



# Annual Report 2023

**UGANDA  
CHANGE  
AGENT  
ASSOCIATION  
(UCAA)**





**WE EMPOWER VULNERABLE RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES.**  
**OUR MAIN TARGET GROUPS ARE:**  
**WOMEN**  
**CHILDREN**  
**YOUTH**

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## Acronyms

ACAO	Assistant Chief Administration Officer
C&D	International Cooperation and Development
CAO	Chief Administration Officer
CaR	Children at Risk
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBT	Community Based Teams
CDO	Community Development Officers
CFPU	Child and Family Protection Unit
CFs	Community Facilitators
CLA	Cluster Level Association
CLIRK	Climate Innovations for Reliance in Karamoja and Kyangwali
CRM	Climate Risk Management
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCFPU	District Child and Family Protection Unit
DCP	District Contingency Plan
DRMC	District Risk Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FA	Financial Auditing
FAL	Functional Adult Literacy
FM	Frequency Modulation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KCCA	Kampala City Council Authority
KNH	Kinder not hilfe
LC	Local Council
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDD	Music Dance and Drama
NCO	National Coordination Office
NDPIII	National Development Plan 3
PDM	Parish Development Model
PG	Participatory Grading
RDC	Residential District Commissioner
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SHGA	Self Help Group Approach
UCAA	Uganda Change Agent Association
UCRNN	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
UN	United Nations
UWESO	Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Orphans
VSLA	Voluntary Savings and Loan Association
YLF	Youth Livelihood Fund



## **Message from the Chairperson Board of Directors**

With great pleasure and pride, I present to you the UCAA annual report for the year 2023. As the chairperson Board of Directors UCAA, I am honored to share the remarkable progress and achievements we have witnessed as a team over the past year 2023.

UCAA's implementations of activities adhere to Government policies, donor requirements, the national strategic plans and the sustainable Development Goals. Our focus remains on sustainable social-economic development and this annual report serves as a testament to our collective commitment to realize an empowered and self-reliant society living in harmony with dignity. Through tireless dedication and unwavering support, we have made significant strides in advancing our mission to promote the participation of marginalized communities in the decision-making, promotion and protection of their rights for sustainable development.

As you peruse through the report, you will find compelling stories of transformation and resilience, from empowering groups, communities and schools with essential life skills, resources for entrepreneurship development for the transformation of lives of vulnerable women, youth, children and men in the communities.

Despite a few challenges that we encountered, our achievements were possible due to the talented and dedicated UCAA staff, the unwavering support from the Board of Directors, partners and other stakeholders right from the local and national government levels, CSOs, donors and line ministries we work with, together we have proven collaborative working with harnessing the power of collective action, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges and achieve the UCAA goal.

As we celebrate our success, we reflect on the lessons learned and opportunities that lie ahead since the journey is ongoing and our work is far from finished so as we move forward let us remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence, innovation and cause an impact in lives of the people we work with.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your dedication, passion and support; together we will continue to build a resilient Uganda for all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Balwana Philip Kagodo".

**Balwana Philip Kagodo**

# Executive Summary

In 2023, Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) started its implementation of the new strategic plan of Promoting the participation of vulnerable communities in the decision-making, control and protection of their livelihoods for Sustainable development, which was a continuation of the previous strategic plan. The new strategic plan extended services to the vulnerable communities of both the host and refugees in Uganda, focusing on livelihoods enhancement, youth employment and women economic empowerment and self-reliance of refugees and host communities.

The annual report, reflect a year of significant progress and impact in our endeavor to enable an empowered and self-reliant society living in harmony with dignity, through strategic initiatives and collaborative effort, we have made notable strides in achieving our mission.

UCAA activities were embedded in stimulating economic, political and social development in marginalized communities involving women, children, youth and men in terms of:

Empowering marginalized individuals, communities, creating awareness, supporting on child protection, food security, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, sensitization on Gender based violence, providing essential life skills, vocational trainings, voluntary loans and savings associations among others, plus equipping them with tools, professional business skills guidance and resources needed to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

Building resilience, in the face of environmental pressures of climate change, economic constraints, our projects advocated for awareness creation, resilience, adaptability and innovativeness through targeted interventions to withstand shocks and disaster preparedness with grassroots, community engagements, CSOs, district and government officials employing a bottom up approach.

Our collaboration and partnerships with esteemed stakeholders, donors caused strong partnerships, which expanded our impact and leveraged resources to reach and benefit a number of self-help groups, communities, and this brought success within many activities and areas of implementations.

Moving forward we remain dedicated to our mission to promote the participation of marginalized communities in the decision-making, promotion and protection of their rights for sustainable development, we affirm to build success, address challenges from lessons learnt, and explore new opportunities to create positive change in the lives of marginalized communities in Uganda.

Despite the prevailing challenges, UCAA always effectively manages its assets, from human resources alongside a trained change agent network country wide, financial resources, buildings, and vehicles, and other office equipment.

UCAA extends its sincere gratitude to all those that have directly and indirectly contributed to the success of our Programme and projects and we look forward to a continued collaboration in the future.



## Message from the Executive Director

I am thrilled to present the UCAA annual report for our Promotion of participation of vulnerable communities in the decision-making, control and protection of their livelihoods for Sustainable development projects, showcasing the incredible impact and progress we have made over the past year. Am humbled by the dedication and commitment of everyone involved in achieving our mission despite the varying challenges we faced as an organization. This report presents the activities

implemented by UCAA in 2023, which was the year that started the new strategic plan 2023-2027. It details our achievements towards the set project objectives in realizing the new strategic plan goal.

It is important to note that the 54 UCAA District Change Agent Associations (DCAAs) and the 230 UCAA branches countrywide operate independently. These District Change Agents Associations and branches carried out their own activities which are not in the UCAA national plans and budgets as well as this report. Each of the DCAs have prepared their own District Annual financial and Narrative Reports and are being discussed and approved during their respective District Assemblies that are conducted over the period of January to June 2024.

With close effort consultation and contribution of all project implementation teams, UCAA management prepared this report and this report was approved by the UCAA Board of Directors during their meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. While a summarized version of this annual report is being circulated in April to June to members of UCAA who will be attending UCAA district assemblies for discussion. And it will also be presented to the UCAA National Delegates Assembly scheduled for June 2024 for final approval.

Copies of this report will be circulated to all UCAA DCAs, 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 marginalized communities through empowering them to exercise their rights in the decision-making process, and creation of awareness, enabling an environment that catalyzes sustainable development processes at community level, advocacy on issues affecting them as well as system strengthening with trainings to support people to access and develop their capabilities, services and opportunities needed to live a healthy, productive and otherwise fulfilling life, while sustainably using the natural resources they depend on.

As we celebrate our achievements, let us reflect on the lessons learned and opportunities that lie ahead, to build our momentum and continue to positively influence the lives of the marginalized communities.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Akello Ayena'.

**Lucy Akello Ayena**

## **UCAA Program overview**

In 2023 UCAA started the implementation of the new strategic plan 2023/2027 which focused on six thematic areas of: Promotion of rights to sustainable Livelihoods, Child Protection, Education and Life-skills development, Human Rights, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), Youth Empowerment, Employment and skilling, Humanitarian Aid and Development and Institutional development Programme. These were developed with contribution of the UCAA staff, BODs, and its stakeholders to guide the implementation of the programs.

The success of the project in 2023 was affiliated to the clearly set objectives streamlined with all the partners, strong leadership that motivates and inspires the team, A well-built fundraising strategy that focuses on the project goal and target population, continuous research, development of compelling proposals as well as identifying and responding to potential sources of funds, building networks with potential partner/donors, good stewardship and accountability of funds, development of long term sustainability plans through community engagement, effective communication, documentation, monitoring and evaluation processes and finally the BODs quarterly meetings, that were carried out throughout the year.



**UCAA Board of Directors 2023**



**Some of UCAA Staff Members 2023**

# Project 1: Children at Risk in Karamoja (CaR) Program

## CaR Program overview

UCAA in partnership with Dwelling places and Institute for International Co-operation and Development (C&D), formed a consortium and joined efforts to implement the Children at Risk program in Napak district Karamoja region, and Kampala Capital city.

Project objective: To protect adolescents, street connected children and other vulnerable children, affected by crisis within community from unsafe outmigration from Napak District & KCCA by 2024.

Napak district is located in Karamoja region and has the highest number of children being trafficked with over 80% ending up on the streets of Kampala and other town centers. Child Trafficking and unsafe migration is common in the impoverished area as each year, 400-900 children (90% girls) are migrating from Napak district mainly to Kampala, Soroti, Mbale, Jinja and Nairobi in Kenya.



The push factors include but are not limited to insecurity, harsh climatic conditions that have caused drought, poverty and food insecurity in the region. There is also evidence that children are sometimes lured out of Napak District by their peers, or by individuals (traffickers) promising better opportunities, hence justification for project implementation.

