



Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development
Uganda

Annual Report

2019



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACORD	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIMS	Health Information Management System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IPO	Implementing Partner Organization
KDLG	Kiryandongo District Local Government
LG	Local Government
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non -Governmental Organization
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
PSS	Psychosocial Support
PSN	Persons with Special Needs
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
ReHoPE	Refugee and Host Population Empowerment
RWC	Refugee Welfare Committee
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SMC	School Management Committee
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
UNFPA	United Nation Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nation High Commission for Refugees
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WASH	Water and Sanitation for Hygiene
WUC	Water User Committee
YLP	Youth Livelihood Programme

Section A: Introduction and Organization Context - 2019

Introduction

This report presents a review of the implementation of ACORD Uganda's programmes and projects implemented to achieve outcomes of the organization's 2015 to 2020 Strategic Plan. The Goal of the ACORD-U 2015-2020 Strategic Plan is: *Active, empowered citizenship and more responsive institutions contributing to a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous Uganda by 2020*. Organization activities implemented in 2019 addressed the 4 strategic objectives of the plan which were: 1) Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence, 2) Build sustainable food systems and livelihoods, increase climate change resilience and enhance natural resource management, 3) Contribute to good health and well-being and access to universal quality health services, and 4) Strengthen ACORD's capacity for research, self-management, learning and advocacy, enabling staff to effectively engage with Government and Private sectors as part of a wider social movement.

Description of the Organization – Target Districts, Population Served

The Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development (ACORD) Uganda was formally registered as an indigenous Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) on the 11th day of February 2019, having successfully completed the registration requirements of the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations in Uganda. With a permit to operate nationally, ACORD-U had since 1979 operated in Uganda as a local Branch of ACORD International.

In 2019, ACORD U's area of operation scaled up to the Eastern part of the country with implementation of activities addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The organization now has a Regional Office located in Tororo district, and sub offices in Amuria and Kaberamaido districts. The organization has three other Regional Offices that coordinate activities in the target districts and refugee settlements. The West Nile regional office is located in Adjumani districts and coordinates operations in Adjumani and Yumbe, while the Northern Uganda regional office is located in Gulu district, coordinating operations in Omoro, Kitgum, Pader and Nakasongola districts. The South Western and Western regional office is located in Mbarara district, coordinating operations in Bundibugyo, Isingiro, Mbarara, Kamwenge, Kasese, Kiruhura, and Kyegegwa. The Head Office in Kampala coordinates interventions in Kampala, Kikuube and Wakiso districts.

ACORD's project interventions address and respond to both emergency and development needs of the target populations. The emergency/humanitarian interventions are implemented in the refugee settlements of Kiryandongo (Kiryandongo District), Kyangwali (Kikuube District), Rwamwanja (Kamwenge district), Kyaka II (Kyegegwa District) and Bidibidi in Yumbe district. The emergency program targets 70% refugees and 30% host communities within the refugee settlements and neighboring host communities as per the UNHCR standards (REHOPE Strategy). Various nationalities among the targeted refugees include; Congolese (different ethnic groups), Burundians hosted in the Western Refugee settlements, and South Sudanese who are mainly hosted in the settlements located in the West Nile and Northern Regions. ACORD's development interventions are implemented across the rest of the remaining target districts.

Section B: Progress Report

In 2019 ACORD-U continued to work in common cause with poor and hard to reach communities and population groups who have been denied their rights located. These were supported to understand, to challenge and change their conditions through; fostering peace and justice, building sustainable food systems and livelihoods, and contributing to good health and well-being. To be able to achieve this, ACORD strengthened its capacity for Research, Self-management, Learning and Advocacy.

B.1. Fostering Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

1.1. Strengthening Capacity to Address Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

The deeply ingrained patriarchal system in Uganda upholds values, beliefs and practices that reinforce the privilege of men and their role in society at the expense of rights, safety, security and wellbeing of women and girls. Unequal gender and power relations and lack of respect for human rights underpin the widespread tolerance for GBV, HP and denial of SRHR.

Through the Spotlight and SIDA projects, ACORD used approaches such as SASA! and MAGs to strengthen capacities of communities in target districts to address the unequal gender and power relations between men and women, and boys and girls.

a) The SASA! - Start, Awareness, Support and Action Approach:

SASA! is a structured community engagement approach that guides entire communities through the stages of change to address underlying beliefs, social norms, and attitudes that perpetuate VAWC and HIV

- 158 representatives of the police, district and sub county leadership, the NGOs implementing SASA! cultural institutions and religious leaders from the seven SIDA project target districts were oriented on SASA! This enabled them to support the rollout of the approach in the target parishes.

- 157 young women and men identified in consultation with target communities and trained as SASA! Change Agents (CA) continue to organize weekly village level dialogue sessions to discuss unequal gender and power relations in their communities that promote lack of respect for human rights, reinforce GBV and have an impact on the rights, safety, security and wellbeing of women and girls.

4, 661 male and 7, 131 female (total 24,653 women and men) had participated in the SASA! dialogue sessions by the CAs at reporting time

b) Creation, Training and Mentoring of Male Action Groups:

Male Action Groups (MAGs) are men who join together in groups of 15-20 as male mentors to promote equal and respectful relationships and nonviolent behaviours in households so as to reduce violence

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

JOINT PROGRAMME ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA (SIDA PROJECT)

Implemented in: Amuria, Bundibugyo, Gulu, Kaberamaido, Kampala, and Kiryuandongo District.

FOCUS: Community advocacy platforms strengthened to develop strategies, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem and transformation of harmful masculinities.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES IN UGANDA (SPOT LIGHT PROJECT)

Implemented in: Kampala, Kasese, Kyegegye and Tororo Districts

FOCUS: Communities and Institutions are mobilized to prevent GBV and promote SRHR institutional reforms and increased utilization of quality integrated GBV and SRHR services in the target districts.

Capacities of target institutions for provision of quality integrated GBV services enhanced

- 278 male mentors were trained on the men to men curriculum and supported to form a total 150 MAGs.
- The MAGs had sensitized 39,750 fellow men in 9 target districts on how to challenge misconceptions about how women should be treated in the homes, by reporting period. This was through community dialogues and one-on-one sessions on GBV prevention and response.

Through partner counselling and awareness done on a one-to-one basis by the MAGs men have been continuously challenged to use their power to enhance gender equality which subsequently has led to reduction in cases of GBV in the target communities. MAGs are also very instrumental in GBV case identification, management and referral in close linkages with their community development officers. 193 women and girls exposed to GBV were supported to receive medical and psycho-social counselling within 72 hours.



"We are now being called upon by people even from other parishes to go and handle their GBV cases" one of the male mentors mentioned in a meeting.

