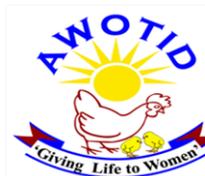


Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) Program

Funded by USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)
Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2015



The Komuria Livestock Market Day was conducted on March 27, 2015 in Kaabong, Karamoja to launch the newly constructed livestock market and celebrate improvements in livestock productivity and market linkages recently established with support from the USAID GHG program.



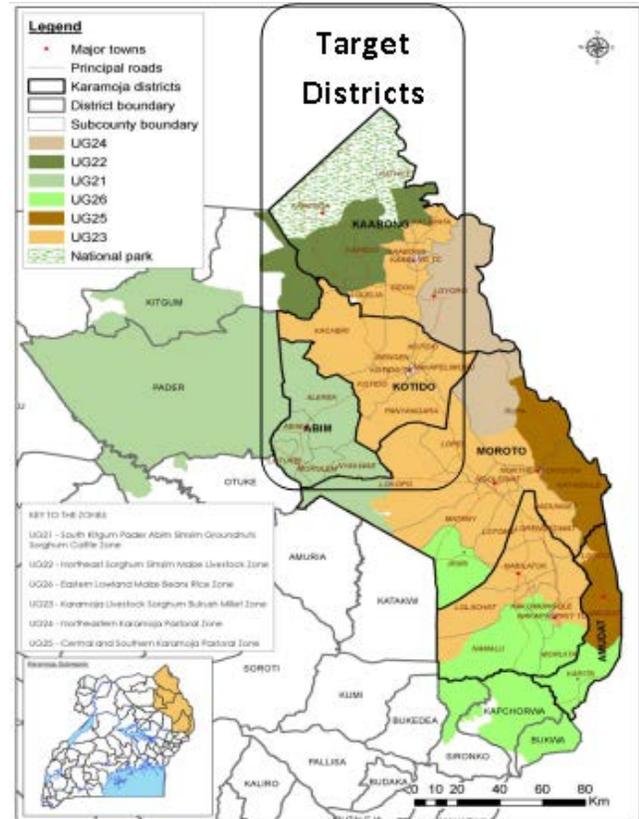
PROJECT SUMMARY

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Award No. | AID-FFP-A-12-00006 |
| Start Date | July 19, 2012 |
| End Date | July 18, 2017 |
| Report Date | Jan – March 2015 |
| Total Award | \$ 52,116,900 |

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 insecurity. 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 457,000¹ 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,

¹ The estimated population of northern karamoja decreased from 540,000 (original project estimate) to an estimated 457,222 in the 2014 census.

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 two fulltime Gender Officers 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. The Kaabong Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA) and Abim Women Together in Development (AWOTID), constitute the spear 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) conducts annual impact evaluations using its community-focused Participatory Impact Assessment methodology that helps the rest of the consortium partners understand the impact of their work.

2. Key Lessons Learned

- GHG utilized performance based incentives in its work with the public health sector in order to improve governance of the health facilities with intended cross-cutting impact on accountability and distribution of resources. Through the process, the district health support staff were motivated to mentor facilities to build facility capacity to provide high quality services. As the efforts of the district teams showed enhanced performances, GHG released benefits such as equipment and infrastructure. Now that the performance based approach is concluding, GHG has seen that various actors were motivated primarily by the incentives and have not maintained the efforts and subsequent results that were seen while the incentives were still available. GHG has learned that it takes an empowered community to ensure that the improved services are maintained. As a result, GHG is developing a community advocacy activity that will crowd in community members as players in the health services accountability process so pressure for improved governance will come from both the community and district level.
- GHG's adaptive management approach is an important management tool for development programs operating in complex and changing environments. The adaptive approach has enabled the GHG program to identify changes to its core assumptions, as well as new opportunities, during semi-annual program reviews. These areas are then researched in order to make informed course corrections to the GHG program. Now in its third year of program implementation, GHG recently learned that there is a trade-off between making very well-informed decisions and actively implementing program activities that assist the intended beneficiaries. Decisions must be informed by rapid assessments that do not significantly slow project implementation. Short feedback loops and a robust monitoring and evaluation system are important tools for programs that balance adaptation with achieving results.
- The agro-input market in northern Karamoja is beginning to function as evidenced by the natural growth of new agrodealers. GHG recently identified twelve new local traders in the market. These agrodealers are voluntarily initiating agrodealers activities because

they have seen other people succeeding at it and see a commercial opportunity for themselves. These agrodealers are reaching out to GHG for guidance and support. The initiation of the crowding-in process is occurring in 12 to 18 months, following GHG demonstrating the business opportunity for agro-inputs to an initial group of retailers and/or entrepreneurs.

- GHG works with a variety of businesses in northern Karamoja, some of which are owned and operated by ethnic-Karamajong and others which are owned and operated by Ugandans of non-Karamoja origin. GHG has observed that many of the Karamajong-origin commodity traders have not been as effective at managing their businesses according to commercial, market-based principles in comparison to their non-Karamajong counterparts. Despite receiving the same assistance from GHG, the Karamajong commodity traders often choose to operate at a smaller scale and appear to be less profitable. The reasons for these differences could be due to a number of factors such as their degree of risk-aversion, business skills, access to resources, or other factors. As Karamoja’s markets grow and develop, it is important that ethnic Karamajong business people and entrepreneurs can participate in and benefit at all levels of the economy, including as business owners and managers. GHG will assess the reasons why ethnic Karamajong appear to be less successful at certain types of formal business activities in order to develop interventions intended to reverse this trend.

3. Updates by Strategic Objective

SO1: Livelihoods Strengthened

IR1.1 Improved productivity and market access among male and female agriculturalists, agro pastoralists, and pastoralists

The GHG program strengthens agricultural livelihoods that depend on both crop and livestock production. Within the livestock category, GHG works with cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. Activities within IR1.1 are primarily on-schedule considering the seasonal nature of agricultural activities.

Table 1: IR 1.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Performance | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | Comment |
| 9. Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance. | 7034 | 1784 | 4567 | 65% complete. Poultry and CAHW data will be reported in Q3. |
| 10. Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women’s groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance | 30 | 33 | 33 | 110% complete |

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Year to Date | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | Comment |
| 11. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance. | 600 | 0 | 0 | Results will be reported in Q3/Q4 due to the cropping calendar. |
| 13. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training. | 2000 | 1454 | 1682 | 84% complete |
| 15. Number of female-owned businesses included in stockist/agent/distribution networks supported by GHG | 350 | 17 | 124 | 35% complete |
| 17. Kilometers of roads improved or constructed | 36 | 0 | 0 | Construction is planned for Q3/Q4. |

Crop Production

GHG trained 1093 farmers on improved crop production practices during the quarter (male 353, female 740). These services were provided by 11 GHG Agricultural Extension Worker staff (AEWs). Seven (7) of the AEWs were recruited during the quarter, all of whom are female. Recruitment of female AEWS was expected to ensure more extension service delivery to female farmers, which proved to be very effective. The training taught farmers about improved seeds and agricultural inputs, in preparation for the planting season which generally begins in April. The training was also linked to agrodealers who stock and sell these inputs, as well as lead farmers who will prepare demonstration plots in the coming planting season. The AEWs will continue to work with these and additional farmers throughout the cropping season to ensure that farmers have a good understanding of agronomic practices ranging from land preparation to post harvest handling. So far, the AEWs have registered 1433 farmers (male 548, female 885) that are interested in using improved inputs and agronomic practices. Extension workers are working in close consultation with agrodealers to aggregate demand and link farmers to agro dealers.

Within the quarter, 19 new local traders were recruited as agrodealers, bringing the total number of GHG-supported agrodealers to 31. The new entrants are interested in starting or expanding agricultural input businesses which will contribute to the increased availability of improved seeds and appropriate intermediate farm technologies (such as ox ploughs) through the private sector. Five of these agrodealers were identified as having the best capacity to become regional distributors, thereby receiving inputs from the major manufacturers and distributing the inputs to other, smaller agrodealers. GHG organized meetings between these agro dealer-distributors and the three major national seed supply companies to discuss supply relationships and credit terms. In most cases, the seed companies were willing to provide 30% to 50% of the inventory on 30 to 60 day credit terms, based on GHG's commitment to also support the agrodealers through training and mentoring. These agrodealers have now started to place orders and stock inventory.

To stimulate farmers' access to plowing services and/or plowing equipment, GHG also launched an ox-plow promotion activity that reduces the price of ox-plows for farmers that are participating in the extension training, which includes members of the Mother Care Groups, who have been identified as the most vulnerable households. In addition, the promotion creates

incentives for farmers to use their new ox plows to provide tillage services to other farmers. This activity is expected to enable poor households to open more land and/or more effectively farm their existing plots for this planting season. In Karamoja, more than 70% of farmers use hand hoes to open their land, which limits the acreage they can effectively farm. GHG will co-invest up to 30% of the cost of the ox-plough through the agro dealer, which will pass directly to the targeted poor farmers.

The combination of improved access to inputs and the ability to effectively utilize inputs is expected to help farmers to increase their crop productivity and household food security due to better yields. A limited number of farmers utilized improved inputs in northern Karamoja during the previous cropping season (with GHG’s support) and were generally happy with performance and yields of improved inputs and are willing to procure and utilize more improved inputs during this season.

To further support agrodealers and farmers in northern Karamoja, GHG initiated discussions with the Karamoja regional research center to collaboratively work on the establishment of seed multiplication centers, and technical support to Agricultural Extension Workers and demonstration plots. GHG anticipates signing an MOU with the research center in the coming month(s).



