

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Women, Men, Boys  
and Girls*

Engaged for Justice,  
Health, Productive and  
Sustainable Livelihoods

**A·C·O·R·D**  
Agency for Co-operation in Research and Development  
**UGANDA**

# 2022



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## OUR OBLIGATIONS FOR 2021-2025

Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development - Uganda (ACORD Uganda) is a National Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that has worked in Uganda since 1979 initially as an implementing arm of ACORD International. ACORD Uganda is, as of 2019, an independent indigenous nationally incorporated Non-Governmental Organization (registration certificate

number: INDR1991934NB). National registration allowed ACORD-U to be governed by a national (local) Board of Directors under the NGO Act of 2017. The organization believes that target groups and communities including men and women have a duty to improve the societies in which they live by being active agents of change.

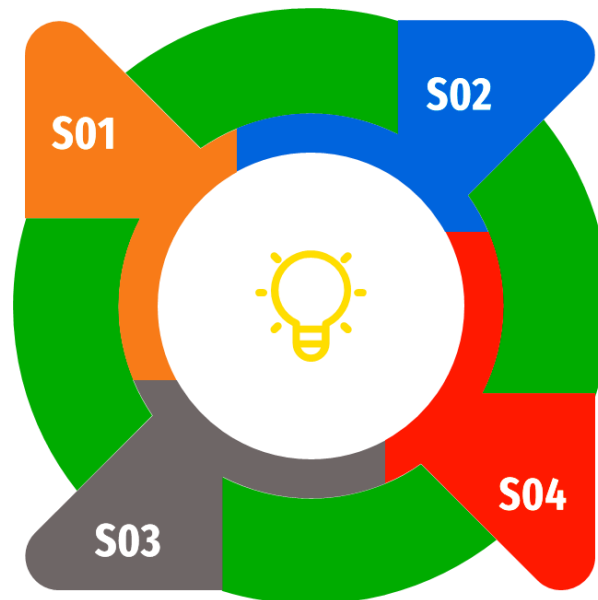
### ACORD Uganda Strategic Objective 2021-2025

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To Contribute to health and well-being and access to universal health care.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To achieve peaceful, just and inclusive communities that are free from violence



#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

To build sustainable livelihoods, increase climate change resilience and enhance natural resource management.

#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To Strengthen the capacity of ACORD Uganda and partners for effective Management, Research and self-sustainability

## WE VASUALIZE

A society where people are engaged, live in peaceful and just communities, have sustainable livelihoods, and lead healthy and productive lives with their rights upheld.

## OUR PURPOSE

We work in partnership with marginalized communities and those who have been denied their rights to analyze their situation and jointly find sustainable solutions to improve their well-being.

## OUR VALUES



Excellence



Social Justice



Integrity



Respect



Participation



Accountability



Equality



Diversity

## OUR PROGRAMS

*Our programs speak to the mission to “work in partnership with marginalized communities and those who have been denied their rights to analyze their situation and jointly find sustainable solutions to improve their well-being”.*

INTERVENTIONS	TARGET GROUPS
<p>1) <b>Health and productive lives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water, sanitation, and hygiene</li> <li>• Sexual reproductive health and rights</li> <li>• HIV prevention and response</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vulnerable Communities in Uganda</b></p> <p>Children (esp. OVC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Elderly</li> <li>• People living with HIV</li> <li>• Persons with disabilities</li> </ul> <p><b>People in displacement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internally displaced</li> <li>• Refugees</li> <li>• Host communities</li> </ul>
<p>2) <b>Sustainable livelihoods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and food security</li> <li>• Income generation</li> <li>• Vocational and entrepreneurship skills development</li> <li>• Environmental protection (climate-smart agriculture)</li> <li>• Integrated Water Resources Management</li> </ul>	
<p>3) <b>Engaged, peaceful, and just communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing communities into groups and associations</li> <li>• Capacity building and empowerment</li> <li>• Human rights awareness</li> <li>• Grass-root led advocacy</li> <li>• Sexual gender-based violence prevention and response</li> <li>• Violence against children prevention and response</li> </ul>	
<p>4) <b>Institutional capacity building –ACORD Uganda and Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional capacity building</li> <li>• Research and policy analysis</li> <li>• Advocacy and policy influencing</li> <li>• ICT-aided program implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning</li> <li>• Gender mainstreaming and periodic gender audits</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACORD Uganda</li> <li>• Local government structures</li> <li>• CBOs</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Networks (PLHAs, PWDs, Youth</li> <li>• Women, youth, and farmer groups</li> </ul>

## OUR COMMITMENTS FOR 2022

### PROGRAMME FOCUS

### Summary of Target for 2022



#### Health and productive lives

- Enhancement of water supply to water-stressed areas
- Training and support of community structures on health delivery models.
- Health works oriented on different health models
- Orphans and Caregivers served across the four domains of stable, schooled, healthy and safe
- Menstrual Health Management in schools
- Integrated service camps to bring health services closer to communities.



#### Sustainable livelihoods, climate change resilience and natural resource management

- Skilling of women and youth on employable skills.
- Development of Micro-Catchment Management plans and rejuvenation of wetland systems
- Construction of micro-irrigation schemes
- Training of women groups trained in climate change adaptation and conservation mechanisms.
- Establishment of environment conservation facilities
- Construction of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities



#### Engaged, peaceful and just communities free of violence

- Empower GBV survivors in social economic skills to reduce vulnerability
- Strengthen community structures to facilitate community awareness of SGBV



#### Capacity building research and advocacy

- Staff training on different health models
- Conduct Survey on the nutrition and WASH conditions among refugees and host communities in Palabek, Lamwo
- Conduct joint monitoring and support supervision with local governments
- Policy and influencing on SRHR



ACORD Uganda's Health Programs strengthen capacities of vulnerable communities to demand, access and utilization health services.