A GBV community session by MAG members in Wera Sub county Amuria District

c) Community Based GBV Shelters

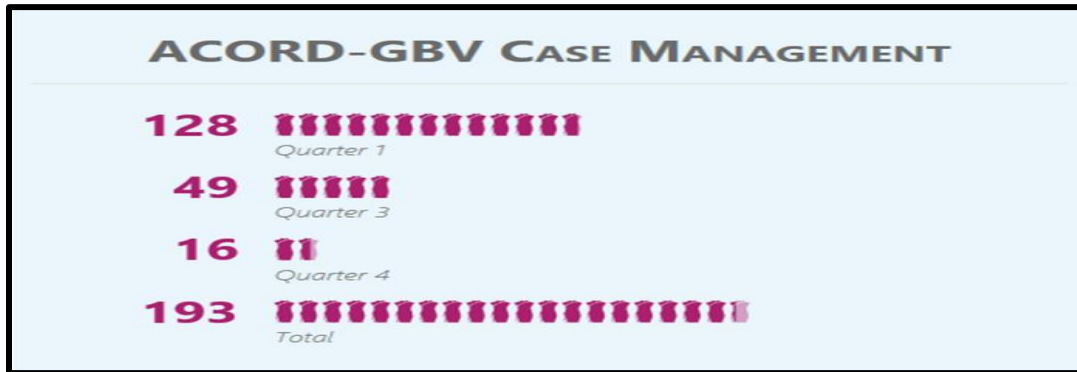
- 213 Stakeholders/shelter staff in all target districts were oriented on GBV shelter guidelines and operational principles. Majority of stakeholders oriented had no prior knowledge on the operationalization of the GBV shelters. GBV shelter working groups were revamped and these have created awareness on GBV shelters and benefits in their communities.



d) Advocacy for inclusion of comprehensive psychosocial curriculum in the education system;

- Initial processes to promote the inclusion of students' psychosocial support in the education system witnessed orientation of representatives from 45 education institutions in 7 districts on integration of psychosocial support into their schools' GBV prevention and response services. Participants committed to establishing professional psychosocial counselling spaces in the institutions of learning.

e) *ACORD U Gender-Based Violence Services in Humanitarian Settings – Kiryandongo and Kyaka II:*



These GBV cases manifested as physical, emotional, rape, sexual and economic violence. The cases were also reported in the GBVIMS managed by UNHCR



Discussions during the community dialogue sessions, were on the referral pathway menstrual hygiene management, STDs and family planning

Community Stories

Dignity Restored

Agnes Trachan, a 28-year-old mother of three was diagnosed with fistula in July 2019 after a prolonged labour period. Her husband abandoned her as a result, leaving her to look after their children at Mboira parish Kigumba Sub-county in Kiryandongo. She, in effect, lost her dignity, confidence and above all had body complications that she had no knowledge about.

According to the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Uganda, fistula is an abnormal opening between the birth canal and the bladder/ureter or rectum. This results into constant leakage of urine and/or faeces through the birth canal. This is what Agnes was facing and it caused her shame, social segregation and health glitches. In the long run, her state worsened leading to broken relationships with people around her. The latest study by WHO shows that each year, between 50,000 to 100,000 women worldwide are affected by obstetric fistula. The MOH in Uganda in 2016 registers that there was an increase of 1900 women suffering from the complication, noting that among the women who reported leakage, 62% had sought treatment, 12% were embarrassed to seek treatment, 9% did not know where to go for treatment, 7% did not know that fistula can be repaired and 3% felt that treatment was too expensive.

It was no doubt that with limited knowledge of the situation, Agnes decided to leave her marital home for her parents' expecting to get some "emotional" help and a "kind-of" solution to the complications she had. However, she received little or no comfort as she was continually stigmatized in public spaces and in the community, including her very own family.

During a discussion on solutions to challenges faced by pregnant women and mothers in one of the Kigumba Sub County GBV/SRH stakeholders' meetings, Agnes' story was presented by one of the ACORD SASA! Community Agents (CAs). The ACORD's Community Workers followed up the issue to learn more about Agnes' health complication and assess the kind of support she wanted. Based on her situation ACORD facilitated her with transport and medical expenses to access medical services at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor in Gulu district as such services could not be offered in Kiryandongo at the time. On her first appointment with the doctor, she was examined and told that the complication could be repaired and that the constant discharge of her body wastes without her control would end. The doctor then advised her to return after a week for the operation. In her own words, Agnes says:

"I honored the doctor's advice and returned after one week. I was admitted in the hospital for three days before the operation could take place. After the three days, I was operated and admitted in the hospital for another three weeks after which the stitches were removed, I no longer pass out any uncontrolled urine."

Excited to return home and live happily with her family members, Agnes was ready to take on her life's dreams and build the broken bridges and relationships. "I can now do what I had stopped doing before like sitting in public gatherings, participating in meetings and others" Agnes said smiling endlessly. She also believes that one day her husband will return home to live with the family.

Agnes appreciates ACORD/UNFPA for the generous support rendered to her and to community activist who volunteered to take care of her in the hospital. She also encourages all the ladies who are suffering from fistula to seek medical attention.

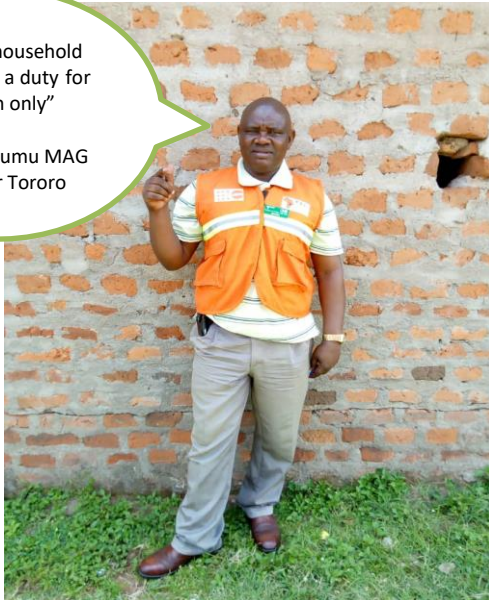


Agnes (right) with the ACORD Officer (center) and Community Worker (left) during her admission at St. Mary's Hospital Lacor, Gulu district.

A TRANSFORMED ATTITUDE: Vincent Okumu Championing the Fight against Gender Based Violence.

“For me, household chores was a duty for women only”

Vincent Okumu MAG Member Tororo



“Growing up in a patriarchal family where the power of the man in the house was absolute, I got accustomed to the fact that my mother and all the female parties in the house were made for the kitchen, household chores and the garden. My mother was largely excluded from the decision- making in the home. Often times, in Tororo district where I was born and raised, I witnessed men beat their wives over trivial issues. This was not only my mother’s predicament but seemed to be the normal acceptable way of how wives, and women were generally treated in my village.

