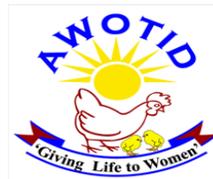


Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) Program

Funded by USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)
Quarter1: October 01 – December31, 2014



Veterinary interns(in blue overalls) training farmers and CAHWs(in brown-khaki overalls) on good livestock health practices at Narengpak kraal, Kathile, Kaabong



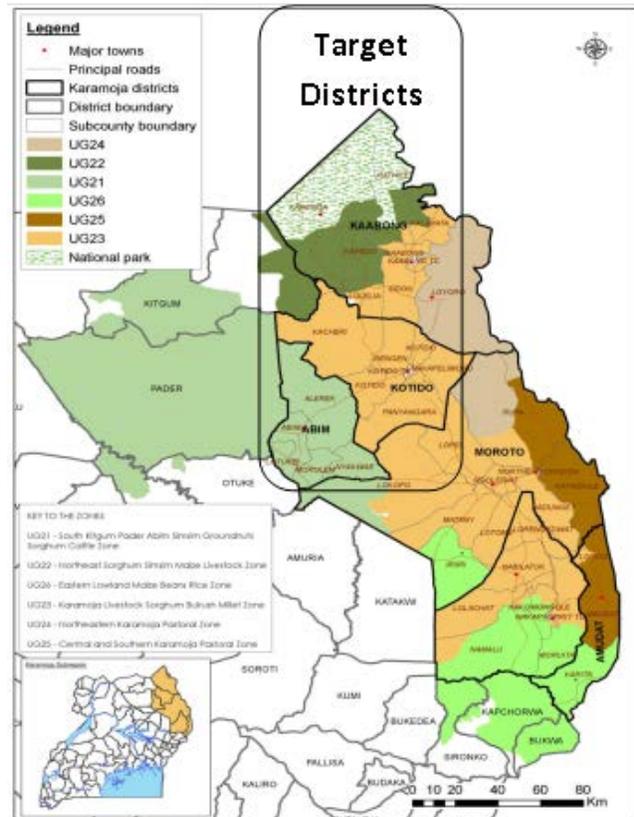
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1. Program Overview

The 1.2 million inhabitants of the Karamoja sub-region of northeastern Uganda face a slow crisis produced by the breakdown of their traditional agro-pastoralist livelihood strategy, repeated climactic shocks and ongoing insecurity from cattle raiding. The decay of social norms and institutions, such as elder authority and the meaningful, active role of young men and women in tribal culture, inevitably accompany the crisis, as does malnutrition for children, high rates of gender based violence, and gender inequality. It is difficult to overstate the challenges facing the Karamojong.

Those challenges are, however, matched by opportunities for long-term development with the potential for significant impact on the food insecure. Since 2010, four successive large harvests have filled village granaries in many areas, and the security situation is improving thanks to successful military and NGO disarmament and peacebuilding efforts. Although pockets of severe food insecurity persist (particularly in Kaabong district), in recognition of the sub-region’s overall development, emergency humanitarian efforts are scaling down, leaving a gap for more development-focused interventions to fill. There is a peace dividend waiting to be realized in Karamoja.

The Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) project was designed to capitalize on this pivotal moment through a range of economic, health, and governance initiatives that will cement the gains from increased security and build a foundation for broader self-sufficiency, while well targeted food aid for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two hastens the process of transition from decades of food aid by filling nutrition deficits in highly food insecure households. GHG’s geographical focus includes the northernmost three Karamojong districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Abim, home to approximately 540,000 individuals.



The GHG consortium pulls several complementary capacities into one coherent, unified approach, embodied in the *facilitative* approach that pushes local actors out front to sustainably provide the products (e.g., seeds and energy) and services (e.g., land opening, animal husbandry, transport, security, finance and healthcare) that make life productive and meaningful in the 21st century. As the consortium lead, Mercy Corps takes overall responsibility for the development of GHG’s facilitative strategy as well as the quality of all programming implemented by the project. Mercy Corps also implements all economic programming and employs a fulltime Gender

Advisor to ensure that an understanding of Karamoja's complicated gender dynamics are incorporated into all activities. World Vision Inc. (WV), with its robust commodity management and public health qualifications, is leading supplementary feeding activities, community-level public health initiatives, and water, sanitation and hygiene programming. An extraordinarily knowledgeable local partner, Kaabong Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA), constitutes the spear tip for GHG's conflict management and governance activities, working primarily through local formal and informal authority structures to bolster local systems for conflict reduction and government service improvement. Lastly, Tufts University's Feinstein International Center (FIC) is charged with performing annual impact evaluations using its community-focused Participatory Impact Assessment methodology that will help the rest of the consortium partners understand the impact (or lack thereof) of their work.

2. Updates by Strategic Objective

a. SO1: Pro-Poor Market Development

Financial Access Sector

The capacity building of SACCOs by Uganda Co-operative Savings and Credit Union (UCSCU) continued during the quarter and led to improved functionality of the SACCOs. In this reporting period, the SACCOs recruited 32 new individual members [9 females] within existing groups, and developed 7 new groups comprised of 73 males and 127 females, totaling 200 members. The SACCOs disbursed 15 loans valued at 8,850,000 shillings, which members used to improve their livelihoods through various income-generating activities (trading small ruminants, local brew making, petty trading, etc.).

Considering the impact of UCSCU on the operational improvement of target SACCOs, Mercy Corps renewed and extended the service contract of UCSCU for an additional six months. Likewise, Mercy Corps formally signed a performance based MOU with the SACCOs, where each of the six SACCOs is expected to recruit 264 new individual and qualified members, including 30 new VSLA groups, as well as disburse 90 loans within a period of six months. The MOU is intended to drive membership growth, improve the profitability of the SACCOs to ensure self-reliance and sustainability, as well as raise internal capital for lending to members.

GHG successfully organized an exposure/exchange visit for 12 stakeholders [SACCO board chairpersons and managers] to Allied and Kitgum SACCOs in Kitgum district. The exposure visit enabled participants to learn about techniques for membership mobilization, governance and management systems, SACCO products and services offered to individual members and VSLAs, marketing strategies, networking opportunities, and SACCO-to-SACCO peer mentoring. The SACCO stakeholders appreciated the learning visit and promised to implement what they learned in their respective SACCOs.

In an effort to improve SACCOs data management as well as build trust and confidence of members and the communities as a whole through co-branding, Mercy Corps signed an MOU with Equity Bank, whereby the latter works with THUR and Kitogogong SACCOs in Abim and Kotido district respectively. At the time of writing this report, Equity Bank had already installed a Management Information System (MIS) in both SACCOs and data migration and

computerization of the SACCOs data management system was completed. The next focus in this partnership will be to negotiate a credit scheme with Equity bank for wholesale lending to the SACCO partners to address the problem of low capitalization (liquidity) of the SACCOs in order to increase the volume and value of loans to SACCO members.

Liquidity is currently the single biggest challenge facing the SACCOs. To further address this issue, all seven SACCOS were linked with MTN as mobile money agents. The introduction of the mobile money platform in the SACCOs has led to an enormous increase in traffic to the SACCO. During this reporting period, the SACCOs provided mobile money services to 3,286 clients (valued at 247,564,100 Ugandan shillings) which provides an opportunity for the SACCOs to attract new members, and therefore improve liquidity.

The financial inclusion landscape in Karamoja continues to be very narrow. Despite high demand from local business people for loans, the financial services offered by formal financial services is very limited. Thus, to further improve availability and access to loans, GHG developed a concept note to invite two banks (Post Bank and Pride Micro Finance) to establish partnerships that will lead to opening of branch banks in GHG districts. GHG will continue to pursue these partnerships in order to improve financial inclusion for thousands of Karamojong.