## **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2022:**

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### **A. HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES**

*Our thematic program on Health applies different strategies to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable communities to demand, access, and utilization of health services. The year 2022 had several achievements in this area as seen below;*

- i) Improved water supply to water-stressed areas to increase access to clean and safe water**

**150**  
Households

In Bukiro, Mbarara district have access to 10,000 litres of safe and clean water daily, from a solar water supply system constructed by ACORD Uganda with the support of Bread for the World.

**6.8 Million**  
Liters

of safe and clean water from rainwater harvesting tanks is available to 653 Households and 13 institutions (schools and churches) per day directly supporting 19,460 community members and students in 15 sub-counties in South Western Uganda.

Host communities in Odravu and Ariwa sub-counties in Yumbe district have improved access to clean and safe water. ACORD Uganda with funding from HEKS-EPER improved piped water flow by upgrading two boreholes to mini solar-powered water supply systems fitted with 10,000-litre water tanks each.

A Solar Powered Water Supply System constructed in Bukiro Village, Nyamukana TC, Ntungamo District benefiting over 200 households.





ii) Improved capacity to address different community health challenges

**400**  
Heath Workers  
teach on Ebola  
Virus

Communities in Kyegegwa and Kamwenge districts received expert information on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) from the 276 VHTs and 124 Health workers trained in EVD behavioural change communication by ACORD. 240 Health workers in the two districts were oriented on MOH-adapted guidelines for the continuity of SRHR service delivery during the EVD outbreak

**72**  
Health Workers  
trained in SRHR  
& Procurement

51 (38 female and 13 male) health workers in Yumbe were trained in methodologies to address SRHR in emergency settings. 21 members of the Yumbe District Health Team (DHT) and health facility in-charges were oriented on procurement planning for SRH medical commodities and supplies with support from IRC.



With the support of UNFPA, ACORD Uganda regularly orients Health Workers on various health packages - in this picture, selected health workers from are training on EmONC

**5,893** People in **11** Districts  
Accessed SRHR Services

Integrated community health outreaches conducted in 11 districts supported by ACORD under the UNFPA projects enabled a total of 3,893 (2,833 female and 1,060 male) to access different maternal and SRHR services. About 2000 people were reached with similar services in Odravu and Kululu sub-counties in Yumbe district.

A Health Education session during one of the Integrated Health Camps organized by ACORD Uganda



**4** Schools  
Trained in  
MHM

Four schools supporting refugees and host communities in Bidi Bidi settlement have adopted good Menstrual Hygiene Management practices as a result of training and support by ACORD

Uganda.

School girls are given emergency wear and have access to enough water to improve hygiene standards during menstruation.

**2,660** Girls  
receive MHM  
Kits

Similarly, improved menstrual hygiene management was registered in the districts of Bulambuli, Bududa, Sironko and Nyakabande transit centers where a total of 2660 Adolescent girls and women of reproductive age were supported with hygiene kits

**under the ACORD-UNFPA emergency project.**

### **Adapting Best Practices: Promoting Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management in 4 Target Schools in Yumbe District**

Studies have shown that menstruation has an effect on school attendance for girls. Substantial embarrassment and fear of teasing related to menstruation together with menstrual pain and lack of effective materials for menstrual hygiene management vastly contribute to girls' school absenteeism. In efforts to improve sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services among school children, refugees and host community members in Bidibidi Settlement, Yumbe District, ACORD Uganda piloted the Blue school approach in four schools aiming at schools having access to; sustainable access to safe drinking water and sustainable access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, among other practices including having a demonstrative place for watershed and land management practices.

The sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions incorporated a Menstrual Health Management (MHM) component that promoted sustainable access to information on MHM and capacity strengthening of school stakeholders to manage Menstrual Health at school level. Specific interventions on MHH focused on providing adequate knowledge and information on MHH to School stakeholders (teachers, PTA, headteachers, learners) through provision of MHH materials and training guides and orienting them in the production of reusable sanitary pads.

The 04 target schools included Knowledge Land Primary School (PS), Nyoko PS, Ariwa PS, and Ayivu PS. A total of 114 learners, 22 teachers, 04 School Management Committees (SMC) composed of 20 members were oriented on; the production of reusable sanitary pads, appropriate facilities such as incinerators, washrooms with water and sanitation facilities and, disaggregation of types of sanitary products on the market. Info-sessions to demystify existing cultural taboos and myths that stand as barriers to Menstrual Health Management at institutional level as well as communities were also conducted.

Consequently, all 4 target schools currently provide emergency clothing (Lesu) in classrooms as protective wear for menstruating girls. The schools have established alternative sources of water in form of Rainwater Harvesting tanks and piped water has been extended to the 04 schools to promote dignified MHM. Female school staff and learners are able to bathe more than once while at school and wash their reusable sanitary pads in privacy. Skilling of school stakeholders in the production of reusable sanitary pads has bridged a gap in access to sanitary products created by the phase-out of partners previously distributing sanitary pads to schools. The project MHM activities in schools activated Men-engage (male teachers, male PTA/SMC representatives) who continue to promote men's involvement in ending menstrual stigma, demystifying cultural and religious taboos as well as encouraging girls to practise healthy management of their menses.

VIP latrines in the schools have been constructed with changing rooms and racks for children with disabilities to promote inclusive MHH with a special focus on children with disabilities.