## The way of operation of the CaR consortium partners



*On the left UCAA GBV officer during resettlement of Children at kangole Central police station, setting off for Nawoi village in Lopeei sub-county Napak District and on the right C&D social worker staff with an intercepted girl in a group photo with police officer, at Kangole central Police station.*



*On the left is Dwelling Places: Children lining up and boarding a bus at UWESO rehabilitation home ready for resettlement in Karamoja on 7th /4/2023 on the right is a health community outreach for children in Kalwero suburb Kampala district.*

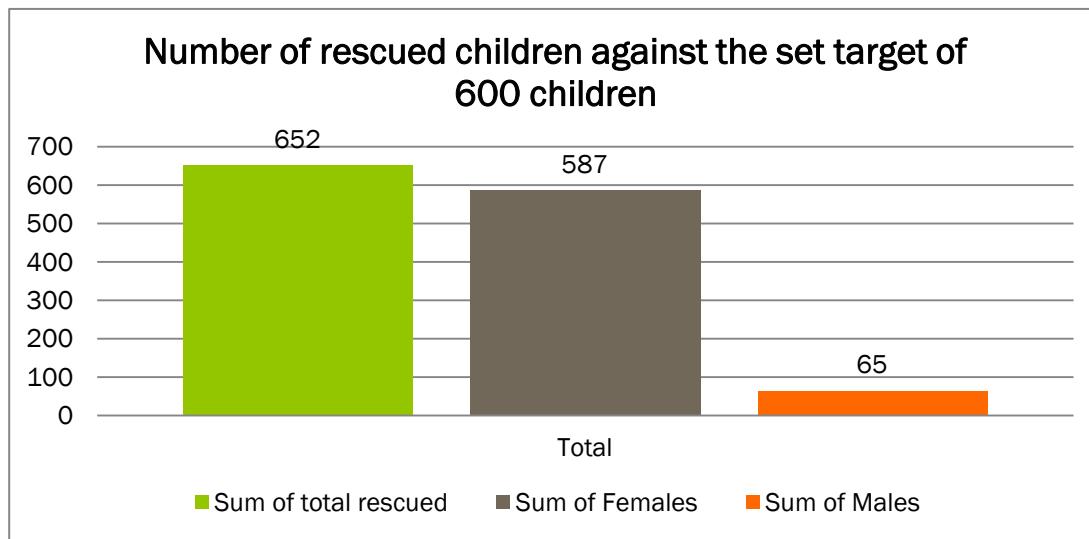
## A brief methodology on how the activities are/were implemented

Children were rescued, resettled, rehabilitated and reunited with their family members successfully with support of social workers, family tracing, medical screening, psychosocial support provided and resettlement, spiritual nourishment, first aid, and education services through creative play / educational games using the mobile school. Their data was recorded (Name of the child, the caregiver details, village, parish and the sub county for each child rescued), to help staff during the family tracing and resettlement process and during the continuous follow-ups.

The data is used by the Local leaders and CaR partners for continued support and planning for the children as described: UCAA supports in Sustainable resettlement, Economic Empowerment, Food security through awareness campaigns, backyard gardening, Agribusiness development, Gender based Violence (GBV) and Attitude / Mindset change in the communities. C&D supports in Interception, Reconciles, resettles, Child Protection, Education (Formal & informal), Life skills, Water & sanitation plus psychosocial support to the children and their families, and DP supports in Rescue, rehabilitate: Intercept & reconcile, Education, Health and nutrition.

## Summary of project activities that contributed to the anticipated project results

### Outcome 1: Adolescents, street-connected and other vulnerable children protected from unsafe outmigration from Napak District.



The table below shows results of some of the children that were followed up.

Children Followed up	Households accessed	Provided food(Dwelling places )	Females	Males
133	88	100	88	12

Following the subsequent filed visits, the team identified and realized the need for case management support in some households, for example the need for food items and hygienic items like Soap, clothes, even blankets in families where it was only older and weaker grandparents taking care of children.

Also energetic people in some homes always left elderly adults and children in the homes, while they went to do some agriculture jobs during the planting seasons, this left/leaves a high chance of children leaving home, either in search of food or any other motives since the elderly could barely control them. .

Note: This therefore calls for double interventions in form of follow up and case management.

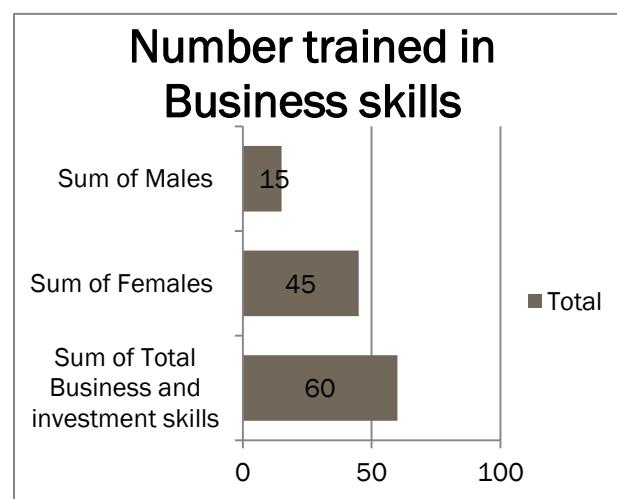
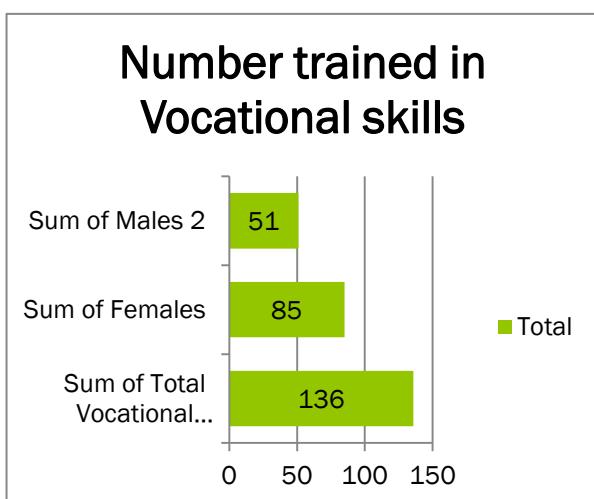


*Photo on the left shows the CaR joint monitoring team with the child rights club at Kalotom primary school in Ngoleriet Sub County surveying one of the established club vegetable gardens.*

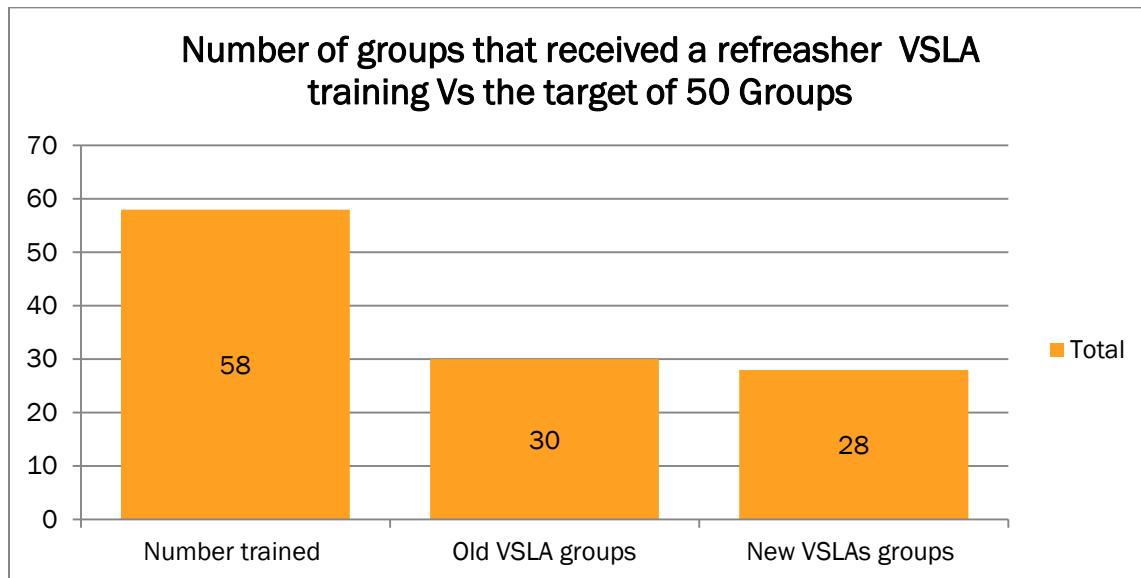
Backyard gardening was established to improve on the nutrition status of the children taken to school, this acted as an opportunity for them to learn and practice the same in their homes and communities.

## **Outcome 2: Improved Livelihoods of families of rescued and other vulnerable children affected by crisis in Napak District**

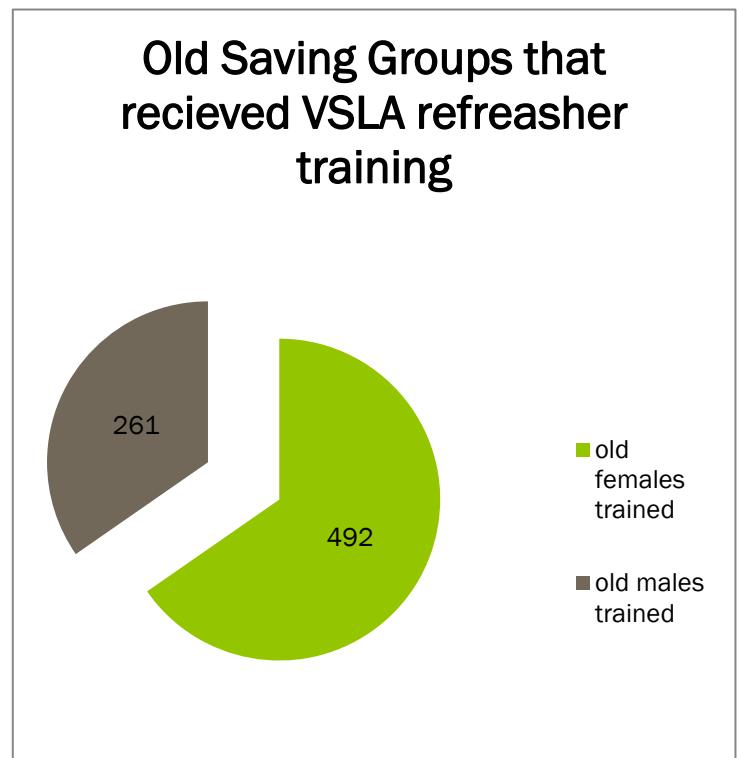
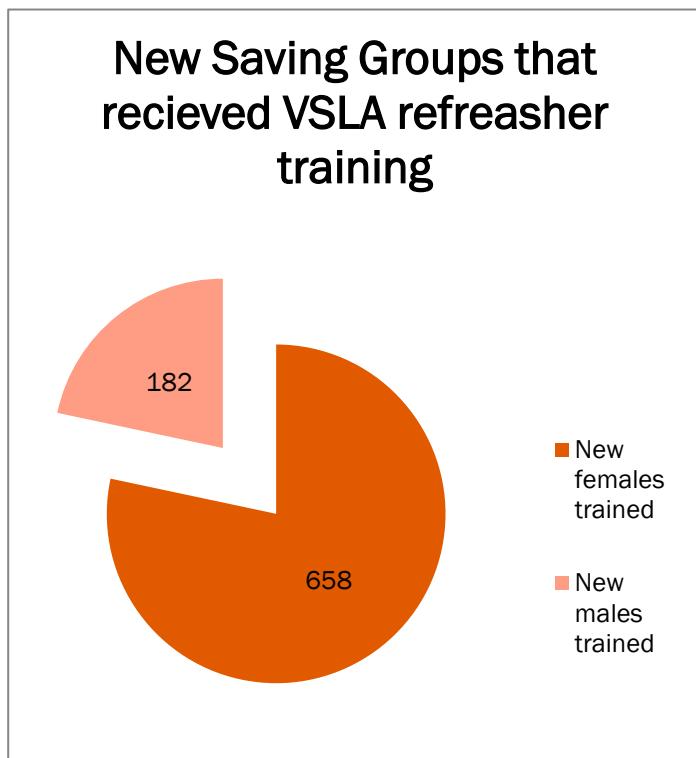
Equipping the families of rescued and other vulnerable children through: Skills acquisition in the areas of tailoring, hairdressing and motorcycle mechanics, Vocational and Business skills



