



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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1. Message from the Country Director



Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to share highlights of how the ACORD Uganda programme performed in 2020.

Flashback to the previous year, ACORD Uganda was in February 2019, incorporated as an indigenous national Non-Government Organization mandated to work in the whole country. Key highlight for that year were the training of 278 male mentors in 9 districts who successfully sensitized 39,750 fellow men on challenging unequal gender and power relations in homes.

Now for 2020, with the coming on board of the USAID Integrated Child and Youth Development (ICYD) and Keeping Children Health and Safe (KCHS) projects, ACORD-U's operations scaled up to ten more districts in central, mid-western and south western Uganda where 32,062 orphans and their care givers will be given an opportunity to lead resilient, healthy and productive lives. ACORD joined the rest of the country to ensure that the 2021 elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. ACORD-U engaged the youth through social media, radio programmes, generation-for-generation discussions, roadside advocacy and billboards among others, to maintain peaceful coexistence before, during and after the elections. ACORD-U continued to support efforts to increase resilience of over 1,150 households for Persons with Specific Needs in Kyangwali refugee settlement and the host communities. 300 of these have been enrolled into various vocational skills training programmes, while 500 have joined savings and credit associations where they have been supported to accumulated over 14 million UGX in 2 months.

I would like to thank our partners in development who enabled ACORD-U to continue reaching out to people who are poor and marginalized and those that have been denied their rights. The districts Local Governments, different donor institutions and the communities in the ACORD-U districts of operations are specifically singled out.

Ellen Bajenja.

2. About ACORD - Uganda

About ACORD

Having been established in the UK in 1976 as a consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations committed to addressing emergencies in Africa, ACORD started operations in Uganda in 1979 and was formally registered in 1992 to operate as a local branch of ACORD International. On the 11th day of February 2019, the organization was incorporated as an indigenous Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), when it successfully completed the registration requirements of the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations in Uganda.

As per strategic plan 2016-2020, ACORD-U worked in common cause with people who are poor and those that had been denied their rights, to obtain social justice and development and be part of locally rooted citizen movements. The organization envisages a society in which all citizens are equally able to achieve their rights and fulfil their responsibilities. ACORD believes that people are the primary actors in their own survival and development. It works for social justice and equality, especially for the poor and marginalized. It works in partnership with communities and in alliance with other organizations, with integrity and courage. The organization respects and celebrates diversity, both within the communities and the organization, and seeks excellence in whatever it does.

The organization targets vulnerable communities in the both refugee settlements and settled communities for humanitarian and development interventions. The regional office in Adjumani district targets communities in the West Nile region (Yumbe, Arua and Adjumani districts) and refugees in Bidi bidi settlement. The regional office in Gulu supports communities in Omoro, Kitgum, Pader, and Otuke and refugees in Kiryandongo settlement. The South Western and Western regional office is located in Mbarara district, coordinating operations in Bundibugyo, Isingiro, Mbarara, Kasese, Sheema, Mitooma, Ibanda, Kazo, Kiruhura, and Kyaka II refugee settlement in Kyegegwa district. Operations in the Eastern region are coordinated from the regional office located in Tororo district targeting communities in Tororo, Kaberamaido and Amuria districts. Finally, the Head Office in Kampala serves as the Central Region office coordinating interventions in Kampala, Wakiso, Luwero, Mityana, Gomba, Kyenjojo, Kakumiro districts and Kyangwali refugee settlement in Kikuube district.

3. 2020 Projects and Locations

ACORD-U in 2020 implemented a total of 11 projects in over 40 districts across all regions of Uganda. A quick review of the projects shows that a big number of the interventions mainstreamed gender and women empowerment (40%), promoted health (30%) and peaceful co-existence (16%) and improved livelihoods (14%). All the 11 projects were expected to directly target 1,348, 958 vulnerable women, men boys and girls, with different services including SRHR, SGBV, WASH, livelihoods and research. The table below is a tabulation of the different projects implemented in 2020, their focus areas as well as the districts of operation.

