



Annual Activity Report Template

Period reported: FY 2021/2022


Partner name: Diocesan development services North Karamoja (DDS-NK)

Award agreement number: 51653

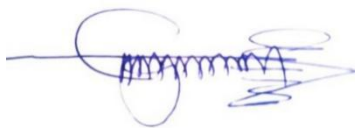
Name of ED:

Name of PC DDS-NK USAID:

Name of M&E Contact:



Mr. Simon Peter Ijala



hen Gerald Ogwal

Coccasteven26@gmail.com

Tel No: +256 777-039041

Step



Samson Muria

muriasamson@gmail.com

Tel No: +256 784424473

diocesan.developmentser

vicesnk@gmail.com

Tel No: +256 777 504 147

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1. Accomplishments for FY4,2022:

- Scaled out rocket Lorena stoves usage across 30 villages with 244 households adopting the practice. This was through 64 BSPs.
- Promoted resilience puzzle interventions across 346 MIYCAN groups where 902(29M: 873F) mothers were reached.



- Scaled out green gram growing and multiplication across the 30 villages, with 1,464 farmers reached (577M: 887F), so far 2,912.5kg harvested in 371.5 acres with a projection of 3,473kgs of land across the 30 villages.
- Establishment 507 perma gardens of different food varieties like onions, Sukuma wiki, cabbage, tomatoes, eggplants across villages reaching 2,052(551M:1,501F) farmers.
- VHTs rolled out the MIYCAN curriculum across the 346 homesteads/MIYCAN groups. Where 2,393(2,202F:191M) pregnant, lactating and other caregivers and 4,276(2,239M: 2,037F) children under 5 reached.
- Conducted 2 joint monitoring visits in Nakapelimoru and Rengen Sub-counties. 74 (4F:70M) participated to monitor progress on ICAN activities changing lives of the different communities. These included Local government officials, Abt staff, DDS-NK staff and community structures.
- Participated in the development of FY5 work plan with Abt Associate purpose leads targeting activities that drive to indicators. This was attended by DDS-NK, ADP and implementing partners from Acholi and Kigezi regions.
- Participated in 3 quarterly performance review meetings to review activity implementation progress, challenges and recommendations for accomplishments. Areas of collaborative learning and adaptation identified and catch up drawn to enable achievements of these activities.
- Conducted USAID Partner joint monitoring with Mercy Corps in the assessing ICAN and APOLOU activity implementations and progress in North Division targeting WASH, Livelihoods, Nutrition and Governance.
- Participated in the business linkage meetings with private sector(FICA seeds, Lira resort traders), financial institutions(Centenary bank and MSc), agro input and output dealers(Josto) and USAID partner Mercy corps(APOLOU) on targeting community farmers with available market services available and how farmers can access the markets.
- Promoted chili production with 12 demo sites (6 acres) in 31 villages. cumulative acreage of chili is 17 acres. where 765 (435M: 330F) farmers trained through BSPs on



USAID Integrated Community
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chili agronomy and management. 1170 farmers registered for production with 20 acres of chili under production.



2. Key activities completed this year, in comparison with planned activities in your approved work plan:

#	Planned activity	Progress	Way forward (in case of any variance)
	Preliminary activities		
	<u>Staff meetings</u>		
1	Organize staff weekly meeting	Done	
2	Hold monthly staff meetings	Done	
3	Participate in quarterly implementation review meetings (ED, Coordinator, FO and MEL)	Done	
	<u>Staff Training and Capacity Building</u>		
1	Re-orientation of staff and interns on MEAL tools, ICAN approaches and concepts.	Done	
	<u>On boarding activities with new IP</u>		
1	Josto farm supplies promote production of green grams across homesteads	Continuous	
11	Field visits to chili gardens and chili farmers.	Continuous	
	Sub Purpose 1: Increased economic opportunities & diversify livelihoods for poor HHs.		
1	Conduct BSP monthly review meetings at sub county level	Partially Done	July, August and September not done due to limited funds
2	Conduct quarterly business opportunity meetings with existing private actors/Financial institutions within the region	Done	
3	BSPs scale out rocket Lorena stove manufacture at a fee to interested household members	Continuous	



4	BSPs provide weather related information to farmers	Continuous	
5	Facilitate linkage of BSPs association & homestead groups for certification by NaSARRI as green grams local seed producers in Kotido	Not done	BSP network groups not established and registered
6	BSPs demonstrate appropriate and scalable soil and water conservation practices for moisture retention e.g. mulching, zai pits, trenches, simple drip irrigation using plastic bottles)	Continuous	
7	Identify ICAN beneficiaries who are not saving and link them to saving groups	Partially done	Self-assessment and readiness for VSLA is ongoing depending on the income status.
8	BSPs support groups make constitutions and register with local governments	Continuous	
9	Identify and engage more private actors within the district to improve the crop value chain (green grams, chili, sweet potatoes-OFS, cassava etc.)	Done	
10	BSPs and homestead members conduct farmer field days for purposes of local marketing of products/service and awareness(chili	Not Done	Activity pushed for FY5 and planned for October, 2022. Buy in of the activity is low. We can integrate during community



	blocks, liquid fertilizers, WASH facilities)		market days.
11	BSPs scale out mineral lick formulation, hay baling and pasture improvement to the goat keepers at a fee	Not Done	Insecurity has distorted this activity as goats are not within the villages but at protected kraals.
12	Local artisan trains BSPs & field officers on construction of improved traditional granaries.	Done	
13	BSPs scale out construction of improved traditional granaries at a fee to homestead members	Not done	Communities not buying the commission fee charged by BSPs.
14	Facilitate BDS consultant in the generation of fundable small grant proposition	Done	
15	Promotion of green production by Josto	Ongoing as planting and harvesting still on.	
Sub purpose 2: Improved nutrition of children, adolescents and women of reproductive age			
1	Facilitate BSPS to promote scale out of green grams production cross all the villages through campaign(for nutrition, seed saving & small scale business)	Ongoing	



2	Facilitate VHTs to scale out the demonstration on back yard garden construction(perm gardens, sack mounds, food tower and round gardens) to improve and diversify nutrition and income of MIYCAN members	Continuous	
3	Conduct food demonstration and diet diversification sessions amongst MIYCAN members to enhance consumption of diversified and nutritious diets	Done	
4	Facilitate VHTs to conduct homestead to homestead sensitization meetings on family planning	Done	
5	Facilitate governance champions to conduct village to village family planning dialogues with elders	Done	
6	Facilitate VHTs to mobilize and sensitize MIYCAN members with key thematic message to participate in world breast feeding week	Done	
7	Facilitate VHTs to conduct campaigns during child health days plus(CHD+)	Done	
8	Facilitate VHTs to collect family	Continuous	