To improve the overall business investment environment in GHG operational districts, GHG established partnerships with three trader associations in Abim, Kotido and Kaabong districts in order to assist them to conduct business forums in their respective districts. The forums bring business people together so they can have a unified voice to advocate for an improved business environment in their respective district. GHG facilitates the formation and strengthening of the governance structures, and then supports some operational costs for the effective and efficient running of the association offices. The Kotido business forum was conducted during this reporting period, with 60 people in attendance. Business forums for Abim and Kaabong districts will be conducted in the next quarter.

Agricultural Inputs Sector

Twelve (12) GHG supported retailers actively sold certified high quality improved seeds to an estimated 1400 farmers for the 2014 cropping season (Feb-Aug, 2014) for the first time in north Karamoja history. During this reporting period, these farmers began to harvest their improved crops. Survey data from the field indicates that 95% of the beneficiary farmers reported improved yields, in comparison to previous harvests, and a high level of satisfaction with the improved seed varieties. GHG will measure the actual yields once the harvest and post-harvest process is complete and will report this data in the next quarterly report.

To further strengthen the Agrodealer network in Karamoja, GHG identified 6 additional local seed retailers, bringing the total number of GHG-assisted Agrodealers to 18 in total. The new entrants are interested in starting agro-input businesses for the next cropping season which will help farmers to increase their farm productivity, which in turn enhances household food security.

Bokoi is a small scale farmer who is beginning to apply commercial farming practices on a larger scale. In an effort to boost production, Bokoi practiced improved agronomic practices on some of his farmland, using techniques learned from the GHG-supported Agrodealer, Amadi Leo. “I bought improved seeds from Amadi and planted 4kgs of improved maize variety [longe 10] and 5kgs of beans [K132] on my 1.5 acres of land. As a result, I harvested 5 bags of maize [500kgs] and 1.2 basins of beans [30kgs] compared to the 2 bags of maize that I got from 2 acres of land after planting 1 basin [25kgs] of local maize seeds. I would have gotten more than that if there hadn't been too much rain this cropping season. Now that I have witnessed the benefit of using improved seeds, next season I am ready to buy more improved seeds and cover more acres of land to increase my production and my income. My focus for next season will be on maize, groundnuts, sunflower, beans and simsim [sesame] because they have ready markets and good prices. I will also plant local seeds alongside like; millet, green gram, soya beans, and sorghum as supplements.”



IMAGE: Bokoi weeding improved maize variety longe 10.

Improved agricultural extension services are critically important to increase agronomic knowledge and skills of smallholders in the project area. However, experience has shown that public extension services in Karamoja are insufficient, or in some cases non-existent. Input supply companies, local Agrodealers and their agents do not have the capacity to offer embedded extension services to farmers. Therefore, in consultation and collaboration with local seed retailers and the research center, GHG recruited 8 Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) [two of them are female] to provide extension services to target farmers. During this reporting period, AEWs taught smallholder farmers improved agronomic practices and mapped and enrolled nineteen (19) lead farmers, thirty two (32) women farming groups, six (6) youth groups, two (2) VSLAs farming groups, four (4) agro pastoral farmer field schools (APFFS) and 7 new interested retailer agents across the three GHG districts. AEWs will

also provide training to existing farmers and groups, coops, and farmer associations by working directly with FFSs, VSLAs, SACCOs, youth & women’s groups as well as lead farmers coupled with increased access to demonstration sites where farmers can see the benefits of improved inputs and seeds.

GHG's Ag-inputs team made extra efforts to reach female farmers through a non-price promotional campaign piloted by 3 Agrodealers (Abim 2, Kaabong 1). The Agrodealer in Kaabong district attributed her late season sales of certified, improved seeds to more than 145 farmers to the promotional campaign, which effectively tapped into women's networks. The promotional campaign explored a combination of communications strategies tailored to female audiences but delivered by Agrodealers or their sales agents at VSLA meetings, church services, community gatherings, boreholes etc. The campaign resulted in an estimated 700 farmers being reached with information about improved seeds, and improved agronomic practices in Lobalangit sub-county (Kaabong) alone. GHG will expand these campaigns to stimulate demand

for certified improved inputs through similar non-price marketing campaigns in the next cropping season.

Commodity Trade Sector

The major commodity sector activities accomplished by GHG during this reporting period are described below.

Expansion of market access through market linkages with farmers



GHG organized and facilitated a commodity buying and export company (Gulu Agricultural Development Company- GADCO¹) to visit Northern Karamoja in order to identify market opportunities. GADCO met with 250 farmers (98 female) across the GHG program districts. As a result, GADCO identified an opportunity to purchase simsim (sesame) produced on 3,086 acres in Kaabong (Karenga and Lobalangit sub counties) and Kotido (Kacheri sub county) and identified three lead agents as potential market agents. Pricing negotiations between GADCO and the farmers still need to occur.

PHOTO: The GADCO Agronomist meeting with farmers at Kangorok parish, Panyangara subcounty

Animal Health Service Sector

The business relationship between Agrovets and national drug companies continued to strengthen during the quarter. A total of UGX 6.5 million in drugs were shipped to Agrovets in Abim and Kaabong by two Norbrook agents located in Soroti District.

In order to refresh CAHWs veterinary skills and enhance their capacity in micro business management, GHG organized a one week training for 79 CAHWs drawn from the three GHG districts. Training was delivered by resource persons from Norbrook and District Veterinary Officers including veterinarians from GHG-supported agro vet shops. After the training, the CAHWs were provided with basic veterinary kits/equipment (spray pump, gum boots, overalls, cool boxes/vaccine carriers, heart girths, syringes and needles, drenching guns) and vouchers for essential drugs (dewormers, acaricides, antibiotics, anti-protozoas and anti-tryps) which they redeemed through GHG's four (4) partner agrovets. The voucher builds CAHWs' operational stock and strengthens the business linkage between CAHWs and agrovets. At the time of writing this report, 19 out of 39 CAHWs in Kaabong had sold the majority of their stock and had returned to the Agrovet shops where they used the cash proceeds to purchase additional inventory. In Abim, 8 out of 20 trained CAHWs had also sold the majority of their inventory and had

¹ GADCO is an Agricultural private company working with farmers and also buys off selected commodities such as Sesame, Chili, cotton, sunflower and soon incorporating soya beans and Maize.

replenished it through the Sago vet drug shop. In addition to strengthening business linkage between CAHWs, agrovets shops and vet drug supply companies, the training of CAHWs has also contributed to improving the quality of community-based animal health service delivery. In this reporting period, a total of 405 farmers benefited from kraal-based veterinary and good herd health sensitization services via CAHWs and Agrovets, while 217 farmers have accessed quality and affordable drugs and embedded services from GHG-supported Agrovets.



PHOTOS: Dr. Geoffrey Kyambadde (Norbrook) training CAHWs in Kaabong

Through GHG's partnership with Makerere University, GHG districts benefitted from 8 final year veterinary medicine students, from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB) as part of their one month internships. The veterinary students supported kraal herd health campaigns in Kotido, Abim and Kaabong, clinical examination and diagnosis of livestock diseases, Newcastle disease vaccination, poultry health services extension work to women in villages, SACCOs and mother care groups, and supervised CAHWs records management and service delivery at kraals and designed the district livestock disease calendar for Kaabong. The interns reached a total of 12 kraals, 42 CAHWs and over 250 farmers.