Programme/Project Title	Programme Focus	Direct Target Populations	Location – district,
Increased Resilience and Income Support for Vulnerable Refugees and Host Community Communities in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social protection • Savings and lending • Skills building • Water, hygiene and sanitation • Health and nutrition 	1,150 Children at risk; The Elderly, People living with Disabilities (PWD), People Living with HIV (PLHIV)	Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, Kikuube District, mid-western Uganda – five villages of the settlement (Maratatu C, Maratatu B., Kavule, Kentome and Mombasa) and Kyangwali sub county
Promoting Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi Systems and Catchment Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and water conservation • Environmental conservation 	8,000 people (4,480F, 3,520M) – composed of the general community in the target sub-catchments; 8 community groups with a maximum of 20 members that will benefit from the conservation fund; 4 Community Water resources and environmental watchdog groups of 10 members each	Bushenyi, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Sheema, Buhweju, Kiruhura, Lwengo, Rakai, Lyantonde and Isingiro
Supporting Women Groups to Improve Resilience and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change in South West (SW) Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change and how to adapt to its effects on water security. • Water and Sanitation for hygiene • Environmental management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 Women groups and their households (15 people per household) • 120 disadvantaged youth out of school • About 700 children and 140 teachers • 7,000 church members 	<i>Mbarara District:</i> Rwizi, Bubaare, Biharwe, Nyakayojo, Rwanyamahembe, and Kashare Sub Counties <i>Kiruhura District:</i> Kanoni, Kashongi, Engari, <i>and Isingiro District:</i> Ngarama, Kabingo, Birere, Nyakitunda and Masha Sub Counties
Integrated Child and Youth Development (ICYD) activity	Education, social welfare and health,	26,273 children and youth (orphans and other vulnerable children)	All sub counties in the districts of Gomba, Kakumiro, Kyenjojo, Luwero and Mityana
Keeping Children Healthy and Safe (KCHS)	Economic empowerment, health	Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW)	

Community Responsibility to Enhance Transparency and Accountability (CRETA)	Social Accountability	Communities, local and district leaders	Kiruhura and Mbarara districts
Improving Sustainable WASH for Services and Schools for South Sudanese Refugees in Bidibidi Settlement	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	31,448 school children; 21,055 refugees; 10,393 members of the host community	Zones 4 and 5 of Bidibidi Refugee settlement and host community, Yumbe district.
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: Humanitarian Action Coordinated	Gender based Violence in emergencies; Maternal health services in emergencies	1,778 pregnant women, 598 Youth and women , 133 GBV survivors	Kyaka II refugee Settlement, Kyegegwa district
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: Improved Capacity for Family Planning Delivery, including in Humanitarian context	Training of community and health facility family planning providers; Family Planning services in humanitarian context; supply chain management and data generation systems	2,500 women trained; 42,000 clients reached, 80,000 people reached with information; 75 VHT; 177 health workers; refugee/district leaders 30	Kiryandongo refugee settlement; Palabek refugee settlement, Lamwo district;
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: Comprehensive Maternal Health service	Sexual and reproductive health; SGBV	1,328 mothers: 96 health workers; 10,000 IDPs; 5000 youth and adolescents; 2 midwives; 5,334 displaced pregnant women; 6,668 displaced youth; 34 SGBV survivors; 60 health workers	Kiryandongo and Kyaka II refugee settlements; Bududa; Bundibugyo; Sironko; Bulambuli;
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: – Reproductive rights and GBV prevention	SRHR, GBV, Social Accountability	198 pregnant women; 260 GBV survivors; 87 Health workers;	Omoror, Otuke, and Pader
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: Harnessing the Youth's Potential for Sustaining Peace in Uganda	Peace building, Advocacy and lobbying	480,445 Young people 15-24 years; 30 radio presenters; 20 artists; 50 sports coaches, cheerleaders and ex-players	Bundibugyo, Kasese, Wakiso/Kampala
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: SIDA	SRHR, GBV	157 community agents; 34,560 women and men; 25 staff members; 140 Male Action Group members; 21 out of school youth; 68,160 youth; 70 senior women; 2,800 adolescents; 25 midwives; 1,200 women; 3,150 women	Gulu, Kampala, Kiryandongo, Bundibugyo, Tororo, Amuria, Kaberamaido
GOU/UNFPA Country Programme Support: Spot Light	SGBV, SRHR	29,760 women, men, boys and girls	Kasese, Kampala, Kyegegwa, Tororo

4. Conflict Transformation for Sustainable Peace

Youth and Peacebuilding in Bundibugyo, Kasese and Wakiso: In spite of the tendency to treat youth as a problem to be solved rather than as partners for development, there are extraordinary young people creatively seeking ways to prevent violence and consolidate peace. ACORD-U, through the UNFPA supported Project for *“Harnessing Youth Potential for Sustaining Peace in Uganda”* leveraged on this energy to promote young women and men’s participation in peace building and leadership initiatives in the three target districts.

685,800 young women and men directly reached with peace building messages in the 3 target districts

“In the G4G dialogue in Bundibugyo, we learnt to accept and appreciate each other’s contribution towards peaceful coexistence; elders contribute doctrine and guidance and young people contribute their energy to make the peace process possible.”