	MUAC data from MIYCAN groups		
9	Facilitate governance champions to conduct WASH dialogues	Done	
10	Conduct joint community sensitization meetings with RHITES-E and other family planning-FP partners to create demand and strengthen the referral system for FP services	Done	Activity layered through VHT roll out of MIYCAN and family planning messages passed through health outreaches
11	Field officers support VHTs to develop governance documents for registration and management purposes (e.g. constitutions, & business plans).	Partially done	VHT group formation still ongoing.
12	Facilitate DHO's office to access hard to reach areas during health campaigns	Done	
13	Participate in the district, sub county and village COVID-19 task force committee meetings.	Done	
14	Participate in health and nutrition sector coordination meetings at district and regional level	Done	
15	Governance champions conducts dialogue sessions with elders on malaria prevention across all the	Done	



	villages of ICAN		
16	VHTs conduct malaria sensitization meetings with MIYCAN members	Done	
17	Conduct monthly review meetings with VHTs ,Health In charges, district VHT and nutrition focal persons	Partially Done	Months of June, July, August affected because funds received was not sufficient.
Sub-Purpose 3: Strengthen effective and inclusive governance processes			
1	Facilitate governance champions to conduct resilience toolkit sessions	Partially Done	Resilience toolkit did not fit the Karamoja context. Short timeframe left to introduce the bulky content.
2	Facilitate governance champions to conduct cross learning visit to ADP-USAID co-partner in Kaabong district	Not Done	Scrapped off during budget modifications.
3	Facilitate elders council to participate in the local government planning process	Not Done	
4	Governance champions conduct quarterly review meetings with village elders	Not Done	Due to financial shortfall
5	Facilitate governance champions to conduct dialogues with village elders on deforestation	Done	
6	Facilitate governance champions to follow up village elders on the implementation of dialogue plans	Done	



	(GBV, deforestation, education etc.)		
7	Facilitate SMCs/PTA members conduct go back to school campaigns	Done	
8	Conduct a refresher training of matrons & patrons on journeys curriculum.	Done	
9	Facilitate DEO's office to conduct monthly monitoring of the rollout of journey's curriculum in schools	Not Done	Journeys curriculum yet to be rolled out in the 14 schools due to financial shortfalls.
10	Facilitate DEOs office to conduct monthly monitoring and reflection meeting with remedial teachers, and CCTs	Partially Done	Because remedial learning was scrapped off.
11	Facilitate volunteer teachers to conduct remedial learning sessions(P.1, P.2, P.3 and P.7)	Partially Done	Because remedial learning was scrapped off.
12	Facilitate CCTs' bi-monthly monitoring of remedial learning	Partially Done	Because remedial learning was scrapped off.
13	Facilitate DEO's office conduct SMC/PTA quarterly review meetings	Not Done	Due to financial shortfall.
14	Facilitate DEO's office to orient the SMCs/PTA members on their roles and responsibilities	Not Done	Due to financial shortfall.



15	Field officers conduct monthly review meetings with governance champions and LC1s	Partially Done	Conducted 5 and others due to financial shortfall.
Cross-cutting Purposes			
1	Scale out WE CAN DO 5 across all villages and homesteads	Ongoing	18 Model villages graduated and others ongoing assessments.
2	Identification & profiling of youths for scale out of youth leadership curriculum in all sub counties	Done	Youth learning sessions ongoing.
3	Master trainers train mentors on youth Leadership curriculum	Done	
4	Mentors conduct weekly sessions on youth leadership curriculum	Ongoing	This is specifically to the new cohort.
5	Conduct radio monitoring of ICAN media activities	Continuous	
6	Conduct live broadcast on pertinent issues within the WE CAN DO 5	Done	
7	Support the Sub county disaster management committee-DMC meetings	Done	Supported in Quarter 1&2.
8	Facilitate district disaster management committee-DDMC meetings	Done	



9	Facilitate NGO coordination meeting through CAO's office	Done	
10	Facilitate governance champions to conduct dialogues with village elders on GBV across all sub counties	Done	
11	Facilitate ICAN community members to participate in commemorative events (World food day, women's day, 16 days of activism)	Done	Supported 16 days of activism in November and December 2021.
12	Conduct monthly recognition of community structures and monuments on achievement of the rocks of commitment	Done	
MEAL Activities			
1	Conduct internal data quality assessment	Done	
2	Conduct external data quality assessment	Partially Done	Conducted 1 in two Sub-counties of Nakapelimoru and North Division.
3	Conduct quarterly joint district monitoring with sectoral technical personnel	Done	
4	Conduct monthly review meetings with all private actors/partners implementing ICAN activities (Josto, NaSARRI, NECPA, AfRII, etc.)	Partially Done	Meeting for Q4 pushed to October,2022



5	Conduct quarterly coordination meetings with USAID implementing partners within the region (APOLOU, RHITES E)	Done	
6	Conduct annual participant survey	Not Done	To be done in October, 2022.
7	Conduct quarterly goat for milk assessment	Not Done	
8	Conduct chili recurrent monitoring surveys	Done	
9	VSLA Assessment	Done	
10	Conduct social behavioral change and communication-SBCC assessments	Done	
11	Conduct bi-monthly Executive Directors level review meetings	Done	
12	Conduct cross-Learning Visit to explore sustainable water harvesting solutions in Turkana region	Not Done	Budget modification affected execution of the planned activity.
13	Procurement of PPES to BSPS,VHTs and GCs	Done	

Progress Narrative:

INSERT BRIEF NARRATIVE ON PROGRESS TODATE BASING ON THE WORKPLAN (less than two pages)



Livelihoods

- 35 groups supported to apply for ICAN in-kind grants support. They developed constitutions and acquired registration certificates from the district, evaluated and successful groups waiting for grant support. 31 groups qualified under livelihoods and 4 under nutrition. 3 groups have received grants for salon, shoe making and beads making enterprises and others pending receiving. In-kind grants are to boost and increase opportunities of youths accessing income and diversifying their assets.
- 2,319 (874M:1,445F) homestead beneficiaries reached with weather related information disseminated by UNMA, farmers encouraged to put fire lines around their homesteads, establish kitchen gardens for short maturing vegetables, and employ good agronomic practices to conserve soil and water like mulching, trench digging and planting in rows. 117 perma gardens established because of sharing weather related information and households have consumption items even in dry seasons.
- BSPs trained 1,012 (424M: 588F) homestead members on how to make rocket Lorena energy saving stoves using locally available materials at a fee. In total 257 rocket Lorena stoves made by 26(24M: 2F) BSPs, and earned a commission of 366,500 Ugx. Community uptake and buy in of commission fee is still slow.
- 255 (103M: 152F) homestead members identified and linked to existing 3 VSLA groups within their homesteads and started saving with the groups. 18 (208M: 204F) groups reached on VSLA training skills like savings, loans and cashbook usage.
- 20(14M:6F)BSPs made 63 mineral licks and 05 hay bales during the scale out of mineral lick and hay bailing in the quarter. The BSPs managed to sell 32 mineral licks each at Ugx: 5,000 and earned 118,000/=. Insecurity has affected resilience puzzle interventions and this has lowered the uptake of mineral licks by goat keeping mothers.
- 14 ((9M:3F) BSPs and 11 (4M:7F) homestead members participated in training on granary establishment through JOSTO farm supplies targeting reduction in post-harvest losses during storage. 49 traditional granaries improved by trained BSPs through setting up rat guards, smearing the granaries with a mixture of chili & cow dung and setting up ½