Figure 1: Mr. Olbo Emmanuel displays his grain storage room, stocked with maize in Kaabong.

Commodity Trade

Traditionally, commodity traders in northern Karamoja purchase commodities from other areas of Uganda during the lean season because they can quickly sell the commodities and recover their money. However, this practice results in high commodity prices in Karamoja during the lean season due to high transport costs, and in some cases predatory practices. To break this tradition, GHG supported five local commodity traders (2 in Kaabong and 3 in Kotido) to procure and stock more than 25 MT of staple food crops (maize, sorghum and beans) during the harvest period when prices were low, and to then hold them for release within the communities during the lean season. GHG assisted with access to storage facilities, equipment such as scales and tarps, and also training on record keeping and grain quality.

In addition, GHG’s AEWs actively worked with farmers to promote post-harvest handling techniques that will maintain grain quality, which has improved the utilization of community grain stores for both food and seed for the next planting season.

GHG’s commodity team successfully linked farmers from Lobalangit Sub county to East African Breweries through a buying agent in Kitgum, and as a result of the link, farmers were able to sell their white sorghum (e.g. one farmer earned 1,341,750/= or \$ 447.25 as a result) while a sesame exporting company (GADC) from East Acholi was also connected to local farmers to expand access to competitive markets by local producers.

Animal Health Services

Through its facilitative approach, GHG develops the capacity of Agrovets Shops and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) to provide health services and products to livestock at kraals and within the households. Six GHG-supported Agrovets served 834 farmers with animal health products and advisory services during the quarter. GHG also identified a 7th Agrovet shop in Kaabong, *Dodoth Farmers Animal Drug Shop (DOFADs)*. Crowding in more actors in the livestock health services sectors will not only close gaps in livestock health services, but it will also improve service delivery through competition. The 79 trained and equipped CAHWs (reported last quarter) provided livestock health services to 410 farmers during the quarter.



Figure 2: Community Animal Health Workers spraying animals for parasites.

During the quarter, GHG followed up with women poultry farmers to determine whether they benefitted from the Newcastle Disease (NCD) vaccination campaign conducted during the previous quarter in northern Karamoja. The thermo-stable I-2 NCD Vaccine was sold for UGX50 per bird, based on a GHG subsidy. GHG learned that death rates were lower for vaccinated poultry and that the women were interested in accessing additional vaccines. In a partnership with Quality Chemicals Ltd, GHG has now initiated Phase II of the NCD vaccination (scheduled for April) by providing a refresher training to the vaccinators. In the Phase II program, the vaccination fee charged to farmers will increase to 100 UGX per vaccine, and gradually increase to a fully commercial level beyond that. To accurately measure the impact of the poultry vaccination activity, GHG will conduct a rapid assessment in the coming quarter, both for reporting and learning purposes.

During the quarter, GHG began a herd health management campaign across 12 demonstration kraals in Kaabong, Kotido and Abim Districts. GHG is conducting the campaign in partnership with private sector companies including Norbrook (U) Ltd, Quality Chemicals Ltd, Eram (U) Ltd and local agro vets. The campaign conducts farmer-centered and kraal focused farmer field days (at demonstration kraals) aimed at promoting good herd management practices including livestock spraying against tsetse flies and ticks to mitigate the influx of trypanosomiasis and tick-



borne diseases and deworming to counter worms and worm-related losses. This activity is expected to improve the adoption of good herd management practices and use of animal health products for 1,500 farmers. This activity will also continue through the coming quarter.

Livestock Market Development

GHG completed the construction of the livestock loading ramps and holding pens in Komuria, Kaabong district during the quarter. The market infrastructure is expected to benefit over 31,000 households (source: Kaabong District Planning Unit, 2014 – both directly and indirectly) within Kaabong districts and beyond, including traders and farmers from neighboring countries such as the Turkana region of Kenya and Toposa of South Sudan. The facility was officially handed over to the community during northern Karamoja's first-ever livestock market show event. The event was attended by over 1700 livestock farmers, companies, traders and also government officials.

Agricultural Markets in Kaabong are launched by GHG

The launch and handover of the Komuria livestock market in Kaabong drew about 1,200 participants including the local, regional and national companies, local business community, students, farmers, politicians and local government. The event was organized to expose Karamoja’s nascent private sector businesses to the smallholder farmers and herders who can benefit from their products and services. In addition, the event exposed Uganda’s national animal health and seed companies to Northern Karamoja where they have little to no experience working. Norbrook’s Sales Team participated in the event and was surprised to learn that “farmers in Karamoja actually have money and will spend it on livestock drugs.” He added that “we sold all of the products we brought with us to exhibit. This is a sign that Kaabong is potential market for our company.” Similar comments were heard from businesses selling agricultural inputs, energy-efficient cook stoves and other equipment.

The USD 28,500 market facility is established to benefit thousands of agro-pastoral households in Northern Karamoja and its neighboring communities of Teso, Acholi, Lango, Turkana (Kenya) and Toposa (South Sudan) through trade in livestock and livestock products, food stuffs, agro-inputs and general merchandise. The highlight of the event were livestock competitions where farmers exhibited their best bulls, cows, goats and poultry and the winners were rewarded with veterinary drugs to improve herd and flock health management.



Photo 1: A livestock farmer displays his best cattle for the kraal competition.

Photo 2: Miss Helen Asio displays agricultural inputs that she sells in her agrodealers shop.

As part of its efforts to improve livestock-based livelihoods, GHG also disseminated market information to 14 kraal leaders for the 2nd month within its market information pilot activity. GHG provides the kraal leaders with airtime to receive market information and then facilitates the dissemination of the information. This information includes prevailing market animal prices, quality and quantity of animals demanded by traders, peace and security situations, and the state of roads. The kraal leaders in turn share this information to the farmers in their kraals to inform their livestock management and marketing decisions. Since initiating this pilot activity, both Kotido (Kanawat) and Kaabong (Komuria) livestock markets have had a consistent supply of animals and external traders. GHG will continue to implement the pilot for one month and will then conduct a rapid assessment of the initiative before scaling it to 28 kraals total.

Ugandan National Newspaper, *The Daily Monitor*.

Karimojong, Turkana pastoralists get cross-border cattle market

Development. The market will help boost cattle trade.

BY STEVEN ARIONG
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

KAABONG. Three pastoralist communities in Eastern Africa now have reason to smile following the establishment of a cross border cattle market.

The communities set to benefit from the lucrative deal include the Karimojong of Uganda, the Turkana of Kenya and the Toposa of South Sudan as it will allow traders from the three communities sell their cattle across boundaries.

The market, constructed by Mercy Corps, has been opened in Komurio, Kaabong District with funding from USAID.

Speaking during its unveiling last Friday, Mr Tesfu Kahsay, the deputy head of growth, health and governance programme Mercy Corps, said the cattle market cost Shs87m.

He said the move is aimed at boosting animal trade and make the Karimojong realise the benefits of livestock products through cattle trade.

Kaabong deputy Chief Administrative Officer Alfred Malinga said the market will boost the district revenue since it will attract trad-



Karimojong cattle traders jubilate after the official hand over of a cross-border cattle market in Kaabong last Friday.
PHOTO BY STEVEN ARIONG

"This is not the first project Mercy Corps has done in Kaabong, even the current peace that we are enjoying with our brothers the Turkana, it was Mercy Corps that mediated the dialogue."
JOSEPH KOMOL
CHAIRPERSON

ers from South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. He cautioned the public against vandalising the market.

The hurdles

"Government and NGOs have been constructing facilities of high value to help the communities in Karamoja but many times the community turns to vandalise the facilities which must stop," he said.

Mr Joseph Komol, the district LC5 chairperson, said the cattle market will operate every Monday. "This is not the first project Mercy Corps has done in Kaabong, even the current peace that we are enjoying with our brothers the Turkana, it was Mercy Corps that mediated the dialogue," he said.

Mr Komol advised cattle dealers to avoid hiking cattle prices.

"Now that we have got this market that will serve people from Turkana, South Sudan and Uganda, please do not tag high prices on the livestock because it will scare away traders," he said.

Mr Paul Lokol, one of the cattle traders in Kaabong, said the established cattle market will now help them to do profitable cattle business.

Livestock activities planned for the next quarter include poultry marketing for both eggs and mature birds, and exposure visits between kraals.

Meat Sector Development/Urban Livelihoods

As a result of fragmentation and low volumes of business activity, value chains are not well developed in northern Karamoja. The region's livestock are either traded as live animals or are slaughtered and sold as meat. Kotido's meat sector provides a market for livestock producers throughout the district, and supplies meat to consumers in the town of Kotido. The current condition of the Kotido slaughter facility and butcher shops is extremely poor and unhygienic. Cattle are slaughtered on an outside cement slab, carcasses are transported in wheel barrows together with organs and inedible body parts, and the butcher shops do not have sanitary surfaces or a good understanding of hygiene. This results in food-borne disease for meat products, but it also constrains the growth of the livestock sector as a whole.

To address this situation, GHG signed MOUs with the Town Council of Kotido and the Kotido Meat Handlers' Association during the previous quarter. These performance-based MOU's involve cost-sharing agreements to construct a new slaughter house in Kotido town, train slaughter house employees and butchers, introduce improved carcass transport services, and relocate the butcher shops to one section of Kotido town where they will have access to water and cleanable surfaces so they can begin to implement sanitation practices.