The Figures below show some of the trainings attained by families in the VSLA groups



The project over achieved and trained 58 VSLA groups from the planned target of 50 VSLA groups





*One of the different saving groups within Napak district, taken through VSLA methodology strengthening on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023  
The pictures below are a show case of the children/youth implementing the results of the Business and investment/life skills they were trained in, during the joint monitoring visit of the partners:*



**Outcome 3: Enhanced participation of community members and local leaders in child-protection, GBV mitigation and livelihoods improvement initiatives in Napak District**

Activity	Females	Male
Community members equipped with Life skills components	100	75
Sub-county stakeholders attended review meetings at Lokopo sub county, Napak	21	39

The held Sub-county stakeholder review meetings were for strengthened coordination and collaboration of the stakeholders, popularizing the by-laws and bringing on board the transport sectors that are involved in trafficking. And they involved sub-county leaders, opinion leaders, change agents, local council and religious leaders

Increased stakeholders participation has been realized through stakeholders analysis meetings conducted targeting the RDC, LCV vice person, CFPU, Councilors, probation office, CDO's, LC3's, religious leaders, group Members, Parents and the CaR consortium partners as shown in the photo below.



**A photo showing the duty bearers of Napak district, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development & the CaR field staff after the resettlement meeting, taken by C&D Janet Akwanga, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 at Kobulin Centre, Lorengecora Town Council.**

#### **Outcome 4: Improved communication, lobby and advocacy strategy to eliminate child outmigration from Karamoja.**

Information sharing and dissemination was done using MDD activities with children, community members participating in international days like Independence day celebration, the day of African child, and the 16th days of GBV activism that was coordinated by Napak District Local government officials.



*The photo above shows member in the community sensitization and involvement and below shows the pupils of Longalom primary school participating during the internationals days at 16<sup>th</sup> Days of activism to end Violence against Women and Children at Lorengecora Town council on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023*



Presentations through music, dance and drama to communicate messages of child protection, and their voices were heard especially on returning of guns that have caused insecurity in the region and parents embracing education for all children.

CaR team rescued and re-united 20 children (8 boys and 12 girls) with their caretakers in the course of Karamoja cultural events week hosted by Napak District.

Sensitization and dissemination of messages using jingle was produced, recorded and aired through Ateker FM radio station at Moroto district. Information disseminated was “***Uganda Change Agent Association in partnership with C&D, Dwelling Places and Napak Local Government, are committed to stop child trafficking, discourage unsafe out migration of children to the streets, stop child labour, and calling upon parents to take their children to school. The caretakers are encouraged to join saving groups, so that they are able to get loans and start income generating activities to provide basic needs for their children.***

***Let's stop parading children on the streets under the hot sun, which will spoil the brains of these children as seen on the streets of Kampala. Parents lets learn to work together for the good environment for our children as they look up to their parents. AND ITS SUPPORTED BY KERK IN ACTIE, THE NETHERLANDS”.***

UCAA also mobilized children who participated and disseminated child protection messages, and messages demanding for their rights to be respected and this resulted to district officers have taken the issues of children seriously since then; they promised to organize and strengthen the child wellbeing committees; as well the emphasis will be put on the caretakers to take the children to school.

It is noted that visibility was created for the need to continue supporting child rights members with the same communities and this was done through assorted IEC Visibility. Material Development and production that includes assorted 120 T –Shirts, and 285 Calendars.

## **Outcome 5: Results-oriented and impact-driven CaR Consortium coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems.**

Quarterly reviews of CaR activities were conducted, coordination for smooth implementation of CaR activities and more team building among CaR team emphasized.



*Above photos show the general monitoring by UCAA Directors during an interaction with FAL Classes on 25th July, 2023.*

Proper planning for the district dialogue meetings between Ministry of Gender, KCCA Officer, CaR partners and Napak district official were conducted that aimed to provide proper guide lines for information dissemination, project implementation and submitting the financial and narrative reports.

Strengthening the networking, coordination and proper strategies on how to rescue street connected children from the streets of Kampala was achieved through a national dialogue meeting involving 40 participants conducted in Napak and training that involved the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) enforcement officers, ministry of gender, CaR partners and the Napak district officials where they created an ally among themselves in protecting children's rights so that out migration to the streets is reduced.

### **NETWORKING ACTIVITIES**

CaR partners provided support to two girls & two boys formerly street connected children, rescued and resettled in Napak District, to participate in the CSO's symposium for children's dialogue, on children's right which was a celebration of 25 years for UCRNN for service. and they promised to sensitize other children when schools opens, they gained courage in discussing safeguarding concerns, they gained self-

esteem and it encouraged them to continue with their studies, and become role models in their communities, and others are able to learn and emulate from them.



*A photo on the left of the CaR partners communicating stay in school words of wisdom during a monitoring visit in one of the schools with children in Napak District.*

A learning Visit by one of the UCAA Partners- Kinder not hilfe (KNH) Uganda Country office was conducted in Napak district for KNH to learn from what the CaR consortium was implementing in the area of ensuring that children on the streets are rescued, resettled, their Livelihoods supported and protected.



*Photo on the left shows UCAA Partners- Kinder not hilfe (KNH) on a monitoring visit with one of the men's savings groups, discussing how they operate.*

Facilitation in terms of transportation support was provided by UCAA to CFPU Napak, on cases of trafficking of children from Napak, through taking of perpetrators to Moroto district court and a total of 15 perpetrators to court (11 women and 4 men), and twelve were convicted (9 women and 3 men) was achieved and managed.

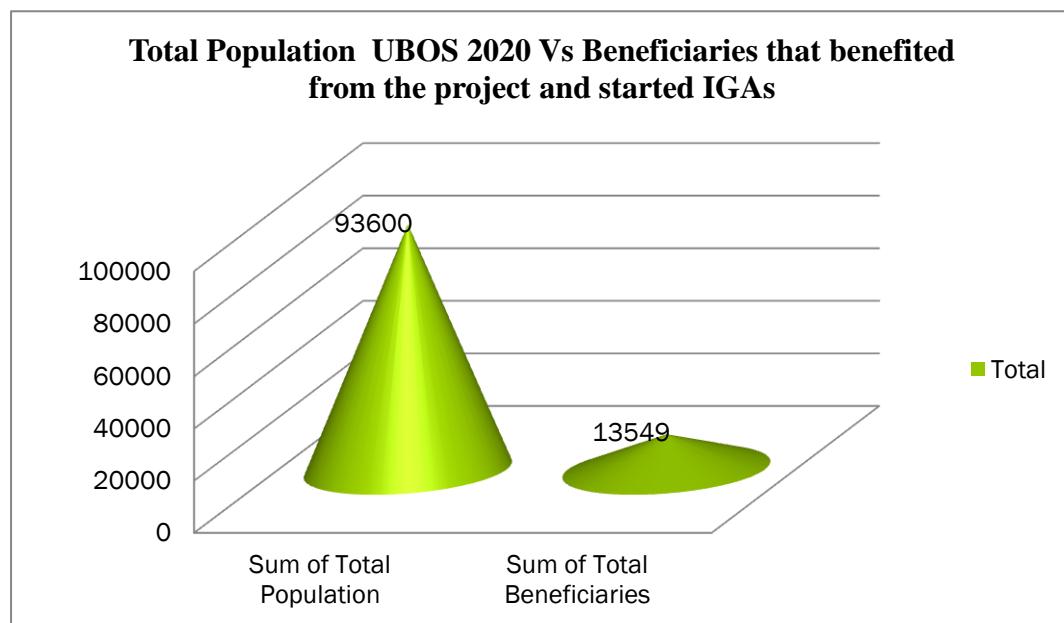
## PROGRESS MONITORING

UCAA and partners were/are supervising a total of 109 saving groups cutting a cross Lorengecora, Iriiri, Ngoleriet, Lokopo, Lopeei, Matany sub counties, and Napak, Kangole, Matany town councils, in Napak district. VSLAs members saved up to a total of UGX 403, 572,000/= by the end of November, 2023. The saving culture helped members to take loans and many started some income generating activities. Below are the examples of established IGAs.