PHOTOS: *Veterinary interns during clinical examination of livestock diseases and kraal-based farmer sensitization*

In Karamoja, most livestock are managed and controlled by men, although poultry are managed by women. Poultry farming plays an important economic role to women not only in increasing their income through the sale of eggs and birds, but also to diversify their diet with high protein products. Unfortunately, poultry farming in the area has been challenged due to outbreaks of Newcastle disease and limited poultry health services. Therefore, to improve women-led poultry productivity, a total of 117 people (48 female CAHWs and rural women poultry farmers, 54 male CAHWs, 8 vet interns, 3 district veterinary officers and 4 agrovets) were trained in Abim,

Kotido and Kaabong districts by Quality Chemicals Ltd to vaccinate chicken, turkeys and ducks against Newcastle disease using ND-i2 thermo stable vaccine, ensuring regular poultry treatment and other farm bio-security practices. Poultry vaccinations will continue through early January 2015. Paying UGX 50 per vaccine, this is the first time that farmers in Northern Karamoja participated in a poultry vaccine cost-share program. A total of 45,421 birds were vaccinated benefiting 2997 farmers (75% of the farmer beneficiaries are estimated to be women, according to preliminary vaccination results).

The National Drug Authority (NDA) maintained their commitment to regulate the veterinary drug market in Northern Karamoja by honoring their quarterly visit to the region. In mid-October, the Lira NDA team head visited Kotido and Abim districts, inspected drug shop premises (veterinary and human drug shops), checked for NDA licenses and held a meeting with Kotido district drug inspector (DDI). This activity is important to prevent counterfeit drugs and encourage quality assurance in the sector.

Livestock Marketing Sector

Livestock market operations in Kotido (Kanawat market) and Kaabong (Komuria market) had been suspended since September following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD] and eventual quarantine enforcement. On December 8, 2014, the quarantine was lifted in Kotido by the Commissioner of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and livestock trade resumed. The Kaabong quarantine is anticipated to be lifted in the next 30 to 60 days. Therefore, market information sharing (between kraal leaders and livestock traders) using mobile phones will resume in early January 2015 in Kotido. The market information enables livestock producers and traders to make informed marketing decisions.

Following selection of a credible contractor, the Kaabong livestock market (Komuria) infrastructure construction work started in December and is expected to be completed in two months (target of February 2015).

As part of its emergency response activities (ER), GHG responded to outbreaks of FMD and CBPP livestock diseases in Kaabong district and supported the district veterinary office with transport for field vaccination, delivery of vaccines and for one staff to coordinate vaccination teams in 5 sub counties where 180 farmers (to date) have benefited. The vaccination is ongoing.

The livestock marketing team initiated dissemination of Early Warning information including weather forecasts and drought bulletins (produced by FEWSNET and Meteorological Department, Ministry of Water and Environment) using the kraal platform. In this quarter, 4 kraals including Kalapata, Namuto (Kaabong West), Narengpak (Kathile) and Lodiko have been reached.

Urban Development Sector

Findings of the GHG rapid assessment on meat consumption revealed that overall meat consumption in Kotido has increased with urbanization. Kotido's estimated 20,000 residents consume an estimated 25 goats/sheep and 2 cows per day through the formal market. The meat sector employs both men and women who earn a living as meat transporters, animal traders, farmers, butchers, skin and hide traders, and cleaners. Meat is transported to butcher shops from the current municipal slaughter house located 3 kilometers outside of town. The meat is

transported in an unhygienic manner leaving significant potential for contamination. Butcher kiosks also are not hygienically maintained by the attendants. Kiosks lack washing facilities and waste disposal bins, and meat is often mixed with offal's and is exposed to flies. The meat value chain presents potential health risks to the population and serves as a deterrent for potential meat buyers.

With support from the Town Council, GHG initiated discussions with butchers (17 attendees) to upgrade the sanitation of their butcher services. GHG then signed a performance based MOU with the Kotido Butchers Association and Kotido Town Council. Key performance benchmarks include: 1) butcher association members open an account with Centenary Bank with UGX 500,000 as their contribution towards the purchase of a three-wheeled motorbike for hygienically transporting meat; 2) butchers relocate their businesses to facilities provided by the municipality, which include access to water and other hygienic conditions, and 3) butchers have standard certified weighing scales meeting Uganda National Bureau of Standards, and 4) butchers ensure all animals due for slaughter are inspected by the district authorities (DVO) before any slaughter is done. The association's current membership consists of 30 butchers.

The rapid market assessment evaluated the supply and demand for energy efficient stoves (EFS). During the assessment, 8 retailers (4 female) showed interest in commercially distributing energy efficient stoves if linked with potential suppliers. Following the assessment, a stove manufacturer named International Lifeline Fund (ILF) based in Lira was invited to visit the GHG districts and held discussions with the selected retailers about the business opportunity in the area. The business linkage between these retailers and ILF resulted in the shipment of 207 EFS stoves to the area. To further strengthen the business relationship between retailers and ILF, GHG continued discussions with ILF and agreed on potential areas of collaboration for expanded distribution of energy efficient stoves in the area. The utilization of energy efficient stoves is expected to lessen the work burden for women by reducing time spent collecting fire wood, and reduce negative health effects associated with indoor air pollution.

To improve the maintenance of borehole equipment, GHG provided a four (4) day refresher training to the Abim Hand Pump Mechanic associations (HPMA) (15 attendees, all male) in collaboration with the District Water Office of Abim. The training focused on improving the capacity of the association in: using a tripod stand to fish dropped borehole pipes, use of GPS to locate borehole easting's and northings, and borehole casting using a mold.

GHG also signed a performance based MoU with Abim HPMA during the quarter. As part of the MOU, GHG provided construction materials (such as cement, doors/windows and reinforcement bars) for the construction of the organization's new office. The Abim HPMA is now required to meet its initial benchmarks before GHG provides additional support.

b. SO2: Nutrition among Children under Five Improved

Public Health Care Sector

In a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Mercy Corps and the Northern Karamoja local governments in November 2013, the districts Health Unit Management Committees were obligated to complete performance benchmarks, including for Health Management Information Systems (HMIS). In return, Mercy Corps was to provide critically

needed health infrastructure and medical equipment in an effort to strengthen health systems and improve health service delivery. Following the district's achievement of the benchmarks, Mercy Corps procured and distributed the following equipment in October 2014: 17 Blood pressure machines, 3 maternity beds, 6 delivery beds, 19 delivery sets, 13 sterilizer drums, 2 fetoscopes, 23 stethoscopes(adult & infant), 24 weighing scales(neonate & infant) and 3 multipurpose instrument trolleys. This equipment was distributed to 5 HCIIIs and 12 HCIIIs in Kaabong, 4 HCIIIs and 14 HCIIIs in Abim, and 4 HCIIIs and 2 HCIIIs in Kotido districts.

The GHG program had previously identified several health facilities that require improvements, which included: 6 maternity wards, 1 general ward, 2 OPD's, 3 intern houses, 3 placenta pits, 1 delivery room and renovation of 1 OPD block for 4 Health Facilities (HF's) in Abim, 6 HF's in Kotido and 4 HF's in Kaabong. In this reporting period, GHG issued tenders and started construction for the placenta pits in Rikitae, Napumpum and Panyangara health centers, and also the delivery room in Rikitae. These facilities will be completed in January, 2015. Construction of the remaining health facility improvements are expected to take place in March, 2015, following the tender process and contractor selection in February.

As part of GHG's activities to strengthen community participation in the management of health facilities and the provision of quality health care services, GHG supported the re-formation and strengthening of HUMC's by providing training in administration and finance, monitoring health facility services, work plan development, inventory management, and communication. In this reporting period, the health facility team embarked on mentoring and monitoring the performance of the HUMC's. GHG mentored 17 members (6 female) in Abim, 49 (22 female) in Kaabong, and 16 in Kotido (9 female). All (64) of the HUMC's in the program area carried out at least one monitoring visit to their respectively health facilities. Additionally, 89% of HUMCs (57 of 64) in Northern Karamoja conducted the required Quarterly meetings without the support of facilitation money by GHG, a sign of sustainable change in the management of health facilities. 362 members attended these meetings with 45% female participation. In order to improve supervision of the HUMCs, GHG also supported the subcounties of Nakapelimoru, Kacheri and Panyangara to form Sub-County Health Committees (SCHC's).

