

Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU)



QUARTERLY REPORT

October – December 2015

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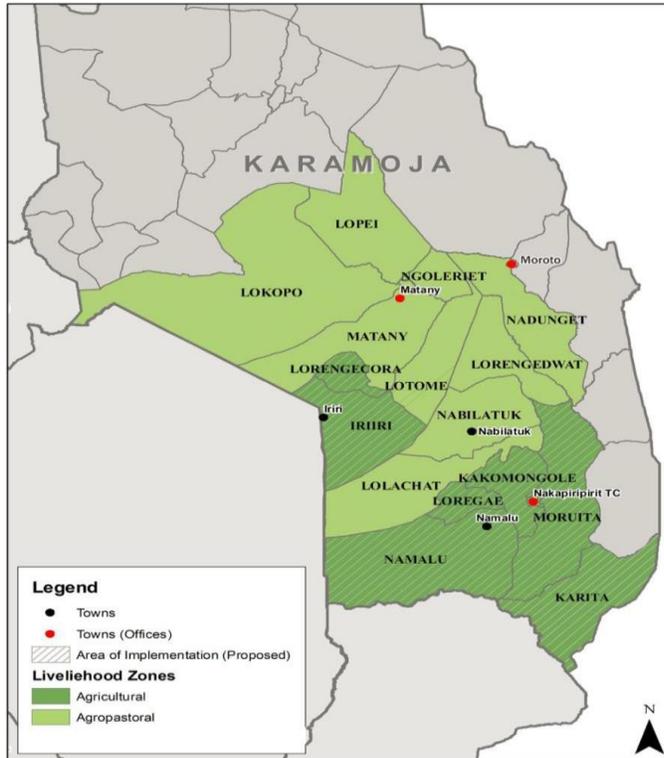
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List of Acronyms

AAEC	Assistant Agriculture Extension Coordinator	IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
ACOP	Acting Chief of Party	KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and	KAPB	Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behavior
AEC	Agriculture Extension Coordinator	LC	Local Council
AFPS	Agro-pastoral Field School approach	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ANC/PNC	Antenatal/Postnatal Care	MCA	Male Change Agent
ARR	Annual Results Report	MCG	Mother Care Groups
ASCA	Accumulated Savings and Credit Group	MSI	Marie Stopes International
CAG	Community Action Groups	MT	Metric Ton
CAHW	Community Animal Health Workers	NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer	NabuZARDI	Nabuin Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute
CBSFP	Community Based Supplementary Feeding Program	NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia	NaSARRI	National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute
CSF	Community-based Saving Facilitator	NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
CDO	Community Development Officers	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CLTS	Community-lead Total Sanitation	O&M	Operations and Maintenance
CSC	Community Score Card	OSCAR	Overseas Cash Accountability Report
Concern	Concern Worldwide	PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
COP	Chief of Party	PHH&M	Post Harvest Handling & Marketing
CUAMM	Doctors with Africa (Italian NGO)	PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants – French, for Small Ruminant Pests (parasites)
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party	PSO	Program Support Officer
DFAP	Development Food Aid Program	PVOC	Pre-verification of Conformity
DFC	District Field Coordinator	RDC	Resident District Commissioner
DHO	District Health Officer	RFA	Request for Application
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	RFP	Request for Proposal
DVOs	District Veterinary Officer	SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperative Society
DWO	District Water Officer	SUB COUNTY	Sub County
EHO	Environmental Health Officer	SDA	Safari Day allowance
FNMR	Farmer-managed natural regeneration	SO	Strategic Objective
FC	Field Coordinator	SP	Samaritans Purse
FEWs	Field extension workers	TOPS	Technical and Operational Performance Support
FDP	Food Distribution Point	TOR	Terms of Reference
FOG	Fixed Obligation Grant	TRC	Technical Review Committee
FP	Family Planning	TSO	Technical Support Officer
FTGs	Farmer Training Groups	TSU	Technical Support Unit
FY	Fiscal Year	UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
GIS	Geographical Information System	UNFAO	United Nation Food and Agricultural Organization
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion	VAT	Value Added Tax
HA	Health Assistant	VHT	Village Health Team
HC	Health Center	VSLA	Village saving and loan association
HE	Health Educator	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
HF	Health Facilities	WHH	Welthungerhilfe
HFC	Health Facilities Coordinator	WLGs	Women Livestock Groups
HHCG	Household Care-giver Group		
HPs	Health Promoters		
HQ	Headquarters (normally ACDI/VOCA, Washington)		
HR	Human Resources		
ICT	Information & Communication Technology		
IR	Intermediate Result		
IT	Information Technology		
IY	Implementation Year		