## 31 ACORD

nurtured peer  
mentor mothers

To provide SRH counselling support and advice to adolescents and youth among refugees in Zones III and IV in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district. The strategy to use young mothers, who are “survivors” of unwanted pregnancies was designed to curb teenage/early and unwanted pregnancies among young people.



8,318  
Births

were attended to in the target health facilities in six districts of Eastern Uganda (Bududa, Bulambuli, Mbale City, Mbale district, Sironko and Tororo) where ACORD supported by recruiting professional midwives.

## PEER MENTOR MOTHERS

Peer Mentor Mothers are young women, 19-24 years, that have been exposed to the negative effects of teenage pregnancy or early marriages. They are able to give a first-person account of the dangers, especially of, teenage pregnancy.

ACORD Uganda identified 31 teenage mothers in different zones and villages in Yumbe with the support of Village Health Teams and community leaders. These were trained in sexuality education, family planning, gender, counselling and community mobilization skills.

The Peer Mentor Mothers have been helpful in supporting young women to access SRHR services. They have shared their experiences and referred the youth to SRH service points.

Yumbe is one of the districts that registered the highest number of teenage pregnancies during and after the COVID-19 lockdown. The ADHO-MCH reported that 720 refugee girls and 2564 girls from the host community aged between 10 and 19 years became pregnant during that period.

### iii) Enhanced Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services for Refugee and Host Communities

**1,356**  
House Holds  
trained in WASH

In Southwestern Uganda, members of the 1356 households trained and sensitized in good hygiene and sanitation practices report reduced incidences of hygiene and sanitation-related diseases like diarrhoea.

**37 Latrines &  
26 Tippy taps**  
constructed

ACORD's effort to improve WASH conditions of target districts resulted in target communities in Yumbe, constructing 37 new latrines and installing 26 new handwashing facilities.



PICTURES: **Above:** One of the pit latrines being constructed by the community; **middle:** a completed pit latrine; **Right:** a community member demonstrates the use of a handwashing facility - a tippy tap

A total of 5,964 women and men were sensitized on safe excreta disposal, personal hygiene, hand hygiene, environmental hygiene, food hygiene and water hygiene by 28 ACORD Uganda trained VHT in Yumbe. They were also supplied with tools to aid in the digging of latrines and cleaning of water points which enabled them to achieve the above outcomes.

iv) **Enhanced HIV prevention and response and SRHR services for Vulnerable Populations**

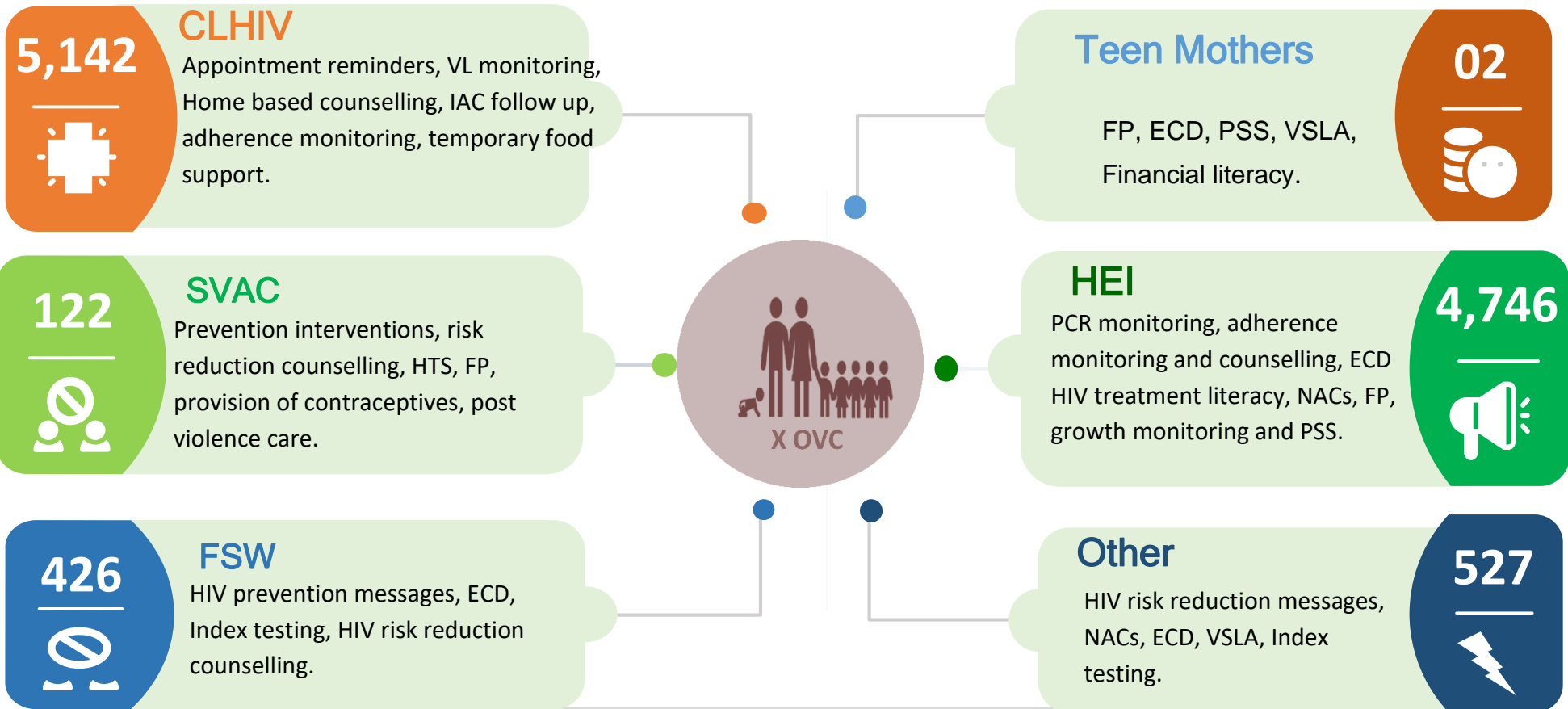
**36,495**  
Orphans

and caregivers affected by HIV and AIDS in 10 districts in SWU and Central Uganda continued to receive support that enhanced their HIV drug refill, viral load suppression and drug adherence.

