together & formed a group", He said. They formed brick laying group. The group has eleven members, eight males & three females. The group is trading under the name Builders Foundation, dealing in bricks.

Richard, 24, the chairperson of the group explains that they had to learn how to make before venturing into business & with help of one of their training from Development Teams Foundation (D.T.F) on Income generating activities & Mind-set change; they started the brick laying business. Richard, who had previously tried petty jobs here & there, said the youth have to find their footing rather than waiting for government to give them jobs.

### Turning Point.

Richard explained that the turning point came when they received some training on Income generating activities & mind-set change from Development Teams Foundation on Project for Enhancement of Youth Employment & Agency funded by European Union in 2022. 'We had nothing in our pockets but we are now proud that brick making enterprise is making our pockets heavy and thus able to save for the future'

According to the group members, within the short period, they have been able to expand their business; 'I have been economically empowered & I have saved some money in our VSLA group'. One of the Members said. 'Also due to the business skills I have acquired now, I can start many other businesses. Another Member added. Richard, however, says the seasonality of the business is a challenge when it is rainy season.



**Richard Itaru and some of the group (Builders Foundation) members of Amababa laying bricks for income generating in Dzaipi sub county.**

### **Skills development relieves Poni Harriet from Causal Labour**

Poni Harriet, aged 26, is a school dropout, and a mother of two. She is a member and Chairperson of Interior Youth Group, in block 08, Unit 02, Umuja Village, Basecamp zone, Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi District. She noted that, when UCAA came to her village for sensitization on the youth project funded by the European Union, she picked interest together with her colleagues and they joined the VSLA Group.

Upon joining the group, they have received various trainings among others which includes; VSLA methodologies, Parenting, Life-skills and Positive Mind-set Change training, IGAs, Financial Literacy and Basic Business Skills training. She added that “Before, life was quite difficult. She couldn’t meet basic needs for her family, and this made her do tough Casual labour and CASH for work in the community to support their livelihood.

“The trainings have greatly helped her improve on her saving culture, and she has established Retail Shop business after borrowing 350,000shs from the group as a top up on her initial capital at hand, she noted”. She said, she earns on average 23,000Shs on daily basis as such, she has been able to employ one person who helps her operate the shop when she’s being taken up by other duties. She added that her dream is to be a strong business lady and meet all basic needs and other household requirements. She therefore attributes her progress to UCAA and EU.



**Poni Harriet established with the capacity building she attained from UCAA.**



### Through Small Scale Produce buying & Selling, Mrs Abiria Maka, Enjoys better Life.

Abiria Maka is 27 years. She is married with 1 child, a girl. Abiria is a resident of village, Awinga Parish, Moyo Town Council in Moyo District. She is a member of Amaedeawa youth group. In the youth project funded by the European Union, she received training in Income Generating Activity (IGA, Mindset change, life-skills training and Parenting, VSLA methodologies. She was able to start a small scale produce buying and selling business. She added that when she started saving, she took a loan of 100,000/= from her group and established the business. She later took a loan of 250,000/=. She managed to pay back. She earns approximately a profit of 18,000shs on daily basis. This has increased her income and capital base. She purchased 2 goats after the last action Audit and she plans to purchase a cow and expand her business into whole sale produce Buying and selling. She is thankful to UCAA for empowering her to be self-reliant.



**Mrs. Abiria Maka selling her produce in a local market at V Centre in Celecelela Village, Central 1 in Moyo Town Council.**

### Amaocedro Vsla Youth Group.

Amaocedro VSLA Youth Group is one of the youth groups of the EU Youth funded project supported VSLA groups; it is found in Orri Village, Pamoyi Parish, Metu Sub/County in Moyo District. Actually this was the first group to be trained on VSLA methodology within Metu Sub/County in Moyo District. It was formed on 06th/10/2020 with a total number of 30 direct beneficiary members (13 Males and 17 Females) with active members of 28 people up to date and is registered at the Sub/County and they have a constitution, rules and regulations that guides their day to day VSLA activities and other activities of the group. By then 30% of group members were depending on subsistence farming, 10% were casual laborers and the residual percentage of 60% members was fulltime house wives and jobless. However, after receiving training in VSLA Methodologies and value chain development and Life skills and Positive Mindset Change, Parenting and Sustainable skills training, financial literacy and IGAs & Group dynamics/ Value Chain's development and Basic business skills trainings among others. The following achievements and feedbacks have been observed in the group;