meter stands above the ground. BSPs earned 33,000Ugx as a commission from 42 improved traditional granaries.

- 47 (33M: 14F) BSPs participated in the review meetings conducted at the sub county level. The BSPs reported that scorching sunshine has affected some chili & Parma gardens, animal-human conflict, delayed payments, insecurity. Mulching was done to reduce the effect of scorching sun.
- 412(181M: 245F) members participated in Business Opportunity meeting involving financial institutions for bank products, 11 (10M:1F) participants opened accounts with Centenary bank, agro input and output dealers like Josto marketing different farm products, MTN & Airtel companies invited to show case their products like benefits of using MTN & Airtel services particularly sending & depositing money, accessing loans. They were also encouraged to own both lines of two different companies for easy communication depending on the network coverage and avoid consenting their transport refund to wrong individuals. 6(M) members borrowed amounts ranging from 18,000-75,000Ugx using the MTN *Momo* loans and invested in petty sale of merchandise.
- 14(7M: 7F) VHTs formed VSLA group in Kacheri and savings ongoing accumulating to Ugx: 3,900,000 saved. Mobilization and formation of VHT groups in other Sub-counties ongoing and timeframe for this activity is October, 2022.
- 976.5kg (Kacheri 231, Rengen 155, North Division 334, and Nakapelimoru 256.5) from an average of 10.5 acres of green gram grains was threshed from 15 of the 20 harvested sites across the 20 homesteads in the four sub counties. All the seeds according to the diffusion plan will be planted in the next first season (March 2022). Most demo sites did not declare the harvested grain for fear of the private actor (JOSTO farm supplies) may be repossess the harvest instead of the community that was mostly involved in production with their own costs. Total acreage for green grams this year is 415. Projected quantity is 33,200kgs.
- 1,425(511M: 914F) farmers have 40 acres of Chili across the ICAN sub-counties. BSPs encouraged more opening of land for chili production to improve household income.

Nutrition:

- The VHTs reached 657 (324M: 333F) during campaigns on child days plus. The



community members encouraged to mobilize their children to benefit from government program and access better health services such as deworming, screening among others. 2,865 (1356M: 1509F) children received services such as vaccinations against measles, Vitamin A supplements during child days plus.

- The VHTs in partnership with AFRIL trained 2,951 (836M: 2,115F) homestead members on establishment of perma gardens to improve and diversify nutrition consumption. The community members established 277 perma gardens of different vegetable varieties across the different sub-counties of ICAN operations.
- AFRIL trained 20 (15M: 5F) VHTs on Post-Harvest training to enhance food security and minimize physical & nutrient loss in vegetables. VHTs trained 211 homestead members on PHH, and as a result, 17 sacks approximately weighing each 15kg of dried vegetables (cowpea leaves) have been stored as a measure of food security and nutrition safety during the long dry period by 40 (13 VHTs, 2BSPs and 25 MIYCAN members) household member representatives.
- 58 (11M: 47F) composed of VHTs, lead mothers, MIYCAN members, village elders and LC 1s participated in the cross learning visit that was organized by AFRIL. The exchange visits was organized within communities of Rengen and Kacheri sub-counties. During the visits, households are maintaining perma gardens by regularly watering and applying good agronomic practices and improvement of household consumption of diversified foods. Action points was for households to expand their perm gardens and increase on the planting of different varieties.
- VHTs through MIYCAN curriculum conducted food demonstrations and diet diversification sessions with 906(240M: 666F) homestead members. Key messages passed during demonstrations included; eating foods from different food groups such as fruits, vegetables, energy-giving foods, plant protein and animal protein. The women encouraged to keep poultry birds like chicken to access animal protein. The MIYCAN members were taken practically on how to prepare porridge using locally available food stuffs like; millet flour, G-nut paste, local cheese/butter and locally made yoghurt milk. Households have taken up the good nutrition practice and



improving on consumption of high value nutrient foods.

- 1,003 (326M: 677F) elders participated in the homestead-to-homestead sensitization meetings on family planning. The discussions focused on family size management, and when to have children. Members sensitized on benefits of family planning such as better management of family resources, enough resting time of production for mothers and also on the various family planning methods available, with emphasis on safe use of methods that household members can access like; condom use, pills and emergency contraceptives, injectable, implants, coils, moon beads etc. LCIs and VHTs were representing government. Households are inclusively involved in decision making of what family method to use.
- 55 (30M: 25F) VHTs participated in monthly review meetings. These targets review of implemented activities, challenges and recommendations for effective service delivery to targeted participants. VHTs are always tasked to encourage MIYCAN members to promote WASH practices and behaviors at homestead levels for better hygiene and health. Some of the challenges include delayed payments, insecurity and engagement of MIYCAN members in on-farm activities. Delayed payments were cleared after DDS-NK received funds and security alerts circulated to guide on what is happening in an area.
- 2,393 MIYCAN pregnant, lactating mothers and caregivers reached during the roll out of MIYCAN different modules and sessions. 4, 276 (2,239M: 2,037F) children under five were screened to ascertain the level of malnutrition. 528 (253M: 275F) referred under MAM, 467 (234M: 233F) under SAM. Referrals made to the health facilities with support from AFI to provide nutrition rehabilitation through Outpatient and inpatient therapeutic feeding program. 27 (18M: 19F) children referred with Odema cases, and 255 women referred for Family planning services and 68 women for ANC services.

Governance

- 1,338 (621M: 717F) elders and community members participated in family planning dialogues. They discussed different family planning methods such as use of natural methods like abstaining by going to the kraal for at least one year, use of pills, condoms, injectable, moon beads and usage of a coil. The elders preferred the use of



natural methods that do not have major side effects to human beings like withdraw method, use of condoms. Action points were for inclusive household decision making on when and what family planning method to use.⁶³ (F) undertook family planning method of implants to control pregnancy when lactating.