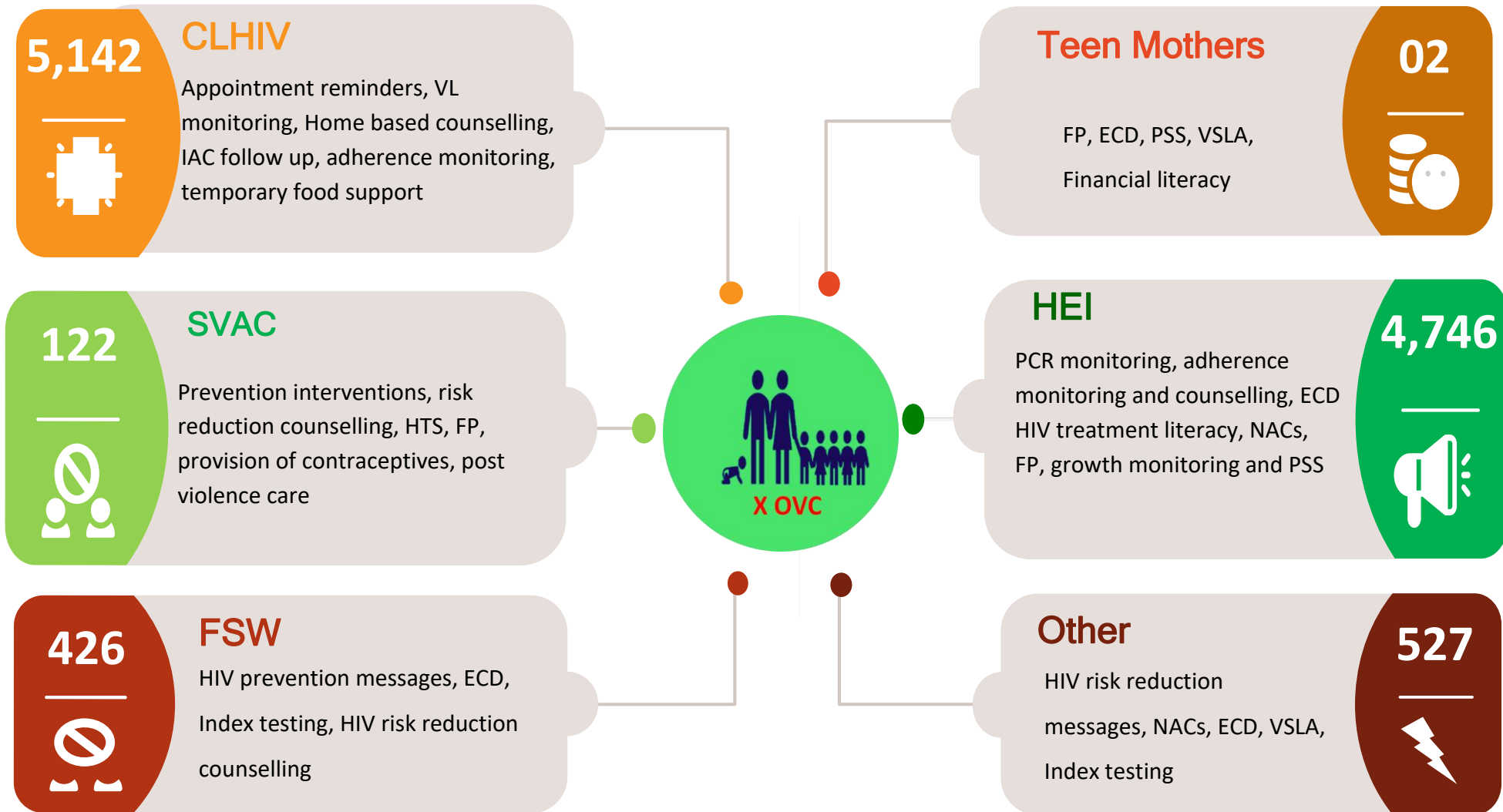
**123,173**  
Access SRHR & SRH

(87,507 female and 36,666 male) were registered as having directly accessed SRHR and SGBV services in the seven districts targeted by **ACORD Uganda** under the **UNFPA projects**.

**OVC Services by Sub Group in the USAID- OVC West Central Project Districts – Mityana, Luwero, Kakumiro, Kyenjojo and Gomba**



OVC Services by Sub Group in the USAID - KCHS Project area – Ibanda, Kazo, Kiruhura, Mitooma, and Sheema districts.



## B. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

*Through this thematic program, we build knowledge and skills on self-sustenance and strengthening vulnerable communities in target areas to actively participate in national policy development and implementation.*

- i. **Increased employment and income generation opportunities for Vulnerable and marginalized communities in Abim, Kasese and Kyegegwa Districts**

**300**  
**Vulnerable**  
Women & youth

in Kasese and Kyegegwa districts are DIT certified Aquaponics (fish and plant) farmers and will earn a living around.

10 aquaponic units established for them by ACORD and **WGI (Water Governance Institute)** with support from Enabel.