<b>IGA/PROPERTY initiated and managed by members</b>	<b>No. FEMALE</b>	<b>No. MALE</b>	<b>Total</b>
Retail shops	6	10	16
Local brewing business	1000	50	1,050
Vegetable selling	854	123	977
Silver fish as a business	185	1	186
Bakery business	8	2	10
Fuel business	2	53	55
Goats	175	987	1,162
Pigs	3	75	78
Own land	231	1,876	2,107
Built permanent houses	83	883	966
Cows	85	1,121	1,206
Beading craft as business	543	6	549
Cereal banking	123	1,856	1,979
Turkeys	53	71	124
Tailoring	343	3	346
Ducks	864	456	1,320
Chicken	764	654	1418
<b>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES</b>	<b>5,322</b>	<b>8,227</b>	<b>13,549</b>

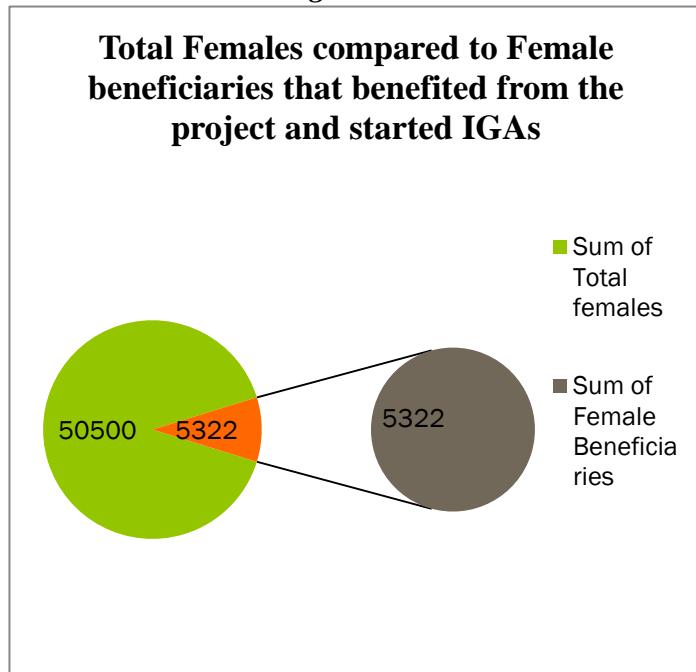
*Note: The target population was from Lopeii, Lokopo, Matany , Ngoloriet and Lorengecora Sub counties and comparison statistics were generated from UBOS statistics of 2020.*

The graphs below show comparisons of the Beneficiaries that started IGAs against the Total Population of the Five Sub-Counties.

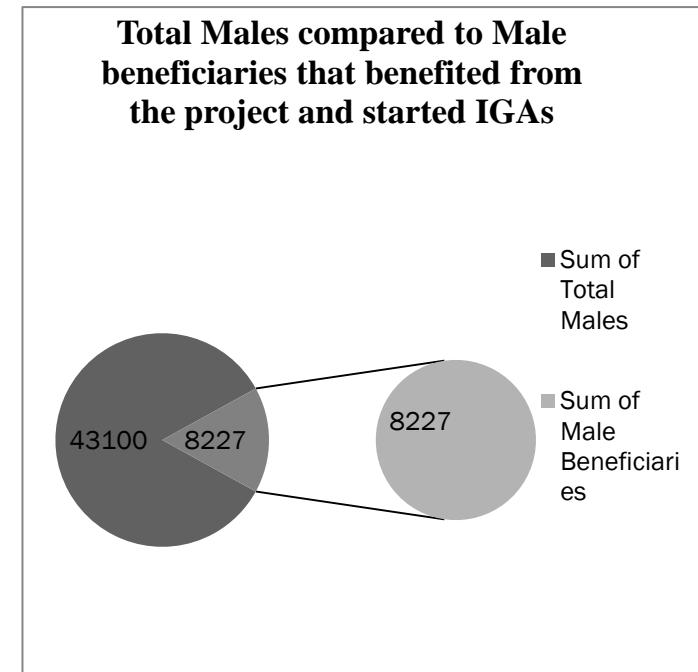


14.4%  
*Beneficiaries from the general Population of the 5 targeted sub-counties started IGAs*

*Illustrated according to the Genders*



*10.5% Females from the total Females, started IGAs*



*19.0% Males from the total Males, started IGAs*

Field monitoring visits were conducted by CaR consortium Directors in Napak district to check on the progress of the activities of CaR project. Field visits were conducted to the children survivors, Primary schools, the groups of the Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) classes, supported households with resettled children and some of the village savings group.

## Some Income Generating Activities (IGA) initiated by members of the VSLA groups.



*Above photo shows Nachap Maria in a yellow T-shirt selling Silverfish and Lochoro Lucia selling Sorghum all at Lopeii sub-county. The photo was taken on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Julius.*



*Above photo shows Youth already practicing income generating activities and life skills they were trained.*

## CaR Success stories

### Title: 14-year old Pedo Emmanuel went missing from his home due to peer pressure from his friends.

Imagine a situation where a child is influenced to leave his home, village in Napak district with promises of a better life, only to realize that there was no Shelter and food for him and he had to tirelessly work his way through to get access to the basic needs he needed to survive.

Since Karamoja region is faced with high poverty rates, food challenges among others, many children are easily persuaded to leave their homes for a better life out there, which is always not the case, like what happened to this 14 year old boy, Pedo Emmanuel was influenced and left his home village in Napak to another village in Amuria district.

The consortium partners supported the office of the DCFCPU for the rescue of Pedo Emmanuel, when his mother Nawal Paska reported the case to the office of DCFCPU seeking support to rescue her son from Ogwete village in Amuria.

A community dialogue meeting was held with Napak district police, Amuria district police with support from UCAA in the Ogwete village. The LC1 Omaitum Peter said that he has been seeing this boy in different homes doing herding of cattle but he did not know the person who brought him there. He said that he was grateful for the mother who had come for him. The LC 1 also emphasized to the community members to never keep anyone's child in their homes for their own interests having in mind that child labor is a criminal offence.

The team managed to successfully rescue the boy, and together with his mother they were counseled by the UCAA GBV officer Akongo Mary Lilly at Kangole police station, and taken back to their village.



*The left photo shows the UCAA GBV officer in a white T-shirt explaining the dangers of child trafficking during the family dialogue meeting for the rescue of Pedo Emmanuel and the extreme right picture shows the DCFCPU and GBV officer in white after the successful dialogue on 24th/02/2023 in Ogwete village.*

## **Project 2: Climate Innovations for Resilience in Karamoja and Kyangwali (CLIRK) Project**

### **Project Overview**

UCAA in partnership with CARE International in Uganda are implementing the *Climate Innovations for Resilience in Kikuube district (Kyangwali) and Karamoja districts of Kotido (Maaru Sub County), and Karenga (Kapedo Sub County)*. The CLIRK project impact goal is: Improved food and nutritional security for land scarce poor and climate vulnerable communities in Kyangwali and Karamoja regions.



***(Shallow valley dam in Kapedo sub-county Karenga with no water utilisation activity)***

Since these regions are affected with disasters caused by climate change, for karamoja there is prolonged drought which impacts on crops, livestock & water resources, and kyangwali has a challenge with Small plots/land holdings, for food production in and out of Kyangwali refugee settlement. UCAA in partnership with CARE are implementing activities, practices and research to absorb the shock and risks that come with Climate change: To improve use of valley dams for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, for drought resilience in karamoja and Sustainable food production on small plots/land holdings in Kyangwali Refugee settlement and host communities in Kikuube district.

The activities are/were implemented in a participatory approach with various stakeholders and target populations enlisted in the table below.

Region	Target population	Population description
Karamoja	<p>Direct target groups 50 end users 50 role model men</p> <p>Indirect target groups:</p>	<p>Pastoralists (Male elders and male youth), agro-pastoralist (women and girls), and community change agents</p> <p>Involving district/Sub county disaster management and environment committees.</p> <p>Scaling stakeholders or actors-water management committees, parish development committees, sub county and district councils, district departments of production and natural resources, traditional councils of the Ng'karimojong (male only A kirikets) and Policy makers-Department of Water for Production in the Ministry of water and Education, District Councils, Climate change Department under the Ministry of water and environment, and Ministry of Karamoja Affairs under Office of the Prime Minister).</p>
Kyangwali	<p>Direct target groups: 50 end user groups</p> <p>-50 role model men</p> <p>Indirect target groups:</p>	<p>Mixed groups of males and females), newly resettled refugees, people with special needs, old caseloads, and resettled host community members of the Kasonga parish, Community change agents</p> <p>Involving district/sub county disaster management and environment committees and refugee welfare councils 1-111 reaching out to a total of 14,760 (60% women).</p> <p>Scaling stakeholders or actors-parish development committees, sub county and district political leadership, District departments humanitarian technical working groups and policy makers-District Councils, Department of Change</p> <p>Ministry of water and environment, department of refugees (Office of the Prime Minister), and the CRRF steering group reaching out to 59,040 people, household members of the direct individual beneficiaries as well as users of weather forecasts and advisories</p>

The activities that were implemented contributed to two project goals, one in Karamoja and the other in Kyangwali regions, and they focus on ensuring that communities who were in a state of extreme food insecurity could produce and trade in food. The project ensured that: It integrated principles of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, Gender-disaggregated indicators and recognized the important role played by women and men in the agriculture and food sector, Capacity development approach was integrated at the systemic, institutional and individual levels, according to needs expressed during the implementation of the activities.

**Note:** The activities implemented strengthened the capacities of districts of Karenga, Kotido and Kikuube districts in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and SGBV aspects, the main activities implemented include the following;

**Outcome 1: Increased capacity of local organization and structures to address disasters and impacts of climate change at community level.**

**Activities implemented and results for Output1**

*Conducted entry meetings at the District level to identify actions that have been taken in regards to the DCP and come up with action plan for Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts*



*A group photo of the participants, CAO kikuube district (Ms. Ever Biira in the blue suit) during the project inception meeting and introduction of the project (CLIRK) to stakeholders.*



***The RDC Kotido District (Mr John Kukooki Magyezi standing on the left) and ACAO Kotido District Local Government (Mr Nyanga Fredrick Emmanuel representing CAO) standing on the right, making closing and opening remarks respectively during district stakeholders CLIRK project Entry meeting held in District Conference Hall in Kotido District Head Quarter***

During the district level meetings, they identified actions in regards to the DCP and come up with action plans for Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts:

99 District officials attended (36 females, 63 males) the entry meetings and they discussed:

- The status on DCPs, revised district hazards and risk profiles and action points were documented
- Conducted meetings to review the district hazards and risk profiles and came up with plans***

9 individuals (5 females, 4 males) met, members of the district risk management committee and UCAA staff

- The meetings aimed at reviewing the profile of hazards for the 3 districts to come up with the new profile of the hazards affecting the districts, and the following were identified

Kikuube: Migratory population, Human disease, Food insecurity, Environmental degradation and road accidents.