- 1,499 (758M: 741F) village elders participated in community dialogues on deforestation and operationalization of by-laws on tree cutting in 24 ICAN villages. The elders identified the following activities as root drivers of deforestation and these included charcoal burning, selling of firewood, bush burning and need to fence their homesteads. The elders also resolved to sensitize their communities on the bad effects of deforestation. Action points such as fining those who cut trees within the homesteads with 10,000/= and 50,000/= for those who conduct uncontrolled bush burning developed. Community members are planting trees and 58 species already planted in Oyapuwa village and Lobanya in Nakapelimoru and Kacheri respectively.
- 6 Governance champions conducted food security dialogues with 903(454M:449F) village elders across the 30 villages; elders identified traditional events like marriage ceremonies, exchange of food for alcohol, poverty, diseases and insecurity as the major causes of food insecurity within their communities. The elders' forecast is that there could be serious hunger this year due to poor harvest unless external support comes to replenish the food reserves that will barely reach the next season before the new harvest. The GCs tasked elders to encourage the community members to minimize the sale of produce in preparation for the long dry season, and instead involve themselves in other livelihood activities like savings with business investment mindset, kitchen garden establishment of short maturing vegetables for sale and consumption by household members. Participants are engaged in safe storage of harvested foods and establishments of perm gardens to improve on food insecurity.
- 8 Governance champions conducted gender based violence dialogues with 1,508 (669M: 809F) across 30 villages on different kinds of GBV such as rape, early marriages, physical & emotional violence. The elders identified key drivers leading to gender-based violence in their communities such as alcoholism, diseases like



HIV/AIDs and livestock epidemic, poverty and ownership of property. The elders encouraged to always report such cases to the responsible authorities at village and sub county level. Elders agreed to form disciplinary committees within their villages and continue sensitizing communities on impacts of gender based violence. Referral pathway was shared with the community members to report GBV acts within households.

- 551(251M: 300F) members of the MIYCAN participated in community dialogues on WASH interventions. This was to combat increasing open defecation practices within the community and promote good hygienic practices at household levels. Some of the challenges generated included migration of household members to farming groups and lack of water. Government stakeholders and other implementing partners like Save the Children engaged on repairs of broken boreholes in the communities and establishment of water user committees for maintenance and repairs.
- 2,511(1,225M:1,286F) community members reached through back to school campaigns by SMCs/PTAs with support from the LCs targeting parents, caregivers and pupils with messages on importance of education and its impact to changing and developing communities. These campaigns have greatly improved on the education enrolments of pupils to formal education.
- 1807 (1097 boys, 710 girls) pupils were facilitated volunteer teachers to conduct remedial learning sessions across 12 learning centers where in total were reached through different subjects such as English, mathematics, social studies, science, Literacy I and II for lower primary classes. High attendance has been registered due to engagement of SMCs/PTA members, LCs and Governance champions in mobilization of pupils for remedial learning. Overall, Remedial learning led to promotion of learners to the next classes and those who participated in remedial learning are performing well compared to those who did not as mentioned by the head teachers across the schools monitored.
- 40 (35M: 5F) & 31(30M: 1F) LCs and GCs (8males) participated in the monthly review meetings for October. The activities for the two months were reviewed to ascertain whether they were implemented in all the targeted villages. The LCs were encouraged to actively involve themselves in ICAN activities in terms of mobilizing



communities to participate in ICAN activities and develop their work plans and execute.

- 07 village elders were facilitated to participate in the local government-planning meeting in Kacheri Sub County. 53 other representatives of the communities, CSOs, opinion leaders and for other partners such as NARWOA, Caritas Kotido and AFI took part in the budget conference. Issues discussed were modifying existing transport infrastructures for Kokoria to Lobanya, Kacheri to Lolelia, improving the productivity of the population through youth skilling, health care and nutrition, promoting equity. They also discussed about revenue collection and reallocation of resources and management of public enterprises like youth center, which is supposed to generate some income to the sub county. The NGOs were tasked to fit into the core areas insufficiently funded in the budget. This support to the budget has not yet been implemented.
- A total of 104 Conducted orientation on journeys curriculum across all the schools in Kotido especially on skilling learners on different IGAs, kitchen gardening and making of re-usable pads for the girl child. Journeys curriculum is yet to start in the 14 schools.
- Orientation of local government councilors across Kotido. This was followed by the distribution of local government act and rules of procedures to all the sub counties in Kotido.
- Supported remedial learning centers with 1128 assorted textbooks for pupils' study & teachers guide from Kampala to support remedial learning and distributed to 10 learning centers across the four sub counties. The distribution is as follows (40 books for P.6, 40 for P.2, 10 for P.1 and 04 teachers' guides per learning center for the 11 centers. Pupils are able to refer to the learner's after the remedial classes as part of their homework exercises.
- DDSNK supported Local government Sub-counties with 120 copies of Local government act books and 120 copies of rules of procedure books targeting Regen, Nakapelimoru, North Division and Kacheri Sub-counties.

Other cross cutting activities

Social Behavior Change and Communications (SBCC), Gender and social inclusion

- Contextualization of resilience tool kit, this was done to ensure it applies to the Karamoja context. It was followed by adjusting pictures and pretesting it to have the final version. However, from the action points, the resilience plans tool were incorporation into resilience planning and establishment of tree nurseries using local tree species and seeds that available. The tree nurseries were established in north division, Nakapelimoru and individual structures intend on taking it up as an activity as seen from the governance champion who started extracting kay apple seeds



Activity report on
Contextualisation c

locally .

- 103 (63M: 40F) village elders participated during the roll out of resilience toolkit sessions four and six across the 4 villages. These sessions were shared based on the action points of the previous session and understanding how positive change happens based on; improvement of environment, improvement in school enrollment, improvement in WASH & family planning, improvement in livelihoods and diet diversity.
- 80(60F:20M) youths and 8(4M, 4F) mentors identified for the scale out of youth leadership curriculum. The areas covered were explore, Present, Act and Lead. The activity is to be conducted for 11 weeks and ensure that the youth come up with activities that they intend to act on. So far, four modules have been conducted and other sessions ongoing.
- Graduation of youth leaders was conducted across all the three sub counties of Nakapelimoru, North division and Rengen and fully represented by the sub county leadership who took lead in advising the youth and handing over the certificates. It was evidenced that most of the youth are engaged and at least doing an income generating activity which included sell of vegetables, locally baking, petty business, neatening and bead making retail businesses. Graduated youths are engaged in petty



trade businesses to increase their opportunities for earning income and assets. 6(2F:4M) went back for formal education in North Division.