Trainees from Kasese display certificates attained from the Ministry of Education and Sports- Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT). In the background is the Aquaponic unity constructed with the support of Enabel





**150**  
Youth Employed

All the 150 targeted vulnerable female and male youth in Abim District, Karamoja are self-employed and employed

having been trained and certified by DIT in skills in carpentry and joinery, fashion and design, hairdressing and cosmetology and bricklaying and concrete practice.



Two of the 150 Trainees under the ACORD-Enabel Supported Skills Development Project in Abim, Karamoja. Left - female youth during Hairdressing and Cosmetology practical sessions. Right: A male youth during a bricklaying and concrete practice session.

5,460 people in Buhweju and Mbarara are able to grow vegetables throughout the year to improve their income and nutrition

**5,660 People**  
Engaged in  
Micro irrigation

using micro-irrigation systems established around their households with the support of ACORD Uganda.

**ii. Improved Communities living in sustainably managed environments with ambient water resources**

**Wetlands**  
in 3 Micro Catchments  
Restored

Increased regeneration of the wetlands especially in Ihoho, Kongoro, Ekihena and Nyakitara micro-catchments in South Western Uganda is being attributed to the

systematic and participatory management of the targeted micro-catchment zones of River Rwizi water catchment area. ACORD involved 1200 (840F and 360M) people in the 6 targeted micro-catchments in the development of two Micro-Catchment Management plans that are guiding catchment management activities.



Picture - Left: A section of the degraded Ekihena wetland system at project baseline. Right: Section of the recovered Ekihena wetland system after ACORD's Intervention

*iii. Increased community resilience to the effects of climate change and other disasters*

**63**  
Groups Trained  
**445**  
Fuel Saving Stoves  
**2,500**  
Trees planted

63 women groups in southwestern Uganda trained in climate change adaptation and conservation mechanisms have adapted technologies and practices to conserve the environment. 445 household fuel-saving stoves were constructed to reduce the cutting of trees, and 25,000 tree seedlings

were planted to replenish the forest/tree cover.

School administrations, environmental clubs, teachers and learners of Knowledge Land, Nyoko, Ariwa and Ayivu primary schools in Yumbe district and, Kashongi II Primary School in Kiruhura District were introduced to integrated water and environment management systems. Practices like tree planting, and mulching among others have been adopted as a result.

Kashongi School WASH Club members spearhead fruit tree planting in the school.



### C. ENGAGED, PEACEFUL AND JUST COMMUNITIES FREE OF VIOLENCE

*This thematic area promotes alternative community conflict and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence resolution mechanisms to influence conflict transformation. It also promotes the implementation of policies and legislative instruments that promote peace and inclusion.*

- i. **Community structures established and or supported to prevent and respond to human rights violations including violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC).**

**522**  
Change Agents  
& MAGS

Strengthened and supported community structures to facilitate community awareness on SGBV. Under the ACORD-UNFPA programme, training and support to 200 (102M, 98F) Change Agents and 322 Male Action Groups (MAGs) was conducted.

**77,779**  
Reached

These structures are sensitizing communities to challenge harmful social and cultural norms that perpetrate violence including against women and children. A total number of 77,779 (45,742 F, 32,037 M) of whom 182 were People with Disability were reached across the country by these two structures.



A member of a male Action Group (MAG) in the slums of Malaba counselling a couple that had been experiencing GBV. This couple is now living happily



Community Activist with the power posters after the training on the SASA! Methodology support phase

*ii. Women, youth and other vulnerable groups are empowered to effectively participate in decision-making and leadership positions*

**150**  
Females  
Empowered

150 direct beneficiaries - Women and girls - in ACORD's target areas were empowered to demand and access their SRHR and gender rights through engagement in women's safe spaces. In the spaces, the women and adolescent girls engaged in Psychosocial healing sessions, village

savings and loans interventions to boost their economic status, dialogue on laws to help them seek justice where necessary, and Peer to peer education on GBV and SRHR where they were able to heal from their traumatic experiences since they shared them out and sought for counselling.



Refugee women during a safe space session in Nyakabande

**747**  
Violence  
Survivors  
empowered

747 (131M, 616F) survivors of violence in the target districts of Amuria, Kaberamaido, Kampala, Gulu, Bundibugyo, Pader, Kiryandongo, Kasese, Kyegegwa, Kitgum and Tororo

were empowered with social economic skills to reduce vulnerability. Survivors were trained in bakery, tailoring, hairdressing & Liquid soap making



GBV Survivors undergoing a training in hairdressing

## D. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ACORD UGANDA AND PARTNERS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

*Under this thematic area, we continually assess the capacity needs of staff within the organization and target communities, CBOs, NGOs, private sector and local government structures and develop plans to address them jointly. We undertake a wide range of participatory research with substantial grassroots perspectives on conflict, health, gender, and human rights.*

### *i. Enhanced capacity of ACORD Uganda and partner staff for program management.*

#### 26 Staff Trained on Health Models.

Skills of 26 ACORD Uganda Staff were built on different health models - 10 staff in Lamwo skilled in PD-Hearth & Care group models are supporting refugee and host communities to establish and manage hearth sites to improve maternal and child nutrition. 16 staff in Southwestern Uganda project area trained in HIV /AIDS and Case management are supporting Children and Caregivers Living with HIV to suppress, adhere and treat HIV/AIDS-related illnesses, among others.

#### 8 Staff Trained on Project Tracking

Capacity to systematically track and document project progress was strengthened for 8 ACORD staff selected from different project areas. The staff have supported the design and improvement of M&E results frameworks and plans for different projects in their locations.