During the current quarter:

- GHG finalized a design for the slaughter house and issued a tender for its construction;
- The Meat Handlers Association raised 2.5 million UGX (900 USD) as their cost share for an improved meat transport vehicle (tri-cycle), opened a bank account, developed a maintenance plan for the vehicle; launched a poster campaign to direct consumers to locations where they can buy inspected meat, and cooperated with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) to have their weighing scales certified.
- The Kotido Town Council experienced delays in completing the improved butcher shops so that the butchers could relocate; however, they remain committed to accomplishing this in the near future.

In the upcoming quarter, GHG will complete the procurement process for the slaughter house construction, will design the sanitation and hygiene training program, and will follow-up with the Kotido Town Council to complete the butcher shop upgrades. The slaughter house construction is projected to be completed this fiscal year.

Fuel Efficient Cook Stoves

As reported in the past quarter, five retailers received 207 fuel efficient stoves (FES) from International Lifeline Fund (ILF) on a fully commercial basis. To further strengthen the business relationship between ILF and retailers and identify the right kind of stove products that meet the Karamoja context, ILF conducted a survey in Abim, Kotido, and Kaabong districts during the quarter. During the survey, ILF visited 36 individual households belonging to mother care groups (9 from Kaabong, 15 from Abim, and 12 from Kotido) in addition to retailers. ILF will submit their assessment report to Mercy Corps in the coming quarter, including recommendations for improving the adoption of FES in the GHG project areas, particularly with the most vulnerable households.



IR2.1 Business investment environment stabilized

GHG strengthens the activities of financial institutions and business organizations in northern Karamoja to stabilize the business investment environment. GHG also works with the district governments to develop disaster mitigation plans to build resilience to natural and manmade shocks and stresses.

Table 2: IR 2.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 12. Value of agricultural and rural loans (USD) | 60,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 50% achieved |
| 14. Number of MSME's receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (including farmers). | 350 | 124 | 124 | 35% achieved. Upcoming cropping season is expected to increase this figure. |
| 16. Number of MSME's, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG-assisted sources. | 100 | 0 | 0 | Activity planned to begin in Q3 |
| 18. Business Confidence Index | 67 | -- | -- | Index is measured in August of each year. |
| 19. Percent of Chamber of Commerce chapter members who are female | 40% | -- | -- | This will be reported in the next quarter |
| 20. Number of Karamojong-language weekly business shows produced on a cost recovery basis as a result of USG assistance. | 1 | -- | -- | This will be reported in the next quarter |
| 21. Number of communities with early warning and response systems working effectively | 10 | 2 | 2 | 20% achieved |
| 22. Number of people trained in disaster preparedness as a result of USG assistance | 105 | -- | -- | This will also be reported in the next quarter |

Financial Access

GHG continued to develop the capacity of seven (7) SACCOs during the reporting period. While formal financial institutions, such as banks, do exist in northern Karamoja, they provide very limited services, primarily to public servants. SACCOs and VSLAs are widely used by vulnerable populations in northern Karamoja, but primarily for savings activities. GHG is developing the capacity of SACCOs through direct mentoring on management and marketing, and by supporting

| Reasons for borrowings | Respondents |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Business | 38 |
| Agriculture | 22 |
| Health | 10 |
| School fees | 19 |
| Drinking | 5 |
| Buying food | 20 |
| Other | 16 |

capacity-building activities conducted by UCSCU and Equity Bank. In addition, the St. Monica and Kitogogong SACCOs were each provided with a cash safe in order to ensure the safety of members' savings and to enhance trust.

These efforts are beginning to show positive results as demonstrated by the disbursement of 124 loans worth 89,380,000 UGX (approximately 30,000 USD), as well as 201% increased membership (603 new members recruited through 38 VSLAs – for 1026 total membership). In addition, the GHG-partner SACCOs and nine (9) GHG-assisted agribusinesses provided 233,882,230 UGX (approximately 80,645 USD) of mobile money services to 3,996 customers covering all three target districts. The power of mobile money enables SACCO members to send their savings and make loan repayments, thereby reducing transactional costs associated with joining and accessing financial services within the region.

Table 3: SACCO loan disbursement results January to March

| Sacco name | Number of Loans Disbursed | | | Loan Value (UGX) | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--|------------|------------|
| | # to males | # to females | # to groups | Males | Females | Groups |
| Kitogogong | 8 | 17 | 3 | 3,850,000 | 4,600,000 | 8,800,000 |
| Lokitelaebu | 18 | 22 | 3 | 6,150,000 | 7,050,000 | 900,000 |
| Thur | 20 | 8 | 11 | 18,810,000 | 9,300,000 | 26,900,000 |
| Kawalakol | 4 | 2 | 1 | 550,000 | 160,000 | 200,000 |
| St. Monica | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 500,000 | 0 |
| Kaabong rural | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1,250,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Kamukoi | 1 | 1 | 0 | 160,000 | 200,000 | 0 |
| Subtotals: | 55 | 51 | 18 | 30,770,000 | 21,810,000 | 36,800,000 |
| Totals: | 124 total loans | | | 89,380,000 total loan value (UGX) | | |

While these results are promising, MOUs signed between the SACCOs and GHG had anticipated that each SACCO would disburse 75 loans. Only two of the SACCOs reached 50% of their goal, while the others had only minimal activity. Moving ahead, GHG will focus efforts on the more progressive SACCOs. GHG is working with Equity Bank to provide wholesale financing and introduce ATM machine services to these progressive SACCOs. Additional SACCOs that demonstrate commitment to the development of their capacity will also be included in future GHG activities.

Recognizing that SACCOs and VSLAs are only one part of the financial inclusion solution in northern Karamoja, GHG also initiated discussions with Post Bank to provide banking services across the three districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Abim. Post Bank is now considering opening a branch office in Kotido and/or introducing a mobile banking van. Six stop points for the potential van service, two in each district, were identified. In conjunction with the GHG-supported Chambers of Commerce (business forums), Post Bank will build clientele in northern Karamoja and will receive support from GHG to develop an agent network, assist businesses with their business plans, and other facilitation and outreach.

Disaster Planning/Risk Reduction

In order to build resilient communities, Mercy Corps works with the three target districts to develop disaster preparedness plans. These five year plans consider scenarios in which the communities experience livestock diseases, drought, floods, windstorms, water logging, rock sliding, bush fires, epidemics (Hepatitis E, jiggers etc.), cattle theft and lightening. Each Disaster Management Committee develops a disaster response matrix and identifies the resources and responsibilities to potentially implement the plan. These plans were developed in the previous quarter for both Kaabong and Kotido and the plans were compiled for printing during the reporting period. Abim District will conduct its disaster planning activity in April, with support from both GHG and the Red Cross Society. Abim’s previous disaster plan was developed in 2009 and is outdated.

SO2: Nutritional Status among Children under Five Improved

IR2.1 Access to quality maternal and child health care improved

GHG’s activities for MCHN, WASH and Supplementary Food Distribution are implemented by consortium partner World Vision, while Mercy Corps directly implements public health sector capacity building activities.

During the quarter, the key activities accomplished included the rollout of module II lessons to mother care groups, the formation of 13 new care groups, CLTS follow-up and immunization outreach at food distribution points.

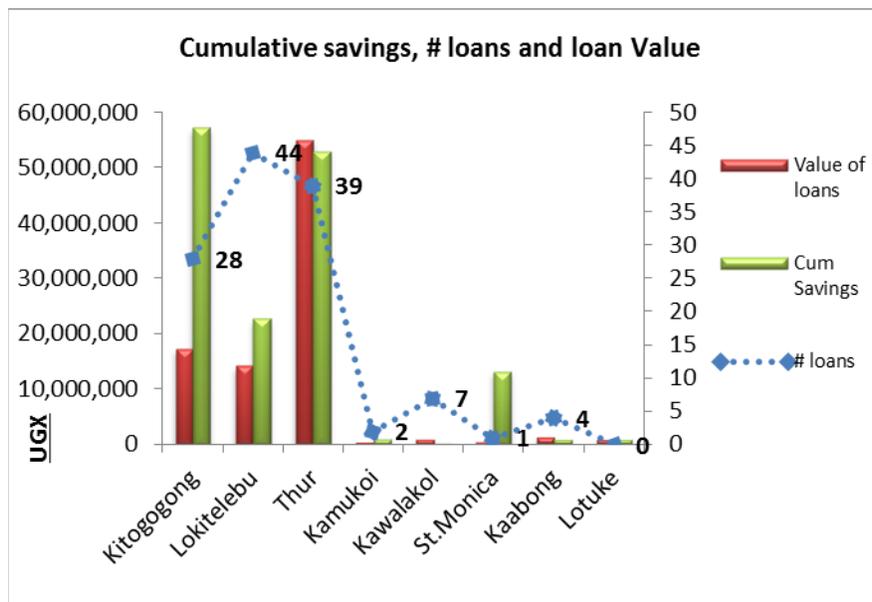


Table 4: IR 2.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 28. Number of government health staff trained in planning and management of health facilities. | 166 | 0 | 0 | Although mentorship has been ongoing, this indicator reflects formal training only. It is anticipated that formal training on HMIS II will occur in the last quarter. |
| 29. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs. | 1442 | 1839 | 2474 | The MCG training beneficiaries receive more than one training in a quarter and are counted as many times as the number of training according to indicator definition. |
| 30. Number of VHTs consistently attending monthly review and mentoring meetings supported by USG. | 520 | 311 | 510 | On track. |

Public Health Care Sector Capacity Building

GHG continued to strengthen the public health sector in northern Karamoja in order to improve the health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under five (CU5). GHG interventions focus on building the capacity of health facility staff, improving the facilities and resources, increasing placement of qualified health professionals in the target districts, and also linking the health facilities to the target communities to improve facility use and accountability to the community. The major activities accomplished during the quarter are described below.

