

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**Fostering Sustainable
Community Development**

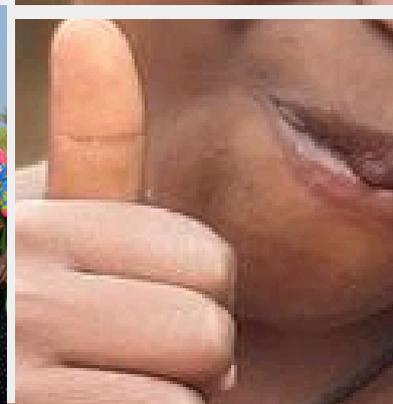
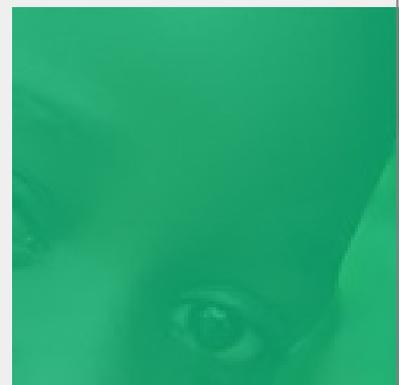
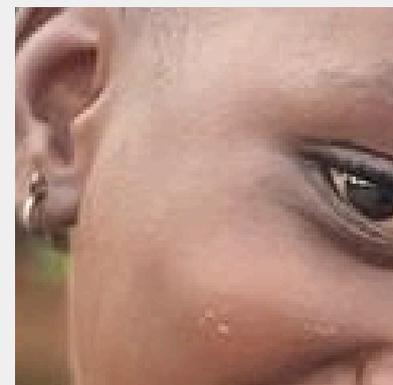
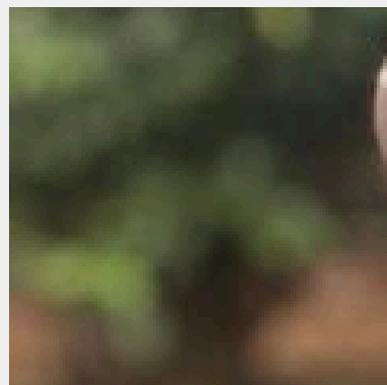


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ACORD UGANDA PROFILE



Active Malnutrition Case Finding

In 2019, ACORD Uganda was formally registered as an indigenous Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the National Bureau for NGOs in Uganda. ACORD Uganda aspires to contribute to Uganda's development and humanitarian response and promote social justice for vulnerable communities and groups, particularly the poor, children, youth, and women.

ACORD Uganda works with the government, communities, civil society organizations, and the private sector to positively impact the lives of vulnerable groups in Uganda. It promotes active and meaningful participation of target groups and communities. It draws on research and advocacy to change the underlying drivers of inequalities that sustain multiple forms of vulnerability in communities where it works at local and national levels.

WHAT WE DO

We Target

Marginalized excluded communities and refugees in Uganda, specifically working with orphans and vulnerable children, youth in and out of school, women, elderly people, people living with HIV and persons with different abilities.

Our Solution

We develop and implement interventions to improve target groups' health and well-being, livelihoods, increased climate change resilience, enhance natural resource management, foster peace and justice, research and capacity building for communities and actors.

Our Vision

A society in which all people are able to achieve their rights and fulfil their responsibilities



USAID OVC West Central Activity



Pin Project in Palabek Settlement



Keeping Children Healthy and Safe

ACORD CURRENT PROJECTS



Supporting Women GPS to enhance resilience and adoption of Climate Change



She cares –leaving no woman and girl behind.



protection and Restoration of River Rwizi ecosystem and Catchments.



SRHR and GBV



Empowerment for effective child protection in Uganda

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the ACORD Uganda's progress from January to December 2023. Every year, the world presents us with unparalleled challenges, and for Uganda specifically, several challenges like the outbreak of Ebola, and the increased inflow of refugees in the country who need help amidst the limited resources impedes growth and progress. As an organization however, the year 2023 presented us with challenges that included continued struggle to meet increased community demands, increased HIV-related stigma cases in communities, misconceptions about family planning that affected its promotion, and the high malnutrition prevalence among children under the age of 5 in Palabek that affected project success among others.

Despite these challenges, the program achieved significant milestones in various areas. ACORD Uganda provided interventions specifically at the household level to benefit all the household population but specifically targeting women who are the primary caregivers to other household members, yet at the same time vulnerable.

In partnership with other stakeholders, ACORD Uganda implemented activities, to improve health and well-being, build sustainable livelihoods, increase climate change resilience, and enhance natural resources management all under the goal of improving the communities we serve.