RWANU Program Description

The Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition in Karamoja (RWANU) project (Cooperative Agreement Number AID-FFP-A-12-00011) is a five-year USAID Food for Peace Development Food Assistance Program (DFAP). The overall goal of the project is to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable people in Southern Karamoja. The program has two strategic objectives (SO): 1) Improved access to food for men and women; and 2) Reduced malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under five.



ACDI/VOCA is the prime partner responsible for overall program management and leads activities related to crop production, alternative livelihoods, increasing resiliency through the promotion of group savings, and improving market linkages. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) carries out the technical training and input provisions related to livestock. Concern Worldwide (Concern) has primary responsibility for the nutrition, health, hygiene and health outreach component.

ACDI/VOCA manages the distribution of food rations targeting pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under two year of age.

ACDI/VOCA and partners work together to ensure integration across activities and promotion of gender equity and women's empowerment, environmental stewardship, and conflict mitigation.

This report highlights key achievements of the first quarter of implementation for Year 4 (October – December 2015).

1.0 Strategic Objective 1: Improved Access to Food for Men and Women

Intermediate Result 1.1 Improved Smallholder Farm Management Practices Adopted

1.1.1 Agronomy

Cassava Block Farms: In October, farmers were mobilized to clear and plough land in preparation for planting of cassava cuttings. Four hundred and forty bags of cassava cuttings were procured from National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) and distributed to the 11 identified block farms, including eight farms in Napak and three in Nakapiripirit. A total of 320 bags were allocated to Napak and 120 bags in Nakapiripirit. The cassava blocks were planted in time with the El Niño rains and weeding done immediately after planting. A total area of 55 acres were planted.



Cassava cuttings being delivered to a block farm in Lokopo sub county, Napak District.

The team continues to train farmers on best practices to adopt to improve agronomic practices and increase productivity. This quarter, eight farmer training groups with 93 members (63 males, 30 females) were trained in various agronomic practices like row alignment and spacing, crop management including pest and disease control.

Second season planting: The normal planting season in Karamoja is characterized by a shorter rainy period and a longer dry spell. However, this quarter the region received a second period of rains due to El Niño, as predicted by weather monitoring. Farmers were encouraged to make use of these rains to plant short-term crops. One hundred and seventy four (78 males, 96 females) farmers followed the advice and planted short-term maturing crops such as beans, maize, cowpeas and green gram. A total of 238.6 acres of land plated during the second rainy season. Some farmers even planted cassava. The majority of farmers hesitated to farm since heavy rains at this time of the year are unusual and the farmers did not trust that they would last.

NabuZardi farm trials: A few sub-counties were selected for farm trials by the NabuZardi research institute to test different varieties of drought resistant millet, green gram, simsim, and sunflower. The planting demonstration trials took advantage of the second season rains that appeared in the quarter. An agronomist from NabuZardi supported by RWANU' Field Extension Workers (FEWs) demonstrated timely planting, weeding and pest management on the demonstration farms. The trials are performing fairly well, but some are affected by the heavy winds.

Land preparation for next planting season: Training on environmentally-friendly land opening for crop cultivation started this quarter with established, active Farmer Training Groups (FTGs).

A total of 1125 farmers (M-250,F-875) in 75 FTGs have received training on bush clearing, opening land using oxen and garden bund alignment. Farmers are committed to opening their land early enough prior to the next planting season to ensure so their plots benefit from available moisture when the rains begin.

Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling (PHH): Forty-five FTGs (188 males, 476 females) have

Post Harvest Handling Successes

- Apeyelei Block farm in Kakomongole sub-county harvested and sold cassava tubers and received UGX 240,000. The group used this to buy two goats and divided the cassava cuttings among the group members for expansion of cassava production at household levels.
- Etata Oyara block farm in Iriiri sub-county harvested and sold 80 bags of cassava cuttings receiving UGX 1,600,000. The group used the money to bulk sorghum and maize grains in their stores awaiting to sell at future favorable prices

been trained in PHH techniques throughout the project area. Lessons include knowledge and skills on using improved local granaries and cribs, crop preservation measures using tree botanicals like neem trees, red pepper and burnt ashes. Harvesting was done on previously planted demo gardens and block farms. Major crops harvested include maize, beans, groundnuts and green gram. From the demonstration sites 2,516 kgs of maize, 198 kgs of beans, 1,558 kgs of groundnuts and 296 kgs of green gram were harvested. Additionally, 12,120 kgs of maize, 104 kgs of beans and 2,235 kgs of groundnuts were harvested from the block farms. These quantities were obtained after shelling and

hulling.

1.1.2 Horticulture

The team has trained horticulture farmers on vegetable cropping with practical skills in nursery management, transplanting and field operation management.

Drip Irrigation Systems: During this reporting period, nine of the 15 horticulture groups identified for drip irrigation system installation have fully functional systems installed. Seven systems were installed in Nakapiripirit and two in Amudat. The irrigation sites were selected based on their proximity to a permanent water source and the group's ability to provide cost share for the system.

Each system installed was tested and calibrated in the presence of farmers. The farmers were also trained on usage and operational maintenance needs for daily and monthly care, including cleaning the filter, drip lines and the tank and assembling and disassembling the treadle pump. In addition, each group also received a planting string. These strings assist farmers in installing straight drip irrigation beds and will also help in row planting during transplanting of seedlings.



Horticulture officer and farmers installing drip lines at a horticulture site

Distribution of horticulture seeds: As approved in Modification 11 and the approval of the IY3 PREP, seeds were distributed to the 11 horticulture farmer groups and four model farmers. Each group or model farmer received six crop varieties. Ten grams of Gloria cabbage and kale and four tins each of 50 grams of onions, eggplant, Copenhagen cabbage and tomatoes were distributed per farmer group and for each model farmer. The targeted land area was approximately 0.5 acres per site.

Establishment of nursery beds: The RWANU horticulture officer supported the horticulture groups to establish nursery beds. Each group established one nursery bed for each crop variety, with a total of 90 nursery beds created. The demonstration provided to the farmers in attendance included training on how to set up and plant seeds in the nursery beds.

Transplanting of seedlings: Some farmers had bought their own seeds and already planted them into nursery beds. During the reporting period 5 groups and 2 model farmers transplanted seedlings across 3611 square meters. At the time of installing the drip irrigation system, the seedlings were ready to be transplanted. During the installation, the team supported the farmers to transplant their seedlings along the drip irrigation lines for optimal crop production outcomes.

Mulching: All horticulture groups and model farmers were trained on the use and application of mulching as a best practice for soil water retention and weed control. Farmers appreciated the training on the practice, as weeding was a major problem reported by the farmers. A majority of farmers have already started cutting grass for mulching.

Planned SO 1 IR 1.1 Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned SO 1 Activities	Targets
Monitor the performance of the new Cassava Block Farms and the Drip irrigation system	11 BFG
Follow up the performance of the second season crops	174 farmers
Organize 2014/15 FTGs for Block Farming Groups (BFG) activities.	60 BFGs
Aggregate seed demand for 2016 farming season.	10 sub-counties
Mobilize group savings for tractor services hiring and for seeds purchase.	60 BFGs
Train members of BFGs in agronomy.	60 BFGs
Install remaining drip irrigation systems of the initial 15 identified horticulture sites.	6 irrigation systems
Train model horticulture farmers and model kitchen garden host mothers on basic horticultural and business practices.	15
Organize new Cohorts of Horticulture groups.	15

IR 1.2 Improved Smallholder Livestock Management Practices

1.2.1. Formation of New Women Livestock Groups (WLGs)

Sixty beneficiaries were selected to participate in the RWANU goat restocking activity and a memorandum of understanding was signed with the respective village leadership. Thirty women representing three WLGs were trained in group management and dynamics, basic goat husbandry, business skills, accumulated savings and credit, conflict transformation and gender issues. The trained WLGs managed to construct the goat shelters as well as raise the required savings for the health care of the goats. The WLGs are now in preparations for fodder bank establishment.