William Kasujja, youth representative, Bundibugyo

Young men and women, during the Generation for Generation (G4G) dialogues, cited triggers of Conflict in the 3 districts as:

- Negative attitudes and stereotypes towards youth
- Youth unemployment:
- Monetization of Politics
- Youth exclusion from core decision making
- Youth exclusion from Peace Building Processes
- Manipulation by leaders
- Lack of income

229 participants in the G4G dialogues in the 3 districts

The Generation for Generation (G4G) dialogues were used as platforms for discussions between young women and men and the local governments, elders, local leaders, religious, cultural and opinion leaders in the three target districts. The G4G provided vital information on, and solutions to issues of youth participation in leadership and peacebuilding initiatives. The information from the G4G was used to design advocacy messages including a dossier on **YOUTH VOICES ON INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE-BUILDING PROCESSES IN UGANDA**.



119 youth from the informal sector – Boda Boda and road-side vendors in Bundibugyo, Kasese and Wakiso that trained as Peace Champions continued to sensitize their peers on peaceful co-existence during and after the national and local elections.



30 young people composed of 16 female and 14 male, in December 2020, reached out to fellow youth on the streets of Kampala to promote peaceful participation in the 2021 general elections

Reinforcing Peaceful Coexistence among Refugees and Hosts in Rwamwanja: Relations between refugees and host communities are complex and differ from place to place. There are many examples of good relations between the two groups, which particularly manifest themselves in peaceful interactions at shared health centers, schools, markets and joint livelihood support groups (IRRI, 2019). ACORD-U partnered with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and HEKS-EPER to promote the good relations between the refugees and hosts in Rwamwanja refugee Settlement in Kamwenge District of Western Uganda through the project - *Strengthened Livelihoods and Improved Conflict Management project*.

Potential Conflict Factors in Rwamwanja refugee settlement:

- The strain of larger numbers of refugees was taking a toll on the un-increasing service delivery
- Continued discrimination of some refugees by the host communities at shared social services
- Practices of negligence by some members of the host community whose cattle was damaging the refugees' gardens
- Competition for resources such as agricultural and grazing land, water and forests
- Abuses by security organs, including police and the army as they enforced government COVID-19 regulations.

What ACORD-U was able to do:

- Joint conflict sensitivity meetings for the hosts and refugees reaching 130 (61 males 69 females) host community members and 158 (91 Males 67 females) refugees
- Trained implementing partners in the settlement on integration of peace and conflict sensitivity approaches in their humanitarian work with affected communities.
- Trained community structures i.e. (LCs, Cultural, Youth and Religious leaders) who are relentlessly working to reduce the likelihood of local tensions from escalating into violence, and mediating conflict situations.
- Formation of three school peace clubs – composed of 90 (45 boys: 45 girls) students - in Schools in Buguta zone, Rwamwanja Secondary School and Nkoma COU Primary school in Nkoma Zone to counter refugee pupils and students' discrimination in schools.
- Formation of refugee and host community farming groups to reinforce peaceful interactions.

5. Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Change Mitigation

Reducing poverty and inequality of Persons with Special Needs (PSN) in Kyangwali: PSN are often excluded from mainstream assistance programs because of attitudinal, physical and social barriers. Especially for PSN in refugee settlements, they are often forgotten when specialized and targeted services are established. As a result, very few can cope with and recover from the stresses and shocks of refugee life and maintain or enhance capabilities and assets for sustainable livelihoods. ACORD-U with support from the BMZ through the Johanniter International Assistance (JUH) established 20 PSN self-help clubs in Kyangwali refugee settlement. Through these clubs, 1,150 PSN composed of the elderly, PWD, PLHIV and children at risk, selected from 6 out of 19 villages in the settlement, have access to funds and training to set up their own microenterprises, vegetable gardens and psychosocial supports for their emotional wellbeing.



A training session on backyard/vegetable gardening for PSN in Kavule Village, Kyangwali refugee settlement. 1,150 targeted PSN selected from the 6 target villages were trained in establishment and management of the gardens. 540 had established gardens by reporting time.



In the above photo, PSN of Kyangwali Sub County during a weekly savings meeting. They represent the host community and are part of the 500 currently engaged in the VSLA activities. The 20 VSLA groups have in the last 5 months saved 27,103,000 Ugx. with a social fund of 847,300 Ugx



Some of the 1,150 PSN during one of the Self Help Group awareness sessions. The sessions are used to educate PSN on micro enterprise development, finance literacy, nutrition, among others. Some PSN households have used the knowledge on sanitation to establish basic sanitation facilities like; plate drying racks (27), household pit latrines (4) in the last 3 months.