According to the MoHHMIS procedure manual, districts are to hold quarterly HMIS performance reviews, health facilities are to submit data timely to the district biostatistician, districts and HF's are to utilize HMIS data in planning, monitoring work plans, disease prediction and detection, and resource allocation. Kotido district held HMIS performance reviews for Quarter 2, FY 2014/15, Kaabong and Abim held Quarter 1 reviews in October and are yet to conduct the HMIS performance review for Quarter 2 in January 2015. Timely submission of HMIS monthly reports has generally stagnated in Kaabong, Kotido and Abim with 65%, 60% and 75% of facilities submitting reports on time. GHG is following up with District staff to advocate for the improved submission of timely data.

MCHN, WASH & Supplementary Food Distribution

VHT Review Meetings

Village Health Teams (VHTs) are a GoU structure for the implementation of health activities at the community level. They are ‘health center one’ and are thus crucial for the success of activities aimed at helping communities. GHG partner World Vision conducts review meetings with VHTs to assess their operations and performance of project activities. During the quarter, five (5) VHT review meetings were held; 2 in Abim, 2 in Kotido and 1 in Kaabong. The highlights of the review meetings results are listed below.

- In Abim, there was a noticeable reduction in home deliveries according to testimonials from Health Centre In-Charges. Also in Abim, it was also reported that male engagement especially in ANC services, was picking up.
- In Kotido, inadequate supervision of VHTs was a concern.
- Illiteracy of some VHTs is a major hindrance to proper documentation of activities.

Table 1: Summary of the VHT Review Meetings held during the quarter.

District	Month meeting was held	#VHTs: Male	# VHTs: Female	Total
Abim	Nov, Dec	81	81	162
Kaabong	Oct	166	162	328
Kotido	Oct, Nov	57	50	107
	Total	304	293	597

Immunization Outreach at Food Distribution Points

Food distribution points where the project’s supplementary feeding beneficiaries converge every month provide an opportunity for bringing health services closer to the community using the outreach model. During this quarter, GHG in collaboration with health center staff and VHTs conducted immunizations at various food distribution points in Abim and Kotido districts as summarized in the table below. Kaabong did not conduct outreach activities because most health workers were understaffed at their duty stations and therefore could not come to the FDPs. Both children and adults (reproductive age women) were immunized. Details are given in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of the immunization outreach

Antigen	Children immunized		Total
	M	F	
BCG	1	8	9
POLIO 0	1	7	8
POLIO 1	45	47	92
POLIO 2	60	72	132
POLIO 3	47	57	104
OPV 1	9	8	17
OPV 2	4	4	8
OPV 3	1	5	6

DPT 1	54	63	117
DPT 2	63	75	138
DPT 3	49	65	114
Measles	52	67	119
PCV 1	53	75	128
PCV 2	48	50	98
PCV 3	28	42	70
Vitamin A	Children 6-59 months, not segregated by sex		95
De-wormers	Children <14 years who received 1 st dose in the year		18
	Children <14 years who received 2 nd dose in the year		47
TT 1	Reproductive age women		6
TT 2	Reproductive age women		8

Nutrition Screening at Food Distribution Points

On a quarterly basis, GHG conducts mass nutrition screening using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes to detect acute under-nutrition. The objective is to assess the nutritional status of children under two years, specifically those children benefitting from the supplementary feeding program. The results from this exercise are essential for program level decision making, especially in directing behavior change communication efforts using the existing platforms. Based on the finding of this quarter's screening, Kaabong continues to have the worst nutrition indicators, which is consistent with other screening data and information from the mother care groups. ***The GAM for Kaabong is 25%, with Kotido at 21% and Abim at 10%. A GAM of 15% or greater is "critical" and requires immediate action.*** GHG has acted on this data by deploying more project staff in Kaabong, and more care groups have been formed in Kaabong than in any other district. This aims at increasing community contacts with behavior change communication on young child feeding and other health practices. A summary of the findings is provided in the table below.

Table 3: Results of the Nutrition Screening at FDPs

District	# Screened		Total	Acceptable (≥12.5 cm)		Total	Moderate (11.5- <12.5cm)		Total	Severe (<11.5 cm)		Total
	M	F		M	F		M	F		M	F	
Kaabong	907	902	1809	698	655	1353 74.8%	172	201	373 20.6%	37	46	83 4.6%
Kotido	331	372	703	267	285	552 78.5%	53	72	125 17.8%	11	15	26 3.7%
Abim	361	406	767	330	360	690 90%	27	35	62 8.1%	4	11	15 1.9%
TOTAL	1599	1680	3279	1295	1300	2595 79.1%	252	308	560 17.1%	52	72	124 3.8%

Increased consumption of nutritious foods for households

Promote production of nutritious foods for household consumption.

GHG promotes the production of nutritious food by teaching vulnerable women how to create and maintain perma-gardens. Perma-gardening is a combination of perma-culture and bio-intensive gardening. The combination creates a strong, healthy garden that can produce higher volumes of food while withstanding long dry periods. The main crops grown in these gardens are vegetables with the aim of diversifying dietary intakes of target households.

Roll out of perma-gardening training

During the quarter, trainings were rolled out in Abim and Kaabong districts. In Abim, the training was provided to 56 participants (28 women) which included Lead Mothers and their spouses in Wilela and Koya parishes of Alerek sub-county. Following this training, a total of 12 perma-gardens were established by the two care groups. However, during follow-up visits in Wilela and Koya parishes, Alerek sub-county, the monitoring revealed that the vegetables were withering to due to lack of water. Care group members and their spouses were counseled accordingly. In Kaabong, trainings were conducted for 4 care groups in the sub-counties of Loyoro, Kapedo, Kawalakol and Lodiko. A total of 70 participants (45 females) took part in the training. It was not possible to establish the number of all the gardens set up as a result of the trainings in Kaabong by reporting time.

In Kotido, follow-up of previously trained care groups in Loposa and Kamoru parishes, Panyangara sub-county, revealed that 16 Lead Mothers had well maintained gardens.

Table 4: Summary of participants in perma-gardening trainings and those who established perma-gardens on follow-up

District	Sub-county	Parish	# Males	# Females	# Perma-gardens
Kotido	Panyangara	Kamoru	-	-	09
	Panyangara	Loposa	-	-	07
Kaabong	Loyoro	Toroi	13	14	-
	Kapedo	Lokial	03	11	-
	Kawalakol	Kawalakolcentre	04	10	-
	Lodiko	Kotome	05	10	-
Abim	Alerek	Koya	13	13	06
	Alerek	Wilela	15	15	06
		Total	53	73	28

Promote maternal infant and child feeding caring practices through VHT, Care Group and Lead Mothers

Formation of Mother Care Groups

By the end of the last quarter, a total of 89 Mother Care Groups had been formed. During this quarter, 11 new Care Groups were formed. All of these new Care Groups are in Kaabong district. This brings the total number of Care Groups to 100, up from 89 in the last quarter.

Roll out of Module 1

During the quarter, module 1 was rolled out to 33 Care Groups; 10 in Abim, 5 in Kaabong and 18 in Kotido. The trainings were conducted as follows; 4 in October, 14 in November and 15 in December, 2014. Module 1 is the introductory module. It gives Leader Mothers and Promoters an orientation on what the care group approach is all about, it outlines the responsibilities of the Leader Mothers including watching neighbor groups and how to share progress with others.

Roll out of Module 2 Lessons

In this quarter, roll out of lessons from module two continued in all districts of operation. Module 2 covers nutrition and health seeking behavior during pregnancy and early infancy, with a total of 6 topics within the lesson and individual topics being rolled out every two weeks. The topics include:

- Lesson 1: Antenatal care and health facility delivery
- Lesson 2: Maternal nutrition
- Lesson 3: Micronutrients: Iron , Folic Acid and Iodine
- Lesson 4: Preparation for delivery at a health facility
- Lesson 5: Immediate breast feeding after birth and use of colostrum
- Lesson 6: Post-partum care and complications that may arise

The lessons are being rolled out in phases with some CGs trained up to lesson 6 in Abim. In Kotido, a total of 3 Care Groups were trained on lesson 1, 7 on lesson 2, 4 on lesson 3 and 5 on lesson 4. In Abim, 7 Care Groups were trained on lessons 4, 5 and 6. In Kaabong, 2 Care Groups were trained on lessons 4 and 5. The tables below shows a summary of lessons roll out during the quarter.