Improved saving culture among the youth beneficiaries in the group due to training in VLSA Methodologies, this has made them gain skills in savings and credit cycle management as a group. This is observed from the competition in buying maximum shares per sitting. At least 65% of the total group always save a maximum of Shs. 12,000 on a weekly basis since the share value is shs. 3,000. The group was able to save a total of shs. 3,391,000, shs. 345,000 social fund and interest gained on borrowing of shs. 772,200 making a total of Shs. 4,508,200 in the 2nd cycle, a total of shs. 2,022,000 has so far been saved in the 3rd cycle. In addition, the group bought 28 plastic chairs which they sit on during their VSLA meetings but hire them out for cash to the communities to raise their capital base in the group savings box for borrowing.

Positive changes in attitude towards work with 90% of the members started new businesses and others expand their IGA activities. The group members now identify, plan and manage income generating activities (IGAs) within their communities, this has helped to improve on their savings value hence they can now meet their household basic needs.

The training in Parenting and Sustainable Skills has led to adoption of positive parenting skills such as giving clear instructions using words that the child can understand better, display of positive behavioral changes to the children as such, they have become role models to their children. In addition, their reduction in domestic violence in households in the communities since positive mindset change, and life skills triggered harmonious living in the communities and positive attitude changes towards work hence meeting of the basic needs in the households by the household heads. The group members attribute all these achievements to UCAAs sustainable capacity building trainings with its unique methodology

of self-reliance development approach which has led to improvement in social behaviors among group members and a lot of sharing on economic empowerment and business skills.



***Amaocedro Youth group in Orri Village, Pamoyi Parish in Metu Subcounty, Moyo District participating in IGA, Group Dynamics/Value Chain Dev't training during their VSLA***

### **Arra Youth Association Group**

This is one of the youth groups in EYEAP project supported VSLA groups; it is found in Pakaruhwe Village, Araa Parish, Dufile Sub/County in Moyo District. It was formed on 10th/09/2020 with a total number of 30 direct beneficiary members (11 Males and 19 Females) with active members of 30 people Up to date and is registered at the Sub/County and have a constitution, rules and regulations that guides their day to day VSLA activities and other activities of the group. Prior to joining the group, 60% of group members were depending on subsistence farming, 24% were casual laborers and the rest were jobless. However, after receiving training in VSLA Methodologies and value chain development and Life skills and Positive Mindset Change, Parenting and Sustainable skills training, financial literacy and IGAs & Group dynamics/Value Chain's development, Basic business skills and Backyard gardening among others. The following achievements and feedbacks have been observed in the group;

The training in Backyard/Kitchen Garden has helped reduce on money being spent on buying vegetables from the market. The "Vegetables are not only source of food and nutrition to the members but also a source of income for the members in the communities as it has increased employment opportunities among youth beneficiaries since cultivation of vegetable crops involve intensive cultivation operations starting from sowing to marketing, as such this provides more and regular employment opportunities in rural areas. In addition to contributing to an enabling environment allowing them greater market engagement with an ultimate objective to sustainably increasing incomes of beneficiaries by increasing productivity, decreasing the risk of market engagement, and restoring the environmental resource base.

Effective participation in VSLA activities in the group and members utilize savings and credit group. In addition, from the findings, 85% of the youth in the group now borrow loans from VSLA group. It is also impressive that the members who borrow, do so to invest in business. At least 60% of members borrow more than UGX. 300,000= . In addition to their own savings, investment and IGA, thereby creating jobs for themselves.

The group members have taken personal responsibility for their own development by initiating, operating and managing their own IGAs. This is evident with 85 % of the group members who have established and are running their own IGAs in the communities. In addition, there is promotion of unity and cooperation among the community members, these are due to the training of youth in micro-enterprises, skills training, gender and culture sensitization among others.

There is also reduction in cases of domestic violence in households since every household member understands their roles, this is due to the result of sensitization of the group members in positive parenting, positive mindset changes and life skills and, gender and culture among others.