GHG built the capacity of 199 members of Health Unit Management Committees (HUMC's) through job coaching and mentorship in 58 health facilities across the three districts to conduct community health assessments, participatory planning and budgeting. GHG also conducted assessments of the HUMCs at 53 health facilities to gauge their performance following the on-the-job capacity building. The findings of this assessment will be shared with the district and sub county officials to strengthen the functionality of the committees. HUMC's play an important role in supervising community level health facilities to ensure the quality of service delivery.

To further improve coverage and the quality of service delivery in GHG operational areas, GHG completed the construction of three placenta pits in Panyangara HCIII, Napumpum and Rikitae HCII's, and one Out Patient Department (OPD) at Rikitae HCII. GHG also developed and advertised tenders for the construction of an additional 13 health infrastructures (maternity and general wards, OPD, and staff/student accommodation) during the quarter. This construction is projected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year, and will significantly strengthen the northern Karamoja health sector's capacity to provide accessible and quality maternal child health services.

Due to the success of previous year's medical intern programs, GHG once again partnered with Makerere University's Medical Community Based Education Research and Services (COBERs) program to place medical students at northern Karamoja facilities beginning in mid-April 2015. After repeatedly conducting the COBERs program with Makerere University, GHG has now secured an agreement from the District Local Governments (DLGs) to conduct this program directly with Makerere University in the future, without GHG's direct role. In addition, Gulu University has also expressed an interest in beginning negotiations with the DLG's and possibly signing a partnership agreement that would also lead to placements of Gulu University medical students in North Karamoja HF's. The placement of students in health facilities has multiple benefits for northern Karamoja, including:

Figure 1: Completed placenta pit in Rikitae HC II



Due to the success of the previous year's medical intern programs, GHG once again partnered with Makerere University's Medical Community Based Education Research and Services (COBERs) program to place medical students at northern Karamoja facilities beginning in mid-April 2015. After repeatedly conducting the COBERs program with Makerere University, GHG has now secured an agreement from the District Local Governments (DLGs) to conduct this program directly with Makerere University in the future, without GHG's direct role. These MOU's are anticipated to be signed later this year. In addition, Gulu University has also expressed an interest in beginning negotiations with the DLG's and possibly signing a partnership agreement that would also lead to placements of Gulu University medical students in North Karamoja HF's. Placement of students in health facilities has multiple benefits for northern Karamoja, including:

- Knowledge and skill transfer to local staff and interns,
- Temporarily bridge staff shortage gaps,
- Promote better student understanding of the local context and consider coming back to Karamoja to work after graduation,

- Establishing long-term partnerships between Ugandan medical schools and district health authorities in Karamoja.

Village Health Team Strengthening

The Ministry of Health is implementing the Village Health Team (VHT) strategy to ensure that every village in Uganda has village health team members who work together to mobilize individuals and households for better health. VHT members are community volunteers who are selected by communities to provide accurate health information, mobilize communities and provide linkages to health services. GHG, in partnership with district health offices of Abim, Kotido and Kaabong have worked together to strengthen the VHT strategy through logistical support and ongoing technical support through monthly mentorship and review meetings. During this quarter, 311 (169 male, 142 female) VHTs participated in mentorship and review meetings.

During implementation of mentorship and review sessions for the VHTs, GHG identified the need to harmonize and coordinate with other organizations that also work with the VHTs. GHG is now conducting ongoing discussions with the respective district health offices to harmonize all VHT mentorship and review sessions to avoid duplication of the same activities within each district.

Community Outreach at Food Distribution Points

GHG distributes supplementary food rations to PLW and CU2 through 36 food distribution points across the three project districts. These food distribution points provide a useful avenue to provide essential health care services closer to the community using the outreach model. During this reporting period, immunization services were provided by health center staff and VHTs at the food distribution points as summarized in the table below.

Table 5: Summary of children immunized at GHG FDPs during the quarter

| Antigen | < 1 year of age | | | 1 – 4 years of age | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------|-------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| BCG | 08 | 01 | 09 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio 0 | 08 | 02 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio 1 | 20 | 21 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio 2 | 18 | 16 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio 3 | 24 | 19 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DPT-HepB+Hib 1 | 20 | 21 | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DPT-HepB+Hib 2 | 18 | 9 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DPT-HepB+Hib 3 | 24 | 19 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 16 | 14 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PCV 1 | 45 | 32 | 77 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PCV 2 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Antigen | < 1 year of age | | | 1 – 4 years of age | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| PCV 3 | 13 | 10 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 222 | 171 | 393 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION | | | | | | |
| Target | Children 6 – 11 months of age | | | Children 12-59 months of age | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Received | 16 | 15 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 16 | 15 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DE-WORMING | | | | | | |
| Target | 1-4 years of age | | | 5-14 years of age | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Received 1 st dose in the year | 16 | 15 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TETANUS TOXOID | | | | | | |
| TT (*adolescents in school) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39 | 39 |
| TT (*pregnant women) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| Antenatal Attendance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 | 91 |
| NB: * School girls and pregnant women were also given de-wormers. | | | | | | |

Nutrition Screening at Food Distribution Points

This activity is carried out on a quarterly basis and is conducted using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes. The objective is to assess the nutritional status of CU2, specifically those children benefitting from the supplementary feeding program. However, during the quarter, this activity was suspended pending discussions with the district health teams on possibilities of harmonization. This was done because it was observed that the District Local Governments of Abim, Kaabong and Kotido also conduct nutrition screenings although at intervals different from GHG's. However, the GHG and District Government results often do not match. Discussions are underway for harmonization in a bid to avoid duplication and ensure standardized measurements.

IR 2.2 Increased consumption of nutritious foods for households

GHG promotes the improved nutritional status and food consumption of its target beneficiaries through nutrition education and perma-garden training delivered through mother care groups (MCGs). In addition, GHG provides supplementary feeding to PLW and CU2. GHG's nutrition education and supplementary feeding activities are on track, although the perma-gardening has not yet achieved the desired results on a large enough scale. Modifications in the permagarden training approach will be implemented in the next quarter to improve uptake rates.

Table 6: IR 2.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 37. Number of households adopting 3 or more improved gardening/poultry production practices promoted by the project. | 150 | 0 | 28 | Perm garden activities were not conducted during the quarter, in part due to seasonality. Activity is being revised to improve effectiveness. |
| 38. Number of mother care groups supported by USG assistance. | 115 | 13 | 113 | On track. |
| 39. Number of children 6-23 months receiving PM2A rations, disaggregated by sex | 9,116 | 7,614 | 16,086 | CU2 counted quarterly based on indicator definition. |
| 40. Number of PLW receiving rations | 5,158 | 3,976 | 9,265 | On track. |
| 41. Number of individuals receiving a protection ration, disaggregated by sex | 53,041 | 24,241 | 62,217 | On track. |
| 42. Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs | 20,009 | 7,168 | 29,374 | CU2 counted quarterly based on indicator definition. |

Permagarden Development

GHG promotes the production of nutritious foods through perma-gardening, which is a combination of perma-culture and bio-intensive gardening. The combination creates a strong, healthy garden that can produce nutritious vegetables and withstand longer dry spells.

This quarter contained the core part of the normal dry season. For this reason, few perma-gardening activities were conducted as the weather conditions were generally unfavorable. To that effect, only Kaabong conducted perma-gardening activity follow-ups in Kawalakol, Lokial and Kotome parishes in Kawalakol, Kapedo and Lodiko sub-counties, respectively. Demonstrations were rolled out to 4 care groups: Kokoro in Kawalakol sub-county, Sakatan in Lodiko sub-county, Loteteleit and Kaimese (Takanikal) in Lolelia sub-county. This activity will receive priority as the rain returns and will be assisted by the recently acquired GHG-extension agents, who have already started to work with the MCG's on crop production practices. Assistance will also be provided by the TOPS program to improve this activity.

Over the two quarters of implementation of perma gardens, a number of lessons were learned, including:

- Lesson 1: Permagarden uptake is limited under the cascade approach of the mother care group structure. Leader mothers do not have the technical knowledge or time necessary to adequately train others in the approach. For this reason, GHG plans to task-shift permagarden trainings from the World Vision staff to the existing Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs). AEAs have a mandate to teach improved practices and have greater time availability to provide trainings to both leader mothers and neighbor women directly.

- Lesson 2: During the dry season, water is a large constraint; however, all gardens should be able to be maintained through waste water practices, such as using leftover water from cooking in the garden. Despite sharing these messages, there has been limited application. Future trainings will need to use hands-on demos to further improve this water conservation practice.
- Lesson 3: There is great opportunity for learning between communities through sharing of best practices. One care group took initiative to build a successful garden near a borehole while another care group improved uptake by creating a shared labor plan in which the group rotated between houses on a daily basis until each had a garden. In the next quarter, GHG will capitalize on these ideas by facilitating intergroup learning through sharing of messages and exchange visits.

Mother Care Groups

By the end of the last quarter, GHG was supporting a total of 100 MCGs across the project area. During the last three months, a total of 13 additional MCGs were formed in order to provide a structure for the roll out of health and nutrition behavior change messages and practices. The newly formed care groups were trained on module one of the mother care group approach.