These partnerships aided the organization in achieving several milestones including;

The implementation of interventions in 19 districts, to improve health outcomes for HIV-affected and infected orphans and vulnerable teenagers. More people accessed SRHR services, and households got improved sanitation facilities, clean water, and rainwater harvesting tanks. ACORD's nutrition intervention helped reduce Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in Palabek settlement by 33%.

Loans were provided to caregivers from 280 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) & 262 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups of OVC, enabling them to start new Income-Generating Avenues (IGAs). A total of 2,293 caregivers and youth in South Western Uganda were trained in backyard gardening, improving food security and nutrition. The project partnered with NEMA to restore degraded wetland systems in Ihoho, restoring 20 acres of the 82 degraded wetland areas.

Five (5) District Action Centers (DACs) reached out to 914 Violence Against Children (VAC) cases, of which 828 (91%) were resolved, and 86 pending cases are being followed up. A total of 29,506 beneficiary households were assessed for GBV and received GBV education.

Women from 12 sub-counties in Southwestern Uganda had a learning visit; staff were trained in HIV case management, and Community Development Officers (CDOs), Probation and Social Welfare Officers (PSWOs), and District Community Development Officers (DCDOs) were oriented on the use of Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) tools and the importance of OVC MIS reporting and data use.

In 2024, we strategize and prioritize issues related to the development of key agricultural value chains, promote the creation of jobs with an emphasis on sustainable livelihoods, youth, and skills, and improve and increase the access to finance for the beneficiaries we serve. We commit to strengthening our partnerships and mitigating risks to improve the well-being of vulnerable communities.

33%



ACORD's nutrition intervention helped reduce GAM in Palabek settlement by 33%.

91%

Violence Against Children (VAC) cases were resolved out of the 914 cases that were handled.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers, during the year 2023, ACORD Uganda focused on its journey of growing its capacities to serve marginalized communities in Uganda to enable them realize their rights and fulfill their responsibilities. The deepening of effective partnerships in development programming and working through innovative strategies were ACORD Uganda's cornerstone for tackling the complex development challenges that affected the marginalized communities that we serve.



Dr. Muhangi Denis

BOARD CHAIRPERSON-ACORD Uganda

16,499,455,425

Grant Income
Received



17,951,347,398

Total
Expenditure



This report, therefore, presents the results of multi-level partnerships and collaboration by ACORD Uganda with several multi-sector partners operating at different levels in Uganda. Collaboration with our Development partners, National and Local Government entities, Civil Society organizations, the Private Sector, and the communities was instrumental in collectively leveraging resources and expertise to birth the achievements shared in this report.

I am happy to note that ACORD Uganda, through the committed teams at all levels from the board, management, and staff have continued to live to the values and commitment of working with the different partners to realize our vision of;

“A society in which all people are able to achieve their rights and fulfil their responsibilities”.

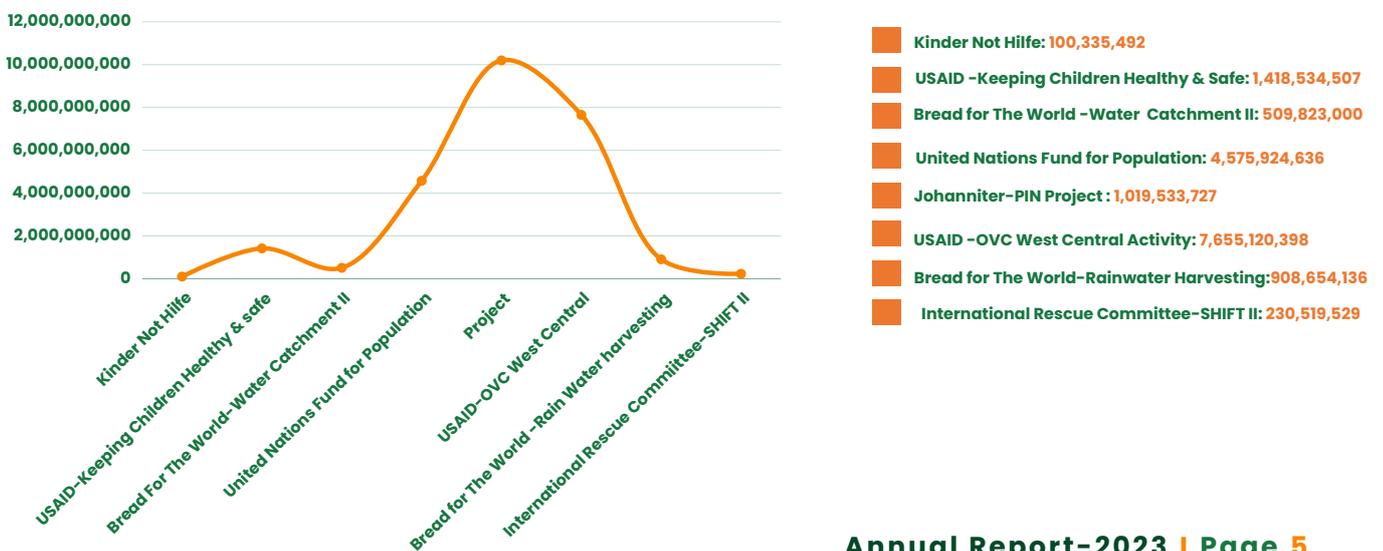
While making choices to support all of our stakeholders, it is important to mention that financially, we received a grant income that totaled 16,499,455,425 Ugx with a total expenditure of 17,951,347,398 as shown in the graph and chart below.