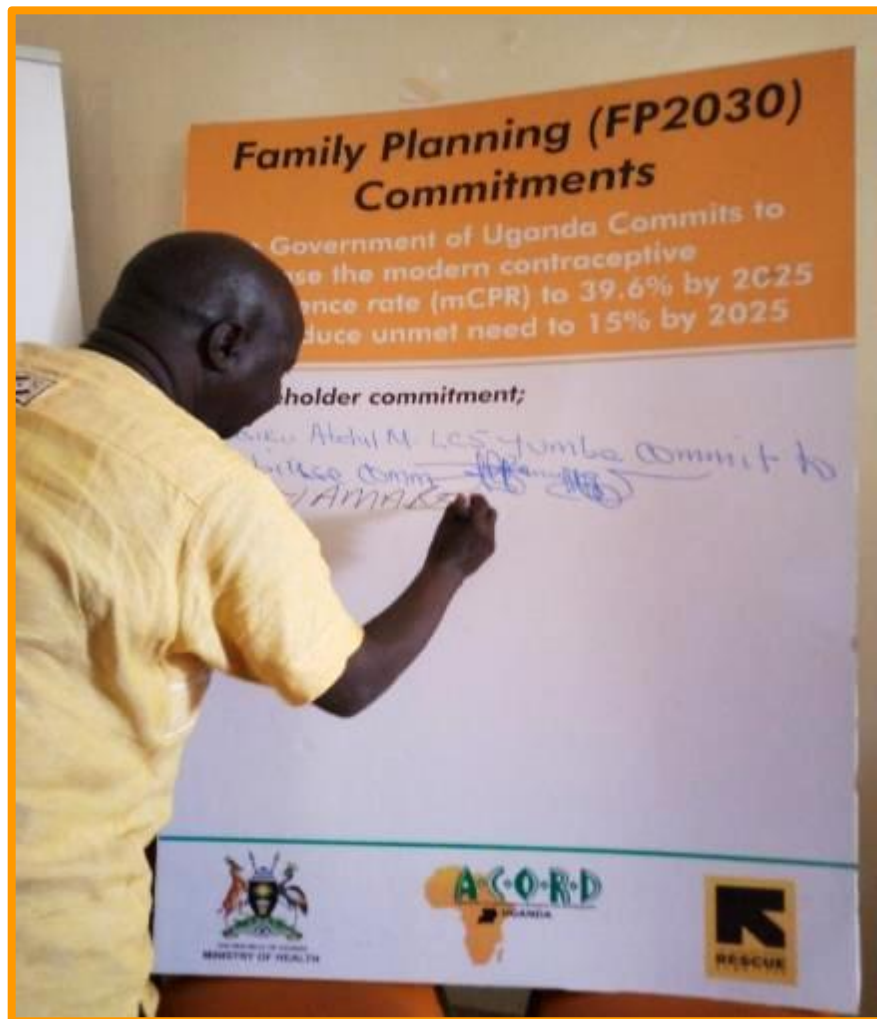
#### 32 Staff Trained Disaster Risk Reduction

32 staff were trained in Disaster Risk Reduction to enable them to support 5 Eastern Uganda districts that continue to be affected by floods and landslides. The training enabled the staff to support the districts of Mbale, Bulambuli, Sironko, Bududa and Mbale City to draft Disaster Risk Reduction management contingency plans which will enable the districts to systematically anticipate and address disasters.





ii. Partnerships strengthened for research, policy analysis and advocacy to challenge drivers of inequality and injustice in target areas.



At the end of the year (2022) Yumbe District Council passed a Resolution on FP-CIP interventions. The ACORD U/IRC efforts to influence the implementation of SRHR interventions in Yumbe District led to the passing of a resolution requiring all sector heads and partners to mainstream Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (FP-CIP) interventions in their programs - one of the key outcomes of the SHIFT advocacy strategy.

**74**  
Leaders  
Strengthened

In Yumbe, partnerships were strengthened with 74 leaders (50M and 24F) composed of cultural leaders, religious leaders, opinion leaders and the Refugee Welfare Council (RWC 1-3). The partnership is for the leaders to promote uptake of family planning by women and men in reproductive age groups, Male Involvement in SRHR, and the SRHR referral pathways and to campaign against Teenage/early marriages among refugees and host communities.

**20**  
People on  
Accountability  
Committee

An Accountability/Advocacy committee composed of 20 people was established in Yumbe, charged with identifying SRHR-related advocacy issues in their sects and sharing them for discussions during the district council meetings. The group also monitors and gives feedback on the implementation of government programmes on SRHR across the district. The group is composed of representatives from; religious sects, opinion leaders, refugee welfare councils, health workers, sub-county level Community Development Departments and schools.

A draft one-year advocacy strategy for the SHIFT consortium partners (ACORD, IRC and WORUDET) was developed at the beginning of the year in a workshop which also aimed at building the policy and advocacy capacity of Partners and SHIFT Project staff in Uganda.

## STAFF CORNER – NABWIRE YVONNE KILAMA



**OVC Program Manager (Jan 2021 to Sep 2022):**

USAID Integrated Children & Youth Development (ICYD) Activity

**Deputy Chief of Party (Oct 2022 to Feb 2023):**

USAID OVC West Central Activity

Nabwire Yvonne joined ACORD Uganda in January 2021 when the organization became a sub-grantee on the USAID ICYD activity coordinated by the Education Development Centre (EDC) and Bantwana World Education Inc. partnership.