Table 5: Status of roll out of Module 2 Lessons in the quarter

District	# CGs Lesson 1	# LMs	# CGs Lesson 2	# LMs	# CGs Lesson 3	# LMs	# CGs Lesson 4	# LMs	# CGs Lesson 5	# LMs trainee d	# CGs Lesson 6	# LMs
Abim	-	-	-	-	-	-	07	83	07	83	07	83
Kaabon	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	18	02	24	-	-

g												
Kotido	03	36	07	70	4	48	05	60	-	-	-	-
Total	03	36	07	70	4	48	14	161	09	107	07	83

Provide supplementary feeding to pregnant and lactating women and children under 2.

Three cycles of supplementary food distribution (October, November and December 2014) were conducted in all the 36 FDPs during the quarter. The total tonnage handled during the quarter was 833.410 Mt out of the programmed 736.515 Mt. The cumulative total is **3992.638Mt**, representing **81%** of all the commodities received for FY13, FY14 and transfer from the MC MYAP. In addition to the food distribution exercise, community mobilization, new beneficiary registration, community sensitization, verification and photo taking was carried in all the 36 FDP's.

Table 6: Summary of commodities distributed.

Beneficiary Category	Tonnage Distributed from April 2013 to September 2014(Mt)	Tonnage Handled during the Quarter (Mt)	Total tonnage distributed(Mt)
Children Under 2 Yrs	214.561	74.662	289.223
Pregnant Women	271.651	76.624	348.275
Lactating Mothers	216.683	40.006	256.689
Protection ration	2456.334	642.118	3098.452
Total Mt	3159.229	833.410	3992.638

Cumulative number of beneficiaries reached with supplementary food commodities during the quarter was 227,935. The maximum number of beneficiaries reached per month was 75,978 beneficiaries comprising of 8,472 children under 2 years, 3,475 pregnant women, 1,814 lactating mothers and 62,217 protection ration beneficiaries.

Table 7: Summary of beneficiaries served.

	Primary Beneficiaries						Protection Ration Beneficiaries			Grand Total
	CU2			Pregnant & Lactating Women			3 Yrs and above			
Month Cycle	Boys	Girls	Total	Pregnant Women	Lactating Mother	Total	Male	Females	Total	Grand Total
Oct-14	4,014	4,099	8,113	3,060	1,547	4,607	30,047	25,626	55,683	68,403
Nov-14	4,221	4,216	8,437	3,899	1,673	5,572	35,294	29,265	64,559	78,568
Dec-14	4,451	4,415	8,866	3,466	2,223	5,689	36,277	30,132	66,409	80,964
Total	12,686	12,730	25,416	10,425	5,443	15,868	101,618	85,023	186,651	227,935

Table 8: Summary of Children under 5 years reached

	Primary Beneficiaries			Protection Ration			CU5		
	CU2			Children 3 - 5 yrs					
Month	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girl	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Oct-14	4,014	4,099	8,113	5,762	5,590	11,352	9,776	9,689	19,465
Nov-14	4,221	4,216	8,437	7,533	7,127	14,660	11,754	11,343	23,097
Dec-14	4,451	4,415	8,866	7,810	7,381	15,191	12,261	11,796	24,057
Total	12,686	12,730	25,416	21,105	20,098	41,203	33,791	32,828	66,619

Reduced incidences of diarrhea diseases among children

Commissioning of boreholes constructed in FY2014

GHG constructed 15 new boreholes during year 2 (FY14) of implementation. These boreholes were completed at the end of the fiscal year and handed over to community members for utilization pending official hand over to the local government.

During this quarter, the boreholes of Alungar and Odolowany of Nyakwae were officially handed over to the Abim District Local Government. During the handover ceremonies, emphasis was echoed by both the project officials and the district local government leadership on community management of the infrastructure to ensure sustainability. The boreholes in Kotido and Kaabong were not handed over to the local government officials due to minor cracks which were noted on some boreholes during the handover preparation process. Contractors responsible for the boreholes with defects were requested to come and rectify the defects as the boreholes were still within the defect liability period. These boreholes will be handed over to the Kaabong and Kotido district local government at the beginning of next quarter.

In FY14, the project drilled 14 out of 15 planned boreholes and equipped them with hand pumps and a cattle trough. One site in Loyoro sub-county had technical failure at the final stage of test pumping but was eventually successfully constructed in Narianaoi North village, Kathile sub county, Kaabong district during the first week of January (technically not in the reporting quarter). This borehole was equipped with both hand pump and cattle trough.

Sites identification for new borehole drilling

GHG plans to drill 14 boreholes in FY15. The assessment to identify the communities to benefit from this intervention started at the beginning of this reporting period. The process of identifying the communities to benefit from the planned 14 boreholes was consultative; respective sub-counties and district authorities were engaged to identify needy communities based on their sub-county/district master plan. Verification of the proposed communities was then completed by the GHG program staff (Engineering Assistants). The key criteria considered during the verification exercise include: communities with no functional safe water source within a radius of 1.5 km from the nearest households, population of at least 300 and the willingness of the communities to contribute the seed fund of UGX 200,000. Eighteen communities were identified (8 in Kaabong, 7 in Kotido and 3 in Abim). These locations include Lorengechora, Takanikial, Pongor, Kajir,

Sokodu, Lokurinya, Losemudang, Loperu and Naurutochom in Kaabong District, Modokonya, Aridek, Namoni, Lokinya, Morukironon, Kalobur and Loru in Kotido district and Kakorinyang, Akworo and Barjobi in Abim district.

The process of community mobilization and sensitization, signing of MOU, formation of WASH committees and collection of seed funds by the committees started after identification of the communities. By end of this quarter, 15 communities had responded positively by showing progress towards fulfilling the requirements with up to 10 communities having fully collected the seed fund of UGX 200,000. Other communities that do not have cash for seed funds have gone ahead to collect products that they will eventually sell to realize the required seed fund. Procurement of contractor for drilling work for these communities will commence early in the second quarter. Details of communities that have made significant progress towards fulfilling their requirement within the borehole MOU are summarized in table 9 below.

Table 9: Summary of communities' seed fund contribution

	Community/village	Parish	Sub-county	District	Contribution Status
1	Takanikial	Kaimese	Loleia	Kaabong	240 Kgs of Sorghum
2	Poongo	Narengepak	Kathile	Kaaabong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorghum= 100Kgs • Beans= 2 basins and 2 cans • Maize=28 Kgs • Cash= 26,000
3	Loesemudang	Sangar	Kapedo	Kaabong	112 Kgs of sorghum
4	Loperu	Kawalakol	Kawalakol	Kaabong	On going
5	Naurutochom	Lomanok	Kawalakol	Kaabong	On going
6	Lorengchora	Nachukul	Kathile	Kaabong	UGX, 200,000 collected
7	Modokonya	Loletio	Panyangara	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
8	Aridek	Loposa	Panyangara	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
9	Namoni	Rikitae	Panyangara	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
10	Lokinya	Rikitae	Panyangara	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
11	Morukironon	Rikitae	Panyangara	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
12	Loru	Potongor	Nakapelimoru	Kotido	UGX, 200,000 collected
13	Kakorinyang	Kobulin	Nyakwae	Abim	UGX, 200,000 collected
14	Akworo	Pupukamuya	Nyakwae	Abim	UGX, 200,000 collected
15	Barjobi	Kobulin	Nyakwae	Abim	UGX, 200,000 collected

Advocate for WASH awareness and appropriate WASH decisions among public officials

GHG conducted four WASH coordination forums during the quarter. During the Amudat district (Karamoja) meeting, there was a call for more coordination of efforts and harmonizing approaches. GHG highlighted the major problems the program is facing including the difference in approaches in both CLTS and requirement for provision of safe water to communities. Based on this discussion, the meeting developed key action points to be followed by all actors in the WASH sector to improve service delivery as summarized in Annex 1.