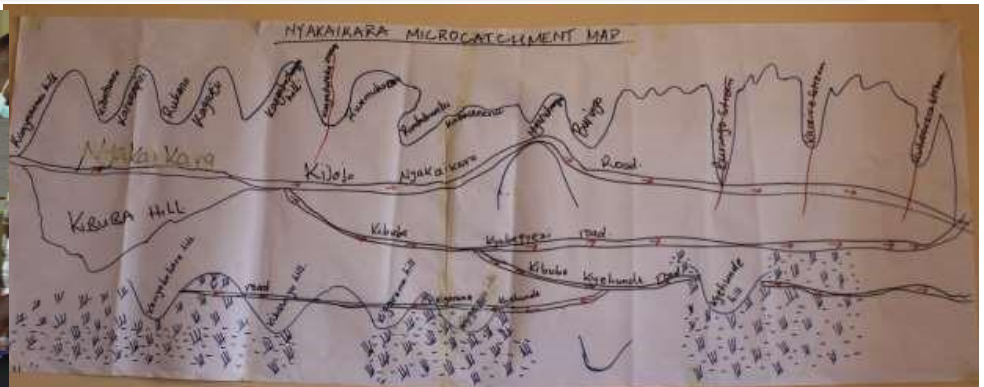
Community Engagement on Climate Change Mitigation in Southwestern Uganda: Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are usually addressed through top-down plans, while little attention is put on the behavioral aspects of adapting lifestyles and patterns of development from the community perspective. Through the Bread for the World funded project for: *Promoting Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi Systems and Catchment Area*, ACORD-U adopted a bottom-up approach to catchment management. Communities in the target areas of Nyakaikara, Kakondo, Kongoro, Kamukaki, Ihoho, and Ndeija were at the forefront of catchment assessment, analysis, and activity planning and management.

The project for *Promoting the Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi System and Catchment Area* covers the hydrological boundaries of Rwizi Catchment which comprises 10 Districts including; Bushenyi, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Sheema, Buhweju, Kiruhura, Lwengo, Rakai, Lyantonde and Isingiro. Total population of the area was approximately 1,637,178 people at the time of project inception.



Community members during a transect walk to assess catchment landscape issues.

Nyakaikara Micro-catchment community planning session. A map after community inputs





Community awareness and capacity Enhancement in Alternative Water Resources and Environmental Technology was essential for catchment management and improving community land and water management, in Kakondo/Kamukaki Micro-catchment.

People reached during community awareness and planning on catchment protection:

Male (2,400)
Female: (3,600)
15-24 yrs: (2200)
30-49yrs: (2400)
50+: (550)



Communities were trained on different structures for adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects. The picture is of a practical demonstration of a mandala backyard garden at one of the Homesteads in the Ndejja Micro catchments.



After community education on climate change adaptation strategies, some community members have started constructing soil water conservation structures like this trench in one of a community member's gardens in Kakondo.

Child rights and protection by enhancing mothers' income opportunities in Omoro district: Observers and officials in northern Uganda were concerned that parents' failure to support their children was leading many into criminal activities like theft and prostitution to sustain themselves. Others were left exposed and vulnerable and fell prey to crimes including sexual abuse (Relief web, 2012). ACORD-U is supporting the economic, social and political empowerment of women in Angako sub county of Omoro district to get an income that will enable them to take care of their children. Through the Kindernothilfe (KNH) supported project for: *Scaling up child protection through empowerment of marginalized women in Northern Uganda, by 2025*, 45 Self Help Groups (SHG) have so far been formed through which 597 women meet to conduct savings and loan activities. A total of 1,643 children are being supported by the women participating in the SHG .

The SHG Approach is a rights-based approach which views poverty as the denial of rights and poverty alleviation as a process of reclaiming one's rights. Given the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, the SHG Approach puts equal emphasis on the goals of economic, social and political empowerment. In order to achieve these goals, it offers a framework and guidance for establishing a 'People's Institution' which provide an environment of trust and cooperation in which people come to realize they are able to help themselves to achieve the economic, social and political goals that they themselves define (Kindernothilfe).

17,701,500 UGX total capital for the 45 SHG in Ongako Sub County, Omoro district.



Training new SHG on the SHG concept



A member of Kony Can (Support Poverty) feeding the chicken they are jointly rearing as an income generation activity.