The Board of Directors of ACORD Uganda extends its appreciation to the donors and or funders who have trusted us until today with funds and to the Government of Uganda, all our development partners, Civil Society organizations, the Private sector, and the communities we serve for the relentless support rendered to towards making the organization’s vision a reality. I call upon all our partners and stakeholders to continue working with us to reach greater heights.

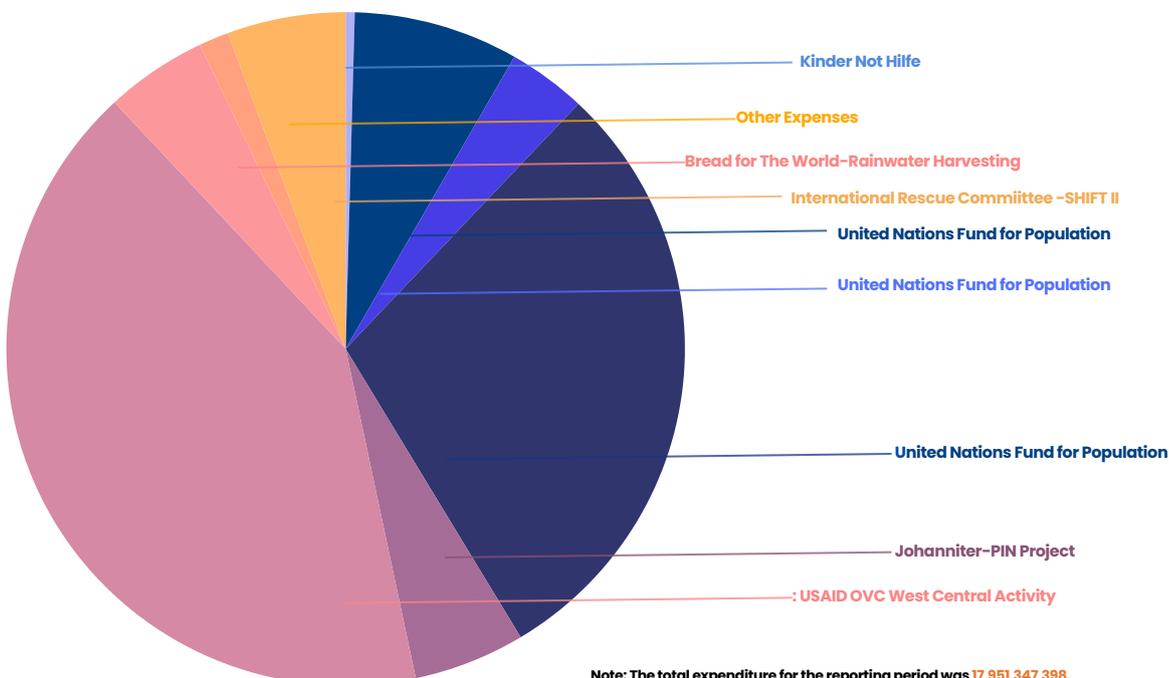
Dr. Muhangi Denis

AGENCY FOR COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (ACORD) UGANDA NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 2023.

GRANT INCOME



EXPENDITURE



project with the lowest expenditure: **Kinder Not Hilfe**

project with the highest expenditure: **USAID OVC West Central Activity**

Note: The total expenditure for the reporting period was **17,951,347,398**.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

I am excited to share the ACORD Uganda Annual Report for 2023. This report highlights our progress and lessons learned as we work to build strong partnerships for lasting community development and positive change.