Years later, when I married, I imitated this and treated my wife the same way my father and other men in the village did. But this was the only way of life I was exposed to.

Once I came back home late, expecting everything, including food to be ready on the table. When I did not find food, I blamed all the members in the household. I even threatened to fight or deny them financial provision”.

THE RESOLVE

“ACORD Uganda has trained me on the Men to Men curriculum that challenges negative male behaviors which eventually cause gender based violence and I realized that I was making so many mistakes. I have changed now; I escorted my wife for Antenatal Care. I can confidently now reveal my financial status to my wife, I help her with household work, sweeping the house, carrying children/babysitting, and baking which is her business. I was not doing this before. My wife does not ‘fear me’ but she respects me and all my family members respect me too. Am called counselor in my community and I am happy because my family tells the community of how I have changed. I am an activist mentoring fellow men to be role models.



ACORD Male Action Mentor (behind president in orange jacket) representing the Male Action against GBV during the National Spotlight Launch in Mbale.

THE ISSUE:

Tororo District population is approximately 583,400 with 284, 200 males and 299, 200 females. The district is mainly cosmopolitan and being a border town is predominately pre- exposed to many risks associated with violence against women and girls. The district ranks 10th nationally for crime incidents and is among the highest GBV prevalent with census data citing 69 percent of physical violence and 49 percent sexual violence (UNHPC, 2014). Tororo district records the highest cases of Intimate Partner Violence in the country.

INTERVENTION:

Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development worked with the local leaders to identify men willing to become part of a mass of mentors for fellow men. These role models who would work with their communities to ensure that advocacy drives are implemented with an aim of reducing social tolerance to gender based violence and improving reproductive health and rights within their communities. These men were trained and mentored using a curriculum to enhance knowledge and skills use their positions in society and impact positive change.

The Spotlight Initiative is a multi-stakeholder initiative which seeks to enhance male engagement in GBV prevention and response. Partnering with UNFPA in four districts of Kampala, Tororo, Kyegegwa and Kasese, ACORD Uganda has trained 124 male mentors as part of a community drive to mobilize men and their communities in GBV prevention and increasing uptake of sexual reproductive health services. The male mentors also have formed groups at parish level called Male Action Groups (MAGs). These form a bigger mass of champions for positive social behavioral change, promoting equity and equality for women and men. The MAGs have reached over 20,000 people through community dialogues and household to household mentorship on GBV prevention and response.

B.2. Build Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods, Increase Climate Change Resilience and Enhance Natural Resource Management

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

SUPPORTING WOMEN GROUPS TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION TO EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA

Focus: 60 women groups, 7 primary schools, 7 churches in Mbarara, Isingiro and Kiruhura Districts with improved access and use of safe water, sanitation and hygiene by end of 2019

PROMOTING RESTORATION AND PROTECTION OF RIVER RWIZI SYSTEMS AND CATCHMENT AREA

Focus: To contribute to the restoration of the fragile eco-system in 4 sub-catchment of River Rwizi system by 2020

SCALING UP CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH EMPOWERMENT OF MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN NORTHERN UGANDA BY 2025

Implemented in Omoro District.

Focus: contribute towards sustainable empowerment of women & children in Northern Uganda through the promotion of SHG Approach by 2025

INCREASING OVC AND YOUTH RESILIENCE TO SOCIOECONOMIC AND NATURAL SHOCKS (RESENS)

Implemented in Mbarara and Isingiro districts

Focus: promotes livelihoods of OVCS households and Caregivers by strengthening safety nets and helping them to develop more profitable and diverse income sources,

2.1: Vulnerable and marginalized communities achieve sustainable livelihoods (food security, employment and increased income generation opportunities.

a) Supporting Women Groups to Improve Resilience and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change

A total 211,320 (115,660 F, 95,660 M) people in Mbarara and Kiruhura districts were reached with interventions focusing on:

- Construction of household Rainwater Harvesting Tanks (RWHTs) – where ACORD supported 318 while communities constructed 269
- Construction of Institutional RWHT – 9 schools were supported to construct 9 rain water tanks (one tank each) and churches with 5 tanks.
- Trainings in hygiene and sanitation
- Water and soil water conservation technologies such as trenches and stone bunds

b) Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi Systems and Catchment Area

- Promotion of 1 micro catchment site through tree planting-27,000, and construction of 53 gabions
- Training of communities on climate change adaptation
- 20 demonstrations of simple technologies - fuel stoves-300, irrigation tanks conducted
- 27,000 trees were planted in the bare hills of Kakondo micro catchment



c)

Socio-economic Empowerment for GBV Survivors:

- Through the Spotlight project, 142 GBV survivors were profiled in the four target districts and their training needs assessed. Out of these, 40 survivors were trained in hairdressing and were supported with start-up kits.

d)

Scaling up Child Protection by Supporting Self Help Groups (SHG) in Omoro District:

ACORD supported a total 44 SHG to realize child friendly homes and communities. The SHG are platforms for Savings and Credit activities. The total number of women supported through the SHG were 851 while these women took care of 2,843 children by the end of 2019. The 44 SHG had by reporting period saved 8,285,300 with a loan ration of 1:0.68.



ACORD Staff during a support visit to one of the SHG in Omoro

Outputs	Actual for 2019
Formed SHGs	23
Book writers Trained	46
Exposure Visits Conducted (2 SHGs, 2 CFs, and ACORD Staff)	1
Quarterly Monitoring Visit	3
Support Supervision and Mentorship visits to SHGs	40
Monthly review meetings	12
Training of SHG on CLA Concepts	All SHG above six months



ACORD field team during a SOCY Outreaches

e) **Increasing OVC and Youth Resilience to Socioeconomic and Natural Shocks**

- 7074 orphans and caregivers in Mbarara and Isingiro districts were reached between January and December 2019 with services like:
 - Savings and Lending through SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) groups;
 - Youth vocational skills and apprenticeship, cottage industries and life skills; and Backyard gardening.

Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and their Caregivers in Mbarara and Isingiro - 2019

- ❖ SILC group formation (68 groups formed with 3772 members in total)
- ❖ 499,681,690 million have been saved in the two districts of Mbarara and Isingiro.
- ❖ 279 (64F & 26M) youth have been reached in these skills; apprenticeship, life skills, cottage industry skilling in both Mbarara and Isingiro.
- ❖ 141 households have been reached in backyard gardens benefiting 849 members.
 - 7204 members have been reached through home visits.
 - 621 households out of 921 have been assessed and graduated off the project.

Community Story

Improved Income Generation Opportunities through Self Help Group Activities



Santa with some of her family members

Anyeko Santa is a 48 years old woman, married to a one Charles Opobo aged 56 years. They have been married and living together for the last 30 years and are blessed with 8 children. Santa is a member of *Can Dek Mone* SHG located in Onyona Parish, Oneko Gwok village. She joined the group in February 2019.