Roll Out of Module One

During the quarter, module one was rolled out to 29 Care Groups: 18 in Kaabong and 11 in Kotido. Module one is the introductory module. It gives Leader Mothers and Promoters an orientation on what the care group approach is all about, and it outlines the responsibilities of the Leader Mothers including watching neighbor groups and how to share progress with others.

Roll Out of Module Two

In this quarter, a total of 1,839 lead mothers were trained in the module two lessons. Module two covers six topics with a lesson being rolled out after 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 as detailed in the table below.

Table 7: Mother Care Group Lesson Summary

| District | # CGs on Lesson 1 | # CGs on Lesson 2 | # CGs on Lesson 3 | # CGs on Lesson 4 | # CGs on Lesson 5 | # CGs on Lesson 6 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Abim | 22 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kaabong | 21 | 21 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Kotido | 0 | 23 | 39 | 11 | 0 | 17 |
| Total | 43 | 59 | 51 | 13 | 2 | 20 |

Supplementary Food Distribution

Implementation of the supplementary feeding program continued throughout the quarter at 36 Food Distribution Points (FDPs) in Kaabong, Kotido and Abim. Key activities included supplementary feeding distributions, massive beneficiary verifications and re-registrations in all 36 FDPs, photo taking, printing and distributing new sets of LMMS ID cards to verify and enrolled beneficiaries. To ensure improved accountability and efficacy, the procurement of new LMMS kits was undertaken in this quarter, which are now in active use.

Three cycles of supplementary food distribution (January, February and March 2015) were conducted in all the 36 FDPs during the quarter. The total tonnage distributed during the quarter was 208.060 MT out of the programmed 353.260 Mt representing an 80% achievement. The total tonnage distributed since the inception of the program is **4,274.920 MT**. Some of the devices and servers associated with LMMS kits were not functional during previous quarters. In the reporting quarter, the program procured new LMMS kits which are now being used to register, photograph, and print new sets of LMMS cards for all of the beneficiaries.

Table 8: Summary of Commodities Distributed

| Beneficiary Category | Tonnage Distributed from April 2013 to December 2014 MT | Tonnage Handled during the Quarter MT | Total Tonnage Distributed |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Children U2 | 289.223 | 59.744 | 356.382 |
| Pregnant Women | 348.275 | 48.862 | 403.055 |
| Lactating Mothers | 256.689 | 28.733 | 289.581 |
| Protection ration | 3,098.45 | 70.720 | 3,225.90 |
| Total Mt | 3,992.64 | 208.060 | 4,274.92 |

The cumulatively number of beneficiaries reached with supplementary food commodities during the quarter was 77,253. The table below provides more details on the category and number of beneficiaries addressed.

Table 9: Summary of Beneficiaries Served

| Month | Primary Beneficiaries | | | | | | Protection Beneficiaries | | | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | CU2 | | | Pregnant & Lactating Women | | | 3 Yrs and above | | | |
| | Boys | Girls | Total | PM | LM | Total | M | F | Total | |
| Jan-15 | 1,289 | 1,233 | 2,522 | 805 | 566 | 1,371 | 10,312 | 8,596 | 18,908 | 22,801 |
| Feb-15 | 4,722 | 4,679 | 9,401 | 2,989 | 1,865 | 4,854 | 12,230 | 11,344 | 23,574 | 37,829 |
| Mar-15 | 5,517 | 5,403 | 10,920 | 3,659 | 2,044 | 5,703 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16,623 |
| Total | 11,528 | 11,315 | 22,843 | 7,453 | 4,475 | 11,928 | 22,542 | 19,940 | 42,482 | 77,253 |

Cumulatively, a total of 37,179 (18,758 boys and 18,421 girls), CU5 were reached with food during the quarter in the 36 FDPs. The maximum number of CU5 reached per month was 22,206 (11,263 boys, 10,943 girls).

Table 10: Summary of Children under 5 years reached

| Month | Primary Beneficiaries | | | Protection Ration | | | CU5 | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | CU2 | | | Children 3 - 5 yrs | | | Boys | Girls | Total |
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girl | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| Jan-15 | 1,289 | 1,233 | 2,522 | 3,110 | 2,934 | 6,044 | 4,399 | 4,167 | 8,566 |
| Feb-15 | 4,722 | 4,679 | 9,401 | 4,120 | 4,172 | 8,292 | 8,842 | 8,851 | 17,693 |
| Mar-15 | 5,517 | 5,403 | 10,920 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,517 | 5,403 | 10,920 |
| Total | 11,528 | 11,315 | 22,843 | 7,230 | 7,106 | 14,336 | 18,758 | 18,421 | 37,179 |

IR 2.3 Reduced Incidences of Diarrheal Diseases Among Children

GHG develops boreholes and latrines and educates communities on sanitation practices that reduce diarrheal diseases. During the reporting period, WASH activities continued to be rolled out across the project areas to build upon activities initiated during the previous quarters. Hydro-geological surveys were conducted for the 14 new borehole sites and drilling commenced in five locations yielding four successful wet wells. Promotion of sanitation using the CLTS methodology continued during the quarter in a total of 58 triggered communities. GHG activities within IR 2.3 are on schedule, although the desired impact (ODF communities) is lagging. Both World Vision and Mercy Corps are actively working together to ensure that activities in this area are effective at achieving the desired results.

Table 11: IR 2.3 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 46. Number of people gaining access to an improved drinking water source | 10,500 | 0 | 425 | Drilling activities has begun, Four out of 14 boreholes successfully drilled. Drilling of remaining 10 boreholes is ongoing |
| 48. Number of boreholes constructed or rehabilitated meeting water quality standards | 14 | 0 | 1 | Drilling activities has begun, Four out of 14 boreholes successfully drilled. Drilling of remaining 10 boreholes is ongoing |
| 49. Number of gender-balanced water committees established and trained at each water point | 14 | 0 | 0 | All 14 WASH committees were formed. Training will be conducted once drilling is completed |
| 50. Number of communities certified as "open defecation free"(ODF) as a result of USG assistance | 8 | 0 | 0 | Indicator introduced in FY15. Assessment for ODF certification ongoing |
| 51. Number of improved toilets provided in institutional settings | 4 | 0 | 0 | Beneficiary schools identified, contract awarded, excavation work has begun. |

Construction of Boreholes

GHG identified an experienced contractor (DRACO Uganda Limited) to execute the hydro-geological survey, drilling and equipping of 14 boreholes with hand pumps. Their scope of work also included construction of cattle troughs for all of the boreholes. By the end of this quarter, the hydro-geological surveys were conducted for all 14 boreholes and drilling was conducted in 5 of the sites with 4 resulting wet wells and one dry well. Drilling activity is currently ongoing for the remaining sites and is expected to be completed within the next quarter. A summary of borehole activities in included in the table below.

Table 12: Status of boreholes under construction during this reporting quarter (Q2)

| | Community | Parish | Sub-county | Coordinates | Status and Next Plan |
|---|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Poongo | Narengepak | Kathile | N:3.68023 E:34.03266 | Drilling completed, depth 54m, Drillers estimated yield 700L/hrs |
| 2 | Lorenegechora | Kamacahrikol | Kathile | N:03.59776 E:34.11309 | Drilling completed, depth 57m, Drillers estimate yield 3600L/hrs |
| 3 | Lurukunya | Lukwakaramo i | Kamion | N:03.69815 E:34.12628 | Drilling completed, Depth 87m, Drillers estimated yield 2000L/hrs |
| 4 | Takanikal | Kaimeses | Lolelia | N: 03.57609 E:43.00883 | Drilling completed, depth 87m, Drillers' estimated yield 200L/hrs |

| | Community | Parish | Sub-county | Coordinates | Status and Next Plan |
|----|-------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 5 | Lesemudang | Sangar | Kapedo | TBD after successful wet well | Drilled but hit dry well. Re-surveyed but machine had mechanical problem |
| 6 | Lopeeru | Kawalakol | Kawalakol | TBD after successful wet well | Surveyed but not yet drilled |
| 7 | Naurutochom | Lomanok | Kawalakol | TBD after successful wet well | Surveyed but not yet drilled |
| 8 | Lokinya | Rikitai | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 9 | Lolet lo bwalimoi | Loletio | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 10 | Modokonya | Loletio | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 11 | Namoni ebu | Rikitai | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 12 | Illa | Rikitai | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 13 | Morukirionon | Rikitai | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |
| 14 | Loriu | Potongor | Panyangara | TBD after successful wet well | Sited, to be drilled next month |

WASH Behavior Change

To improve the adoption of WASH behaviors, GHG conducts a range of community activities that educate the communities and their traditional and religious leadership. During this quarter, GHG conducted the WASH activities described below.

WASH Messaging Through Religious Leaders

During the quarter, religious leaders across several religious sects in Kotido district were engaged to disseminate WASH messages to their congregations. The messages are specifically around what is diarrhea, danger signs related to diarrhea, how to prevent diarrhea through hand washing with soap or ash, fecal disposal in latrine, and drinking safe water. The religious leaders are encouraged to disseminate this information by speaking to the congregations in their churches or mosques, local meetings organized at local council level, wedding ceremonies, etc. Monthly review meetings were conducted with these religious leaders, with an agenda covering progress made, challenges and lessons learned. The group identified challenges including a lack

of latrine construction materials, termites, contradicting cultural beliefs, and lack of access to safe drinking water. Based on the differing forums in which the religious leaders engage the community members, it is difficult for the project to assess the effectiveness of this messaging and to design a monitoring mechanism to quantify the outreach. The M&E department is currently working on modalities to collect this data.