- AGYW mentors trained 45 adolescents' girls on how to read and write their names, and taken through alphabetical reading. This is to help them comprehend documentations of governance, and increase record keeping through documented recording rather than relying on memory. The AGYW adolescent girls and women as a way of improving their economic income came up with action point of forming a saving group and designated Fridays as group savings day. So far, more than 35 of them know how to read and write. With support from KAPDA, they were provided with assorted playing materials and other scholastics to support the training.
- 80 (20M: 60F) youth across the 4 sub counties participated in the youth curriculum sessions. The youth were taken through different modules i.e., from module I to module IV of the youth curriculum. The youth are now able to express their concerns openly without any fear, some are now able to write their names and they are now engaging the communities to construct latrines for better hygiene.

Radio Activities.

- 4 radio talk shows were held to discuss pertinent issues affecting the community. One was on WASH practice in which 3(2M: 1F) staff from DDSNK discussed good hygiene practices that should be embraced like proper disposal of feces into latrines through regular usage and construction of latrines, safe use and drinking of water, proper disposal other domestic wastes in a waste pit at village/household level, etc. 12 listeners were able to call and text into the radio discussion program and shared their opinions on the topic of discussion. The callers were from as far as Karenga district and others from within Kotido district. Their contributions ranged from embracing the need for people to use pit latrines, to appealing for sustained sensitization on the need for increased usage of pit latrines. Households have adopted to construction of pit latrines across all the sub-counties.
- The other radio talk show was a collaborative support on the 16 days of Activism to end Violence against Women and Girls-VAGW in Kotido District. 6 partner representatives (1 male

and 5 females) from ICAN, Federation of Uganda Women Lawyers-FIDA, Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Communication for Development Uganda (CDFU), Law Society & District Community Development Officer participated in a radio talk show during the launch of 16 days of activism. They discussed different forms of GBV and how to manage them basing on explanation on the existing GBV referral pathways that are set at village and sub county levels until it reaches the district. They included Health care by the medical teams, psychosocial support by counsellors, safety and protection by the police, legal support and community support.

- Another radio talk show was dissemination of the IPC report regarding malnutrition in Karamoja which involved AFI, District leadership, (Nutrition focal person, district production officer, District Health Officer) ICAN- DDSNK staff and representatives from the community. This was a long three hour radio discussion with the community intended to interpret the IPC report and also alert the community on the intense malnutrition cases within the communities and the role of the community in ensuring malnutrition curbed through various strategies including tracking sells of therapeutic feeds given to malnourished children. It was discovered that some households intentionally starve other children as an eligibility towards getting plumpy nuts from the partners/ health units. This was brought to the attention of the local leadership in the district meetings.

- 12 live broadcast consisting of 730 (382 males and, 461 females) participants on Food



insecurity and post-harvest handling, gender based violence, forced marriages, chili and green gram production, WASH, insecurity, perma gardening as a source of food security, education, exclusive breastfeeding, role of men in breastfeeding, open defecation, Natural resource management among others. This was conducted across the four sub counties of North Division, Rengen, Kacheri and Nakapelimoru. The discussions also focused on how to preserve food for the future especially this year where the harvest is very poor and avoid sell of food cheaply. The communities were encouraged to reduce the sale of farm produce, preserve some grains for next planting season and reduce the consumption of alcohol since most community members exchange food for alcohol.



40 households have preserved vegetables, sorghum for food security and have kept the green gram seed for planting. They discussed different kinds of GBV such as physical violence, rape, forced marriages, early marriages and their negative impacts to the lives of the victims. The community also listed alcoholism, poverty, diseases, property ownership has the leading causes of GBV in their community. The community members were encouraged to report the perpetrators to responsible authorities so that justice is done to the victims of GBV.

- Conducted a radio talk show on promotion and popularization of Vegetable production through perma gardening & post-harvest management. A Nutritionist and Program Coordinator from AFRIL and DDSNK respectively were hosted on Etoil a Karamoja radio talk show for 1 hour to popularize perma gardening. Households have actively established perm gardens at homestead level to boost consumption of different variety foods like Sukuma wiki, cabbages, and tomatoes.
- 12 Radio magazines conducted by weekly. Magazines are recorded from positive deviants who have embraced ICAN interventions among which were on green gram production, use of chili blocks to repel animals, chili as an income generating activity, goat for milk, food security , WASH, perma-gardens, community participation, breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and its relevance in addressing issues locally , post-harvest handling and storage, gender based violence, forced marriages and role of elders in ensuring children and adolescents are encouraged go to school instead of marrying them off for wealth. Having different people share their stories have enabled communities to learn from each other and popularize chili and green gram as relevant to household resilience. From one of the aired radio magazines, one of the women in Nakapelimoru Sub County shared her experience on how she was married off to a man forcefully without her love for the man but rather the need for wealth and animals. She therefore asked the elders to reconsider some of the cultural practices and encouraged girls to go to school so that they are able to earn a sustainable living.
- 360 spots messages and 36 DJ led discussions were conducted with a total of 269 in



callers across Karamoja region.. The spots messages were on Education, benefits of remedial learning and the fact that the learners were copying faster in schools as testified by the LC1 who is also a member of the school management committee. And, benefits of community participation in helping address community issues as recorded from the head of elders who is also a governance champion for Kacheri. The DJ led discussions focused on topical issues within the ICAN scope of work which included chili, green gram production, food security, insecurity, youth and women involvement, gender based violence, education, WASH, nutrition, goat for milk, role of men in supporting breastfeeding, timely planting and perm gardens among other topics.

- Model Villages: 18 model villages have been achieved in Kotido although some that had deteriorated are being improved.8 villages had deviated and restoration process has is ongoing to improve uptake of WASH component.
- Governance champions rolled out WE CAN DO FIVE in 30 ICAN villages, this helps so much in triggering the adoption of ICAN behaviors and practices within the communities and enhances their resilience capacities.


The table shows summary of adoptions of WE CAN DO FIVE in 4 sub counties in 2021-2022.

<i>Sub county</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Food security</i>	<i>IGA</i>	<i>WASH</i>	<i>Community participation</i>
Kacheri	262	209	294	154	221
Rengen	694	300	432	182	449
North Division	370	252	850	97	60
Nakapelimoru	112	49	81	76	31



<i>Total</i>	<i>1,438</i>	<i>810</i>	<i>1,657</i>	<i>509</i>	<i>761</i>
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- Reward Activity; 22 gate keepers were rewarded across Nakapelimoru, north division and Rengen. The communities were mobilized by the local leaders to identify their gatekeepers to be rewarded and they mobilized resources and rewarded their structures. This was followed by planting of trees as commitments. In north division the LC mobilized the elders and structures who had achieved all we can do five and hosted them at his home together with the sub county leadership Lodera village. Knowledge uptake on tree planting is benefitting the community.