"I remember so many organization tried to convince me to join different savings groups when I was still staying in the IDP camp but I had no interest" says Santa.

For a number of reasons, life was not a bed of roses for Santa and her family.

"Many times my husband and I had misunderstanding in our house because of money related issues" she says. "It was towards the end of January 2019 when a team from ACORD and our area LC1 came to my community and told us about the self-help group approach. I got convinced and joined the group. The ACORD Project Officer explained to us, who had gathered to listen, how the approach operates.

I together with the other group members, went into a process of Self Help Group (SHG) formation and agreed to start saving 500/= per week in our second meeting. After two weeks I borrowed 20,000 (twenty thousand) shilling and bought some sweet bananas which I sold and got 30,000 in total. After one month I paid back the loan with an interest of 2000. In total I paid back 22,000 and had a balance of 8,000. I went back and borrowed 40,000, and in total I had 48,000 shs to add to my business.

In September of 2019, I used part of the money for buying ground nut seeds and for labor for planting. In December I harvested 8 bags of fine ground nuts. I will wait when the price has gone up and sell a bag at 120,000 and get a total sum of 960,000 Ug shs; Santa Continues.

"I am planning to get more acres of land to use for planting groundnuts next season and I will use part of the money for paying my children's school fees and for meeting other household needs. Being in the SHG has helped my family and my husband is supporting me to continue saving and staying in the group because he has seen the impact. There is now peace and love in our home. I don't regret joining this group at all, SHGA has really strengthen my home" Santa concludes.



Santa with the bags of groundnuts that she harvested

B.3. Contribute to Good Health and Well-being and Access to Universal Quality Health Services

3.1: Improved Health and Livelihoods through water, sanitation and hygiene interventions for people in water stressed communities

a) *Scaling up WASH Enhancement for South Sudanese Refugees in Bidibidi Settlement*

During the reporting period of January 2019 to December 2019, ACORD Uganda operated in zones 4 and 5 of Bidi Bidi refugee settlement. In Zone 4 operations were in Village 6 and 7 and focused on both Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions for both the refugees and host community, while in Zone 5 operations were in villages 14, 17 and 18, focusing on operation and maintenance of the water supply system established by ACORD in the previous years. Achievements for the year were:

- **8 System operators, care takers and 25 water user committee members** were trained in operation and maintenance, of their water points and systems operations.
- **Contributed to improved sanitation for over 4000 refugees using 9 schools and one health center** through construction of 15 blocks of 5 stance latrines – target schools were Knowledge PS, Ombech PS, Ariwa PS, Abrimajo PS and Yangani PS. The health facility supported was Okuban health center's
- **Improved hygiene practices in the villages 6 and 7 as well as KADO PS and Nyoko Kobo PS** due to the continued hygiene promotion messages which have been passed to over 4,180 beneficiaries. Open defecation is no longer seen in these villages, clean compounds, minimum water related diseases and a happy community can be witnessed on ground as a result of the interventions in place.
- **Improved supply of safe drinking water** which has reduced water borne diseases in the areas of supply. In addition to the water supply facilities, ACORD undertakes monthly and weekly water quality tests at source, tap and at Household levels, and chlorine residual tests to ensure supply of good quality water to the beneficiaries.
- **Promotion of horticulture** especially during dry seasons where the communities' use the water for irrigating their vegetables which in turn helps to improve the nutrition

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

CONSOLIDATING AND SCALING UP WASH ENHANCEMENT FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN BIDI BIDI SETTLEMENT, YUMBE DISTRICT, WEST NILE, UGANDA

Focus: To increase access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene among 61,638 South Sudanese refugees and 6,415 host community members in zone 4 and 5 in Bidibidi settlement by April 2019.

ENHANCING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCLUSION IN HEALTH AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN KYANGWALI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KIKUUBE DISTRICT

Focus: contribute to the dignity and self-esteem of People with Special Needs (PSN) among the refugees and hosts in Mombasa and Maratatu Villages of Kyangwali settlement

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE TO ELIMINATE SGBV AND HARMFUL PRACTICES IN UGANDA

Focus: Communities and Institutions are mobilized to prevent GBV and promote SRHR institutional and reform, increased utilization of quality integrated GBV and SRHR services in the target districts. Implemented in: Kampala, Kasese, Kyegegwa and Tororo Districts

needs of the beneficiaries. Livelihood of the community has equally improved since water is also used for animals as well as laying bricks for shelter.

Pictorial – ACORD WASH Interventions in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement



A trainer illustrates to teachers at Nyoko Kobo primary school hand washing techniques during a training of school health club facilitators



The ACORD Yumbe team leader responds to questions from the community during a feedback session in village 7 zone 4



LCIII of Odravo Sub County, ACORD staff, UNHCR Staff and school management committees members of Knowledge Land PS during the handover of the institutional latrines at the school

Knowledge Land Primary School Latrines BEFORE



The head teacher in front of the old temporary pit latrine structure

Knowledge Land Primary School Latrines AFTER



The head teacher shows one of the 5 stance latrine blocks constructed by ACORD with funding from HEKS



Jerisa Umunia a south Sudanese refugee with a household of 8 people in village 7 in Zone 4, used to fetch water from a 10,000 litre tank situated about 1.5 kilometres away from her house. This tank was refilled by water trucks supported by the UNHCR on a daily basis. This was the only source of water for the whole village.

With the establishment of the piped water system by ACORD, Jerisa was elected as a member of the Water User Committee (WUC) as a care taker. The committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water points. The ACORD supported water supply tap stand is located about 50 meters from her house. Jerisa maintains a vegetable garden near the same tap stand which is watered by the waste water from the tap.

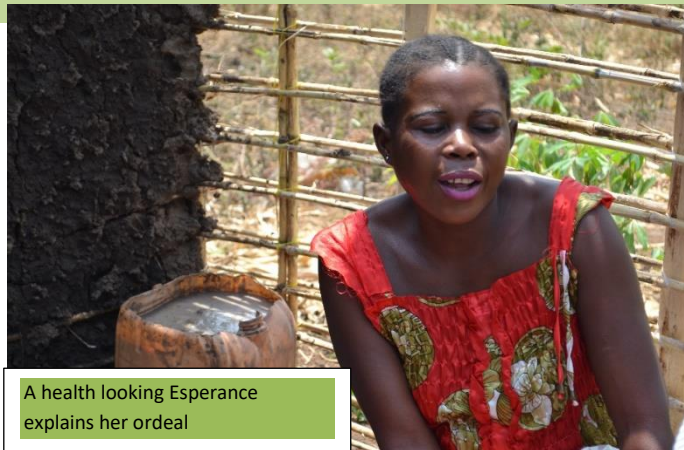
b) Enhancing Equal Opportunities and Inclusion in Health and others Social Services for PSN

By June 2019, the project was reaching 460 People with Special Needs (PSN) in the categories of PWDs, PLHIV & Children at Risk among the new DRC refugee influx in Kyangwali settlement, Kikuube District.