While this activity has been ongoing in Kotido only, there have been efforts to expand the same activity to cover Abim and Kaabong as well. During the quarter, a total of 75 (73 male, 2 female) religious leaders across the two districts were mobilized and oriented on the initiative.

WASH messaging through Cultural and Opinion Leaders

A barrier analysis conducted at the beginning of project indicated that elders/opinion leaders are the main influencing groups that community members listen to when they have embraced any new initiative. To enhance the adoption of WASH activities, GHG identified 233 (177 male and 56 female) traditional authorities and opinion leaders in the communities where GHG has triggered CLTS. GHG will begin constructive engagements on WASH messaging with these leaders in the next quarter.

Establishment of WASH Committees

WASH committees consist of 10 members:

chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, caretakers (02), children representative, women representative, representatives of persons with disability and the local council chairperson of the area. The committee is responsible for managing all day- to-day matters regarding the water source, promoting hygiene and sanitation practices and behavior, collection of monthly user fees and ensuring that the borehole is repaired when it breaks down.

During the quarter, 14 WASH committees comprised of 70 males and 70 females were formed for the 14 planned boreholes which are currently being drilled. The formation of the WASH committee was conducted with high consideration of gender sensitivity. The WASH committees were given an orientation on their roles, after which they played an active role in community mobilization and the collection of community contribution towards the capital cost of the boreholes as a requirement. Comprehensive training of these committees on operation and maintenance, financial management, hygiene and sanitation will be conducted for each water point once the boreholes are successfully drilled with resultant wet wells.

Improved pit latrines and hand washing facilities in schools

SO Integration Highlight

GHG's WASH (SO2) and Financial Access (SO3) teams synergized activities during the quarter to link the WASH committees to the Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs). By linking SACCOs to the WASH committees, communities will have more trust that their financial contributions are safe, and the WASH committee will have an edge in acquiring credit from a SACCO in case repairs costs exceed their savings level. In addition, the effort helps the SACCOs build membership, creating a win-win relationship for all involved. Three WASH committees of Kalekori, Nakiporet and Namukur, Kotido district were linked to Nakapelimoru SACCO where they are now saving the water users' monthly collections.

GHG's goal is to construct drainable Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines (5 stances each) and a wash room in four selected primary schools in Abim, Kotido and Kaabong this financial year. Construction works for these VIP latrines have begun across the three districts and progress is summarized in the table below.

Table 13: Details of the schools where the latrines are constructed

| # | Primary School | Parish | Sub-County | District | Status of the Latrine construction |
|---|----------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kanair | Potongor | Nakapelimoru | Kotido | Excavation work on-going |
| 2 | Oreta | Pupukamya | Nyakwae | Abim | Excavation work on-going |
| 3 | Lowakuch | Sangar | Kapedo | Kaabong | Excavation work not started |
| 4 | Lokanayona | Lokanayona | Loyoro | Kaabong | Excavation work on-going |

Training of School Management Committee (SMC) & Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Members of Primary Schools that Benefited from VIP on O&M of the Facility

One of the approaches of the GHG project is to ensure schools' sanitation access and hygiene practices are improved. In last financial year, the project supported Narube, Rikitae and Pupukamuya Primary Schools with a block of Ventilated Improved Pit latrines (5 stances) that also includes a hand washing facility. In an attempt to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the facility, a one day training of the SMC & PTA members was carried out. This training that was facilitated by the project staff was attended by 73 participants. During the trainings, participants came up with action points that will need to be followed up closely by the project staff to ensure effective implementation.

Is Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) working in Northern Karamoja?

During the reporting period, a verification exercise was conducted in 31 communities that were triggered using the CLTS approach at the beginning of the fiscal year. The data indicated that while there was a relatively high level of response in latrine construction, utilization was low. So far, no GHG communities have achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. This has been a trend continuing from the previous year of project implementation.

Based on this, GHG introduced CLTS review meetings, a platform that brings together the district, sub-county, parish and village leaderships together with the communities to assess the communities' progress towards ODF status. The meetings involve sub-county officials such as sub-county chiefs, local council III chairpersons, community development officers and parish chiefs. In some locations, the communities were impressed by the visits of the sub-county leadership for the first time, which led the communities to prioritize CLTS activities including latrine use, so they could receive these visits in the future.

The meetings identified latrine quality and condition as a barrier to latrine use. Degradation by termites is a serious problem, although staff pointed out that increased latrine usage will discourage termite infestation. To improve latrine use, the local council 1 chairpersons, manyatta leaders and VHTs agreed to be role models in constructing and using latrines, and the communities required accountability, stating the leaders will risk being demoted or removed from their positions if their CLTS behavior was poor. In addition, VHTs agreed to register all households in the village and keep a record of latrines in use for easy supervision.

Table 14: Summary of CLTS follow-up during the quarter

| District | # of communities | | | | Action Needed |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | triggered to date | followed in January | followed in February | followed in March | |
| Abim | 6 | 4 (67%) | 4 (67%) | 4 (67%) | Trigger more communities |
| Kaabong | 38 | 8 (21%) | 5 (13%) | 3 (8%) | Increase follow up frequency |
| Kotido | 14 | 0 (0%) | 9 (64%) | 4 (26%) | Increase follow up frequency |
| Total | 58 | | | | |

Commodity Update

In the reporting quarter the program received 223.9 MT of lentils, 290 MT of vegetable oil and 525MT of corn meal. The remaining balance is expected in April. The table below shows the call forward and received amounts.

Table 15: Summary of food called forward and received

| Food type | Call forward (MT) | Bill of lading Net amount (MT) | Received (MT) | Difference (CF Vs BL) MT |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Lentils | 500 | 244.4 | 223.9 | 255.6 |
| Cornmeal | 1,230 | 527.775 | 525.325 | 702.225 |
| V.Oil | 290 | 290 | 290.002 | 0 |
| CSB | 530 | 530 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2,550 | 1,592.175 | 1,039.227 | 957.825 |

After the approval of call forward, which covered a 12 month period (April 2015 – March 2016), USAID decided to exclude protective rations during the harvesting seasons which usually occurs from September through March. This exclusion would result in food reaching its Best Used By Date (especially cornmeal and lentils). Therefore, GHG transferred 950MT of commodity (700 MT of cornmeal and 250 MT of lentils) to WFP from the port of entry (Dar es Salam). It is to this end that that the difference appears in the table above. Out of the total difference of 957.825, 950MT was transferred to WFP while the remaining balance (7.825 MT) is an actual difference between the call forward and bill of lading.

Transfers of Commodities from Lira Hub to District Rub-Halls

The transfer of food commodities from the Lira warehouse hub to the rub-halls in Kotido and Kaabong continued throughout the reporting period with a total of 427.279 Mt dispatched; 209.161 Mt was dispatched to Kotido rub-hall while 218.118 Mt was dispatched to Kaabong rub-hall.

Table 16: Summary of commodities transferred from Lira warehouse to district sub-halls.

| Commodities | Transfers to Kotido (Mt) | Transfers to Kaabong (Mt) | Total Transfers ((Mt) |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| CSB | *16.000 | 0 | 16 |
| Veg.oil | 71.161 | 78.818 | 149.979 |
| Lentils | 122.00 | 0 | 122.000 |
| Corn meal | 0 | 139.300 | 139.3 |
| Total | 209.161 | 218.118 | 427.279 |

NB:*16MT of CSB was transfer from Kaabong to Kotido

Commodity Losses and Loss Prevention

There was transit loss of 0.367 MT of vegetable oil and 0.075 MT of cornmeal recorded in this quarter. This loss occurred when a hired WFP truck was moving from Lira to Kaabong. The cargo in the truck was not properly secured which resulted in some cargo falling off of the truck during transport. The driver, with assistance from nearby military officers, re-loaded the non-damaged cargo, but some cargo was not re-loaded, presumably due to damage. The total value of loss is \$779.454. WV submitted a loss valuation to WFP and they are still in discussion to agree on deduction of \$779.454 from the transportation invoice. Once this is complete, Mercy Corps will process a loss claim to WV to pay directly to the USAID Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) account.

In addition, there was transit loss from the port of Dar Es Salam to Lira: a total of 0.961 MT (0.200MT of lentils, 0.055 MT of V.oil and 0.706MT of cornmeal) with total value equivalent to \$1,034.346. Leakages and transit losses are the main reasons. All required documents were prepared for claim and the spoiled commodity was destroyed on March 26, 2015.

General spraying (with insecticide) of Lira warehouse was conducted in March before receipts of food from the port. The company sprayed four warehouses with Delthamethrine 2.5% EC at dosage rate 40 – 60 ml per 5 liters of water and acetylic for internal.

Stack fumigation was conducted in Kotido and Kaabong warehouse in Jan and March 2015 by Supreme Fumigation Services. In March 2015, the program fumigated 20MT of corn meal in Kaabong and 13.05 MT of CSB and 81.493 MT of cornmeal in Kotido. Supreme Fumigations Services Ltd conducted the fumigation using aluminum phosphide with a dosage of 7gm per MT of food. The same company did fumigation in Kotido warehouse for 35.5 MT of corn soya blend (CSB) with the same fumigant. Except for the month of January both for spraying and

fumigation process, the program secured prior-approval from USAID via Mercy Corps due to the pending PURSUAP.