- Concretion and pretesting of farmer service hub; a total of 14 participants (9 males, 5 females) participated in the Pretest of the farmers' service hub which was conducted in north division. It was meant to assess the appropriate logos and messages that can easily be understood by the local communities. The participants chose "Farmers service center" as the logo and wording that can translate the meaning to the local communities.

M & E

- Conducted 3 Quarterly Performance review meetings to review activity implementation progress, achievements, challenges and recommendations for effective implementations. The performance indicators reviewed according to three sub purposes i.e., Livelihoods, Nutrition and Governance. Activities were delayed due to release of funds to DDS-NK account and some modified during budget and work plan review. Catch up plan was developed for key and pending activities.
- Conducted staff weekly planning meetings with 10 (6M:4F) ICAN staff to review the weekly progress on the work plan and brainstorm as a team on some of the challenges affected activity implementation on ground. Some of the persistent challenges included insecurity and drought which affecting goat for milk



interventions and establishment of perma gardens. On insecurity, we encouraged staff to leave for the field around 9 and come back at 3 pm. On perma gardens, we encouraged use of kitchen wastewater, which does not contain blue soap or meat. Use of harvested grass (hay) to feed goats during dry spell.

- Conducted staff monthly review meetings discussing activity progress implementations for all the sub purposes, challenges and catch up plan drawn to meet the set activity objectives. The field officers & interns encouraged to enter data into the system. The weekly monitoring findings on WASH component also shared and most of the latrines needed renovation. The Field Officers tasked to work with VHTs to ensure that latrines are renovated.
- The MEL Officer participated in the MEL weekly progress conducted every Tuesday for tracking activity progress by Abt MEAL team. The regional MEL team was tasked to develop participant's survey concepts and share with Kampala team which was done, the MEAL team also agreed that the regional MEL officers join Kampala MEAL team for joint analysis of indicators after the participant survey.
- Conducted 3 quarterly review meeting with all private actors/partners implementing ICAN activities (Josto, NaSARRI, NECPA, AFRIL, etc.), financial institutions (Centenary Bank, MSc). This was targeting access to different products from private sector to reach ICAN direct and indirect participants for improved livelihoods. The BSPs were tasked to help the groups to come up with necessary documents like constitutions and register them with either the District or sub-counties for easy linkage to financial institutions for different financial services
- Conducted workshop with external mid-term evaluators where a total of 18 persons including the community structures (VHTs, BSPs, GCs & Volunteer teacher) attended. Insights on how ICAN has influenced the lives of vulnerable individuals were shared by different categories of attendees to support adaptive management by offering insights into implementation issues and how best activities can be implemented.
- Conducted VSLA assessment purposely to understand the financial performance of these savings groups and determine appropriate support mechanisms required and their progress



on the journey to self-reliance. It was realized that the groups were lacking knowledge on record and book keeping and therefore the BSPs through the VSLA methodology helped the groups which improved their knowledge on record and book keeping

- **Challenges:**

(Describe the challenges you encountered in implementing the activities planned for this quarter or year. These could include community acceptance, staffing, barriers to care, etc. Be sure to include steps that will be taken to address challenges identified in this report, as well as steps undertaken to address the challenges.

Challenge(s)	Steps taken to address the challenges or plan to address them
Facilitation of local government officials when invited to support ICAN activities that fall within their mandate.	Engagements and clarifications have been addressed but are not receptive. This has created no ownership of activities by the local government structures particularly sub –county local government structures.
Low community structure engagement in review meetings (BSPs, VHTs, Volunteer Teacher) because of minimal transport refund not commensurate with the transport rate within the sub counties.	Review meetings are being conducted at Sub-county level minimizing their travel distances and creating ownership for the community programs as a sustainability measure and structures encouraged to form VSLAs to support their livelihoods and their sustainability should be developed as their support to communities are voluntary.
Prolonged dry spell which affected the yielding of crops like IRBs in schools and partly green grams.	Farmers have been advised to plant early and apply good agronomic practices like mulching, establishment of water holding trenches for better yields and plant fast maturing crops and establish perm gardens at household levels.



<p>Increased insecurity associated with cattle raids and killing of human beings in Karamoja region.</p>	<p>Coordinated field movement based on security alert. Liaison with the security departments, local government guidelines and community informants to ascertain threats and safety of operation areas.</p>
<p>Delay of funds disbursements to implementing partners affecting implementation of activities by community structures and service providers.</p>	<p>USAID/Abt Associates to release funds timely for effective activity implementations and DDS-NK to submit financial and narrative reports early.</p>

3. Collaboration with non-governmental partners:

As a way of increasing sustainable outcomes and embracement of critical development leverage, ICAN in Kotido coordinated with a number of partners (some of which are for profit while others are not for profit), below are the avenues of collaborative integrated implementation.

- Consultative meeting with Andre Food International (AFI), on MUAC and nutrition assessments were conducted with harmonized implementation to avoid duplication of efforts rather reinforcement of unmatched community/district priority areas.
- DDS-NK in partnership with CDFU, Straight talk foundation Uganda, UWESO, Strong Minds, AFI, Mercy corps, Nakere Rural Women Activists, Trail Blazers, and Grassroots Alliance for Rural Development-GARD supported the district local government in the commemoration of International 16 days of Activism to end Violence against women and Girls as well GBV in communities around Kotido district. A radio talk show was supported by both DDSNK and CDFU, with other partners providing a platform for this support in the debates and discussion.
- Partnered with Karamoja health sector working groups like the health sector working group in which partners made presentations on the progress of the health and



nutrition intervention in the district. All these progress and lessons learnt were shared for a pooled effort towards meeting the health and nutrition district targets.

- DDS-NK participated in the SBCC coordination meetings to share learnings for social behavioral change that is required during community implementations. These meetings was in participation with partners like RHITES-E, Mercy corps, AFI, and Save the Children.
- DDS-NK also collaborated with private sectors like NECPA to increase production, promotion and consumption of chili in the various villages to increase opportunities for growing income and assets at household level and Josto agro dealer in production, promotion and consumption of green grams to improve nutrition at homesteads.

4. Collaboration with governmental bodies:

As a resilient project, ICAN activity continued to engage widely and deeply across different sectors that holistically increased sustainable outcomes amongst the direct beneficiaries.