6. Access to Universal Quality Health services

Accessing Health Services to Marginalized Communities and Refugees: Many vulnerable communities are in villages that are far away from the Government Health Facilities and therefore cannot access the necessary medication for main ailments. Over 80 per cent of the refugee population live in densely populated settlements with inadequate health infrastructure and WASH facilities which are necessary for treatment of many sicknesses including COVID-19 prevention.

ACORD-U in 2020 with support from different development partners including the UNFPA, USAID, HEKS-EPER and the BMZ supported hard to reach communities in refugee settlements, villages in Eastern and South Western Uganda to access vital preventive and curative health services. Using different strategies like outreaches; strengthening health facility human resources, group and house to house sensitization, mapping and referrals, over 100,000 youth, women, children and men were supported to access maternal, child, HIV, SRHR and other health services, and to respond to challenge posed by COVID-19 in the organization's target districts.

ACORD-U supported districts hosting refugees to improve on the numbers and skills of their health teams to meet the demand for maternal health services brought about by increasing number of refugees and asylum seekers. Working with the district health teams in Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja, ACORD recruited 8 midwives and strengthened skills of selected community structures on DMPA SC including self-injection. The midwives who are placed in health centers that serve refugees and are supervised by the health facility administrations were, in 2020, able to attend to 18,470 pregnant women who visited the centers after mapping by the ACORD trained community workers and those that came after attending different health awareness sessions by ACORD in collaboration with other stakeholders.



Christopher Kwikiriza is a male midwife recruited by ACORD and attached to Mukondo HC in Kyaka II settlement, Kyegegwa.



ACORD Social Worker during one of the home visits to Moshy's home

Support to Drug Adherence for Children Living with HIV

Moshy Junior whose source of HIV contraction remains a mystery, was diagnosed with HIV at the age of 12 years, when he tested HIV positive his mother who was at the moment staying with him at his grandparents' home refused to have him started/Enrolled on ART which resulted to acute illness that led to his paralysis/crippling, John was only able to start ART treatment three years later at the age of Fifteen at Kasheshero H/CIII when his health had already deteriorated.

The fact that Moshy had been crippled and therefore couldn't stand, walk or even talk, with the environment he his living in (staying with elderly Caregivers) life became hell on earth for him. He needed be to carried like a baby to the health facility for drug re-fill and & bleeding for viral load, the task that proved extremely difficult and almost impossible for the elderly caregivers to handle which resulted to continuous missing of appointments at the facility and getting overdue for viral load monitoring.

In order to address the issue of missing appointments, the social worker has done 3 drug refills. A health worker has been ridden the Moshy's home to do VL bleeding, now awaiting results adherence counselling has also been done and will be done continuously.

Health Outreaches for Access to Reproductive Health Services in Hard-to-Reach Areas – Akello’s Story



For many people in hard to reach areas, outreaches may be their only source to access health care opportunities. Akello, aged 33 years, from Patiko Sub County, Gulu, is one of the thousands of women in need of health care who cannot easily access it from the government supported and private clinics. Outreaches are almost the only way to speak to a health professional about her condition.

“The Health facility is about 20 km away, and the means of transport to that facility is next to impossible. One has to move by boda boda which is expensive and most times risky. Even when you get to the health facility, you have to wait long hours and sometimes you don’t get attended to because there are many people and very few staff. Sometimes they tell you that there is no medicine and you have to buy the drugs from pharmacies that charge expensively”.

ACORD organizes health outreaches in collaboration with the health facilities to provide integrated health services to communities far away from the health facilities. The three-day events are attended by women and men to access medicines, information and services on family planning, STI, HIV and other reproductive health related conditions.



Health workers from different stakeholders during one of integrated health outreaches in Gulu

Improved Water Supply for Sustainable Health

“Before the ACORD-U WASH project started in Bidi Bidi settlement in 2017, the WASH situation was extremely poor. As refugees, we depended solely on water trucking where by trucks delivered water into a 10,000 liter tank (Tank No. 134) twice a day for a population of 115 Households (HHs). By sphere minimum standards of 15 liters per person per day (l/p/d), this was adequate but the mode of delivery and distribution was a major issue: Delivery was irregular; sometimes no water was delivered for up to three days. During the distribution, there was always a lot of struggle and so much water would be lost as it splashed away during the struggle as each individual wanted to collect first. By 3.00 o’clock in the afternoon water would be finished! And by the time it was delivered water needs were usually would have accumulated e.g. there would be many clothes and utensils requiring to be washed. Cases of fighting at water points were frequently reported to my office – almost daily, arising from people struggling to be served first once the water has been delivered. Water related sicknesses particularly skin problems as a result of not bathing well also regularly.