SO3:Reduced Incidences of Armed Conflict

IR3.1 Local Conflict Prevention and Management Systems Strengthened

GHG implements its SO3 – IR3.1 activities through two local partners: KAPDA and AWOTID. GHG strengthened both organization’s capacity to engage local structures in conflict mitigation and response, to develop the capacity of their own organizations, and also directly assisted them to conduct conflict mitigation activities as needed during the quarter. Activities in this program area are on schedule since these needs continuous engagement of communities to strengthen conflict mitigation and prevention systems in place. Some activities however emerge on community and situation demand (especially inter and intra community land conflict resolution meetings and dialogues) but still in line with scope and schedule .

Table 17: IR 3.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 52. Number of reported incidents of armed conflict in the past 3 months. | 17 | 8 | 8 | |
| 54. Percent of supported community structures that have successfully mitigated or resolved at least two community conflicts. | 80% | 9% | 18% | |
| 55. Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance. | 10 | 6 | 6 | |
| 56. Proportion of sub-county leaders involved in conflict management who report effective collaboration with each other. | 72% | - | - | Data not captured this quarter. |
| 57. Number of consensus building forums held with USG assistance | 18 | 6 | 6 | |
| 58. Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance | 200 | 101 | 101 | |

KAPDA

KAPDA is a local organization based on Kaabong District that has worked with GHG since the inception of the program. During the quarter, KAPDA conducted training for Sub County Peace Committees and Traditional Authorities on improved information sharing, Peace dialogue meetings inter and intra, cross boarder peace dialogue meetings, and follow up/monitoring of peace structures activities. KAPDA's efforts are producing results in terms of improving the reporting, response and mitigation of local conflicts. As an example, cases of cattle theft are reported to the authorities and tracked by the committees, with status updates provided regularly to the communities which reduces the likelihood that the communities will take justice into their own hands. Likewise, the Peace structures are able to identify the problems in their communities and recommend measures to reduce incidences of these problems, such as domestic violence and petty theft. As a result of the more peaceful environment, GHG is pleased to report that communities are widely participating in land preparation activities for the upcoming planting season, which was not as broadly practiced in the past due to insecurity issues.

AWOTID

AWOTID is a local organization based in Abim that began working with GHG earlier this year. As a new partner to the GHG program, Mercy Corps conducted an Organizational Capacity Index assessment with AWOTID staff and volunteers (12 total – 6 male, 6 female) to gauge their organization capacity and inform the design of a Capacity Development Plan. In addition, Mercy Corps provided a gender training for AWOTID's staff and board (15 participants, 4 males and 11 females). The training will help AWOTID to mainstream gender in their work, activities and programming.

AWOTID also conducted program activities during the quarter including:

- Trained Land Focal Point Volunteers (26 total - 13 males and 13 females). The training equipped the Volunteers with knowledge on land rights, land management, Uganda land police and land use. This training enables the volunteers to disseminate relevant information to their respective communities.
- Conducted a joint meeting with traditional male and female leaders in which 16 participants [13 males and 3 females] participated. This was to break the cultural barrier that women traditionally do not participate in land meetings. The males at the meeting acknowledged the need to have women in traditional land meetings recognizing that women are affected by land conflicts especially in cases where their husband dies. ***This is one of the 1st meetings in Abim district where the women have participated in a land meeting.***
- Formed Environmental clubs in 3 schools with 27 participants (15 males and 12 females). The clubs are formed to create and instill a culture of environmental conservation among children.
- Conducted three refresher trainings for formal and informal land committees in Alerek, Morulem and Nyakwae sub counties with 76 participants (48 males and 28 females). The trainings is intended to reawaken the area land committee which was previously constituted, but not currently active.
- Conducted 3 women's land rights training in Alerek, Morulem and Nyakwae sub counties with 70 women attending in total with Alerek (23), Morulem(23) and Nyakwae

(24) This training was to tap into the skill and potential of women. Since culture does not also allow women to participate, some women are more likely to participate when in sessions with only other women so the training targeted women to train them on land rights and basic land rights knowledge and skills; thereby leading to more participation from women.

IR3.2 Constructive Male and Female Youth Engagement in Peace and Development Initiatives Enhanced

GHG implements its SO3 – IR3.2 activities through six (6) local youth groups in Kotido District. Activities in this program area are on schedule and on scope.

Table 18: IR 3.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Variance Explanation | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | | Year to Date | |
| 60. Number of joint initiatives between youth organizations and strategic governance agencies. | 9 | 8 | 8 | |
| 61. Number of young people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance. | 270 | 127 | 127 | |

GHG’s partner Youth Groups conducted several activities during the quarter which contributed to northern Karamoja’s peace and development initiatives. These include:

- Conducted 8 meetings on Participatory Action Planning (PAP) in which 136 people participated (97 males and 39 females). PAP skills strengthen the relationships of peace building actors in order to positively influence conflict management and mitigation initiatives within the sub-counties.
- Conducted 4 Leadership skill trainings for youth and women to be able to advocate and take the responsibility of leadership in representing youth and women in development initiatives at the sub county level. A total of 90 participants [49 male youths and 41 females] participated.
- Continued to sensitize communities on referral pathways for Sexual Gender based Violence (SGBV). This was done in 3 sub counties with 85 participants [47 males and 38 females].
- Conducted alcohol and violence against women awareness campaign (see text box)

Kotido Youth Campaign Against Alcohol Abuse

The issue of alcohol abuse and subsequent violence against women is a serious concern in northern Karamoja and other parts of Uganda. GHG-supported youth groups rallied to address the problem in Kotido conducting community meetings, public campaigns and dialogues, video shows, and testimonies from reformed alcoholics and drug users. The objective is to increase awareness and thereby reduce alcohol abuse. A total of 191 youth were reached through the campaign (103 males and 88 females).



The Pastoralism and Development Organization of Uganda, a GHG-partner youth organization based in Kotido, poses with Kotido Town Council leaders and law enforcement officers to kick-off their joint initiative to reduce alcohol abuse. Alcohol abuse was identified as a barrier to maternal and child feeding practices during an April, 2015 stakeholder workshop on nutrition in Karamoja.

Cross-Cutting Programming

Table 31: Cross-Cutting Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Performance | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Year to Date | Comment |
| 62. Number of people benefitting from USG-supported social assistance programming | 81,589 | 15,158 | 57,933 | 71% achieved, 50% female |
| 63. Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance. | 50 | 6 | 22 | 44% |
| 64. Number of vulnerable households benefitting directly from USG assistance. | 23,275 | 9,676 | 11,053 | 47% |
| 68. Number of farmers/beneficiaries reached as a result of USG assistance | | | | |
| Total | 100,000 | 29,504 | 60,661 | |

| Indicator | Annual Targets | Performance in the Quarter | Year to Date | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|---------|
| | | | Year to Date | Comment |
| Males | 50,000 | 12,982 | 30,223 | 60% |
| Females | 50,000 | 16,522 | 30,438 | |

Gender is the primary cross-cutting activity in the GHG program. GHG’s Gender team implements specific gender research and mainstreaming activities within all three strategic objective program areas. Specific activities conducted during the quarter are summarized below.

Partner and Staff Training on Gender

GHG conducted a 2-day training for its new SO3 partner (AWOTID) as well as the six youth groups. The training covered basic concepts of gender (sex and gender, power and privilege, equity versus equality), the technical application of gender to the project cycle and introduced partner staff to Mercy Corps’ gender policies and procedures. A one-day training was also held for AWOTID staff to build their knowledge on women’s land rights and was led by an external facilitator from the Land Equity Movement of Uganda (LEMU). These trainings will enable each organization to more effectively reach men, women and youth in their peace and conflict mitigation activities and to specifically address their needs in these areas. The training included 15 participants from AWOTID (4 Males & 11 Females), specifically, 8 staff and 7 board members, and 24 participants for the six youth groups of Kotido (each youth group was represented by 4 members of the secretariat, with equal representation-both male and females).

GHG also provided a gender orientation training to the 13 new Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) of Kaabong, Kotido & Abim districts, to introduce them to Mercy Corps’ approach to gender, give them insights into how they can reach women farmers by using tailored mobilization and communication strategies, and the need to promote men’s more active involvement in farming and support of women’s input into decisions around production and use of farm related income. As a result of this activity, the AEWs identified and began working with 1431 farmers in the following month, of which **61% are female**. More time is needed to understand whether messaging around farming techniques, gender roles and responsibilities and decision making is leading to behavior change.

Active Gender Mainstreaming within GHG

GHG’s Gender team supported several staff recruitment exercises to increase opportunities for qualified female candidates. These efforts resulted in the recruitment of 10 new female staff (2 female ILOs, 6 female AEWs and 2 female Food Distribution Point Monitors). This brings the overall portion of women on the GHG team to 34% (25 out of 73).

KAPDA has also recently been proactive in recruiting three female staff (2 Zonal Managers, i.e. 1 Male & 1 Female, 1 Gender Officer –Female, and 1 Office Assistant –Female). In addition, GHG recruited 15 enumerators (7 Females & Males 8) to conduct the CMM assessment

(described below).