“Despite the challenges during the year, ACORD Uganda's committed staff across the 45 districts of operation continued to strengthen the working relationships with our development partners, government entities, and other like-minded civil society organizations to deliver on the organization's strategic plan for 2021-2025.”

We successfully provided holistic packages that addressed the communities' real needs by adopting data-driven programming and utilizing integrated programming models with layered services.

We have been inspired by the stories of transformation in the lives of the many marginalized communities we work with. This transformation was achieved through a combination of interventions addressing the needs of these communities in healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management, peace and conflict resolution, gender equality, and community empowerment for change. We will continue to prioritize the development of strategic partnerships across multiple sectors as a fundamental aspect of our work.

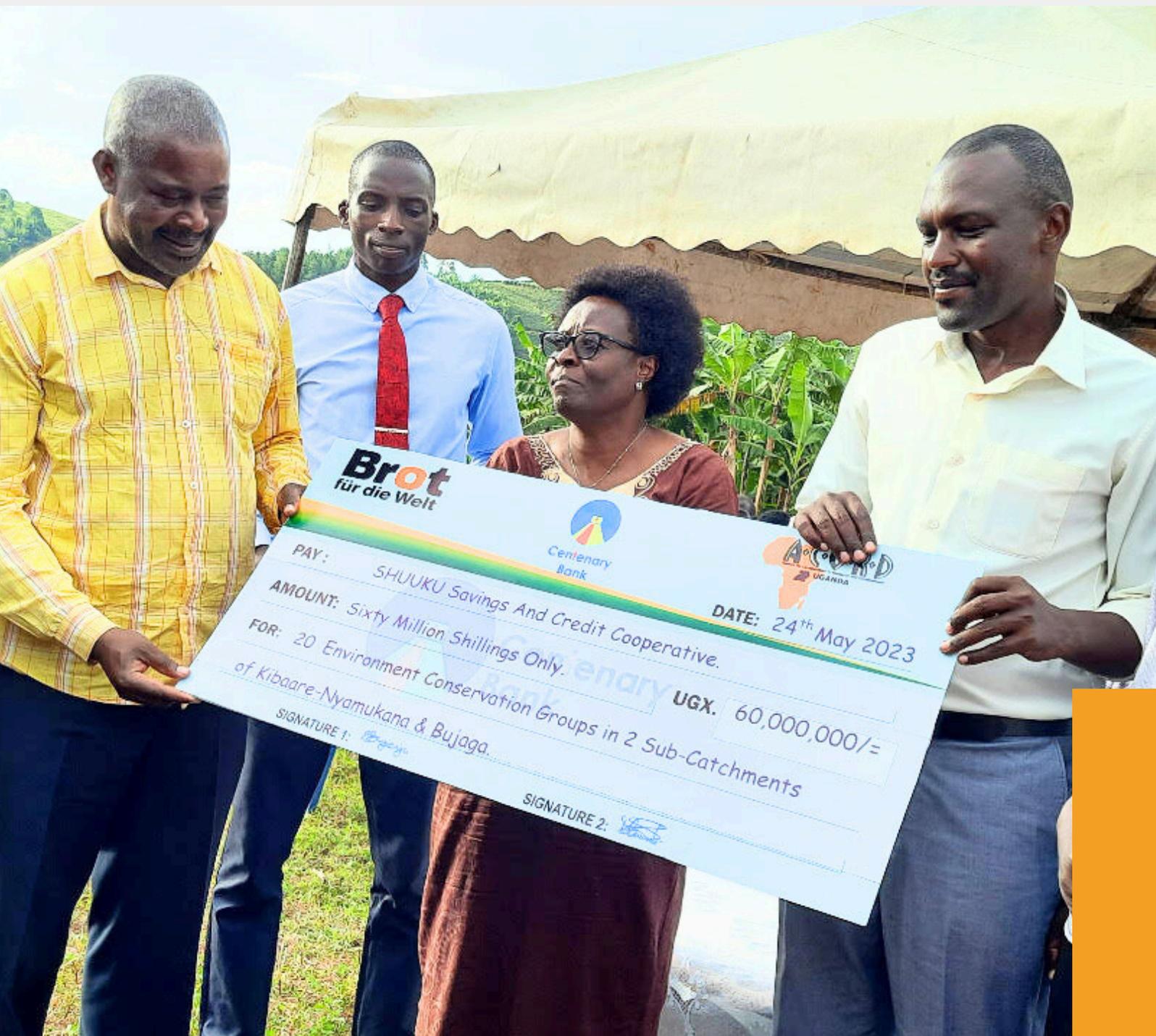


Ellen Bajenja Kajura
COUNTRY DIRECTOR -ACORD Uganda

I acknowledge the unwavering commitment rendered by the Board of Directors towards the execution of our work and their exceptional commitment to providing strategic guidance throughout the year. I also commend the Government of Uganda, our development partners, the staff, volunteers, and the communities served for their contributions towards the remarkable achievements in 2023.