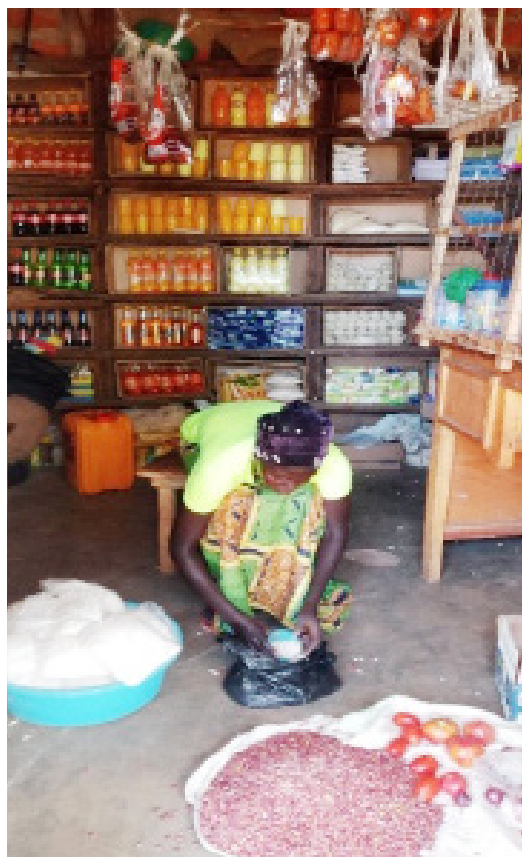
The group plans to open at least an acreage of land to plant cassava so as to add on their food security and sell some to increase on their income level and capital base in the VSLA box. The members attribute all the above success and achievements in the group to commitment of the



members to participate in all project activities and putting into practice what they've learnt from the trainings that has transformed their lives for self-reliance.

### **Ms. Sauda takes step to chase Poverty**

Aletiru Sauda is a 23-year-old, married with 2 children who are both boys. She is a member of Amaechora youth VSLA group from Naragal East village, Aliapi Parish, Kululu Sub County in Yumbe district. She joined her VSLA group where they were jointly sensitized on the EYEAP project in 2020. She said that before joining the group, she was a goal keeper meaning "waiting for money to buy all the household items from her husband" and had no business ideas as well as good clothes for herself as house wife. She added by saying when UCAA trained her in VSLA methodologies & group dynamics that is; Income Generating Activity, Advanced business skills, Sensitization on parenting and also in Backyard gardening, she experienced a lot of changes as follows; With the sensitization on parenting, the rampant GBV that used to happen with her and the husband has reduced to zero level. With the trainings she acquired from UCAA, as mentioned above, she said that she was able to borrow 500,000 from the VSLA group to start up a general merchandise business and airtime vending where she earns monthly 200,000 to 250,000 as profit/commission. She further explained that she now uses the profit/commission to expand on the business, buy some scholastic materials for the two children who are now in nursery and primary respectively and also buys food to feed on the family. With this, the dependence syndrome has reduced and she happily provides for her family where she can. She said her future plans are; to open up another produce buying and selling business separate from her general merchandise shop, to establish another mobile money business and airtime vending in the nearest village (employing another youth) and to invest part of the profit got from her current business in Agriculture with the knowledge acquired from backyard gardening. Lastly, she appreciated UCAA for empowering her to be self-reliant.



**Aletiru Sauda in her shop.**

### **Now I am self-employed and food secured.**

Asiku Amuza is a 25-year-old gentleman who is a senior

2 drop out and still single. He is a resident of Fataha village, Fataha parish, Apo Sub County in Yumbe district. He is a member of Fataha farmers VSLA group. He said before joining the group, he was a drug abuser, selling Marunji, had no business ideas and was using poor agricultural methods. Asiku said UCAA's first visit to his community in 2020 was a great turning point in his life since the organization sensitized the youth on the EYEAP project and the advantages of being in a VSLA group. He added by saying that with the trainings UCAA conducted with him in VSLA methodologies like group dynamics, Income Generating Activity, Financial literacy and Backyard gardening, a lot has changed in his life for example, he now grows crops like tomatoes using good agronomic practices skills, stopped abusing drugs, has high self-esteem, earns a lot of money (50,000-100,000) daily from sale of the 2 quarters tomato field, pays school fees for his sister who separated with her husband and



**Asiku Amuza armers VSLA group, Yumbe District, sprays pests in his tomato garden in Fataha village Apo sub county.**

decided to go back to P.5 after getting married during COVID period. He is also able to save money in the VSLA group on a weekly basis. Lastly, Asiku said his future plans are, to purchase more land for growing of tomatoes and onions this year, enrol on vocation skills training (building and construction), be a role model farmer in his sub county and also build a decent permanent house for himself.