Establish and train gender-balanced water committees at each water point

GHG's program requires that a water user committee is formed at every GHG-supported water point to improve access to safe drinking water, proper utilization, community ownership and sustainability. During the reporting period, 3 water user committees were formed in Loesemudang, Lorengechora and Poongo villages of Kaabong district. This was part of the community preparation process for provision of water points. In addition, the newly formed committees were given a general orientation on their roles for community mobilization. Additional training will be provided once the boreholes are successfully drilled in the communities.

Community sanitation access and hygiene practices improved

Build ventilated improved pit latrines and hand washing facilities in schools.

The GHG team completed a comprehensive school WASH assessment identifying the schools in need of latrines. The identification was based on the national guidelines that recommend a latrine stance ratio of 1:25 and 1:40 for girls and boys respectively. Based on the assessment, Oreta Primary School in Abim District, Kanair Primary School in Kotido District and Lowakuch and Lokanayona primary school in Kaabong district were identified as beneficiaries for 5 stance VIP latrines in FY15. The location of these primary schools are summarized in table 10 below.

Table 10: Summary of schools to benefit from VIP latrines

S N	School Name	Sub-County	District	Enrollment		Existing Latrine Stances		Gaps/required new stances	
				Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	Oreta Primary School	Nyakwae	Abim	454	251	2	3	9	7
2	Kanair Primary School	Nakapelimoru	Kotido	309	197	4	1	4	7
3	Luwakuch Primary School	Kapedo	Kaabong	373	177	2	2	7	5
4	Lokanayona Primary School	Loyoro	Kaabong	274	230	2	2	5	7

Implement CLTS in target communities

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a participatory approach that engages communities to conduct self-appraisal of their hygiene and sanitation practices so as to collectively decide to improve. The main objective of CLTS is for communities to stop open defecation and adopt safer hygiene and sanitation practices.

For effective implementation of this approach, newly recruited and existing project staff and district local government officials were trained on the CLTS approach for five days from 27th-31st October, 2014. A total of 19 participants attended the Kotido-based training including 14 project staff (4 females) and 5 Local government staff (1 female). During the training, there were practical sessions involved where four villages were enrolled. This included Loodelle and

Kalobur in Nakapelimoru Sub County, and Karukadong and Nakongumutu central in Panyangara Sub County.

Following the training, the project staff together with the district local government officials conducted household hygiene and sanitation assessments to establish baseline information in 17 communities in Kaabong District and two communities in Abim District. This was followed by enrollment exercises in 12 communities (Nakwakwa, Tteregu, Chumakaku, Lokodope, Naapong, Sokodokan, Lokial, Kakutatom, Lomam-lopet, Kanaro, Domokot, Logumasiriori) in Kaabong district. In summary, a total of 16 communities were enrolled during the quarter as summarized in table 11 below.

Table 11. Summary of communities enrolled in CLTS

S/N	Village	Parish	Sub county	Date of Enrollment
1	Nakwakwa	Nariamaoi	Kathile	2/12/2014
2	Teregu	Teregu	Kathile	1/12/2014
3	Chumakaku	Kaimese	Lolelia	11/12/2014
4	Lokodope	Naoyagum	Kawalakol	8/12/2014
5	Naapong	Lomej	Kawalakol	5/12/2014
6	Sokodokan	Sangar	Kapedo	2/12/2014
7	Lokial	Lokial	Kapedo	3/12/2014
8	Kakutatom	Kotome	Lodiko	9/12/2014
9	Lomam-lepot	Kajir	Lodiko	12/12/2014
10	Kanaro	Timu	Kamion	8/12/2014
11	Domok	Timu	Kamion	16/12/2014
12	Logumasirioi	Toroi	Loyoro	15/12/2014
13	Longelep	Potongor	Nakapelimoru	29/10/2014
14	Kalobur	Lookorok	Nakapelimoru	30/10/2014
15	Karukadong	Kamoru	Panyangara	29/10/2014
16	Nakongmutu Central	Loposa	Panyangara	29/10/2014

Post CLTS Follow-up

GHG conducted follow-up and monitoring activities with all of the CLTS-enrolled communities to assist with and assess the communities' hygiene and sanitation activities. Positive progress was observed in Kotido District, with communities stopping open defecation and burying feces after defecation due to the CLTS activities. There is however low latrine construction efforts with the communities raising a number of concerns ranging from lack of tools for digging pits and wood/logs for construction of latrine structure, and also knowledge of how to construct the latrines. Communities in Kaabong have generally shown a slower implementation rate of CLTS activities. GHG will respond to these needs in the coming quarter through follow-up and additional technical assistance.

Table 12: Summary of CLTS follow up results

	VILLAGE	PARISH	HHs	NO OF LATRINES AT PREVIOUS VISIT	NO OF COMPLETED LATRINES	TOTAL NO OF LATRINES IN USE (% increase from previous visit)	LATRINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION
1	Longelep	Potongor	181	5	42	35	3
2	Namukur	Potongor	228	7	59	42	2
3	Loriu	potongor	217	47	30	30	4
4	Kalekori	Potongor	590	32	29	15	1
5	Nyakwae	Lookorok	194	35	07	01	11
6	Kalobur	Lookorok	203	06	02	02	14
7	Lodeele	Lookorok	108	12	04	04	15
8	Itakwara	Lookorok	96	0	16	16	6
9	Arwakara	Koya	72	58	04	61	06
10	Bedata west	Koya	42	25	02	27	0
11	Dicpe west	Koya	66	27	06	34	08
12	Kanyalaka south	wilela	79	25	04	32	03
13	Nyikinyiki	wilela	39	15	04	19	02
14	Loita	Timu	25	02	04	04	1
15	Loputuk	Kawalakol	58	00	06	06	3
16	Nagelochwa	Kawalakol	50	01	01	01	7
17	Kanaro	Timu	47	00	06	06	1

Establish school hygiene clubs in target schools

Narube primary school in Kaabong district was one of the schools that benefited from VIP latrines for girls. Construction of these VIP latrines goes hand in hand with formation of school health clubs. In the previous quarter, school health clubs were formed in Rikitae primary school and Pupukamuya primary school. During this quarter, a school health club was formed in Narube primary school to promote and maintain behavioral change towards good



PHOTO: Members of Narube School Health Club, Kaabong

hygiene practices. The club consists of 20 members; two teachers (1 female), 9 boys and 9 girls from primary grade four to primary grade six.

The clubs will be given refresher training when the school term resumes in January.

To effectively promote hygiene and sanitation behaviors, simple messages were developed by project staff and the patrons of the clubs. These messages were developed into signage/posters and displayed by the health club members across the school compounds.

These messages are summarized below.

Water

- Do not defecate near water sources
- Always keep the surroundings of the water source clean
- Drink water from a safe source
- Keep all water containers clean and covered
- Always boil your drinking water if it is from an unsafe source
- Use separate cups for scooping and drinking water
- Water is Life

Latrine/Waste Management

- All feces should be disposed of in a latrine
- Always wash your hands with soap or ash and water after every latrine visit
- Properly use and keep your latrines clean at all times
- Latrines for girls belong only to girls
- Dispose all rubbish in a rubbish pit
- Use soft material to clean yourself after defecating

Personal Hygiene

- Bath at least twice every day
- Keep your finger nails and toe nails short and clean
- Brush your teeth at least twice every day.
- Keep your hair short, clean and well combed.
- Wash your hands with soap/ash and water before and after eating
- Menstruation is normal and healthy for a girl-child growth
- Wear clean clothes
- A healthy person makes healthy friends

Food Hygiene

- Always cover your food safely
- Always eat hot food
- Always use clean and dry utensils
- Always wash your fruits before eating
- Wash your hands with soap/ash and water before handling food

c. SO3:Reduced Incidences of Intra-Ethnic Armed Conflict

With continuous capacity building and engagement of partners in conflict mitigation and response in the Kotido, Abim and Kaboong districts, GHG and its SO3 partners achieved several positive outcomes during the quarter as described below.