Kotido: there was prolonged drought resulting in to food shortage, and

Karenga: on top of prolonged drought, there was a conflict between Wild life and Human because of climate change and in the process wild animals destroy crops for the human population.

**Note:** The hazard profiles were outdated and needed review with experienced district staff this helped UCAA and CARE get updated information that could be used in the project's advocacy work.

***Conducted Meetings with UCAA structures to embrace and support the project implementation for sustainability***

19 people attended these meetings (10 females, 9 males)

- The project concepts, work plans, objectives and implementation plans focusing on feasibility, approach partnership and sustainability were discussed with the change agents

### ***Technical capacity building of staff of District Local Government on climate change, disaster risk mitigation and adaptation and humanitarian action***

49 staff members were trained on DRMC (15 females, 34 males)

- Topics covered were: Understanding Disaster risk and Disaster risk frame works, Hazards, Capacity and Vulnerability.
- Looked at the causes of disaster risks, Prevention, Preparedness and Response, and conducting vulnerable capacity assessment.

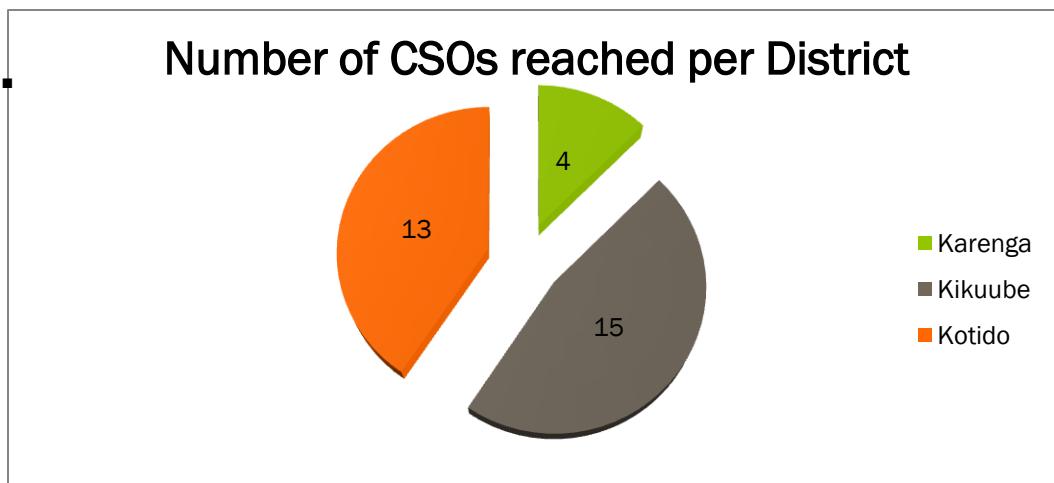
Through experience sharing and learning among participants, they were also equipped with knowledge and skills on how to manage disasters/hazards in their districts.

### ***Designed IEC Materials with advocacy messages addressing the project objectives***

220 wall calendars, 2 signpost and 9 workshop pull banners were designed

- Wall calendars and table calendars for 2024 were produced by UCAA and were all distributed to stakeholders portraying the message. So far, 2 sign posts for Kotido have been produced and installed. In addition 3 workshop pull up banners were produced for all the 3 districts.

### ***Conduct training and assets needs assessment for the identified CSOs, CBOs, activists, start-ups, media coalitions and networks***



The CSOs, startups, media coalitions were trained and equipped their capacity in DRR aspects such as how to mainstream GBV and DRR mitigations in the humanitarian interventions and technology that can aid understanding climate change.

There was however need for: Networking, organize and train more on risk assessment, management and mitigation and many more evidenced by the activity report and challenges documented.

### ***Review of training materials***

- To realize UCAA's objective of building the capacity of its staff and partners in DRR and CRM, a consultant was contracted to review the existing UCAA's training manual, so as to establish consistency in the training of stakeholders in climate risk management.

### ***Assets needs assessment was conducted with the following***

- To analyze how climate risk and humanitarian situation in Karamoja and Kikuube had shaped CRM training content and pedagogy.
- To identify capacity gaps in climate risk management and humanitarian response
- To identify and priorities key capacities for CRM and humanitarian response
- To assess the humanitarian physical assets and capacity needs required to meet priorities for an effective CRM and humanitarian response.
- To recommend a curriculum/training package that would effectively address knowledge and skill gaps in CRM and DRM

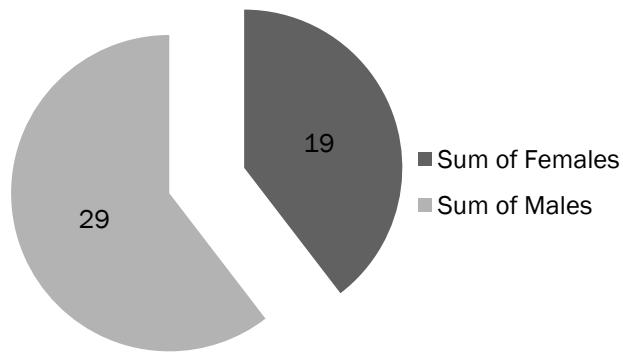
### ***Outcome 3: Increased capacity of local organization and structures to address disasters and impacts of climate change at community level in Kikuube, Karenga and Kotido districts.***

#### **Activities implemented and results**

*Conducted meetings with key stakeholders of Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts to develop a strategy and themes for awareness creation on GBV and DRR*

The meetings in all the 3 districts we attended by a total of 48 Stakeholders, 29 Males and 19 Females.

#### **Stakeholders attended meetings to develop strategies for awareness creation**



Meetings were to develop a strategy and themes for awareness on DRR and GBV and UCAA documented them.

- Key stakeholders involved: participants from department of Natural Resource, Production environment, Gender official among others.



**The UCAA Programme Director (Mr. Bwambale Christopher) presenting during district stakeholders CLIRK project Entry meeting at the Conference Hall in Kotido District Head Quarters**

**Conducted an assessment to identify media to disseminate information on DRR and GBV form Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts**

11 radio stations. (2 Karenga, 6 Kikuube, and 3 Kotido) were assessed and a list of appropriate ones was identified.

- Assessment and selection was determinant on the station organogram, listenership coverage, prices, audio quality and location for security purposes among others. And these were selected Etoil A Karamoja FM for Karamoja and Spice FM for Kikuube.



**District and CLIRK project officers participating in the first awareness creation on DRR and GBV on radio (Etoil A Karamoja FM station) in Kotido District. And Spice FM Hoima district- Radio Talk show for Kikuube district**

The talk show started with remarks from UCAA staff who gave an overview on UCAA, objective of the radio talk show, details of the CLIRK project in terms of geography, time scope, and goal and target

population. The talk shows were conducted in the local language with translators were available where necessary to reach a large population.

Results of the catchment area were evidenced from listeners' calls made during the talk shows, where listeners had some knowledge on SGBV, DRR and the place from which they were listening in from.

***Select and facilitate stakeholders to undertake awareness creation on DRR and GBV in Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts***

A total of 6 stakeholders were selected and facilitated to create awareness

- Awareness creation was through community sensitization radio talk shows, art (MDD), and brochures in Kikuube, Kotido and Karenga districts

Community meetings were also conducted in Kikuube district for awareness creation.



***Women leaders of Kavule-kyangwali participating in the sensitization meeting organized by UCAA on 16<sup>th</sup>/12/2023***

It was noted that throughout the implementation of these activities the project built on existing venues and platforms and created avenues for a stronger dialogue: this restores trust, promotes integration of DRR and SGBV aspects and allows for the emergence of better ownership by local communities themselves hence sustainability.

Through the implementation of these activities there was strengthened collaboration of government structures and other stakeholders for fully support of the project.

**In conclusion**

The success and sustainability of the project heavily relies on strategic partnerships with all the stakeholders and empowering communities, this promotes synergies and adds value to the implementation process of the project.

## **Project 3: Project for Enhancement of Youth Employment and Agency in West Nile Region, Uganda**

### **Project Overview**

The project was implemented from: start date 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 to 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2023, where the reporting year had an implementation of basically 2 months of January to Febuary 2023. During this period the project was finalizing, preparing accountability and activity reports that were made during the implementation periods.

The project objective was: Youth Economic Empowerment in Uganda, a key factor for political stability, good governance and economic development by targeting both urban and rural youth in community settings integrating both refugees and refugee host communities.

The project for enhancement of youth employment was implememted in Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi and Adjumani districts: where 60% of the population constitutes of young people. For various reasons (including technological advancemet, limited resources, low levels of education among others, the category of the youth aged 18-35 are the most affected by un employment).



The project was implemented, in conformity with the UCAA country strategy to supplement on the government's interventions such as the Youth Livelihood Fund (YLF).

In addition the project interventions implemented addresses key areas of advocacy and accountability issues of the National Development Plan (NDPIII) of regional and global development, private sector development, sustainable urbanisation and housing, community mobilization and mind-set change which are tasking elements in the project implementation areas, they also address the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of namely 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), 4 (Ensure inclusive, equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), 5 (Achieve Gender equality and

empower all women and girls), 8 (Decent Work and Economic growth) and 10 (Reduced inequalities within and among communities).

These are evidenced by the higher number of youth creating income generating activities and were all linked to other plans intended to guide the provision of sustainable quality services, to minimize the vulnerability of youths and propel them into responsible citizens.