During her work with ACORD Uganda, Yvonne presented great Analytical, Planning and Organizational skills, as well as Leadership and Relationship building skills. Yvonne's leadership and oversight of the ICYD activity, saw the implementation teams sustain excellent performance, leading to ACORD's recognition and becoming a prime partner /direct recipient of USAID Funds following the OCA and NUPAS assessments by USAID.

ACORD Uganda was able to sign a new 5 year (2022-2027) contract to implement the USAID OVC West Central Activity in 11 districts in Central and Western Uganda.

Yvonne left ACORD Uganda in February 2023 to join the rest of her family in the United States of America.

## IMPLEMENTATION ENVIRONMENT

In all the districts of operation, ACORD-Uganda has MOUs with the Local Government and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) for the refugee settlements. This enhanced operations since the district and camp authorities receive copies of project plans and are encouraged to participate in implementation and monitoring.

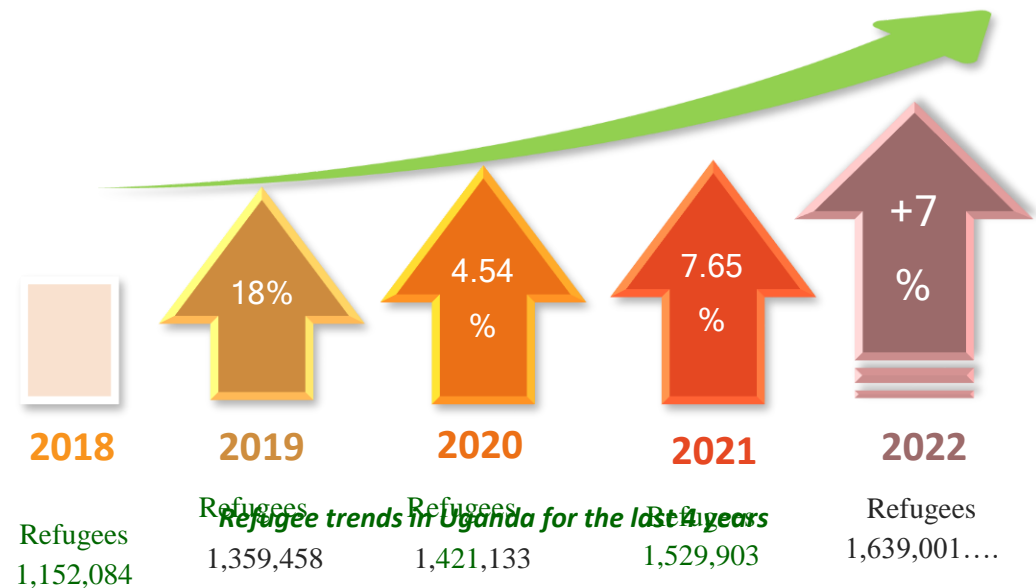
All project locations reported the effect of rain on community meetings. In Lamwo, the project team has learnt strategies for working amidst difficult weather conditions. Activities have to start early such that in case of rain, community engagements do not fail.

The political situation in Ukraine had an impact on some of the projects. The increased prices of fuel not only reduced the amount of fuel available for project activities but also affected the prices of other commodities. The rise in commodity prices has also affected the social well-being of the project's target groups.

The number of refugees entering Uganda continued to raise since 2018, which has implications for interventions in the implementation environment. The large refugee numbers are putting pressure on the limited health; water, sanitation, hygiene; and education infrastructure in the settlements and host communities.

**109,098**  
New Refugee arrivals

In the first three quarters of 2022, Uganda received over 109,098 new arrivals (35,720 from South Sudan, and 73,378 from DRC). A natural refugee population growth of three per cent per year has also been recorded. The refugee statistics for 2021 were 1,529,903.00, a 7.65% increase from 2020, and for 2020 was 1,421,133.00, a 4.54% increase from 2019. Uganda's refugee statistics for 2019 was 1,359,458.00, a 16.63% increase from 2018.



## GENDER AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS INCLUSION

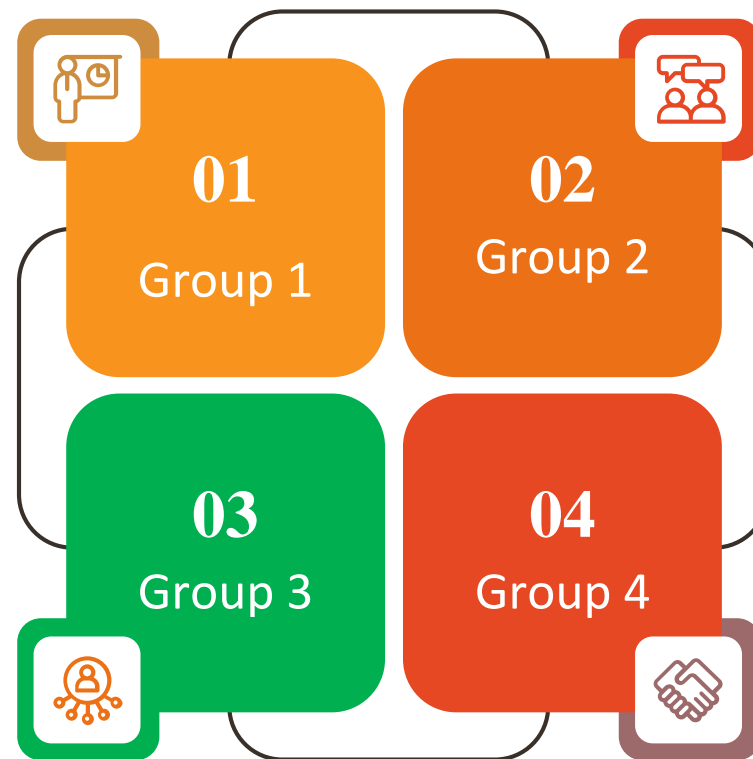
ACORD Uganda ensures that projects implemented are inclusive and impact community interest groups. It takes deliberate actions to bridge the gaps in gender inequality in target communities, women and special interest groups are included right from the time of project planning and decision-making at the community and household levels. Affirmative action is undertaken to address some inclusion gaps identified during project design, including improving the strategic positioning of different vulnerable groups.