AWOTID

MC signed a sub-grant agreement with AWOTID-Uganda in Abim district in November 2014. AWOTID is a NGO specialized in the mediation of land disputes. As communities return to open farming areas and initiate farming activities, they compete for land access which creates conflict within the communities. AWOTID-Uganda conducted land dialogue meetings targeting 73 direct beneficiaries (26 females) during the quarter. AWOTID also identified and trained 32 land volunteers (16 females) on the roles and functionality of the land committee at parish level as an entry point to raise awareness within the community to the need and importance of community involvement and participation in land conflict mitigation. So far, communities are eager to work with AWOTID to participate in and find sustainable solutions to prevailing land conflicts in the Abim district.

Youth Groups

Four additional youth-led CBOs within Kotido district were recruited during the quarter (Pastoralism and Development, Lotanyat Youth Group, Jie Disarmed, and Napumpum Cattle Traders Youth Association). This brings the total number of youth groups partnering with GHG to 6. Youth groups enhance youth activism to prevent and respond to crime and insecurity, addressing the causes and consequences of conflicts arising from small raids and theft, SGBV, harmful cultural practices, rising levels of alcoholism, masculine identity, gendered nature of crime and enhance youth engagement with local government in planning processes.

Through community dialogues with sub-county officials on the need, importance and strategies to involve and increase the level of representation of youths and women in the government planning and budgeting process, sub-county officials have pledged full support to work closely with the youth groups to ensure active participation of youths and women in all government development initiatives and peace building activities.

Two sub-county peace groups including women, youth, elders and sub-county peace committees have developed participatory action plans to create peaceful co-existence and improve information sharing which had previously been lacking.

KART and JIECODI youth groups have reached a total of 467 beneficiaries (178 female) through meetings with traditional authorities, youth (male and female) and women on identification and acknowledgement of the existence of negative harmful cultural practices and developed sustainable strategies to curb these practices. Additionally, KART and JIECODI trained communities on crime prevention and referral pathways in cases of SGBV. An additional 5,000 people (estimate) were also reached through community dramas. Dramas draw large crowds with the majority being women, children, elders and female youth.

As a result of these messages, some community members are realizing the effects of harmful practices. A handful of traditional authorities have noted that the dramas have "opened their eyes

and minds to realize how much women and girls have been harmed due to traditional practices and norms" which hurts the community as a whole. This realization is the first step towards social behavior change.

GHG also provided 24 youth representatives (12 females) from 6 youth groups with a two day gender training to enhance group capacities to mainstream gender in programming and implementation of activities.

KAPDA

KAPDA has become more relevant and effective in conflict mitigation for communities residing in Kaabong district and in mitigation of cross border conflicts with South Sudan. During the quarter, they supported local actors to initiate a peace building dialogue with the South Sudan communities to promote peaceful co-existence and conflict mitigation, including 30 women from Karenga peace and justice commission women's group, 10 women from Kawalakol antiviolence women's group, and 15 traditional authorities from both Karenga and Kawalakol peace structures. Over 450 communities attended this important meeting.

Cross-Cutting Gender Programming

In the October - December 2014 period, gender integration continued to be a priority for the GHG team. During this period, there was considerable emphasis placed on hiring gender balanced teams for new positions or to fill roles that had recently become available. GHG hired 3 female operations staff for its Kotido and Kaabong offices, and 1 male staff. It also officially took on 2 female Karamajong university graduates as interns, and is helping to build their capacity in the areas of gender integration and operations management.

The team also provided significant support to local partners with the recruitment of female staff. The female to male staff breakdown for youth group staff was 33:67 and 75:25 for local partner, Awotid. The animal health team had difficulty recruiting female CAHWs for poultry health and New Castle vaccination trainings and instituted a mandatory quota of 1 female CAHW per S/C which was successful. Recruitment of female veterinary interns also proved challenging, since there were only 2 female students in a class of 35, who were both placed in Kotido/Abim. The ability to ensure that there are qualified women on the GHG team, greatly enhances the program's ability to reach women and girls.

A number of staff capacity building sessions in the area of gender were offered to GHG staff during the reporting period. 2 GHG staff participated in Girls Boot Camp in Kampala, a global training organized by Mercy Corps to build staff understanding of the need to more effectively reach adolescent women and young girls through development efforts. The team also conducted a 2-day training with its 6 youth group partners in Kotido. A total of 24 participants attended this training, half of whom were male and half of whom were female. The focus of the training was on the link between the gendered nature of crime (youth perpetrated violence, rising levels of alcoholism, SGBV etc.) and general insecurity, which results in diminished health and nutrition outcomes and overall household resilience. The training is meant to prepare youth groups to effectively engage in peace building work, including lobbying local officials for the inclusion of their concerns at the district level.

Under SO1, the animal health team launched its poultry health initiative. This included a training delivered by Norbrook to local drug shops and to CAHWs in the use and benefits of a new thermo stable vaccine that inoculates poultry against New Castle disease. 70% of poultry stocks were devastated by an outbreak several years ago, which had a profound effect on the livelihoods of women and girls, since chickens are the only animal that this group is culturally permitted to own. The training is being followed up with a large scale vaccination campaign to create mass awareness about the drug, and is projected to benefit 2997 farmers, 75% of whom will be women. So far female CAHWs have had more success mobilizing female farmers than male CAHWs, because of their access to female networks and knowledge of poultry.

The ag-inputs team conducted follow up research to its marketing and promotions activities targeting female farmers. The activities began late in the season but one of the retailers attributes her late season sales of certified, improved seeds to more than 145 farmers to the referrals promotion, which was effective at tapping into women's networks. The combination of communications strategies tailored to a female audience (PA and talks delivered by retailers/sales agents at church services, boreholes etc.) resulted in an estimated 700 farmers being reached with information about improved seeds, and agronomic practices in Lobalangit alone. The team is making adjustments to the female oriented strategies for the coming season, and the focus of this will be on flexible payments and discounts, since 44% of farmers indicated that cost was still a deterrent to purchase. Despite the late start, customer satisfaction with promotions was high at 73%. In addition, 55% of customers said that getting a prize, savings etc. made them feel more valued; 93% liked the female-oriented marketing/advertising materials and messages; and nearly half (49%) said that they would not have bought the seeds without the promotional offering.

The Financial Access team helped to establish another women's SACCO--St.Paul's in Kaabong. St. Paul's was a high performing women's VSLA that asked GHG for help to upgrade to a SACCO. During the reporting period, the FA team also helped Kitogogong women's SACCO to partner with Equity Bank and to move to the Kotido T/C area to increase its visibility and ability to attract new female clients. The team has been supporting the SACCO to transition to a computerized accounting system. Both Kitogogong and St. Monica's have become MTN mobile money agents with help from GHG, which will, over the long-term offer female clients and non-clients the opportunity to save on transaction costs and time when depositing and sending money.

The Health Facilities team continued to build the capacity of male and female HUMC representatives (64 M and 53 F) through regular mentoring sessions. The team has also been carefully monitoring female attendance at HUMC meetings and coaching committees in the importance of creating spaces for women's active participation in the committees. In November, World Vision and the GHG gender team developed a male engagement strategy, with the results of a rapid assessment that will be rolled out in January. The strategy will target barriers to ANC visits, planning for in-facility deliveries, savings for costs associated with birth, proper mother and child nutrition, and the reduction of women's workload during the pregnancy and post-partum period. It will seek to shift attitudes towards men's support for these behaviors, which are currently conditioned by cultural beliefs about the gendered breakdown of labor.