Ellen Bajenja Kajura

ACORD SUPPORTS SMALL GROUPS TO OPEN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES



ACORD Uganda Country Director Ms. Ellen Bajenja Kajura (second from right), the LCV Chairperson and the RDC of Ntungamo handing over a check to the Wetland Conservation groups to engage in alternative Income Generating Activities.

DISTRICTS AND REGIONS OF OPERATION



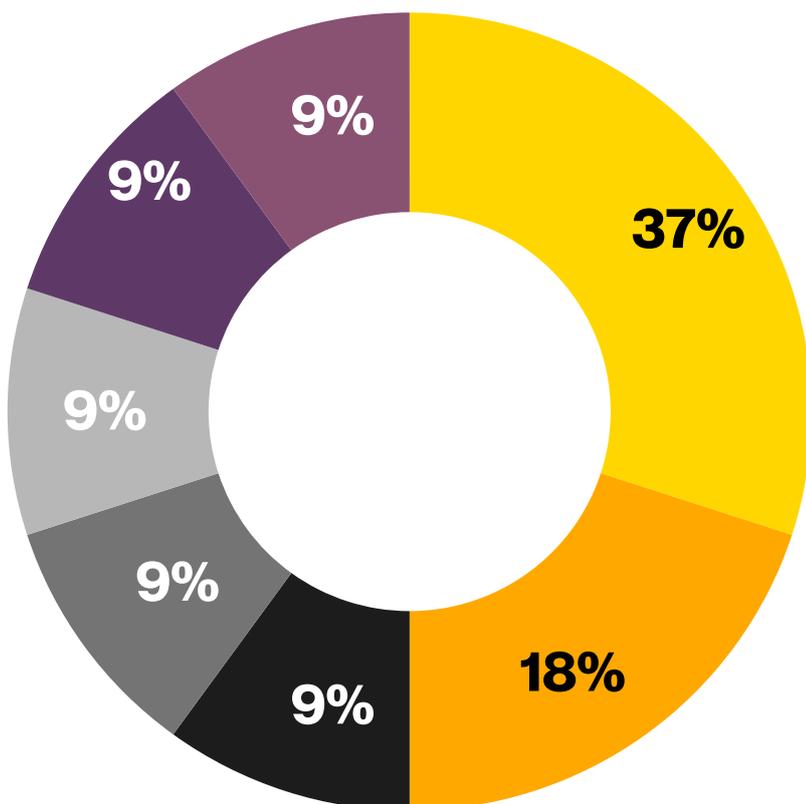
36

Districts of Operation

Out of

135

Districts in Uganda



Regions

No. of Projects

South West	4
North	2
West Nile	1
Central	1
West	1
Karamoja	1
East	1





Modular training on good Child feeding practices.

#001- Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Services

- 41,274 HIV-affected and infected Orphans and highly vulnerable teenagers in 19 target districts in Southwestern, Central, and Western Uganda are now receiving better health outcomes.
- Condom Promotions Campaigns were held in partnership with the AIDS Information Center (AIC) and the Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS (UNYPA) engaging 180 people.
- 4,590,000 young people were reached through integrated behavioral change communication messages on consistent condom use.
- 736,622 Male condoms and 186,339 Female condoms were distributed in the districts of Kampala, Bududa, Namiyingo, and Iganga
- 998,252 young people were reached through social media platforms e.g.; on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and UNYPA mobile App using Hashtags (#UseProtection, #UNYPA@20)

ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1 CONTRIBUTING TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AND ACCESS TO UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE.

#002- SRHR services are accessed by a more extensive range of people from the host communities and refugees.

- 191 emergency referrals with obstetrics and gynecological complications among Congolese refugee women in and around Nyakabande Settlement, Kisoro were supported.
- 2200 VHT trained in the districts of Abim, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, and Kween enhanced Community Health services and the Commodity Distribution System of Family Planning commodities.
- 6,033 pregnant women in Palabek refugee settlements benefited from health information sessions at health facilities.
- 9,671 Health workers from 500 facilities were trained and provided with job aids for good inventory management practices and records management, enhancing ordering and reporting processes for ADS commodities

Trend analysis for OVC_SERV for COP 22 for USAID OVC West-Central Programme



#003- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Households in vulnerable communities can now access and use clean and safe water with 83 climate-proof household rainwater harvesting systems installed at beneficiary homes by women in Southwestern Uganda, a 20,000-liter capacity institution rainwater harvesting tank installed at Kaguhanzya Primary School in Mbarara district and safe water storage containers distributed to 484 households of refugees and host communities in Palabek, Lamwo district.

