

2025

Abridged Version

Report



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Summary

In 2025, ACORD Uganda implemented a range of programs aligned with its 2021-2025 strategic plan, focusing on health and well-being, sustainable livelihoods, climate change resilience, peacebuilding, and capacity building. The agency served about 1,608,395 people across 40 districts, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and orphans. With support from partners including Kindernot Hilfe, Bread for the World, USAID, UNFPA, WFP, the Japanese Embassy, and the Government of Uganda, ACORD invested US\$3,644,446 (UGX 13.7 billion) in program activities.

Key achievements included delivering comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to 185,537 women and girls, supporting climate-smart water and agricultural initiatives, empowering youth through vocational training, and advancing peacebuilding efforts benefiting over 500,000 people. Challenges such as funding cuts, political disruptions, climate variability, and rising costs were met with adaptive strategies and stakeholder collaboration.

Messages

Chairman Board of Director's Message



Dr Muhangi Denis shares the board's pride in ACORD's growth and resilience over 2025, highlighting the organisation's commitment to community-led development and good governance. Despite funding challenges, ACORD's multi-sectoral approach and capacity building have fostered sustainable impact. Gratitude is extended to partners, government agencies, and communities for their continued trust and collaboration.



Country Director's Message

Ms Ellen Bajenja reflects on the critical transitional year concluding the 2021-2025 strategic plan. ACORD maintained alignment with evolving local and global contexts to deliver impactful health, livelihood, peacebuilding, and capacity-building programmes. The report underscores the importance of partnerships and community engagement in achieving positive outcomes amid funding and contextual uncertainties.

1.60m

People Reached in
2025



3.63m

Funds in USD used in
2025

Implementation Environment

- **Geographic Scope:** 40 districts across Western, Eastern, Northern, West Nile, Northeastern, and Southwestern Uganda.
- **Operational Context:** Relatively stable political environment with localised tensions linked to elections and regional conflicts affecting refugee influxes.
- **Socioeconomic Context:** Youth unemployment, healthcare system challenges, gender inequality, and climate change impacts remained critical issues.
- **Economic Overview:** Moderate economic growth with inflationary pressures affecting rural livelihoods and project implementation costs.



Key Achievements

A. Health and Wellbeing

Reproductive Health

185,537 Women and Girls accessed Comprehensive SRH Services in 55 Health Facilities

270,623 received health education on menstrual hygiene, family planning, and birth preparedness

GBV and obstetric fistula prevention education reached **324,328** individuals.

363 health workers trained on SRH and respectful maternity care, enhancing service quality.



HIV/AIDS testing during an integrated outreach in Kabarole district

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Installation of **297 climate-proof rainwater harvesting tanks and solar-powered water** system improved clean water access for over 700 households and institutional beneficiaries in Southwestern Uganda.



B. Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Change

Sustainable Livelihoods

- Established **120 youth VSLAs** in Karamoja with over 2,000 members, promoting financial inclusion.
- Supported **Self-Help Groups** in Omoro, accumulating **UGX 160 million** in capital.
- Trained **171 vulnerable youth** in Karamoja on vocational skills, with **68.5%** actively earning an income.

Climate Change Mitigation

- Implemented **landscape restoration** to protect the Rwizi River catchment and promoted **energy-saving technologies**, reducing firewood use and smoke emissions.

Women's groups received hands-on training in backyard gardening to improve household nutrition, food security, and climate resilience



- Promoted **climate-smart agriculture** and **micro-irrigation** benefiting smallholder farmers.



Micro-irrigation systems were introduced to enhance water efficiency, boost crop yields, and help communities in Southwestern Uganda adapt to climate change.



The inspiring Journey of Timothy

Timothy, a 16-year-old who had previously dropped out of school in Ongako Sub County, experienced a remarkable transformation in his life thanks to the community-based training program offered by ACORD Uganda. Through the Self-Help Group (SHG) approach, he acquired valuable skills in motorcycle (*Boda Boda*) mechanics, which opened up new opportunities for him. With the knowledge and expertise he gained, Timothy was able to set up a small workshop where he now repairs and services motorcycles. This initiative not only provided him with a steady income but also allowed him to support his family financially. His journey from dropout to skilled mechanic is a testament to the power of community programs in empowering youth and facilitating positive change in their lives.



Stone Bund Construction in Kibaare Micro-Catchment, Rwizi



ACORD promoted the ***Restoration and Protection of River Rwizi Systems and Catchment Area*** in South-Western Uganda, through the adoption of ***landscape regeneration technologies*** to prevent and control soil erosion in the affected sub-catchment areas, including the construction of ***gabions, stone bunds, trenches and retention walls***.