- Collaborated with microfinance support center to conduct assessment of excluded groups like VSLAs to ascertain their financial strengths on acquiring loans to increase the capital fund for starting and boosting existing IGAs, and building group asset ventures. Assessment of VSLA financial performance will be assessed to qualify them for linkage.
- Conducted joint monitoring visits to monitor and track ICAN activities in the different communities and generate sustainability plans. This was participated with local government staff at community level with the parish chiefs, LC1s, VHTs, and sector heads at the district.
- DDS-NK held education sector coordination meeting targeting overall performance of learners, activities by different partners and recommendations for better education systems and benefits to the communities. Back to school campaigns are always conducted to sensitize parents, students and pupils on importance of formal education.

Monitoring and evaluation:



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- Conducted SBCC assessments in Nakapelimoru to track the of adoptions of WE CAN DO 5 and other uptake of knowledge and skills on the different interventions ICAN has been promoting in the communities through FGDs and quantitative data collection on SBCC surveillance conducted in all the sub counties and qualitative conducted in Nakapelimoru.

Below is the level of indicator achievement for the period of Sept 2021 – Sept 2022.

#	Indicator	Annual Target	FY2022 Actual	Variance (Give reason for under or over achievement)
1	Number of individuals [directly] participating in USG food security programs (new).	19,188	17,289	High dependency syndrome is still an issue in Karamoja, some community members expect a lot of handouts and are demotivated to participate in ICAN activities because of lack of handouts, COVID-19 and insecurity also contributed to low participation from the community members.
2	Number of households reached with support for increasing economic opportunities through agriculture, non-agriculture-based livelihoods, and improved connection to markets and financial services (including income) New for that year.	12,366	11,387	Some BSPs have not understood the business aspect of providing services at a fee
3	Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers' organizations, water users' associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied/deM&Ed improved organization-level technologies or management practices with USG assistance (EG.3.2-20) *	380	374	More chili groups, MIYCAN groups were profiled this year.
	Economic Strengthening			
1	# Of BSPs	65	61	9 more villages were profiled which resulted to the recruitment of more BSPs to manage such villages



2	Number of VSLAs established (people reached with training, grants, loans, or linkages to markets and programs for non-agriculture-based livelihood options)	33	171	All the chili groups were enrolled in VSLA groups, and we only counted groups which have benefited at least three times from ICAN interventions.
3	Number of individuals participating in group-based savings, micro-finance or lending programs with USG assistance	975	4,663	chili farmers were all enrolled in savings groups while VSLA groups were also profiled so that they can access small loans for their operations
4	Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices with USG assistance	7,254	9,473	Harsh climatic conditions destroyed farmers' crops at the early stages of planting
5	Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] financial markets	3,510	2,446	Most of the ICAN beneficiaries are vulnerable households whose saving propensity is very low. Their savings are very small and cannot be kept in bank accounts, and are subsistence farmers.
Nutrition and Food Security				
1	Number of individuals received nutrition related professional training (This is VHTs) training through USG supported programs (HL.9-4)	32	60	More villages were profiled
2	Number of MCGs that are operational	159	346	More homesteads/ MIYCAN groups were profiled
3	Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs (that year)	796	3,498	Homestead to homestead approach of rolling MIYCAN curriculum and other nutrition related interventions and referrals of pregnant and Lactating mothers for better health services motivated mothers to attend ICAN activities



4	Number of children under 5 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	1,035	5,993	Effective mobilization and referrals of children on red and yellow to health facilities and USAID RITHES- E by VHTs encouraged mothers to mobilize their children for screening.
5	Number of people reached with messages addressing norms and attitudes that lead to larger family size	2,274	5784	Referrals of Pregnant and Lactating mothers for ANC services, Family planning services and use of the elders' contributed to high attendance.
Governance				
1	Number of ICAN beneficiaries participating in community and local dialogue/governance forums (New each year)	8,580	4,676	The elders' structure in every village has played a big role in encouraging community members to participate in community planning activities like dialogue meetings.
2	Number of communities (districts +sub counties) that have developed, shared, and implemented plans for addressing community resilience issues (addressing issues from the communities)	4	5	All the 4 sub counties + the district have resilience plans and DDS-NK has been facilitating the implementation process both at the district level and sub county level.
Cross-cutting				
1	Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience [to climate change] as a result of USG assistance (EG.11-6)	3,159	1,552	Harsh weather, insecurity coupled with COVID-19.
2	Number of communities with an agreed plan for sustainable use of natural resources (e.g., wood, water, hunting/bush meat) due to USG assistance.	5	30	30 villages have resilience plans and Natural Resource Management plans are embedded in those plans.
3	Number of people trained in climate	3,276	2,775	Chili groups in Nakapelimoru camps



	change adaptation supported by the USG assistance			are inactive because of insecurity.
4	Number of adolescents participants in non-farm income generation, income diversification, skills training, or Agriprenuership programming under ICAN	234	355	10 learning centers were profiled with each having a minimum of 30 adolescents.
5	Number of parent teacher associations (PTAs) or community governance structures engaged in primary or secondary education supported with USG assistance (ES 1-13)	14	28	Each school has two structures, that is, PTA and SMCs
6	Number of in-school adolescents reached with ICAN life-skills/Governance/Resilience messages	3,510	1,122	Child right clubs were affected when schools closed due to COVID-19. 1,122 are pupils reached through remedial learning.
7	Number of youth engaged in social, economic or leadership skills through USG assistance (YOUTH-1)		2,092	

8b. Data quality challenges:

Data quality and verifications was a challenge attributed to recruitment of new field officers and new community structures. This was realized through random sampling of data tools collected and submitted to the MEL departments.

Field officers were re-oriented on the data tools and tasked to guide and support community structures on proper and effective use of the tools.

8c. Lessons learned

- Integrating chili production in groups has increased opportunities for growing income and assets at household level. Adoptions of chili technologies like chili blocks, chili ropes and pesticides has minimized human-animal conflicts. There is



also high demand for chili knowledge and skills from groups of other USAID implementing partners like APOLOU.

- Production, promotion and consumption of green grams improved of the household nutrition status and also its fast maturing time has supported households during the dry spell periods. This has also generated incomes to these households through sale.

Modifications in planned program activities:

5. Finance, operations, and compliance:

DDS-NK received 651,061,127/= with the Total expenditure of 654,212,206/=:, and Closing balance is -6,269,538 as at August, 2022.

Step that have been used to ensure compliance;

- Ensure policies and procedures are continuously followed by the employees through daily application at work during and after implementation.
- Weekly, monthly and quarterly review meetings.
- Ensure completeness of documentation through budget tracking
- Reviewing of the BVA (Budget Vs Actuals).
- Contracting service providers who have prequalified.
- Conduct external Audit.