- **15 PSN self-help clubs** had been established for the PSN, three in each of the target 5 villages. The clubs were strengthened through support to regular meetings of the members, sensitization sessions on health and livelihoods and other group activities. In total, **474 sensitization sessions** were conducted for the PSN. The clubs were also strengthened by **construction of three meeting points.**
- **100 PSN** selected from the 15 established clubs were trained as Community Agents (CA) for 03 days. The training was on basic home-based support and referrals. By June 2019 (after 4 months), the CA had successfully made 9600 home visits to PSN households, through which over **56 PSN** with critical conditions had been supported to access different services including SGBV, HIV, education and other protection services.

Experience of a PSN Club Member in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement

While many Congolese refugees living with HIV struggle to restart their lives and learn to live with the condition, one of the biggest challenges they face is stigma. ACORD works with PLHIV as one of the Special Needs group to ensure they find ways to overcome these personal and shared problems to live and work together. Through the People with Special Needs (PSN) self-help clubs, ACORD conducts sensitization campaigns to encourage PLHIV and other special needs groups to take part in community activities.



A health looking Esperance explains her ordeal

Esperance, a young refugee woman, was constantly falling sick. Her plea to the husband to take her to the health center for a check-up fell on deaf ears as he assumed to be too busy. During that time, she was approached by a member from ACORD's PSN's club who advised her to go for an HIV check-up in lieu of her constant ailments. Esperance heeded to this advice and managed to reach the health center where an HIV test administered turned out positive.

"The news was so devastating" Esperance tearily admits, "I felt as if the world had swallowed me up." This, coupled with the fact that her husband, on learning that she had gone to the health center, razed their house to the ground and destroyed

all property that belonged to them. “I was physically alive but in reality- I felt dead” Esperance admits adding that all these events took her to a dark place where her sanity was tested.

It was during these trying times that the ACORD staff and the Special Needs sensitization team visited Esperance and invited her to take part in their Self Help Group activities. Esperance was given new confidence to restart her life. ACORD contacted the settlement authorities which provided her with a new plot of land and Non-Food Items for a temporary shelter. Along with other young women and the support of ACORD, she is constructed a new house. Esperance has also impressed her club peers and won their respect. She doesn’t want to return to her husband or previous land, where she thinks she has lost everything, but prefers to stay at the new land with her new friends.

Esperance has now joined the ACORD sensitization team and helps other PLHIV especially women, to overcome their trauma, learn a trade, rebuild their lives and contribute to the development of the community. Realizing the critical role, it played in the life of Esperance, ACORD hopes to increase the number of sensitization meetings and the psychosocial activities for PLHIV.

Outcome 3.2: Strengthen capacity of ACORD; partners and communities to address the effects of HIV in workplaces and within communities.

ACORD uses integration and mainstreaming approaches to support communities and workplaces affected by HIV and other illnesses. It promotes livelihoods to strengthen the safety nets of PLHIV affected groups and to help them to address stigma and develop more profitable and diverse income sources so as to provide for their essential needs. ACORD also promotes community based access to clinical/health and social protection services for PLHIV, OVCs and other vulnerable groups by improving referral networks between their households and health facilities, child protection and other relevant institutions.

In workplaces, ACORD promotes HIV and wellness policies that stipulate workplace information and activities aimed to enhance the physical, emotional and psychological health of staff and members of their families.

ACORD’s 2019 interventions under the project for *Increasing OVC and Youth Resilience to Socioeconomic and Natural Shocks (RESENS)* implemented in South Western Uganda, led to the following outcomes:

- **40% increase in Viral Load monitoring** of targeted OVC and caregivers, from 47%- 87%. This was attributed to the strong collaboration the project had with the health facilities and clinical partners –RHITES
- **Viral load Suppression also improved** as a result of viral load monitoring and the resultant food rations to the affected households.
- **Improved Collaboration with Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital**

through regular interaction which has improved support to the targeted households affected by HIV.

- **Increased uptake of ARVs at community level** since there is routine follow up of the target households by social workers and para social workers.
- **Improved nutrition for PLHIV households** resulting from the mentoring, coaching and adoption of backyard gardening at household level
- **Reduced stress for PLHIV members of the ACORD-CRS SILC interventions.** The savings and internal lending in the clubs helped the beneficiaries to adopt a positive thinking attitude since they can save, borrow and pay fees for their children. Furthermore SILC has served as a platform for psychosocial support from peers.

In Kyangwali Refugee settlement under the ACORD-Johanniter PSN project: 31 successful referrals and follow-ups were conducted; 10 monthly interface dialogues between PSN (who include PLHIV) and health workers were conducted in all the 5 villages of operation to discuss technical issues on WASH, nutrition and livelihoods for PSN;120 packets of condoms were distributed to PSNs to prevent HIV infections.

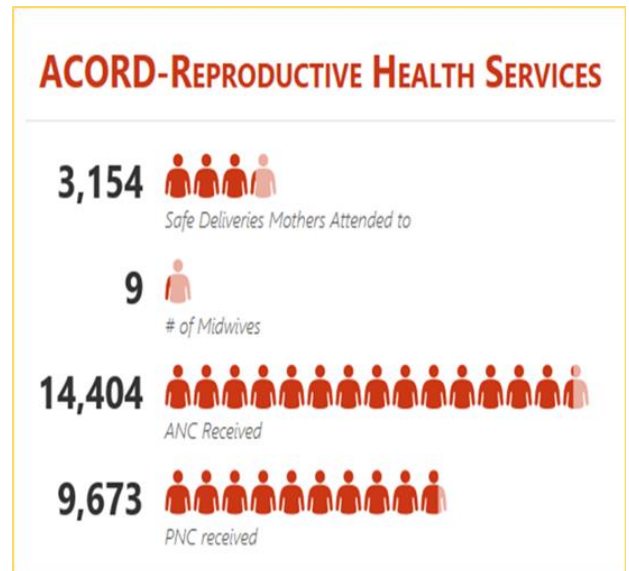
Outcome 3.3: Access to universal quality Sexual and Reproductive Health Services especially for women and girls promoted

ACORDs 2019 interventions promoting access to Sexual and Reproductive Health were implemented under the organization’s humanitarian interventions in Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Palabek and Rwamwanja refugee settlements. These interventions were under the CERF supported by the UNFPA. Other interventions were implemented under the Spotlight Initiative in Eastern and Western Uganda.