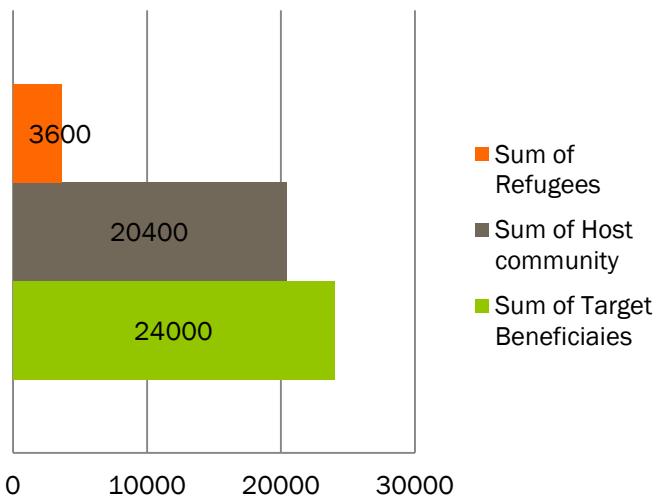
Target Conties/ Regions: Uganda, West Nile Region(Yumbe, Moyo-Obongi and Adjumani districts)

**Below is a brief summary of the project during it's life span, key activites and results.**

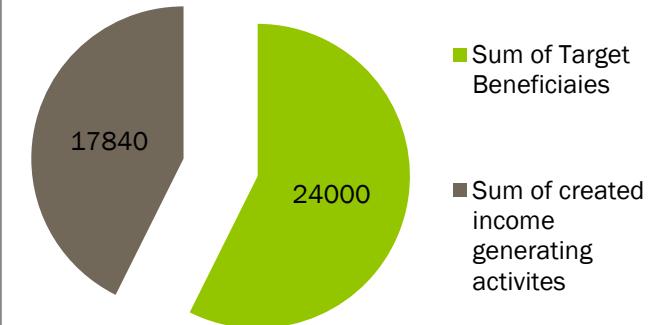
Final beneficiaries were the target youth, their households and communities in the immediate neighborhoods of the participating households. The action targeted the most vulnerable youths from the households in the refugee settlements and the host communities in districts of Adjumani, Moyo and Yumbe.

The targets and selection were allocated based on the proportion of each districts' youth population. The project ensured that 50% of the target was females and 50% males. This achievement was 74% of the project target.

**Target (24,000) Vs Number reached in Both Refugee settings and host Communities**

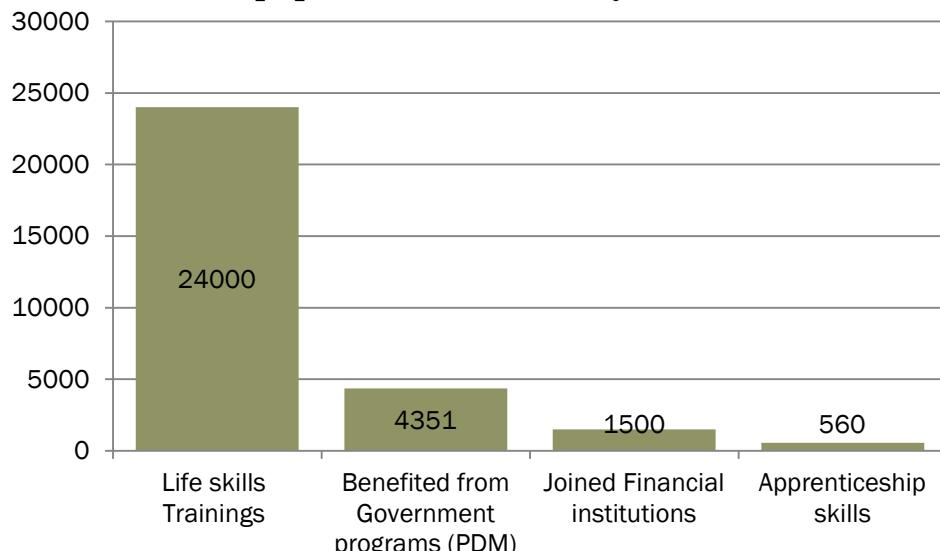


**Youth that started IGAs Vs Target in Both Refugee settings and host Communities**

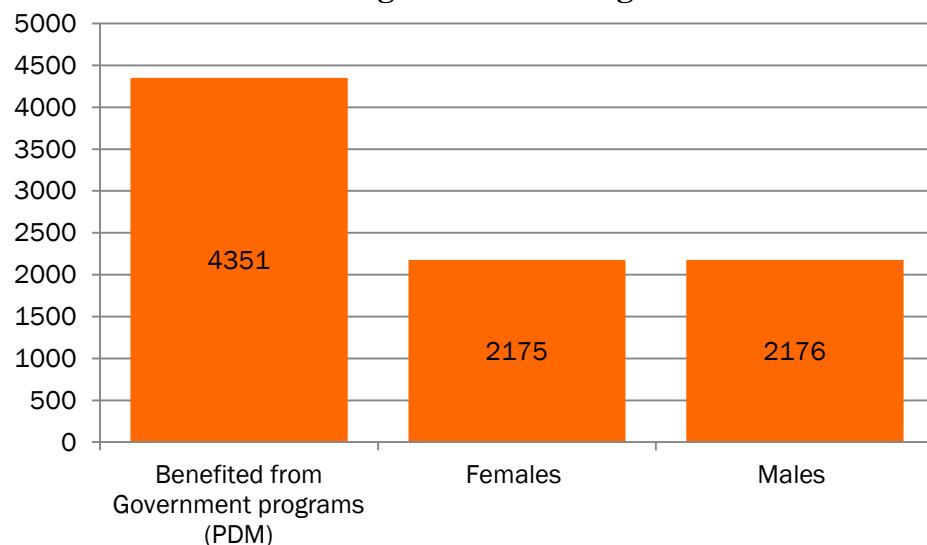


The 24,000 youth were equipped with Life skills, advocacy and some benefited from the parish development model of the government of Uganda, apprenticeship skills as illustrated in the graphs below.

### **Number of youth that utilised the training skills they were equipped with and how they benefited**



### **Numbers of the Females and Males that benefited from the PDM government Program**



The total linkage rate of youth was 5,851 (24%) linkages and the reason for this, was that majority of the youth needed some more time to get organized in terms of requirements such as what government requires, and those of other institutions which was a challenge since the project had time limits of implementation.

*Below are some youth showcasing their created income generating activities.*



*Picture above and below show UCAA trained Youth in life skills of hair dressing and had started their own income generating business.*



*Picture on the left shows UCAA monitoring the progress of a youth who received life skills in shoe making and incorporated it in his current business of a domestic shop for surplus income.*

## **Project 4: Improving Livelihoods of Women and Children of Agago District through Self Help Group Approach (SHGA) Program**

### **SHGA Program overview**

UCAA has been implementing the Self Help Group Approach program in Adilang Sub-county of Agago district for seven years now.

The project object: Is improving the livelihoods of women and Children in Agago district located within Acholi sub region northern Uganda. UCAA used the approach of bringing the poor, often voiceless, powerless and vulnerable people together, and empowering them gain tremendous strength and

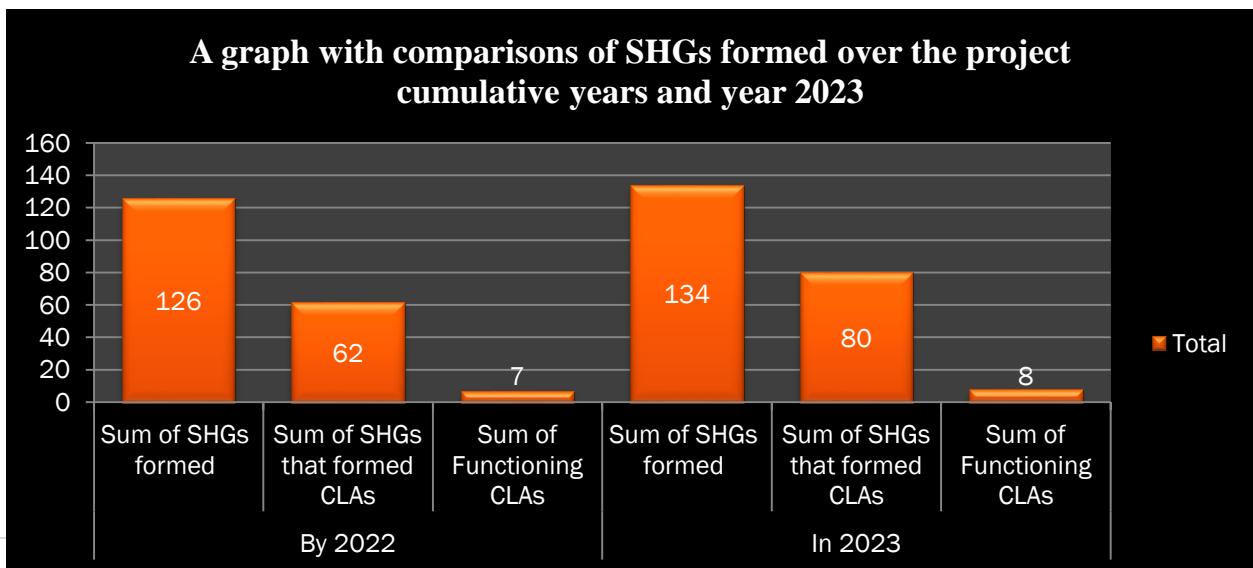
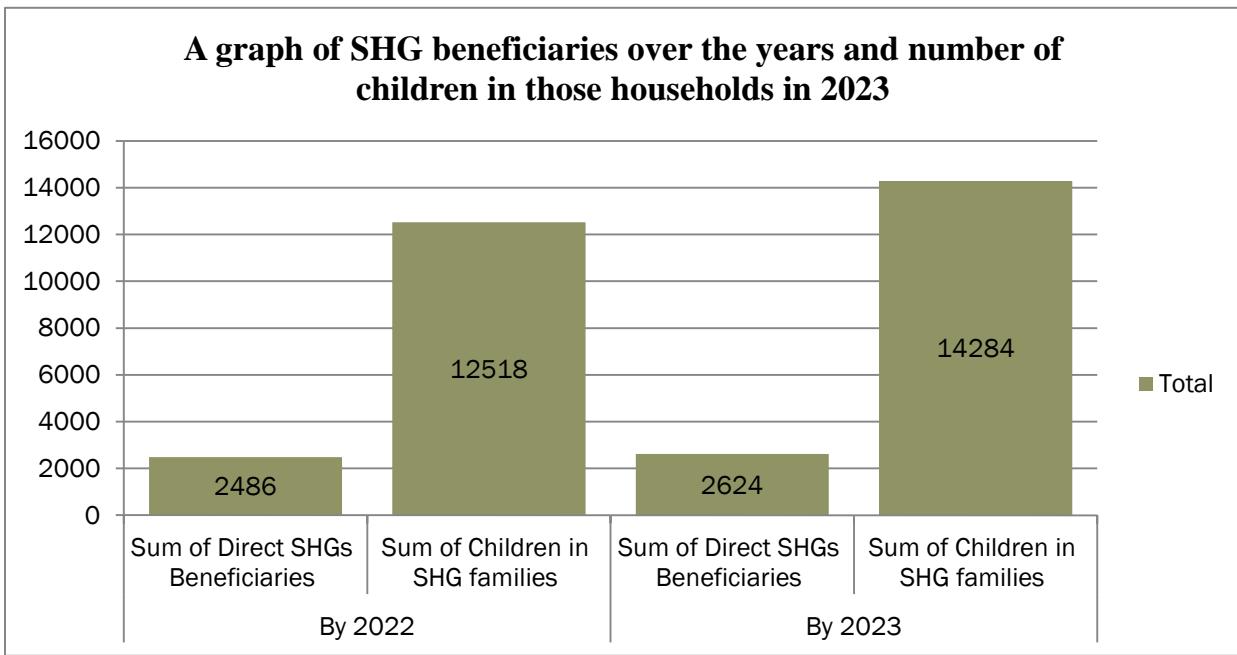
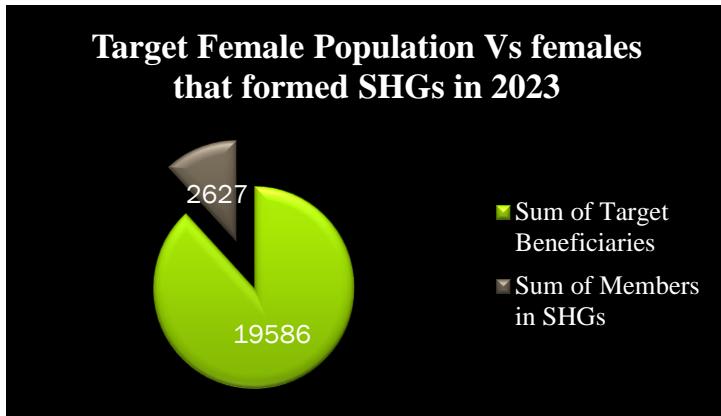