**Arra Youth Association group in Pakaruhwe Village, Arra Parish in Dufile subcounty, Moyo District weeding his garden**

### **Poverty will be made history in my family.**

Sakaya Charles is a refugee youth aged 25. He is married with two children (1 boy and 1 girl). He is a resident of village 2, cluster1, zone 4, Bid Bidi settlement in Yumbe district. He is a member and Chairperson of Salama Youth Group. He noted that, when UCAA came to his village for sensitization on EYEAP project, he picked interest together with some of his friends within the village and they formed the VSLA Group.

Upon joining the group, UCAA conducted various trainings and these included, VSLA methodologies, Parenting, Life-skills, Positive Mind-set Change training, Entrepreneurship, IGAs, Financial Literacy,



**Sakaya Charles a refugee in Bidi Settlement Zone 4, Odnavu Sub County, operating mobile money business.**



Basic Business Skills, salon and hair cutting. He added that “Before, life was quite difficult as he was only relying on food given by WFP/UNHCR and had never thought of establishing a business to support his family which was having only one meal a day.

He further said that he couldn't meet basic needs for his family and this made him work for tough casual labour within in the community for money to support his family's livelihood. He added that with the knowledge acquired from the various trainings UCAA conducted with him and the group as stated above, Charles was able to borrow UGX 400,000 from the group VSLA box to start up a mobile money business and airtime vending where he now earns a monthly commission/profit of UGX 150,000 to UGX 170, 000. He said that he now uses the profit/commission to buy some scholastic material for his child who is in primary two and purchase food items for his family which has reduced on his dependency on UNHCR to provide for his family. He therefore attributes his progress to the project. He further added that his future plans are; to establish another mobile money business and airtime vending station in the nearest village (employing other youth) and to invest part of the profit in agriculture since WFP/UNHCR reduced the food ratio that was usually given to little which can't sustain the family for a period of 2 days.

### **Mawa Zubbairi feels his future is secured after an empowerment by UCAA.**

Mawa Zubbairi aged 29 and Chandiru Kalisum aged 24 married to each other with 4 children (1 male & 3 females) both are residents of Naragala west village, Ailapi parish Bijo/Kukululu Sub County. They are members of Amaechara youth group which is registered at both sub county and district levels. Mawa does Boda boda, farming and selling of clothes to support his family whereas Chandiru is only a farmer. Both of them narrated to the project officer during his support visit that before joining their group which was formed after UCAA had sensitized them, they used to struggle with their businesses as stated above due to limited skills on the business and farming. They added that the house where they were sleeping was in a sorrow state but after UCAA conducted training for them in VSLA methodologies & group dynamics; Income Generating Activity; Advanced business skills; Sensitization on parenting and Backyard gardening, they both then started borrowing money from the group to boost on their businesses. Hence enabling them to construct a permanent house as seen below.



**A House where a couple used to sleep in before. While on the right is the permanent house they later constructed with UCAA's intervention.**

## SUCCESS STORIES D: IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE WOMEN OF AGAGO DISTRICT THROUGH SHG APPROACH

### Case Story 1: Expanding business using SHG loan

**Location:** Nam Abili Central, Nam Parish, Adilang Sub County in Agago district

Irene Ayoo is a 32 year old married woman with four biological children who are all attending a nearby school. Irene is a member of Lacan Kwite SHG which was established in December 2019 by UCAA. After joining the SHG, she begun to contribute a weekly saving of UGX 1,000. Ayoo Irene received training on basic business skills, social support, savings and loans, leadership and communication skills, self assessment and individual goal setting from her CF.