1. Humanitarian Interventions Coordinated in Lamwo, Kiryandongo, and Kyaka II

- a. 42,987 women received Reproductive Health services:
- 3154 were safe deliveries mothers who were attended to by the 9 ACORD midwives.
 - 14,404 received ANC, and 9673 were for PNC.
 - 3579 pregnant women were mapped, with 161 of those mapped below the age of 18 years.
 - 800 dignity kits were procured and provided to mothers who delivered from health centres in Kyaka II

- b. 22,510 people reached through Community Awareness – increasing demand for Family Planning:
- In quarter 1, 2, and 3 - 5920 male and 6703 female members of the community were reached with messages about FP including self-injection through community dialogues conducted by VHTs who were supported by Health workers in Lamwo district.
 - In the fourth Quarter – 9,887 people were reached with messages about family planning through community dialogue and 32% of these were males. These intervention were implemented by PATH.





A community event on Sexual and Reproductive Health in one of the ACORD target Refugee Settlements

c. Capacity Building of Health Staff:

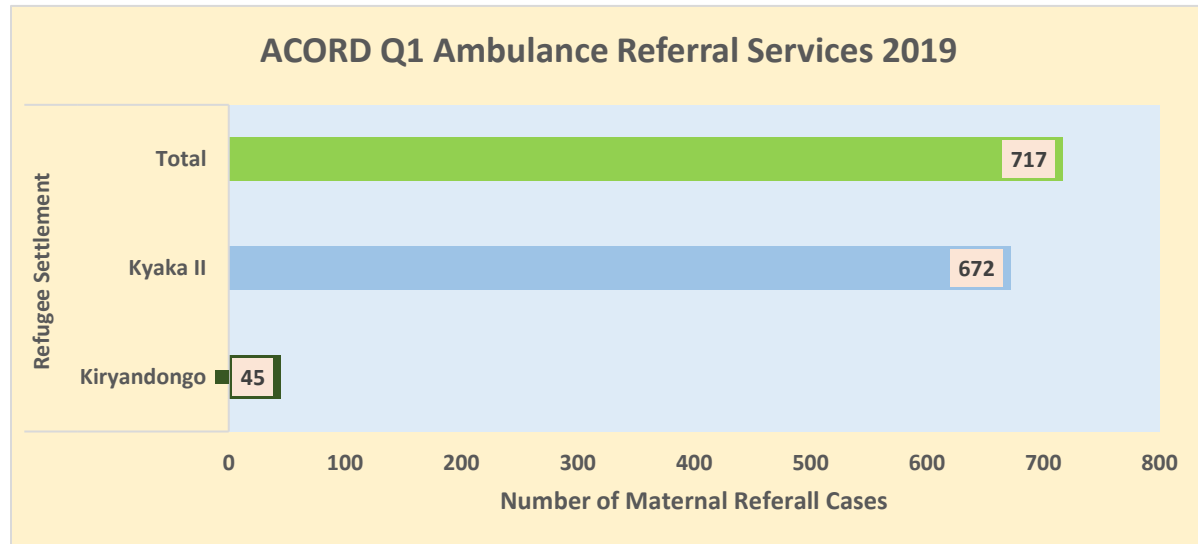
- A total of 51 health workers were supported by PATH to provide integrated supportive supervision to VHTs from 19 Health facilities
- 25,000 units of SAYANA were supplied to communities through the VHT
- A total of 97 VHTs were trained in Kiryandongo and Kyaka II.



Medical Staff from Health Facilities in Kiryandongo after a Training organized by ACORD-UNFPA in Gulu

d. Ambulance Services:

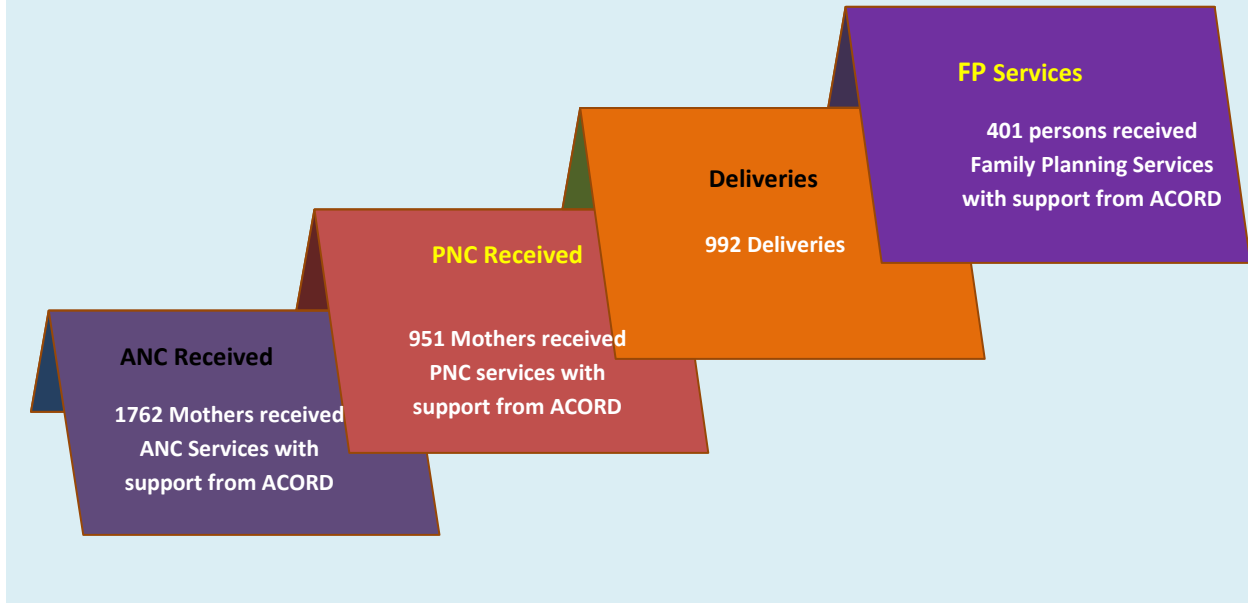
- In the 3rd Quarter, the Ambulance in Kiryandongo Refugee settlement facilitated 45 maternal related referrals, while that in Kyaka II supported 672 maternal referrals from the community
- In Quarter 4, the ambulance in Kyaka II supported 560 maternal referrals while a total of 65 maternal related referrals were conducted in Kiryandongo settlement.



2. Sexual and Reproductive Health in Non-Conflict Settings – Kasese, Kyegegwa, and Tororo

- 70 Young people clubs were established by the community mentors to roll out the Sexuality Education Framework (SEF)
- 15,177 youth out of school were reached through their SEF club activities, with sessions on reproductive health, peer to peer outreaches.
- 138 community mentors were selected and trained in life skills, adolescent reproductive health and SEF guidelines.
- 34 schools have been supported to rollout the SEF curriculum within the reporting period
- 142 teachers -71M and 71F, were selected and trained together with one CDO officers of the target districts.
- 26,210 young people were reached in schools through interactive learning sessions by the trained teachers
- A total of 1,762 mothers received ANC services in the following categories: 992 deliveries, 951 mothers PNC, 401 Family planning services, 45maternal related referrals conducted
- 3,778 people were reached with HIV/AIDS testing, cervical cancer screening, and family planning services. during outreaches in Kasese, Kyegegwa and Tororo
- 84,060 condoms were distributed during the outreaches.