With the construction of the ACORD-U Solar Powered motorized Piped water system in Zone 4 , water is available from the tap stands 24hrs a day; one can collect water at any time. However, at 7.30pm and for security reasons, it is closed and opened at 8.00am each day. The situation is now much better. There is enough water to meet the minimum sphere requirement of 15 liters per person per day. It is being used for drinking, washing clothes bathing, brick laying and vegetable growing. No cases of disputes arising from clashes at water points are being reported.”

Morris Wani, Chairperson Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) 1, Village 7, Zone 4.



Achievements on Health in Figures

Indicators	Actual Value
Pregnant mothers utilizing antenatal care at health facilities supported by health professionals in refugee settlement	21,506
Pregnant mothers utilizing ANC, PNC, FP at health facilities supported outside refugee settlements	28,276
Births attended by skilled health personnel at health facilities in refugee settlements	9,396
Pregnant women referred for EmONC through the strengthened ambulance system	4,690
Mothers benefits from Postnatal care utilization at health facilities supported by this grant	6,753
GBV survivors supported with post rape services (including emergency contraception, post exposure prophylaxis, psychosocial counselling etc) within 72 hours	17
Youth and women reached with ASRH information and services-Kyaka II settlement	1,277
Pregnant women mapped	5,339
GBV survivors supported with information, clinical services and/or referred for other specialized services	84
Clients reached with information and services	79,721
People reached with information	148,800
Cchampions trained to reach community members with SRHR/FP information to increase uptake of contraception	201
Number of trained VHTs in DMPA SC including self-injection for 7 days (50 in new district and 25 in expansion in old districts)	99
Number of incentives and supplies Provided to health workers and VHTs to promote service delivery readiness.	776
Number district leadership sensitized through meetings Conducted with district/refugee settlement leadership on FP and self-injection with DMPA-SC (New districts).	40
Number of persons attending the meeting by PATH in Extended district Health Team meetings 1 time a year	57
Number frontline health workers mobilized and trained-Bundibugyo, Sironko and Bududa	75
Number of youth & adolescents receiving Adolescent Youth Friendly / Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right (AYF/SRHR) services	4,849
Number of people reporting reduced incidences of water borne diseases as a result of access to clean and safe water	
Number of people with access to equipment, implements and hygiene resources to aid the fight against COVID-19	

Responses to Covid-19 Pandemic

Project Implementation in the Context of COVID-19

- Adopting the approach to working with individual households rather than the planned group meetings for some activities.
- Integration of COVID-19 prevention, control and management responses in the mainstream project activities.
- Purchase and distribution of COVID-19 supplies like face masks, handwashing equipment to community groups
- House to house sensitization of target communities on COVID-19 management.



ACORD-U COVID-19 Responses Activities

Kyangwali Refugee Settlement	Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,070 bars of white soap procured and distributed to the target PSN households • 390 hand washing facilities inclusive of 200 water storing jerry cans with a tap and metallic stands • 60 PSN Change Agents trained in the 6 target villages to trace and refer COVID-19 cases to health facilities • Community awareness and sensitization on COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road drives and radio talk shows on COVID-19 risk communication focusing on hand washing with soap, social distancing and wearing of masks • Support to 640 vulnerable households with vegetable and legume seeds to increase consumption of highly nutritious foods at household level.

7. Gender and women empowerment

Women's empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It includes increasing a woman's sense of self-worth, her decision-making power, her access to opportunities and resources, her power and control over her own life inside and outside the home, and her ability to effect change (Peace Corps). Largely supported by the UNFPA, ACORD-U promotes women empowerment and gender equality through methodologies and approaches like; SASA! Men to Men, women and youth safe spaces, gender mainstreaming and community awareness.



GBV survivors during a meeting with ACORD staff and a district Local Government official. These meetings are used for psychosocial support and to assess the needs of the survivors.