#004- Nutrition

1,978 mothers of children under 5 years in 135 care groups equipped with skills in infant and young child feeding and good WASH practices effectively use these skills to support the health and wellbeing of their infants.

According to the latest nutrition cluster survey, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate has decreased to **33%** ↘

from a baseline of **12.6%** ↘

to the current **9.8%** ↘

Atim's Testimony to a Nutritious life

Atim a single mother is a resident from Palabek Refugee Settlement, Zone 5B, Block 12A with a nine-month-old daughter who lived in hard conditions with limited food and lacked a decent shelter to live.

ACORD Uganda during its regular support in the refugee settlement, introduced care groups to promote good nutrition and hygiene practices were Atim was enrolled. In the groups, lead mothers were elected and tasked to conduct monthly home visits to ensure everyone was following good nutrition habits.

During the screening, Atim's 9-month-old daughter, was identified as severely malnourished with a MUAC of 11.2, placing her in the red zone. Community facilitators and a Lead mother were assigned to support Atim and the child address malnutrition issues including preparing nutritious meals like porridge with bananas and silver fish for her child. She also embraced the importance of breastfeeding.

After a month, the baby showed signs of recovery, and in the second month, she fully recovered. Atim credits the care group sessions and her decision to adopt healthier habits for this remarkable progress.



Equipping schools with Hygiene Hand Washing Facilities.



ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

2 BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS, INCREASING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

#001- Enhanced Food Security in OVC households.

- 2,293 (1,990 caregivers, 303 youth) in Southwestern Uganda were trained in backyard gardening which improved food security, nutrition at the household level, and surplus sales to generate income.

#002- Community structures equipped with marketable vocational skills.

- 30 youths (17 girls and 13 boys) from Abwoch parish of Ongako Sub County in Omoro district successfully a community-based training that equipped them with skills in motorcycle mechanics and repairs, tailoring and garment cutting, hairdressing, carpentry, and joinery.

#003- Catchment/Watershed restoration and protection

- Two micro-catchment management plans were developed, approved, and disseminated using a participatory approach. The Project Partnered with NEMA to evict encroachers and restore degraded wetland systems in Ihoho. As a result, 20 acres of the 82 degraded wetland area have been restored

#003- Strengthened socio-economic support for children and adolescents living with HIV and their caregivers

- 281 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) established in the OVC West-Central districts. Income generating avenues were started and business investments expanded.

4,679 (955M 3,724F)
beneficiaries

**saved UGX
436,297,751**

and

**loaned out UGX
343,732,500**
to caregivers of OVC

- 262 Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups supported in South Western Uganda have a total savings of 866,321,900/=. These savings have enabled caregivers to access savings and credit opportunities to start IGAs and access basic needs for the OVC.

Silvano, ACORD-U trained mason, during the operation and maintenance of the tanks he constructed.



Twinamatsiko Silvano, 37, Masha Village Nyamishindwa tells his story

The construction of rainwater tanks has been a life-changing opportunity for me. Not only has it become my primary source of income, but it has also opened doors to personal growth and prosperity. The earnings from my work have allowed me to purchase land, build a home, and invest in livestock, all of which have led to a better quality of life for myself and my family.

Across Isingiro, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Kazo, and Ntungamo districts, I have constructed over 300 tanks. The impact of this work on the communities I serve has been immeasurable, as the tanks have provided a reliable source of clean water for countless families.

As a result of my dedication to this project, I have gained invaluable knowledge and expertise in rainwater harvesting tank construction and used the skill to provide maintenance and repairs to the communities to ensure the sustainability of the tanks. Through my commitment to their continued functionality and resilience in the face of climate variability, I have helped to transform lives and empower communities.

“I want to thank ACORD Uganda for believing in me and giving me a chance to provide for my family”.



Modular training on good Child feeding practices.

ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

3 ACHIEVE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

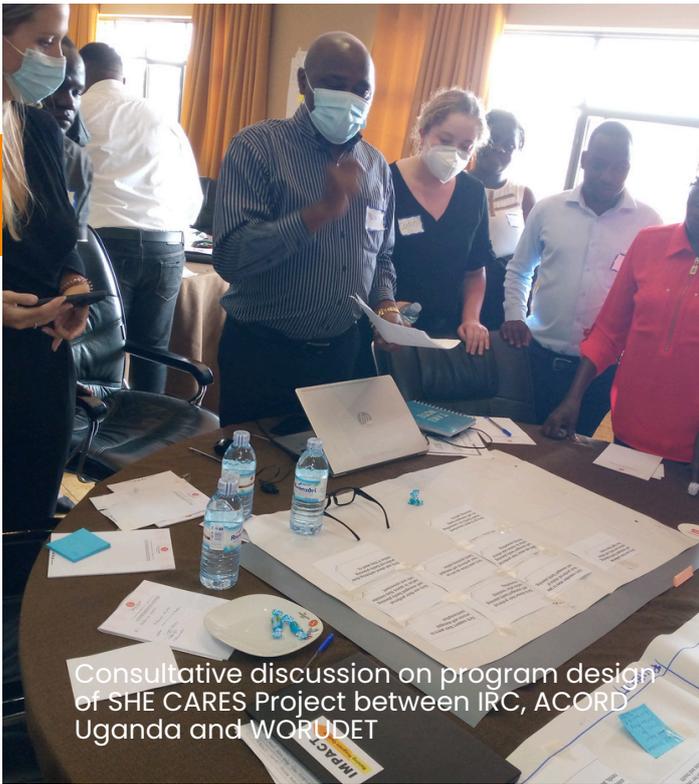
#001-Community groups Strengthened to Advocate for Peaceful and Fair Communities.

- ACORD Uganda trained Male Action Groups (MAGs) to promote gender equality and positive masculinities at community levels who have continued to support women and young girls in GBV case management and protection.
- SASA Community activists in the seven target districts continue to mobilize communities on day-to-day engagements using creative ways to reach out i.e drama, and dialogue sessions which have changed their attitudes towards power imbalances that perpetuate GBV.
- 5 District Action Centers (DACs) supported in South Western Uganda supported 914 GBV cases. Out of the 914 cases, 828 (91%) were resolved, and 86 pending cases are being followed up.

29,506
Households were assessed for GBV and received GBV education.



MDrama by project beneficiaries on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding



ORGANISATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

4 CAPACITY OF ACORD UGANDA AND PARTNERS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, RESEARCH AND SELF-SUSTAINABILITY STRENGTHENED

#001-Selfcare Context and Stakeholders Analysis.

- An analysis was conducted in Yumbe. increasing knowledge on sexual and reproductive health self-care landscape, existing programming models, tools and resources.

#002-Project Visibility and knowledge transfer

- A documentary detailing the process of rainwater harvesting project processes was shot and widely shared which enhanced the visibility and increased project understanding at national and regional levels

#003-Knowledge Exchange through Learning Visits

- The organization planned an exchange learning visit for women groups from 12 sub-counties. The training enhanced the understanding of project technologies, fostering replicability and sustainable adoption of innovative practices across communities.

#004-Capacity Building

- The organization trained 18 staff (M=10, F=8) under the KCHS project in HIV case management, HIV 2022 Consolidated guidelines, and mental health equipping them with knowledge on TB preventive therapy, Integrated community services model, and caregiver-assisted testing using Oral Quick.

#005-Orientation of CDOs, DCDOs, and PSWOs.

- 56 LLG staff, 32 females & 25 Males (CDOs, PSWOs, and DCDOs) from Sheema, Mitooma, and Ibanda districts were oriented on the use of MGLSD tools and appreciating the importance of OVCMIS reporting and data use. Currently, documentation of cases is handled by killed personnel.

GENDER AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS ANALYSIS



ACORD advocates for an approach that promotes inclusivity and provides a platform for all demographic groups to benefit from project interventions. Project implementation prioritizes the identification of special interest groups within target populations, assesses their needs, and ensures their access to relevant services and products. Women are specifically targeted in certain projects due to their role as primary caregivers and their heightened vulnerabilities. Youth-focused activities such as apprenticeships, Aflateen, cottage industries, and backyard gardening are also prioritized. Implementation primarily occurs at households to ensure convenient access for all beneficiaries, while group activities are organized in central locations accessible to all intended beneficiaries. Various inclusion issues are considered across different projects, as outlined in the table below:

PROJECT NAME	INCLUSION BY DIRECT TARGETING - PROPORTION PER SELECTED PROJECT
USAID OVC West Central Activity	100% children and youth (18+) infected and affected by HIV
Keeping Children Healthy and Safe	100% children and youth (18+) infected and affected by HIV
Scaling up child protection through the empowerment of marginalized women in Northern Uganda by 2025	100% marginalized women (poorest of the poor) and their children in Ongako sub-county, Omoro district.
Prevention of malnutrition and improvement of the hygienic status for vulnerable persons in the refugee settlement	Vulnerable refugees (70%) and Host Communities (30%), especially mothers and their children.
Supporting Resilience and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change in South West (SW) Uganda	Women Groups in Water-Stressed Areas of South Western Uganda
Promoting Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi Systems and Catchment Area	Communities in fragile ecosystem areas of the Rwizi Watershed

COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND ADAPTATION

Institution and Contact Person	Collaboration areas
1. DLG, LDLG-District water officer, District Health Officers, Health Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint support monitoring and supervision visits of project interventions. • Technical backstopping (providing the necessary support and expertise to the project team).
2.National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	Eviction of Encroachers and Restoration of Degraded wetland systems in South Western Uganda
3.Medical Teams International (MTI)	SRHR commodities such as equipment, drugs, and staffing collaboration
4.Nyakabande sub-county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered ACORD an office space near the camp. • Collaborated with the CDO and health assistant in mobilization for integrated SRH/GBV outreaches.
5. ALIGHT, Save The Children, CAFOMI	GBV and nutrition sensitization and screening during integrated SRH/GBV outreaches
6.Mariane Foundation Ibanda	Training HIV Positive marginalized youths 15 -17 years in apprenticeship skills, accommodating them, and linking them for employment.
7.Caritas Fort portal the Economic Growth Partner in Ibanda District	Joint monitoring visits, training of beneficiaries on nutrition, verification of households to benefit from the Economic growth package, and Supply of Iron-rich bean seeds and vines.
8.IRC	Routine project coordination and technical support

COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND ADAPTATION

Institution and Contact Person	Collaboration areas
9 WORUDET	JRoutine project coordination and consultative discussions on key project activities
10. Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); Commandant.	·Coordination, reporting, and participation in project activities
11. MoH Selfcare Expert Group (SCEG)	Training and capacity building

Lessons Learnt through collaboration and how they have been adapted

- **Joint Monitoring and Supervision for Sustainability:** Collaborative efforts in monitoring and supervision have emerged as pivotal for ensuring project sustainability. Through joint oversight, stakeholders have been empowered to continue project activities seamlessly without ACORD, fostering long-term impact and sustainability. By actively engaging local authorities, projects are better integrated into existing systems, ensuring continued support and resource allocation even beyond project duration.
- **Utilization of Existing Structures for Enhanced Ownership:** Leveraging pre-existing community structures has yielded increased ownership and buy-in throughout the project lifecycle. By incorporating these structures from the outset, stakeholders feel a greater sense of ownership, fostering commitment and sustainability from planning through to evaluation.
- Collaborative efforts have brought more innovations in the activity that benefit the beneficiary, who is the primary target, thus improving their livelihoods.
- Sharing of Activity budgets increases transparency but also reallocation of resources to other priority activities.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Group Work Efforts**

Group collaborative efforts expedite task completion and ensure timely accomplishment of interventions.

- **Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement:**

Addressing climate change demands the inclusive involvement of diverse community stakeholders. Collaborative partnerships facilitate holistic and effective strategies for climate resilience and mitigation.

- **Continuous Capacity Building and Awareness:**

Sustained sensitization campaigns and capacity-building initiatives are essential for empowering communities with the knowledge and skills to comprehend global trends, embrace change, and actively contribute as agents of positive transformation.

- **Education as a Catalyst for Development:**

Prioritizing basic education facilitates national development and contributes to achieving sustainability objectives. Education catalyzes agricultural productivity enhancement, gender equality promotion, population management, environmental conservation, and overall socio-economic progress.

- **Utilization of Local Resources:**

Leveraging on locally available materials contributes to the welfare of beneficiaries and facilitates efficient mobilization and coordination without financial constraints. Adopting fuel-saving stoves constructed from locally sourced materials exemplifies this approach.

- **Insufficient Childcare and negligence contributing to Malnutrition:**

The primary factor contributing to malnutrition in children under 5 is insufficient care and negligence from their mothers or caregivers. Empirical evidence from the mass screening research report emphasizes that children with caretakers exhibiting poor child-rearing abilities are more susceptible to malnutrition. This underscores the importance of targeted interventions focusing on enhancing caregiving skills to effectively address and mitigate the risk of malnutrition among young children.

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f X  in  - ACORD Uganda

Fostering Sustainable Community Development