C. Peace Building

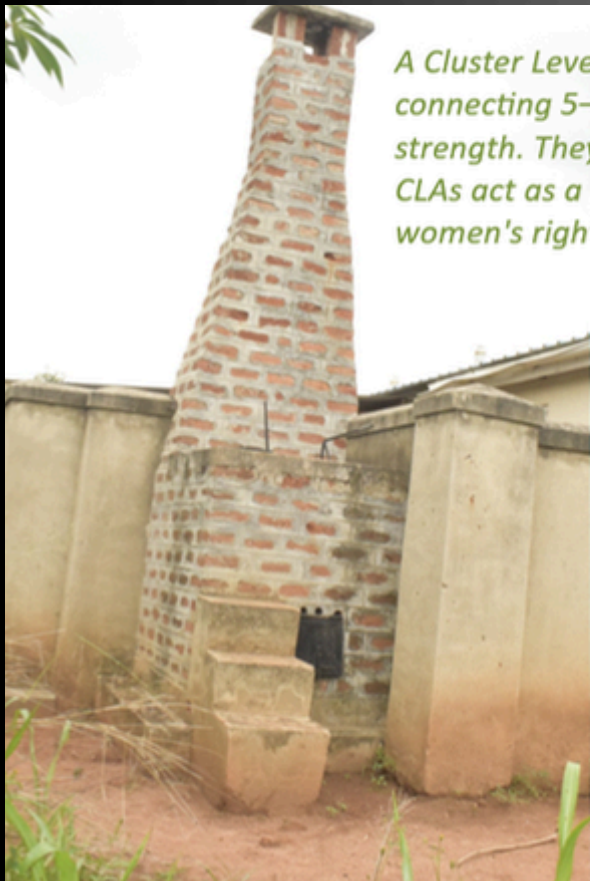
- We trained **352 change agents and male engagement group members** to prevent GBV and manage conflicts, impacting over **500,000 people**.
- We empowered **401 GBV survivors** with socio-economic skills.



A Male-Action-Group member in Malaba educated adolescent boys on GBV prevention

D. Capacity Building and Advocacy

- Supported **11 staff** in professional development and conducted training on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Advocated successfully for improved maternal health infrastructure, including a resting shelter at Ongako Health Centre III and an incinerator and menstrual hygiene facilities at Koch Kor Primary School in Ongako, Omoro district.



A Cluster Level Association (CLA) or Federation is a mid-tier organisation connecting 5–20 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in a specific area to boost collective strength. They facilitate larger loans, handle training, and strengthen livelihoods. CLAs act as a bridge between grassroots SHGs and higher-level bodies, promoting women's rights and economic empowerment.

Rwot Twero Cluster Level Association (CLA), established with the support of ACORD in Ongako Sub County, Omoro District, successfully advocated for improved sanitation in local schools. Their efforts contributed to the construction of an incinerator and the installation of menstrual hygiene facilities for adolescent girls at Ongako and Koch Kor Primary Schools. These developments aim to enhance sanitary conditions and promote better hygiene practices among students.

Programme Impact

- Enhanced maternal health services contributed to Uganda's goal of reducing maternal mortality.
- Strengthened farmer organisations increased agricultural produce aggregation and market access.
- Created safer community environments through GBV prevention and survivor empowerment.
- Youth vocational training fostered employment and income generation.
- Energy-saving cook stoves improved respiratory health and reduced environmental degradation.

Challenges

- Inconsistent availability of trained book writers affected record-keeping.
- Election-related disruptions delayed community activities.
- Flooding and climate variability caused crop losses and shifted project timelines.
- Rising construction costs hindered infrastructure completion.
- Varied group capacities led to uneven progress across communities.

Lessons

- Collaborative curriculum development for training improved relevance and uptake.
- Peer learning and stakeholder engagement strengthened sustainability.
- Early local government involvement ensured alignment and ownership.
- Community dialogue was key to changing norms around SRH and gender roles.
- Routine outreach in hard-to-reach areas ensured inclusive service delivery.

ACORD Uganda expresses sincere gratitude to its partners, government ministries, local governments, communities, board members, staff, and volunteers for their unwavering support and collaboration in 2025.



Thanks to our Development Partners who Supported the implementation of the following Projects

01

Bread for World

Brot
für die Welt

Rainwater Harvesting
for Improved
Sanitation and
Resilience to the
Effects of Climate
Change, continuation

02

Bread for World

Brot
für die Welt

Promoting
Restoration and
Protection of River
Rwizi Systems and
Catchment Area –
Phase III

03

UNFPA



Implementation
partner for the
GOU/UNFPA 10th
Country
Programme
[Mainly SRH and
GBV]

04

WFP



Agriculture and
Market Support /
Asset Creation &
Livelihoods Project

05

KNH



Scaling-up Child
Protection through
Empowerment of
Marginalized Women
in Northern Uganda



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