During the reporting period, KAPDA and the health team began preparations for a multi-sectoral professionals SGBV prevention and response training, since violence against women is an issue that impacts SO1 and SO2. The team conducted 10 key informant interviews to guide the development of training content. Interviewees overwhelmingly pointed to gaps in understanding with regards to their roles and responsibilities, referral pathways, and use of the new Police Form 3. A training targeting health workers, government and justice sector representatives is planned for early next year to respond to these issues.

Under SO3, KAPDA supported women's CBOs Peace and Justice and Kawalakol with cross-border meetings in South Sudan and discussed the possibility of establishing a Cross-Border Women's League that would join several women's groups together to increase women's voice. Kawalakol was successful in repatriating 2 former warriors, who had been hiding in South Sudan and raiding along the border. Women's participation in Peace Structures was not as strong as in the previous quarter due to their increased workload during the harvesting period.

Commodity Update:

a) Commodity Receipt

No food commodities were received from the donor during the quarter.

b) Transfers of commodities from Lira hub to district rubhalls

Transfer of food commodities from the Lira warehouse hub to the rubhalls in Kotido and Kaabong continued throughout the reporting period with a total of 925.980 Mt dispatched; 437.111 Mt was dispatched to Kotido rubhall while 488.869 Mt was dispatched to Kaabong rubhall.

Table 14: Summary of commodities transferred from Lira warehouse to district rubhalls

Commodities	Transfers to Kotido (Mt)	Transfers to Kaabong(Mt)	Total Transfers (Mt)
CSB	98.700	64.000	162.700
Veg. oil	45.736	96.469	142.205
Lentils	71.300	96.000	167.300
Corn meal	221.375	232.400	453.775
Total	437.111	488.869	925.980

c) Commodity Losses

GHG realized a transit loss of 0.05 Mt of Lentils during transfer from Lira warehouse to Kotido warehouse.

d) Commodity Fumigation

No warehouse fumigation was conducted during the quarter. The next fumigation exercise will be done during the next quarter before the receipt of the new FY15 commodity consignment anticipated for February 2015.

e) Identification of Final Distribution Points

No new distribution points were established during the quarter.

f) Election and training of Food Management Committees and Help Desk Committee members.

No new FMCs and CHDs were elected and trained during the reporting period.

g) Commodity Distribution

The monthly distribution of supplementary food continued during the quarter in all three operational districts of Abim, Kotido and Kaabong in 36 established FDPs.

Pre and post distribution caucus meetings were held in all 36 FDPs (these are brief meetings held between WV staff, FMC and CHD committee members and local leaders) before commencement of the distribution to allocate roles during the distribution exercise and after the distribution to discuss how the distribution went on. Messages shared during the pre-distribution caucus meetings include; roles and responsibilities of the FMC and CHDs committee members, commodities in the food basket, target beneficiaries, quantity of food delivered at the FDP, food distribution process. Roles allocated to FMCs and CHD committee members include; at the registry point – verification of names; at the lining point – directing beneficiaries to stacks and monitoring beneficiaries sharing food at the sharing point. One member is allocated at the Complaint Help Desk to attend to complaints raised by beneficiaries.

A pre-distribution address to the entire beneficiary community was carried out in all 36 FDPs prior to the actual distribution exercise using the standardized sensitization message developed by the program. Key messages shared by staff include program donors, commodities in the food basket, ration sizes, distribution process and eligibility, operation of the CHD and feedback process. Additionally the following information on nutrition and hygiene was also shared; emphasis on coming with clean containers for receiving food, importance of attending ANC and immunizations at Health Centers, stopping open defecation, control and prevention of jiggers especially in Kaabong District. After the address, beneficiaries were given an opportunity to ask questions and express other concerns that they have. GHG-WV Field Monitors and Community Mobilizers present at the distribution respond to concerns and questions. Questions or issues that cannot be address at the FDP are noted down and brought to the attention of the Commodity Officers for further clarification and response.

After the distribution, post-distribution caucus meetings were held with FMC and CHD committee members and local leaders. Key messages shared include review of distribution process, review complaints from beneficiaries, and agree on way forward to address concerns of beneficiaries/community members and how to improve the distribution processes in the coming cycle.

Other Activities

- The new Community Development Assistants (CDAs) were trained on Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) and the Care Group Methodology. This training was conducted in October in Kotido.
- Annual outcome monitoring was conducted. It involved administering questionnaires to care givers of children 0-59 months plus conducting anthropometry on the children. It was done in all sub-counties where GHG-WV has operations.

- In November, a team from USAID paid a monitoring visit to Lodwar care group in Kongole village, Loposaparrish, Panyangara sub-county, Kotido.
- MCHN Officers were oriented on the new MCG M&E tools for capturing vital MCG data such as lessons issued, child births, child deaths, and maternal deaths.
- During the quarter, the program was represented by both Mercy Corps and World Vision at the UNICEF Sector Strategy meeting in Moroto, on Dec. 5, 2014. At the meeting, GHG's value chain nutrition activities were highlighted as a progressive way to consider nutrition. Mercy Corps will be one of three NGOs representing civil society in the planning committee to operationalize the National Nutrition Action Plan at a regional level.
- World Vision and Mercy Corps nutrition staff met with the RWANU team for an exchange visit covering Mother Care Groups, improved gardening practices and male engagement. Teams shared considerable content that will strengthen both programs.
- A team of three MCHN staff (BCC Specialist, MCHN Advisor and MCHN Coordinator) had a learning tour to the SPRING project in Kisoro in November, 2014. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about SPRING's community video programming for behavior change so as to emulate it, as appropriate. Plans are underway to incorporate principles learned in the SPRING visit to GHG operations.
- A coordination meeting for MCHN/WASH was conducted in Kotido on the 1st and 8th of December, 2014. The meeting stressed the importance of harmonization of implementation approaches across the districts.

Challenges/Lessons Learned

Challenges

- High rate of alcoholism was reported especially in Abim FDPs i.e. Opopongo and Oretha during the reporting quarter, where most of the beneficiaries turned up at the FDP intoxicated, causing a lot of commotion at the registry and sharing points. This generally affected the flow of distribution.
- Late turn up of beneficiaries during food distribution was one of the challenges faced during the reporting period. It is possible that the late arrival is due to beneficiaries' reluctance to help off-load food from the truck, although other causes are also possible.
- Local traders' lack of working capital is restricting their ability to purchase large volumes of locally-grown food commodities during harvest season when prices are relatively low, which they could store and then later sell within the community. This inhibits the efficient functioning of some local food markets.

- The livestock quarantine in Kaabong and Kotidodue to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease has slowed down the butcher project progress.
- The SACCOs were able to serve 3,286 clients with a value of 247,564,100 Ugandan shillings on mobile money, but it is unclear how they will attract these clients as members.
- Some district officials continue to demand refreshments or SDA during joint field activities.

Lessons Learned

- The demonstration plots were highly effective, driving up farmers use of improved practices and interest in improved seeds.
- The Northern Karajoja area needs more food trade actors to create robust market linkages for the local rural poor, which will in turn create improved business competition and market efficiency; thereby improving prices for crops and reducing prices for other purchased foods.
- Food distribution should be conducted earlier in the day to reduce the opportunity for beneficiaries to consume alcohol prior to receiving their food distribution. Trucks should leave the rubhalls prior to 9 am.
- Involvement of the local leaders and FDP committee members should be strengthened to improve mobilization of beneficiaries to off-load food from the truck.



GHG RECEIPT &
DISTRIBUTIONS - FY