In 2018, Irene suffered from paralysis and she could use scratchers for easy mobility for closed to two years (2018-2021) but fully recovered from the illness and she is now able to walk without any support, . Irene dedicates enough of her time to SHG activities and with regular success story sharings from her SHG members, she is ever motivated to access loans to improve her grocery soap. She usually request loans ranging from UGX 500,000 and above to add up stocks in her shop alongside other small bsuinesses such goat rearing, chicken rearing, piggery and farming which has made her to be an ecomically empowered woman in the community. Irene attends SHG meeting weekly and currently she is serving a new loan of UGX 500,000 which she recently acquired to boost her business among other domestic activities. Irene and family quitted the grass thatch house and they are currently living in a permanent house and this was possible because of SHG. In a month, Irene's family earns an estimated profit of UGX 75,000 and an estimated annual income of UGX 1,200,000 from the family efforts. With this, the family is able to maintain the business, feed the family educate the children and contribute to savings among other basic necesities. Irene's future plan is to educate all her children buy more animals for rearing and starting up a whole sale shop in her community.



Irene Ayoo in her grocery shop



## A SUCCESS STORY E: REACH PROJECT

### Changing mindset, improving livelihoods

My name is Apio Monica 40 years old and a mother of 5 children I belong to a group called Can Deg Ming women group located in Lapeitak village in Lolita parish in Orom subcounty I joined the group in 2020 October when it was just started by Uganda change agent association. Before I join the group, I had several challenges among which were educating children at school, feeding the children on a balanced diet and I was not even exposed to some of the issue on gender-based violence, I was fighter in the community that I do not tolerate nonsense I would even fight on similar matter.

I thank God that with the interventions made by Uganda change agent association, am now changed person and my perspectives and view about violence has changed am now the one teaching people in my community about the danger of gender-based violence, the community appointed me as an activist and later as was trained by UCAA on how to manage and handle cases of GBV within the community. With the saving that I get from the groups, I was able to buy sheep, a goat and a pig for myself which will later multiply and sell them in times of needs, the savings has helped me to pay fees of my children who are at primary school without difficulties and even feeding them.

My plan is continue talking to the community about the danger of GBV and even continue with the saving and buy for goats and pigs, I would like to cows for myself by the end of this year 2022.



**Apio Monica with her Piglets**

### cases of GBV within the community.

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My plan is continue talking to the community about the danger of GBV and even continue with the saving and buy for goats and pigs, I would like to cows for myself by the end of this year 2022.

### Increased access to SRH services

Komakech, 30 years and Aloyo 25 years are husband and wife. They are residents of Laditoywe village Lolita parish in Orom sub county in Kitgum district, the couple went for an antenatal care together as a husband and a wife. Komakech (husband) said that it's his first time to attend antenatal care at the hospital this was due to the outreach that he attended together with the wife on SRH rights organized by UCAA and the health center. This really gave them a lot of knowledge and it changed their mindset. He promised to keep on supporting his wife for antenatal care until giving birth. The nurse of Orom health center said that now days there is high number of men accompanying their women for antenatal since the intervention of UCAA compared to the time UCAA had not started operations in the community.



**Komakech and Aloyo Winnie during the antenatal care at Orom health center III in Kitgum District.**

## Unleashing women potential

Atoo Margret is 48 years, a widow to 8 children, said “I joined Kamukoi south Vulnerable VSLA, in October, with my first loan, I established a shop and continued selling as I saved on a weekly basis. After the first year I received about 3,640,000”. Margret says she took 2,000,000 to centenary bank and acquired a motor cycle loan which she started a boda – boda business. Right now I’m happy because I own a shop, a motor cycle, and I was able to take my 4 children to school. Before joining the intervention of REACH under Uganda Change Agent Association in the area, life was really difficult particularly payment of schools and hospital bills and even feeding was not easy. “We used to eat only once a day but right now we eat three times a day with my family members, because of the support and the money that I borrowed from the group”. The trainings that I acquired really strengthened me in managing my business and created new IGAs. Her plan is to educate all her children and provide for them the best they can in life, with her involvement in the groups, she said conflicts with her husband reduced since we all got the training on how to prevent and responds to GBV and the danger of violence in a home, all these achievements acquired have been due to the intervention of Uganda change agent association and KAPLAS. “I’m grateful” Concluded Margret.



**Atoo Margret in her shop and her motorcycle for boda boda business.**



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