ACORD Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Non-Conflict Areas



B.4.: Strategic Change Objective 4: *Strengthen ACORD's capacity for Research, Self-management, Learning and Advocacy, enabling staff to effectively engage with government and the private sectors as part of a wider social movement*

Outcome 4.1: Staff capacity built to effectively engage with stakeholders and undertake evidence based advocacy, research, self-management, and learning at national and regional level

- Six (6) staff In ACORD South Western Uganda with support from BftW underwent a phased training in lobbying and advocacy. The training helped staff to develop advocacy and lobbying strategies to engage the District local governments in the region to increase allocation of resources to domestic rainwater harvesting technology for communities living in hilly areas which are not adequately served by conventional technologies.
- Eight (08) ACORD staff in Eastern region, were trained on GBV and SRH concepts to enable them address and respond to GBV challenges and promote SRHR issues within their areas of operation. The trained staff have also been able to support and mentor 73 Male action groups and 42 SASA change agents across the region who are key advocates of GBV and SRH issues.
- The ACORD West Nile Region Programme Manager provided support to the ACORD Head Office finance department in Kampala. He performed the internal audit function of the organization, improving the organisation preparedness and organization of the books of accounts of the organisation for the external auditors.
- The West Nile region driver provided support to the ACORD western region team which first tracked activity implementation in project areas.

Outcome 4.2: Citizens active engagement in decision making at local and national levels to protect their political, economic, social, and cultural rights facilitated

- ACORD staff and the project structures have been involved in decision making processes both at the District and sub county level through participating in coordination meetings, budgets conferences among others.
- There has been increased participation of especially men in the fight against GBV attributed to the involvement of Male Action Groups in creating awareness and spearheading men as role models in their communities.
- There is increased knowledge on usage of the GBV referral pathway as indicated in the increased number of cases reported to the various referral points.

Section C: Impact Analysis:

Section C assesses the quantitative and qualitative changes created by ACORD's interventions among poor and hard to reach communities and population groups in refugee settings and conflict and non-conflict areas. The organization, in 2019, continued to work with: refugees (women, men, and young people), people with disability in humanitarian and development contexts, PLHIV, Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, and marginalized women and men. The indirect beneficiaries were: household members of refugees, caregivers of OVC, CSO/CBOs, and Local Government officials at district and sub county levels.

C.1. Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Improved harmony and co-existence in households of target parishes.

This was widely reported in the Spotlight and SIDA target parishes of Amuria, Bundibugyo, Kaberamaido, Kasese, Kyegegwa, Pader, Soroti, and Wakiso, and some refugee settlements where ACORD has set up and strengthened community structures (Change Agents and Male Mentors) that sensitize households and communities on GBV related issues. It is also reported in other districts in the South Western and West Nile where ACORD's livelihood interventions are changing male attitudes towards women.

- In the ACORD SIDA/Spotlight areas, the ACORD male mentors and Change Agents, through household to household and community dialogue sessions continued to demystify the values, beliefs and practices that reinforce the privilege of men and their role in society, and the unequal gender and power relations and their effects on rights, safety, security and wellbeing of women and girls. This increased knowledge on the dangers of GBV which has *improved sharing of household responsibilities and resources, increased reporting of GBV cases that has restrained*

perpetuators, and a reduction in harmful traditional practices like early marriages. It has also increased identification and support to SGBV survivors to access psychosocial, legal, security and economic services for all cases reported.

- In other ACORD target areas, the improved access to clean water in South Western Uganda target districts and in Bidi Bidi settlement has reduced the time that women and girls use for collecting water, translating it to address their households responsibilities. Women now have enough time for their households which has improved harmony in the homes.

Improved inclusion and consideration of women and vulnerable groups in community political, economic and social positions:

There is increased recognition of the role of women and other vulnerable groups across different dimensions of society. Similarly, capacity enhancement through the ACORD interventions has improved some women's self-esteem and confidence which has prompted them to vie for political positions.

- Women participating in the ACORD-KNH Self Help Group (SHG) child welfare activities in Ongako Sub County, Omoro district report improved contribution to household finances, while the self-esteem and confidence instilled in the women through the rotational leadership practices of the groups are factors in the election of Amono Doreen of Tic Ber SHG, in Lajok Odong village to the position of Mobilizer at Local Council III.
- In the ACORD-Johanniter PSN project implemented in Kyangwali Refugee settlement, the post awareness discussions with communities revealed increased and consideration of People with Disability (PWD) in the settlement's social, economic and political affairs due to the reduced stigma they had towards them.

C.2. Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods, Increase Climate Change Resilience and Enhance Natural Resource Management

C.2.1. Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods

Improved access to affordable financial services and productive assets for the vulnerable poor especially women:

- The 226 SILC groups in supported by ACORD in Mbarara and Isingiro Districts, with an average of 83.2% of the members women, have accumulated saving amounting to UGX 591,048,273 and a loan portfolio of UGX. 412,725,463/=. Through these groups, poor women without collateral security to access loans from banks have accessed different financial services which has increased their wellbeing.
- Additionally, the women have acquired productive assets, started diversified income generating activities resulting into improved standards of living. This has liberated them financially limiting their dependence on their spouses for both household and personal needs.

Improved income earning opportunities for young people (OVC) living with HIV:

The 69 (92%) of the 75 orphaned and vulnerable young people living with HIV/AIDS trained by ACORD in the SOCY project through Apprenticeship have been able to earn directly from the skills attained like hair dressing, motor mechanics, welding and tailoring. These have been able to improve their lives and homesteads as they are able to earn least 30,000/= each weekly. They also live a more responsible life than before and support their households with basic needs and medication.

General improvement in welfare of OVC households

Through the ACORD family centered approach, case management has seen communities empowered and consequently become self-reliant. As a result, 2,678 OVC households fully met the PEPFAR and MGLSD OVC standards domains of healthy, stable, safe and schooled, which are a general assessment of the wellbeing of OVC households, were graduated from the scheme. Similarly, the interventions under the savings model like the Education Fund (EDU-Fund) have increased school enrollment and retention of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC). Better parenting plus (BP+) has helped caregivers to improve parenting knowledge, attitude and skills. These contributed to improved welfare of OVC.