### Male Action Groups

Formation of Male Action Groups (MAGs) in the different target areas was deliberate to increase male involvement in supporting GBV and SRHR responses, while deliberate action is also taken to ensure women's representation on the different platforms established at the different levels. This has helped to change the attitudes of men and women thus promoting joint decision-making at different levels including the household level.

### Women Groups

In the ACORD U Southwestern district operation areas, the household rainwater harvesting water tanks are constructed through women groups because women and children bear the brunt of fetching water for the households.



### Marginalised Groups

Through safe spaces established for different marginalized groups (women, youth, PWD) the groups are sensitized on their rights and on strategies to reduce self-exclusion and self-stigma.

### Different Interest

Deliberate action is also taken to ensure representation of different interest groups (e.g. PWD, PLHIV), Boys, girls, youth and women in community activities for even distribution of benefits and documenting their experiences.

## COLLABORATION, LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

In 2022, ACORD collaborated, for different reasons, with Local government departments, Non-Governmental organizations, Academic Institutions, health facilities and community structures – groups, and associations as in the table below:

Institution Category	Institution and Collaboration areas
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations and Acade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TASO</b> - Supplies of HCT kits and condoms to facilities that conducted HCT outreaches, Capacity building of staff in TB and HIV, Support initiation of continuous quality improvement actions</li> <li>• <b>Gulu University</b>- Medical department - Training on EmONC in Gulu University simulation Laboratory</li> <li>• <b>International Rescue Mission</b> - Situation analysis of Palabek WASH &amp; Nutrition standards ahead of proposal development and sharing of report on mass nutrition screening</li> <li>• <b>Food for the Hungry &amp; IRC</b> - organizing mass nutrition screening</li> <li>• <b>UGANET</b> - Referrals on GBV and coordinated community awareness creation</li> <li>• <b>Justice Center and FAWE</b> - Referrals of GBV survivors to access timely legal services</li> <li>• <b>UPMB</b> - Capacity building of staff in TB and HIV; Support initiation of continuous quality improvement actions; Work with <b>OVC</b> to strengthen youth-friendly services</li> </ul>
<b>Health Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Patiko H/C III</b> - Integrated health outreaches/HCT outreach</li> <li>• <b>St. Mary's Lacor Hospital</b> - Repair of fistula survivors during a fistula camp organized by the hospital</li> </ul>
<b>DLG, LDLG - District Departments, including Refugee Welfare Committees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint support monitoring and supervision of project interventions</li> <li>• Participate and provide technical expertise in training programmes on water conservation technologies, hygiene and sanitation</li> <li>• Capacity building for community groups</li> <li>• Monitoring &amp; Surveillance for restoration works</li> <li>• Coordination and mobilization of communities at the grassroots level.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Collaboration-related Lessons:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration involves pulling resources which maximize output and service delivery</li> <li>• Joint monitoring and supervision enhance project sustainability since the stakeholders are able to take up the work in absence of ACORD Uganda.</li> <li>• Project ownership is enhanced through the use, working with, and involvement of already existing structures right from planning, implementation and evaluation.</li> </ul>	

## IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES:

### Rise in commodity Prices



The rise in commodity prices generated by a rise in fuel prices associated with Ukraine-Russia conflict had an effect on the social well-being of the project target groups.

Access to some basic services and goods such as food, medical care and education was affected by an increase in prices.

Target Group business ideas that involved a big capital outlay were discarded for less profitable ones that could not generate enough income.

### Prolonged Dry Spell



The seasonal migration of some project beneficiaries affected their active participation in service delivery.

This also reduced the number of beneficiaries reported to the donor by the organization.

This challenge mainly affected the USAID-supported OVC projects that support and follow up on specific households.

### Seasonal Migration of some beneficiaries



The prolonged dry spell that occurred reduced the quantity of water produced by the production wells constructed for the People of Concern (PoC) in Bidi Bidi settlement in Yumbe District.

This ultimately affected the quantity of water the organization expected to give to the target groups.

## LESSONS LEARNED:

### Women at the Forefront of Development



Putting women at the forefront of development projects challenges the traditional belief that women are unable to manage interventions outside the households. In addition to subjecting women to inequality, such beliefs increase violence against women. Engaging women as frontrunners of projects in Southwestern Uganda and the West Nile has demonstrated that women are hard-working and generally trustworthy people, especially when they are trained and given opportunities to show their full potential. Women have the ability to steer development in their communities as long as they are given the platform.

### People-Centred Project Implementation



Use of people-centered project implementation approaches promotes acceptance and ownership of project activities that challenge the status quo in the community.

In the water catchment protection project in Southwestern Uganda, people-centered approaches used in the eviction of people that inhabited wetlands reduced the resistance that was anticipated during project design.

### Joint Project Implementation



Joint Project implementation by institutions with different expertise ensures comprehensive redress of community/household challenges.

The Joint home visits conducted by social workers and counsellors in the OVC interventions yielded positive treatment outcomes in households with non-suppressed children mainly because barriers were addressed jointly.

**PROGRAMME FINANCES:**

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**ACCREDITATION:**

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ACORD Uganda  
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Partners

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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