A survivor who accessed funds from ACORD to start an Income Generation Activity



ACORD GBV Services in Figures

Number of Male Action Group models/ToT trained on the men to men curriculum and supported to roll it out in their institutions	226
Number of men and women directly reached with information on GBV – prevention, response and mitigation	149,946 (79,211 Male and 70,735 Female)
Number out of school young people’s clubs established and or strengthened and supported to roll out the SEF curriculum	33
Number of out of school female and male youth reached with information on SEF	28,494 (12048 Male and 16446 Female)
Number of schools supported with menstrual hygiene management for Adolescent girls to keep girls in school	35
Number of senior women and men teachers identified and trained on menstrual hygiene	80
Number of adolescent girls reached with menstrual hygiene management by trained teachers	1,302
Number GBV survivors mobilized and given financial support to access legal, health, psychosocial and other GBV related services	670
Number of survivors equipped with livelihood skills	20
Number of survivors supported to start IGAs and linked to economic enterprises and mentorship programs	93
Number of GBV survivors provided with psychosocial support	90
Number of safe shelter staff oriented and mentored on safe shelter guidelines and operation principles	70
Number of shelters equipped with necessary facilities	3
Number of men and women aware of existence and role of safe shelters	1,140
Number of Cases managed and supported at shelters.	42
Number of GBV survivors supported to access medico-legal services	20
Number of displaced women, girls, boys & men served with GBV services in target districts of Sironko, Bududa, Bulambuli and Bundibugyo	4,733
A clearly established and functional coordination systems with mechanism for prevention and responding to GBV in Sironko, bududa, Bulambuli and Bundibugyo	4
Number (50) parish level MAGs established in the 5 districts to roll out the men to me curriculum	45

8. Advocacy Research and Documentation

ACORD-U research related interventions are undertaken to generate evidence for use by advocates, programmers, scholars, and politicians. Some of the research projects are undertaken in collaboration with international and national Universities. In the year 2020, ACORD was involved in two research projects which generated vital information for programming and policy.

Adherence to COVID-19 SOPs amidst Water Scarcity:

The REFLECT Study implemented by a consortium comprising; Makerere University, Gulu University, Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACORD-U), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Ministry of Health, collected data on WASH as part of its assessment of the knowledge, adherence, and lived experiences of refugees in 3 refugee locations of Kisenyi, Kyaka II and Adjumani. In line with WASH, the study particularly assessed adherence to handwashing by refugee and host communities.

Key finding: Worth noting is that in the Kisenyi area, regular handwashing was adhered to especially among Muslim refugees because it matched with their cultural & religious practices. It was however noted that much as some refugees adopted the use of hand sanitizers, most people in the Somali community in Kisenyi could not use sanitizers because they contain alcohol which is against their religious norms.

Refugee Youth Volunteering Uganda (RYVU)

RYVU was an international research project focused on exploring the kinds of voluntary labour practiced by young refugees in Uganda and how these impact on their skills, employability and the inequalities they experience. The Research was conducted in collaboration with: Loughborough University; Northumbria University; University of Science and Technology Mbarara; and Uganda Martyrs University. Local partners involved were: UYDEL, YARID, AFARD, and Uganda Red Cross Society.

Field work on this research was put on hold due to COVID-19. Research is expected to continue in 2021 after a comprehensive and lengthy review of safety procedures both at Northumbria University and by the Ugandan National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST).

9. Impact Analysis

- Change in practices by some community members to protect the environment especially in the wetlands of River Rwizi Catchment in south western Uganda. ACORD-U community Environment Watchdogs, report on households that have voluntarily left the wetland before enforcement of bye-laws set by the community.
- In appreciation of the importance these water resources after the ACORD supported cross-peer learning community members in Buhweju have constructed soil water conservation structures like Stone bands.
- Reducing misconceptions that GBV is a women's affair: The Male Action Groups have created a critical mass of male activists against GBV within their community. This strength in numbers is beginning to demonstrate effectiveness in challenging misconceptions that GBV is a women's affair and about how women should be treated in the communities.
- Mechanisms for sustaining activities of community structures established: Male Action Groups established by ACORD-U in Gulu have started savings and credit activities which will keep them together as a group to continue planning and implementing SGBV awareness activities in their communities.
- Reduced culture of silence on SGBV: Especially for the men who are culturally not expected to expose GBV meted out on them, the Male Action Group members revealed that the number of men seeking counselling, guidance and support for GBV related issues has increased.
- Engagement in Self Help Group (SHG) activities has built women's confidence which has improved their participation in community affairs. The newly elected LC III women councilor for Ongako Sub County is a member of the SHG. Many other women, members of the SHG attribute confidence to participate in community meetings and managing affairs of their homes to the weekly SHG engagements.
- Through capacity building and mentorships, the MAGs are now GBV resourceful persons within their communities, this is because of the activities they are involved in e.g. women's rights advocates, GBV case identification and referral, offering counselling services to survivors, mediating in some of the GBV cases among others

10. Emerging Issues – Lessons and Challenges

- Increasing cost of project activities due to COVID-19: this was due to the need to purchase COVID-19 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for staff and some project participants and change in implementation approach. Development partners were informed about these changes to seek their approval.
- Working under the new norm of COVID-19 has promoted campaign for hygiene and sanitation. Continuous sensitization and awareness sessions on routine hand washing, wearing of protective face masks and observance of social distance have been done.
- The project has continued to learn that Involvement of local leadership and community in project processes determines the success of any intervention
- Community groups in Hard to reach areas need to be trained and supported to make soap. This is especially important for income generation and maintaining hygiene in these times of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 looks set to continue, especially with new strains being identified. This will necessitate integration of COVID-19 response interventions in the main on-going project activities.