Key achievements;

- DDS-NK subscribed to mobile money platform called beyonic Limited to mitigate the risks of cash handling by the officers. This has reduced time wastage and cash being handy with the beneficiary in the phone.

Challenge;

- The continuous adjustments of the budget during the implementation of the activity is very challenging where it was difficult to obtain budgeted versus actual expenditure in the preparation of audit reports. This was based on the COVID 19 adaptation strategy. However, an emergency budget will always serve the



purpose for other unplanned activities without over running other activities in the work plan and budget.

6. Capacity strengthening:

- Continued support by the technical leads on guidance and mentorship in the core areas of the program activities like green gram multiplication, chili promotion, perma-gardening approaches, nutrition led assessments, and resilience toolkit sessions, adolescent girls and youth leadership trainings as well as sharing of MEL related assessment findings improving approaches to implementation.
- Accountability mechanisms to improve working relations and activity implementations from the community structures through monthly review meetings has created ownership of ICAN interventions. This has improved local capacity output of the structures during sharing based on learnings and presentations on a village by village basis.
- MEAL support on quality data assurances, capture, and dissemination of key findings and development/design of various tools has improved on data quality and informed key decisions on program implementations.

11b. Technical assistance needs:

(Describe the kinds of technical support you need from ICAN TA team and consultant for the next quarter.)

- MEL system onsite support at regional level to elevate and boost up the capacity to improve the regional MEL teams.
- Support training of staff in key component areas related to program management, organizational capacity systems improvement, and project design.

15d. Success Stories

Chegem income generation from NRM practice.	Tree Nurseries and Planting story.
Chili success story	Production, promotion and consumption

Chili Production, Promotion and Consumption.

My name is Chuene Samson age 25, a resident of Napeikar village, Lobanya Parish, Kapeta Sub County, Kotido district, Uganda. Married with 2 children and member of Napeikar Kalouni VSLA group.



Figure 1: Samson showcasing part of his harvest.

One year ago, I listened and received information aired on radio-Etoil a Karamoja on crop agronomy that focused on chili growing and marketing and this motivated me to become a chili grower. I moved from Kacheri trading center with my family where life was full of various hardships and relocated to Napeikar farming camp.

In 2021, I called the field officer in charge of Kacheri to ask him of the chili seeds. He referred me to the BSP who supported me to establish chili nursery for raising chili seedlings. I planted half acre of chili and by 2022, I was able to add 2 more acres of chili making a total of 2.5 acres and since then I have harvested a total of 87kgs which has made returns worth Ugx: 696,000 from sale in the first harvest. *“Chili production largely rewards more than any other crop I have engaged in before”*. In addition, I got inspired to integrate other commercial crops and vegetables such as maize and backyard farming of cabbage, onions, red paper, and watermelon to diversify my source of income. I made 300,000Ugx from sale of cabbage and used it for buying 01 plot of land in Napeikar and also sold my onions and ripped amounts worth Ugx: 450,000 from onions.

I will continue practicing chili production because it rewards more than any other crop I have ever gowned as it has supported me and my entire family to access better food, source of VSLA saving, health bills and develop my household. **“I call upon other farmers to adopt chili farming and make Napeikar a hub of chili production”**



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Figure 2: Samson in his chili field garden in Napeikar.

DDSNK USAID/ICAN Annual Report pictures

Photo file name	Photo credit	Caption
	<p>Nakong Joseph Tata(VHT Kairwata village)</p>	<p>Field officer-Mr. Samson Muria Lomoe and Centenary bank branch manager Kotido-Mr. Peter Opero, orienting BSPs, VHTs, GCs and LCIs on the various finance services available for business linkage.</p>
	<p>Loupa Michael Jackson (Field-Officer)</p>	<p>ICAN Karamoja regional team Lead-Mr. Moses Okori, DDS-NK Executive Director Mr. Ijala Simon Peter and staffs interrupting with MIYCAN members in their perma garden during a monitoring visit conducted in Moruongor model village, North-Division</p>
	<p>Muria Samson L (MEL-Officer)</p>	<p>SMC/PTAs and the pupils of Kanair Primary school participating during demonstration of Iron Rich Beans (IRB) planting by NARO team</p>
	<p>Chilla Moses Abongo (Makerere Graduate Intern)</p>	<p>Farmers, ICAN staffs, sub-county and district officials paying keen attention to the recommendations provided by District Agriculture officer Mr Obin Benard during green gram monitoring visit in Nasinyon village, Nakapelimoru S/C</p>

	<p>Lochoro Sabina (Field Officer Nakapelimoru)</p>	<p>LCIII chairperson Mr Lomor Paul Changae handing over in-kind grants from USAID-ICAN to the chairperson of Watakau shoe making group in Nakapelimoru S/C</p>
	<p>Muria Samson L (MEL-Officer)</p>	<p>A MIYCAN member in Nasinyon village, Kacheri sub-county expanding a sweet potato garden as a response measure to food insecurity</p>
	<p>Muria Samson L (MEL-Officer)</p>	<p>A lead chili farmer in North-Division Mr Loyo Faustino using the solar drier to dry his harvested chili in Kapethinyang resettlement camp</p>

CHEGEM STORY ON TREE NURSERIES FOR INCOME GENERATION.



Figure 1: Chegem drying kay apple seeds for sale.

I am Chegem Geoffrey, a village elder and a Governance Champion in North division. Am a beneficiary under ICAN project implemented by DDS-NK in Kotido.

In 2020, I participated in knowledge and capacity building training on natural resource management



with community business service providers. This training was organized by USAID-ICAN project. I was motivated and picked up tree planting as a technique to conserve my environment from shocks and stresses.

I planted trees like acacia, kay apples, and moringa and fruit trees of paw paws, mangoes, avocado and guava to boost consumption needs at my household. Some of the challenges faced included low survival rate especially mangoes, avocados.

I have scaled up tree planting within my village among elders, youths and shared importance of each household planting a tree and reducing on deforestation activities of our natural assets which impacts on human and animal lifecycle. My village through resilience training have agreed plan to plant local seeds and trees that are tolerant to drought.

My dream is to be operate a large scale nursery tree farm and supply to communities for profit maximization because there is no individual in that activity. Am setting up 3,000 kay apple nursery seedlings and sell to community members. Majority of the individuals use kay apples for fencing of homesteads and most of the used kay apples for fencing come Kaabong and Abim yet it can be planted in Kotido too. *"Fencing of manyattas is a serious threat to the vegetation in our district of Kotido, yet if we can use k-apples we can save the vegetation and have enough rains. He wants to commit and show people the benefits of planting trees in his community"*

Am grateful to USAID-ICAN activities implemented in the different communities of Kotido improving resilience.



Figure 2: Chegem washing kay apple fruits.