collective thinking hence adding a lot of value to each individual despite the group effort.

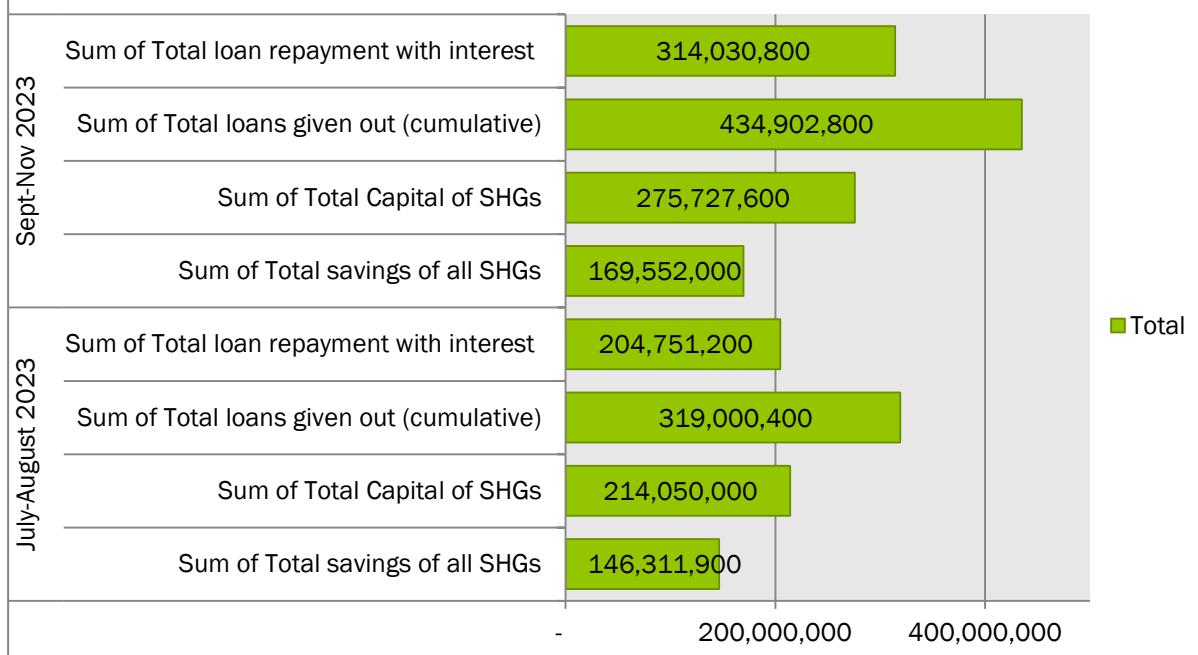
UCAA focused on activities of capacity building for the self-help groups through trainings, encouraging the groups to build good relationships and networks, coming together and forming networks (Cluster level Associations). These SHGs were formed through transect walks and mapping, to be able gather people of the same socio-economic status. The approach created a culture of savings and loaning amongst members of the SHG, Women were empowered through trainings, weekly meetings and rotational leadership, working with homogenous group is easier because they understand one another's problems/challenges better.

**Below are some results for 2023 Activity implementations of UCAA in Adilang Sub-county Agago district**

*13.41% of the Females in Adilang Sub County Agago District joined and formed SHGs in the community*



**A graph showing the total savings, loans and repayments in UG  
Shillings of the members in the last two quarters of 2023**



196 women were saving regularly and accessing loans from their SHGs, Formation of New SHGs target was 25, however 10 were achieved, the target was affected by other community engagements like PDM.

Women save and start business while accessing small loans from their savings groups and the loans to savings ratio was 2:1 in July August quarter and 2:2 in September to Dec quarter.

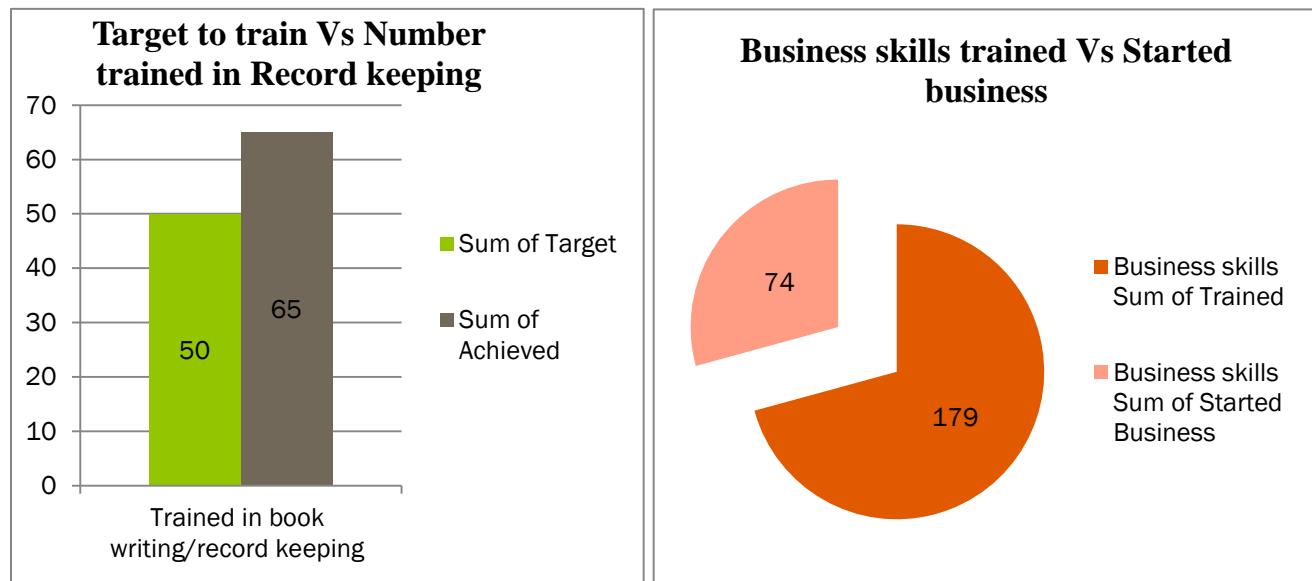
The table below shows how the groups were active within a period of 2 quarters July-August and Sept- Nov 2023.

In the self- help groups formulated (new and old) UCAA implemented other activities to support the groups' foundation and guidance over time.

- **Training of new book writers**

Target was 50, the project delivered 65 book writers by the end of the year, they were trained in proper record keeping which helps in managing the saving groups' money accounts

- 179 women from 10 old SHGs were trained in one day, on basic business skills and 74 women have started viable businesses thus making profit.



*The pictures below show UCAA conducting some of the trainings in book keeping and business skilling in some of the SHGs in Adilang Sub-county Agago district.*



- 11 review meetings with 8 CFs were conducted by the PO between January and December.



*The above photo is showing community Facilitators during a monthly meeting with the UCAA project officer in Adilang Sub-county Agago, October 2023.*

- 371 women from 20 SHGs were taken through the training on SHG concept of savings, group capital management and records, the members embraced the approach this increased the SHG capital.
- A total of 320 women from 20 new SHGs were reached out and trained on goal setting and self-assessment.



*Picture is showing Community Facilitators together with assessment team from SHG NCO during an assessment exercise in Adilang Sub-county Agago district, November 2023.*

- Supported 4 CFs during hands on training on business coaching and a total of 8 women underwent business coaching.