1.2.2. Support to Continuing Women Livestock Groups (WLGs)

During the first quarter, RWANU provided technical training in group management, goat management, fodder production and savings and credit to all of the 140 established WLGs consisting of 1,517 beneficiaries. Of the 140 WLGs, 120 received the full package of goats. The next round of distribution will commence in the next quarter.

Goat health management: Advice on El Niño preparedness was disseminated to WLGs in order to reduce its negative effects on the welfare of the animals. Guidance included proper shelter to avoid water logging as this causes foot rot, adjustment of grazing time to avoid cases of bloat and guidance on special oversight of highly vulnerable animals including sick, pregnant and newly born goats. The groups have also been advised to provide routine tick control through spraying with acaricides to address common tick borne diseases like heart water and anaplasmosis. Most groups have incorporated this guidance in their goat care.



A CAHW sprays goats against external parasites in WLG in Nakapiripirit district

The health care of the animals has been managed through the community animal health workers (CAHWs) attached to the WLGs and fees for the services have been fully paid by the group members. During this quarter, a total of 3.4 Million UGX (975 USD) has been spent by 94 WLGs on the veterinary drugs from their own savings. Reporting indicates 2,256 goats have been treated in this quarter. The average expenditure on health care per goat during the reporting period or per quarter is estimated to be \$0.40. In addition to the members of the WLGs, other livestock owners in the villages have also accessed the CAHW services and drugs. During the de-worming, spraying and general treatment trainings, goats from non-RWANU beneficiaries also benefited from attendance and participation.

Goats' flocks' dynamics: The reproduction of the goats has steadily progressed from 1,867 surviving offspring at the end of IY 3. There are 2,053 surviving offspring of which 1,008 are male and 1,045 are female. The general morbidity reported during the quarter was 30% and the mortality rate in the mature goats was 4.2%. The team has intensified efforts to increase access to

good quality veterinary inputs through linkages between the CAHWs, WLGs and the professional private veterinary practitioner. Losses due to disease are expected to reduce further when more practitioners are brought on board.

Milk production: During the first quarter, 90 WLGs obtained milk from the goats and 243.8 liters were collected daily for a period of up to 6 weeks from 447 milking goats. Milk collection averaged 0.5 liters per goat, per day. The milk is being used for home consumption and primarily given to children. Milk is also used to make sour milk and butter for household consumption.

Establishment of fodder banks: Making use of the rains, 2050 seedlings (1050 calliandra, 800 leucaena and 200 melia) have been planted in 31 WLGs' established fodder banks. The RWANU team provided technical support, the women with the support of their husbands were fully engaged in the clearing, pitting, fencing and application of the manure. Of the already established fodder banks, calliandra has been found to have the highest survival rate in the drought conditions.

Livestock Lessons Learned

- Calliandra and melia species have been found to be most resistant to climatic conditions of the region. These varieties shall be used more in the establishment of fodder banks.
- Construction of goat shelters without material inputs from the project is more sustainable and all new WLGs are being encouraged to construct the goat shelters on their own prior to receiving goats.
- Livestock keepers are willing to pay for veterinary services only if they trust them.
- Livestock movement in search for water during the dry season affects mainly cattle as such easily left out in the manyatta-based herd health initiatives. Efforts to target cattle specifically shall be taken to where there are major watering points e.g. Arechek dam in Nakichumet.

Goat shelter construction: All of the 140 WLGs have constructed goat shelters, but due to intense rain and wind some of the shelters have collapsed. Only 98 WLGs are utilizing the shelters as some require additional repairs, especially the roofs. Forty of these 98 WLGs have constructed additional shelters to cater to the growing number of goats, as the initial shelter can no longer accommodate the number of goats currently owned by the entire group. The shelters have been highly successful for the WLGs, particularly during the rainy season, and non-project beneficiaries have begun constructing shelters for their goats and others have kept their goats together with WLG goats. The RWANU livestock team has encouraged some WLGs to construct goat improved traditional shelters.