C.3. Good Health and Well-being and Access to Universal Quality Health Services

Access to Universal Quality Sexual and Reproductive Health Services and information improved for Vulnerable Refugees – This is a result of regular capacity strengthening of health providers at district, camp and village/zone levels in target refugee settings on quality SRH programmes like life-saving Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care services, SAYANA self-injection, and other community based interventions. ACORD is also supporting teams of community based health workers who have Increased Access to SRH services and information such as FP, ANC including male involvement in SRHR, conducted outreaches in hard to reach areas which have contributed to the adaptation of good health practices by the refugees.

Open defecation that was a common practice around target schools in Bidi Settlement eliminated: Pupils, teachers and management of Nyoko, Nyoko kobo and Kumia primary school that ACORD supported with construction two blocks each of four-stance pit latrines, report that open defecation is an occurrence of the past. Similarly, pupils no longer miss lessons because they have to go home to ease themselves. Five more institutional latrines are under construction in other schools which will greatly improve the general situation in the settlement.

The access and use of safe water has increased from 14 to 20 l/c/d in the areas of our interventions in Zones four (4) and five (5) in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement. 1563 people in zone 4 and over 7491 in zone 5 have improved access to safe water resulting from the ACORD motorized water supply systems, establishment of community operation and maintenance structures, among others. Beneficiaries now travel less than 150m to get water and no queuing and conflicts have been observed at the water points.

In the South Western Uganda project areas where a total 587 household Rainwater Harvesting tanks were constructed in target sub counties in Isingiro, Kiruhura and Mbarara, the distance to the water points is only 2 meters.

C.4. ACORD's capacity for Research, Self-management, Learning and Advocacy, Strengthened

Improved coordination of projects due to enhanced engagement with government and the private sectors at National, district, and Village levels. Joint planning with the relevant district and national level offices like; Community Based Services (district and sub counties), District Health Offices and management staff of health facilities, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health, among others, has been observed. ACORD also has MoUs with the different districts and refugee settlements of operations. This enhanced engagement has facilitated: Linkage of the different target groups to existing government programs like YLP, UWEP, PRELNOR; improved support to the different ACORD project community structures and has strengthened the ACORD referral mechanism.

Changes in practice at community, settlement and district levels as a result of ACORD's advocacy interventions:

- The continued campaigns among refugee communities in Yumbe and Kyangwali on their rights and responsibilities for a clean environment has changed their attitude towards better hygiene and sanitation practices. This is evidenced by minimal water related diseases being reported by the health partners operating in the areas. The demand for facilities for enhancing sanitation has also increased. Continued request for latrine digging tools has been recorded since the communities have realized their responsibility for maintaining good hygiene and sanitation.
- Once regarded as a private issue between husbands and wife, GBV is continually becoming a public concern that deprives homes of the much needed cooperation between husband and wife for better wellbeing of their homes. Male Action Group members, especially in the ACORD project areas of Eastern Uganda, tell stories of transformations in gender and power relations in the households that they have supported. Men are continuously realizing that they need to ensure the safety and support of their female counterparts to improve the socioeconomic wellbeing of their households. The increased reporting on cases of GBV at district and refugee settlement levels is a result of the improved knowledge on the negative effects of GBV. This is all credit to training and support to campaigns of male mentors in the different regions of ACORD areas of operation, on the Uganda National Male Engagement Strategy.
- The districts of operation have also not been left behind by the ACORD advocacy initiatives on GBV. ACORD successfully campaigned for the establishment of a functional GBV databases in Tororo

Section D: Lessons and Challenges:

D1. Challenges during 2019 project implementation:

We were challenged by the:

- ***Restricted and limited funds that cannot meet the High demand for services and facilities from community outside the ACORD target areas:*** this is a result of the quality work ACORD has done in different parishes of operations. The neighbouring areas that are not part of the project area continually send their leaders to advocate to ACORD for support to their locations, which is not possible because of restricted and limited funds.
- ***Highly entrenched cultural and religious values*** – especially in Northern Uganda operation areas is, to some extent, deterring the success of the organization's campaigns on use of Family planning, and reduce GBV. Campaigns in predominantly Catholic communities have yielded fewer clients for Family Planning Services compared to the more liberal communities. Similarly, ACORD

needs to work with the Acholi cultural structures to enhance support to the campaigns against SGBV.

- **Low participation in Savings and loan activities during the farming season** – has affected the performance of the Savings and Credit groups supported by ACORD in Northern Uganda. During these periods, member savings and loan repayment are low which ultimately affects the ability of members to borrow money to use for productive ventures and the groups’ loan to savings ratio.

D2. Lessons Learnt:

We have learnt that:

- Working in collaboration with government departments, UNHCR, OPM and the technical working groups minimizes duplication of projects and activities, and it ensures adherence to national standards and guidelines of different thematic areas.
- The welfare contributions by the Village Savings and Credit group members increases group harmony and cohesion. This fund is used by members to address emerging and serious challenges which has increased members sense of belonging and dignity.
- Women are key in environmental protection because they are the first line of contact and closest to natural resources because of the nature of their chores.
- Communities will enhance support for project interventions when they understand the relationship between the problem that the project addresses and their livelihoods.

Section E: Recommendation – Way Forward

- There is need for regular update of the ACORD-U website such that it depicts what is being done in the field locations.
- GBV impacts negatively on all other sectors, therefore a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach is necessary. Collaboration and partnership enhances synergies for a well-coordinated response. There is need for mainstreaming gender/ GBV programmes in all projects especially those targeting health.

Section G: Financial Statement

ACORD Uganda Financial Statement for 2019 by Donor, Income and Expenditure.

SN	Donor	Budget	Expenditure
1	Austrian Development Agency/HELIOZ	35,534,664	37,314,036
2	Bread for the World (Rain Water)	659,117,931	691,401,449
3	Bread for the World (Water Catchment)	275,505,000	215,784,618
4	Catholic Relief Services	1,028,875,832	946,120,072
5	HEKS Phase II	706,312,605	721,717,162
6	HEKS Phase III	206,876,369	206,701,241
7	Kinder Not Hilfe	72,633,106	50,900,151
8	Kitgum Concerned Women's Association	95,069,638	63,650,077
9	The Johanniter	48,836,564	49,296,905
10	United Nations Fund for Population	2,879,435,161	2,872,778,003
	Total	6,008,196,870	5,855,663,714

Section H: Donors and Development Partners

Special Thanks go to our Development and implementing Partners who funded most of the interventions and processes in this report, and directly participated in implementation and monitoring. These include:

- **Austrian Development Agency**
- **Bread for the World**
- **Catholic Relief Services**
- **District Local Government and CSOs/NGOs in the different Districts of operation**
- **Grand Challenge Canada (GCC)**
- **HEKS-EPER**
- **Host and Refugee Communities**
- **Kindernotlife (KNH)**
- **The Johanniter International Assistance (JUH)**
- **Uganda Water & Sanitation Network (UWASNET)**
- **United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) – SIDA, Spotlight**