To further improve the benefits of livestock livelihoods with women, GHG identified and trained 7 female lead promoters in Kaabong for the second phase of the poultry vaccination program and will also target the most vulnerable women who are members of the mother care groups.

| Poultry vaccination beneficiaries: | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|
| District: | Male: | Female: | Total: |
| Abim | 150 | 334 | 484 |
| Kaabong | 176 | 478 | 654 |
| Kotido | 98 | 291 | 389 |
| Total | 424 | 1103 | 1527 |

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In its conflict mitigation interventions, KAPDA scored a key accomplishment during the quarter by reaching a 37% female participation level in peace structures/committees, which are traditionally male dominated. Women now actively participate in these fora and have increased capacity, social capital, a broader understanding of their roles and are contributing to the development of action plans.

Summary of KAPDA training attendance disseggregated by sex:

| S/No: | Name of structure: | Males: | Females: | Total: |
|--------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 01 | Kaabong Town council | 13 | 07 | 20 |
| 02 | Sidok Sub county | 22 | 09 | 31 |
| 03 | Loyoro | 21 | 04 | 25 |
| 04 | Lolelia | 19 | 09 | 28 |
| 05 | Kamion | 26 | 06 | 32 |
| 06 | Kapedo | 30 | 14 | 44 |
| 07 | Kathile | 20 | 11 | 31 |
| 08 | Lobalangit | 22 | 10 | 32 |
| 09 | Lodiko | 23 | 09 | 32 |
| 10 | Kawalakol | 28 | 38 | 66 |
| 11 | Karenga | 37 | 41 | 78 |
| 12 | Kalapata | 21 | 11 | 32 |
| 13 | Kaabong west | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| 14 | Kaabong East | 22 | 10 | 32 |
| Total | | 304 | 179 | 483 |

AWOTID is a women-led CBO in Abim implementing interventions on land related conflict. Women have limited access and ownership of land emerging from traditional cultural arrangements, which compromises household food security. Interventions that support women's

right to access and control land is the goal of these activities. A number of key achievements during the quarter include: 1) Trained 26 Land Focal Point Volunteers (13 Males and 13 Females) to help in community mobilization and creating awareness on land issues; 2) Conducted a joint meeting with traditional male and female leaders attracting 16 participants of whom 13 were Males and 3 Females; and 3) Helped create three environmental school clubs with 27 participants, 15 Males and 12 Females. In addition, refresher trainings for formal and informal land committees in Alerek, Morulem and Nyakwae sub-counties were successfully conducted with a total of 76 participants, 48 Males and 28 Females. They organized three other trainings on Women's land rights in Alerek, Morulem and Nyakwae sub-counties with 70 women attending (Alerek -23, Morulem-23 & Nyakwae -24). These training are intended to build the community's capacity to reduce land conflict.

GHG ensures that women play an active role in the WASH activities including committees. During the quarter, 14 WASH committees comprising 70 male and 70 female were formed for the 14 planned boreholes that are currently being drilled. The training of these WASH committees will be conducted for each water point once the boreholes are successfully drilled with resultant wet wells

In order to ensure effective community participation during the supplementary food program, the existing Food Management Committees (FMC) and Complaint Help Desk (CHD) committees have been engaged in all 36 final distribution points to support GHG during the actual food distribution process. Considering the important role women play in food management at the household level, the program insisted that women form the majority of membership in these committees. Currently, out of 89 CHDs 60 (67%) are women and 29 are male while a total of 126 of 176 FMCs are women, comprising 71% of the total, and they occupy 55% of the executive positions.

Gender Research

Social capital plays an important role in the capacity of an individual or community to build resilience to shocks in agro-pastoral settings of sub-Saharan Africa, particularly for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. Together with Mercy Corps, three George Washington interns assessed three long-term Mercy Corps programs, PRIME in Ethiopia, GHG in Uganda, and YYC in Kenya, to identify tangible, actionable ways for Mercy Corps to improve social capital creation, particularly for women and youth. For GHG, the researcher assessed individuals, groups & partners (JIECODI, KART, KAPDA, the Peace and Justice Commission in Karenga and the Anti-violence Women's Group in Kawalakol and SACCOs) regarding their interaction and relationship-building (through bonding and bridging linkages) so as to be more resilient to shocks and stresses. This research will be finalized in the coming quarter and will be used to inform future GHG activities and other programs.

GHG's Gender Team also supported the assessment of six (6) SACCOs on meeting performance benchmarks in the provision of financial services to the GHG communities. The SACCOs offer savings, credits and affordable financial products and flexible services to benefit both individuals and groups. Four SACCOs are in Kaabong (Kamukoi, Pioneer, Kaabong Rural & Kawalakol)

and two are in Kotido (Lokitelaebu & Kitogogong) district. The gender team ascertained whether women are benefiting from savings and loans services, barriers to women accessing these financial services, and recommendations to inform the new GHG strategy for improving access to financial service providers (SACCOs) in the region. The preliminary findings confirms that women are benefiting from saving & business loan products in northern Karamoja. They have control of money borrowed, but they have limited IGAs. 84% of the female respondents interviewed said they have full authority over the use of their money while 16% said they are influenced by third parties. However, almost all of the women pointed out clearly that their husband still determined how their money should be spent.

In March, a joint Mercy Corps and Tufts University team travelled to Karamoja to conduct follow up research from the first year of the program, which explored the connection between conflict management and livelihoods resilience. The team used mixed methods, surveyed over 400 households in Kaabong spoke with partners and beneficiaries. The primary research questions centered around the appropriateness and effectiveness of GHG's approaches to conflict management given the evolving conflict dynamics in Northern Karamoja. A strong gender perspective was incorporated into the research, with the link between gender based violence and food insecurity closely examined, along with the impact that increased female representation has had on the work of sub-county peace committees.

ANNEX A – Planned Activities for the Next Quarter

Supplementary Feeding Distribution

- Receive the balance of food commodities from Mercy Corps.
- Transfer of food commodities from Lira warehouse to rub-hall in Kotido and Kaabong warehouses
- Registration of new beneficiaries to be conducted in all the 36 established FDPs in Kaabong, Kotido and Abim Districts
- Continuous updating of beneficiary list in LMMS and issuing of LMMS ID cards to new beneficiaries.
- Distribute supplementary food rations to target beneficiaries plus their house hold members.
- Elect additional FMCs and CHDs Committee members.
- Conduct refresher trainings for the FMCs and CHDs committee members.
- Carryout On-site Distribution Monitoring (ODM) in sampled FDPs.
- Conduct PDM exercise in sampled FDPs

MCHN

- Continue the rolling out of module two lessons and introduction of module three
- Continue facilitating immunization outreaches at FDPs
- Conduct mentoring sessions with Lead Mothers and Promoters
- Conduct community and video dialogue sessions
- Launch male engagement activities

WASH

- Complete drilling and installation for 14 boreholes
- Construction of cattle troughs for 14 boreholes
- Finalizing construction of 4 VIP latrines
- Conduct CLTS follow-up in 58 communities, three times for each communities
- Develop monitoring mechanism for WASH promotion for religious leaders
- Facilitate two communities achieving ODF status

Ag inputs activities for the next quarter

- Increasing availability of inputs in GHG Operational areas
- Improve local ag-dealers capacity
- Catalyze provision of extension services to rural smallholder farmers
- Establish multi-crop demonstration plots

- Promote increased purchases, adoption & utilisation of improved ag-inputs
- Promote the use of appropriate intermediate technologies to increase land opening & productivity

Livestock marketing, Animal health services and Early warning

- Herd health management campaign (Farmer field days at selected kraals) launch at 10 demonstration kraals (4 in Kotido and 6 in Kaabong) in partnership with district veterinary departments and national drug companies
- Impact assessment for CAHWs veterinary service delivery and refresher training for new and weak CAHWs
- Cascading national disaster policy framework and early warning systems (EWS) to lower local government levels
- Market information exchange pilot between 14 kraal leaders and their respective trading livestock partners (external livestock partners) continued to month 2
- Mapping of poultry aggregators and buyers to strengthen marketing of poultry and poultry products
- Support registration and licensing of new agrovets shops

Conflict and Governance (SO3)

- Prioritize gaps and develop the Capacity Development Action plan for 2 Partners deriving from Organizational Capacity Index Findings (OCI) and Monitoring the implementation of the capacity Development plan for Partners
- Provide technical support/assistance, monitoring to GHG local partners and youth groups to mainstream gender, conflict and governance in their work with a focus on gender sensitivity.
- Administer OCI to KAPDA 2nd year to determine capacity development level and performances to date
- Participate in peace building and conflict mitigation and management activities organized by local government, partners, peace actors and all non state actors
- Enhance interaction or constructive engagement between district, sub county and traditional peace structures with GHG operational districts
- Follow up to evaluate the impacts of Peace structures training and continuous mentoring on peace structures
- Continuous support to youth groups to enhance community awareness and engagement/Involvement and participation in government planning and development initiatives, reduction of negative harmful cultural practices, reduction of alcohol consumption among youth as key drivers to conflict and reduction of SGBV in communities.
- Training of multi sectoral-Sub county peace committee, traditional authority and women groups on SGBV prevention
- Exchange visits/bench making to encourage learning on how the performing peace structures achieved in order to improve on the weak structures.

- Advocacy meetings to address imbalances in women's representations on land and Natural resource management committees.
- Analysis of women's representation on land and Natural Resource Management committees and barriers to effective leadership.
- Coordinate the establishment of a gender balanced sector committee on land and natural resources in the district.
- Monthly follow up visits, support supervision and technical backstopping to community members and volunteers in above activities. Since they were trained, there is a need to follow them up on how they are utilizing the skills they received during the trainings. This also to help identify some of the challenges they are facing in their work and what capacity gaps they have.