***Photo above is showing Can Coya SHG during participatory grading & financial auditing exercises in Adilang Sub-county Agago District, October 2023.***

- Offered training on conflict resolution and problem solving to 15 old SHGs. This improved the well-being of 294 members under the SHG household.



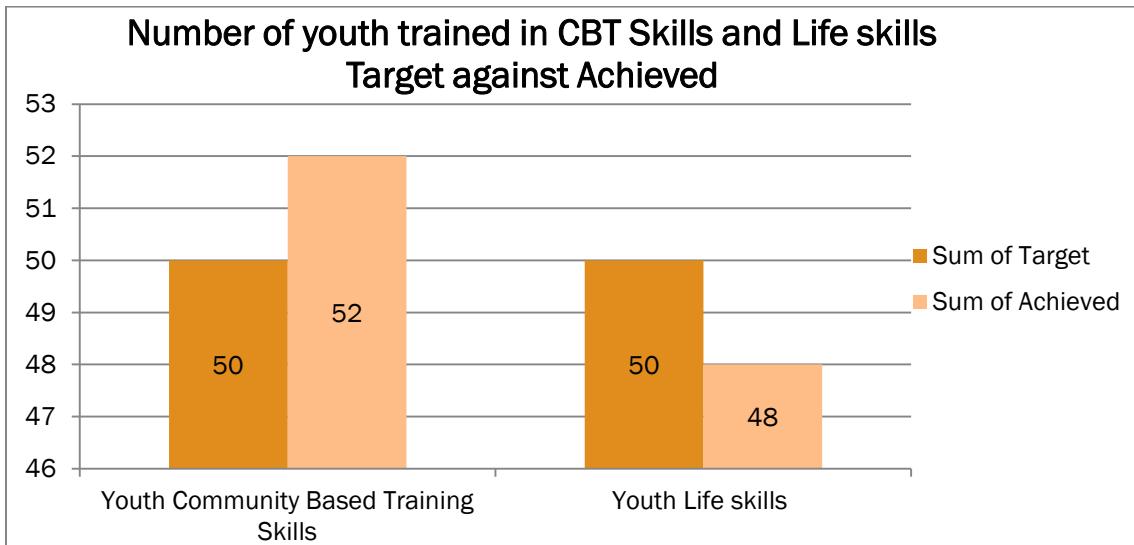
***Picture above is showing some members of Ribbe kacel kelo kuc CLA posed for fan photo after a successful training on CLA wise investment in September 2023.***

- Provided training on CLA concept to 35 SHGs and about 633 members are aware of the CLA and the need to have it in their communities.
- A total of 35 SHGs were assessed using the PG and FA tools. 26 SHG are already part of the CLA representing 518 women in their respective communities.
- 26 SHGs were reached and prepared to form CLAs in their communities.
- 8 SHGs and 3 CLAs were facilitated to conduct exposure visit amongst them. This enhanced SHG and CLA activities.
- 3 new CLAs were to be formed however 1 CLA comprising of 8 SHGs was formed in December as other SHGs were not yet prepared by that period.
- 18 SHGs, 6 CLAs and 2 CBT were monitored during the period, to assess progress, challenges, and lessons to be worked on.



*Picture above is showing selected CBT youth together with the CBT committee during a meeting in Adilang Sub-county Agago District, November 2023.*

Conducting training for 4 CBT committee less than 4 CLAs were planned but 3 CBT committees were trained on their roles under CLAs hence a total of 33 committee members equipped with CBT knowledge and they are implementing it in their communities. One CLA dropped off in implementing CBT due to capacity gap.



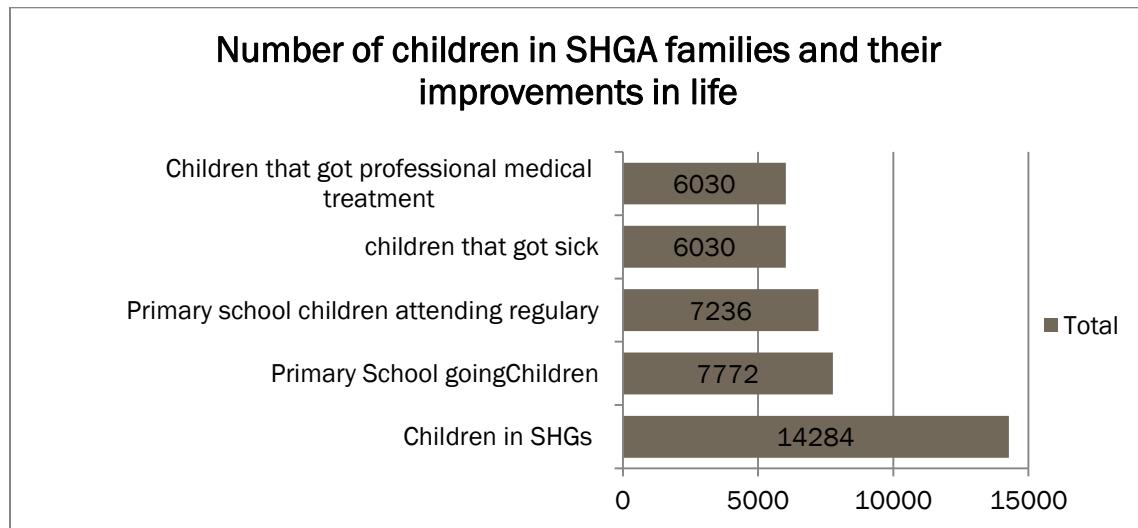
*The 2 photos below show some of the attained Community based training skills among the youth,*

*community practice in Adilang Sub-county Agago district 2023:  
 Mechanics and tailoring*



- Formation of youth groups under 4 CLAs, but 3 youth groups were established and the youth are performing their activities such as meetings, savings, loan taking and farming. One CLA dropped off in implementing CBT due to low capacity.

Involvement of children from the SHGs beneficiaries, and formation of Children's groups in the age groups of 7-11 and 12-16.



Percentage of SHG members who accessed at least 1 loan in the last 8 months from their group	68%
Number of beneficial linkages established by the CLA in the last 12 months	9



*A picture of some of the children attending school from SHGs families.*

Some encountered challenges in the implementation that affected targets were, where community members were engaged in other activities, inflation affecting prices of essentials and the need for innovative interventions to address child protection and GBV issues. For the next project phases, activities were rescheduled, SHGs were trained on priority ranking, some of the innovative interventions included CLAs subcommittees, community-led initiatives for clean water access, plans for phasing out involved continued formation and strengthening of SHGs and CLAs, fostering relationships with stakeholders for sustainability, and empowering the community.

## Case studies from some of the implemented SHGA projects

### Case story 1: A 20 year old elder son gets a chance to improve his and family living standards

Lukwiya Deogracious is a 20 year old male youth living with a single parent mother and 6 other dependent siblings in Ligi ligi community Agago district.

Agago district is one of the remote districts in Northern Uganda with vulnerable poor, often voiceless and powerless people-youth and women.

Uganda Change Agent Association has been implementing SHG approach in Agago since 2018 up to date and introduced Community Based Training (CBT) to Ribbe Kacel Kelo Kuc CLA in 2022. 21 youth were enrolled into the CBT program where Lukwiya Deogracious was among in October 2022. He is an active member of the youth group and also entrusted with the secretary role.

Deogracious Lukwiya enrolled for one of the life training skills of motorcycle repair with two other youths; underwent training for six months with close monitoring of CBT committee and his mother who is a member of Walegu Gum SHG.

After a successful completion of the CBT program in September 2023, Deogracious Lukwiya was retained by his local trainer (Olum Denish) for his knowledge and skills of motorcycle repair and customer care. He is gaining more technical and advanced skills in motorcycle repair. And he has created networks with customers and people around the community. He earns an average of 7000-10000 daily and able to save an estimate of UGX 80,000 per month. Deogracious Lukwiya is supporting his mother to meet the basic needs of the family including education of his siblings who are in primary education. His future plan is to start his own motorcycle repair garage in their community by the end of 2024.



*The picture on the left is showing an ex-trainee (Deogracious Lukwiya on yellow T-shirt) in a garage repairing motorcycle to raise income to meet personal/family needs.*

## **Case story 2: An orphaned school dropout young Mother, linked to greater opportunities**

Prossy Achan is a 23-year-old mother of one child, Senior 2 School dropped out in 2017 after losing both parents, currently staying with her grandmother Marcela Atwol, who is a member of Ogen Rwoth SHG that was established by Uganda Change Agent Association in 2018. The SHG is attached to Ribbe kacel kelo kuc CLA in Kanyipa community.

In April 2023, the CLA created a linkage with TASO-Uganda which is supporting Adolescent girls and young mothers under the TASO-Uganda DREAMS project in Agago district. Prossy Achan was among the adolescent girls and young mothers in Adilang community who was enrolled into TASO project as a result of linkages by the CLA.

In May 2023, Prossy Achan was enrolled for a youth skilling program for a six months tailoring course at Passion 4 Community (P4C) with financial support from TASO. She learnt various fashions and designs as far as tailoring and garment cutting, also received a number of training on life skills, business skills, and financial literacy in addition to the tailoring skills.

After successful completion of the course, she was provided with start-up kits which included one new sewing machine and all the materials. Prossy Achan is prepared and determined to begin practicing the skill and making both children and adult clothes for sale during festive seasons

Her future plan is to advance in tailoring career by 2024, provide quality education for her child and take good care of her grandmother and family as well.

## In conclusion

We want to take this moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders and partners: the Government of Uganda at the local, district and national levels, other implementing CSOs and Agencies, national and international wide among others for the invaluable support and collaboration throughout the year. In 2023, we received your unwavering dedication, guidance/support, financial, Capacity building and these were instrumental in driving the success of the project from the planning phases, and implementation of every aspect of our work.

Together we achieved remarkable milestones, overcame challenges, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you. We are still excited for the possibilities for continued collaboration and partnerships, since our commitment to excellence and innovation will create way for greater achievements in the future.



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