Agro-pastoral Field School approach (AFPS): During IY3, RWANU had identified and trained 61 Agro-Pastoral Field School (AFPS) facilitators to orient and support 112 WLGs. The AFPS facilitators have been monitored and oriented continuously by the project in order to provide quality extension services to the WLGs. During the current quarter, 45 facilitators have oriented 82 WLGs' members in the AFPS approach by assisting members to identify solutions to the goat management problems the groups identified. Supplementary feeding was identified as a solution to increase milk production. The primary supplement used were mineral licks, and some groups engaged in local methods of mineral licks preparations. Facilitators and the WLGs also introduced routine spraying to reduce the incidences of tick-borne diseases and deliberate pasture preservation

for dry season grazing. The facilitators were also able to work with the groups to greatly improve savings record keeping of the WLGs.

Veterinary students' internship program:

In the first quarter, RWANU partnered with the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB) at Makerere University on an internship program with participating students. Two final year students were assigned to the project for a 30-day field work. The students were actively involved in all the project livestock activities and were able to interface with the WLGs and the community animal health workers (CAHWs).

Veterinary health care service provision strengthening:

There is still an insufficient number of Professional veterinary services in the project area; however, the CAHWs continue to provide the basic animal health care services. Other available services include the government veterinary services supported by the FAO, VSF-Belgium, Mercy Corps and others. The CAHWs supporting the existing WLGs have received on-the-job mentoring from the RWANU livestock team and support through the veterinary student internship program.



A veterinary student intern doing on job mentoring of CAHWs in Nabilatuk sub-county

Manyatta herd health management initiatives:

In order to maximize the adoption of improved livestock management practices and stimulate the demand for professional animal health services in the project area, three manyatta sites have been identified in addition to the one site identified in IY 3. There are currently two sites in Napak (Iriiri and Ngoleriet) and another two in Nakapiripirit district (Kakomongole and Lolachat). These sites are managed at the manyatta level where all the livestock owners voluntarily participate to improve the production of their livestock.

The manyatta site previously identified at the end of IY 3 in Kautakou parish of Ngoleriet sub-county has progressed with the registration of 52 participants. Besides the selection of the livestock management committee, CAHWs have also been selected to assist the group in the management of sick animals. The initial herd assessment was done and the routine management practices like worm and tick control have been practiced on a cost recovery basis. A total of 1,851 livestock, including 236 cattle, 739 goats and 876 sheep, have been treated. Poultry has not yet been addressed, but there is interest to expand management services to meet poultry needs. Additionally, RWANU will implemented in conjunction with NabuZARDI, a demonstration site for a fodder and pasture seed multiplication

Challenges:

Challenges during the quarter included the lack of professional private veterinary practitioners in the project area, which limits access to good quality veterinary drugs, as there is currently only

one reputable dealer. However, the project connected the livestock groups to the vet practitioner, to purchase necessary drugs.

Other challenges include:

- Some CAHWs lacking skills to properly support the WLGs. To address this, RWANU identified new candidates within the locality of the WLGs to facilitate their movement for promptly providing assistance to beneficiaries. RWANU will train the new CAHWs in basic animal health, animal feeding, and hygiene of the shelter.
- Heavy El Niño rains, which increased the morbidity rate of the animals. To counter this, the team disseminated El Niño preparedness messages, e.g. encouraging the WLGs to prepare or reinforce the animal shelter and keeping an appropriate stock of veterinary drugs.