11. Human Resources

100 Total number of staff as per December 2020. **54** were female, **46** were male.

28 new staff were recruited on different projects in the course of the year.

5 Staff left the organization. **Two** due to end of projects, **three** got other options

Staff Profile:

Dunstan Ddamulira Paul

Dunstan Ddamulira Paul is one of the longest serving staff of ACORD Uganda, having joined the organisation in 1995. Until May 2015 Dunstan worked as Programme Manager for the ACORD Regional Office in Mbarara. Dunstan currently works as Director of Programmes, responsible for overseeing the programming department, specifically providing guidance towards the development, implementation and delivery all organizational projects. Under a tripartite arrangement between OPM, KfW and NIRAS/ACORD he also provides part time Engineering Consultancy Services to the Office of the Prime Minister's Department of Refugees.

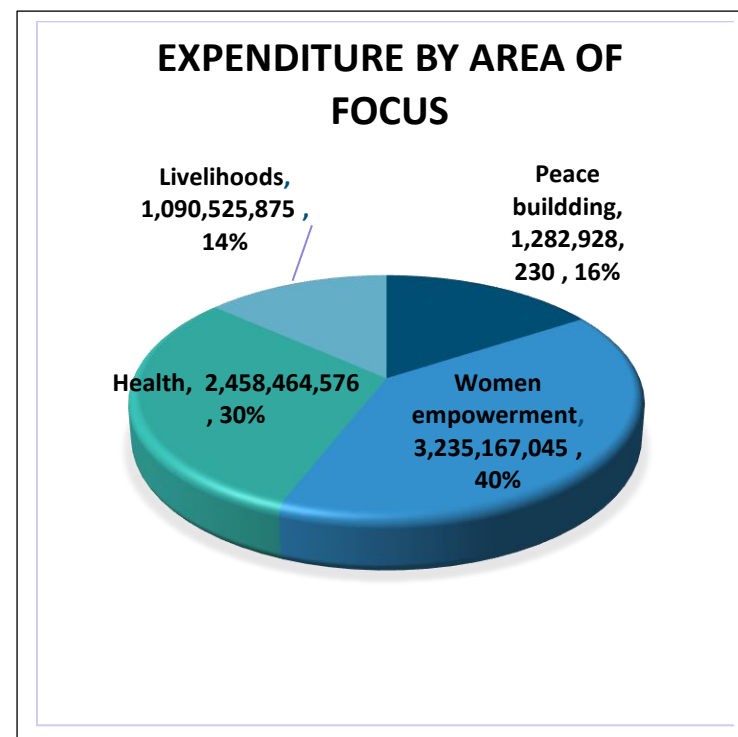
Dunstan holds a Masters in Institutional Management and Leadership, a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Building engineering, a Diploma in Water Engineering, and currently pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering at Makerere University.

Dunstan, in 2021, will be recognized by the Government of Uganda under ERB Act 1969, CAP. 271 as a legally recognized professional Engineer.









12. Finances

SN	2020 Projects by Donor and Thematic Focus	2020 Expenditure in UGX	2020 Income in UGX
1	Bread for The World - Rain Water - Health	769,919,644	746,667,082
2	Bread for The World - Water Catchment (Rwizi)-Livelihoods	570,096,000	737,219,493
3	USAID - SOCY -Health	643,046,146	601,453,500
4	HEKS Bidi Bidi - Health	507,882,786	509,859,379
5	HEKS Rwamwanja - Peace Building	172,853,330	154,886,024
6	USAID - ICYD (Integrated Child and Youth Development) - Health	199,752,313	261,850,178
7	Inspectorate of Government - Governance	37,830,000	185,288,700
8	BMZ-Johanniter- Livelihoods	436,641,458	855,700,000
9	USAID - KCHS (Keeping Children Health and Safe) - Health	110,103,687	110,103,687
10	Kinder Not Hilfe - Livelihoods	45,958,417	45,530,250
11	USAID - Uganda Sanitation for Health (USHA) - Health	227,760,000	233,600,000
12	United Nations Fund for Population – Gender and Women Empowerment, Peace Building	4,345,241,945	4,745,088,231
Total		8,067,085,726	9,187,246,524



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:

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