Planned SO 1 IR 1.2 Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Initiate manyatta-based livestock herd health management sites with the support of the veterinary practitioner and interns, the sites will be used for sensitization on proper management practices, with emphasis on vaccination and animal feeding.	3
Facilitate knowledge sharing for best practices on goat management, nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture and other cross cutting themes, through exchange visits among the WLGs.	2 exchange visits
Conduct refresher training for selected CAHWs.	1
Support establishment of fodder banks for WLGs.	20 fodder banks
Work with the RWANU business team to support the identified potential private veterinary practitioners.	3 veterinary practitioners

IR 1.3 Increased Access to Markets

1.3.1. Business Services

Karamoja Agricultural Trade Show:

RWANU, in collaboration with the Karamoja Business Leaders Forum, co-hosted the first ever Karamoja agricultural trade fair at the Boma grounds in Moroto in October 2015. The fair attracted national businesses from within and outside Uganda. RWANU showcased project activities like the



Agro input dealers showcase their goods and services at the agricultural trade show.

honey value chain, keyhole gardening and cooking demonstrations. Project supported farmers and vendors also exhibited their produce and goods. The fair enhanced market linkages between vendors from the Karamoja region and nationally established businesses.

Agro input demand assessment: The business services team developed an agro-input demand assessment tool and collected data in order to understand the potential for the market, present overall potential agro-input market information, articulate potential business opportunities to the agro-input dealers, national seed companies and other stakeholders interested in developing private sector led agro-input market development in South Karamoja. The assessment was conducted in nine sub-counties of Iriiri, Matany, Lokopo, Lorengechora, Nabilatuk, Kakomongole, Namalu, Karita, and Morita. Key respondents included lead famers, FTGs, agro-input dealers and agricultural extension staff.

Collective output marketing: RWANU supported a FTG group in Karita-Kanasian to purchase bulk maize grains for collective marketing. The maize grain was bought from the neighboring sub county of Lororo in Amudat district. 120 bags of 100kg each were purchased at a rate of six hundred shillings (600 UGX) per kg, with a gross expenditure of seven million and two hundred thousand shillings (7,200,000 UGX).

Additionally, the Kitongete FTG in Iriiri was supported in a collective output marketing effort, where 20 bags of sorghum and 20 bags of maize were bought at a rate of five hundred and seventy shillings (570 UGX) per kg and seven hundred shillings (700 UGX) per kg respectively. These two FTG groups previously benefited from the collective bulking which motivated them

Honey Value Chain Highlight

Cherelkawon honey producers group has 20 members (4 female and 16 men). They harvested 178 Kgs of honey and sold all for UGX 890,000. As a group, they agreed to invest in goats rearing, and purchased 9 goats (1 Male and 8 Females) with a total of Ugx 580000.

They look forward to the next season's harvest. They hope to sell more honey, so they can buy more goats and distribute within the group.

to continue this as one of their income generating activities. The funds for the bulk purchases were raised from their group savings.

1.3.2. Honey Value Chain

General bee keeping management practices: The honey production team held meetings with members of the apiary groups and shared information on general management of bee keeping project activities. Other issues discussed revolved around sustainability strategies, group leadership and the role of community based facilitators (CBFs) in the management of honey kits and honey business.

Monitoring and support supervision: With the CBFs, the honey team carried out monitoring visits to groups in Moruita, Namalu and Kakomongole sub-counties. The monitoring results revealed a total of 52 out of 85 beehives of the visited apiaries had been colonized.

The team also supported a local artisan very active in making and selling hives in Karita. He has a good stock of hives and timber. The RWANU business team assisted him in developing his marketing strategy and worked with the communities to introduce the concept of acquiring more hives to increase production. He has so far sold over 25 pieces of his hives and has more in stock.



Mr. Job, the artisan at his workshop with a display of hives ready for sale to beekeepers.

Planned Activities for SO 1 IR 1.3 for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Facilitate training for agro inputs dealers in product knowledge, business management and output marketing including record keeping and financial management.	8 agro dealers
Facilitate promotional activities for agro-input dealers through trade fairs/exhibitions' demonstration plots, field days, market days, etc.	8 agro dealers
Facilitate training of CAHWs to equip them with basic animal health practices, business skills through private sector actors (vet dealers).	1 training
Conduct a SWOT analysis of South Karamoja region market / market assessment for grains & horticultural crops.	1 assessment
Train in business planning & development for producer groups.	20 groups
Conduct Co-operative management training for RWANU staff & marketing group leaders including cooperative promoters.	1 for staff & 1 for farmers
Facilitate farmer demand driven services like tractor and improved seed purchase for cooperative / FTGs and individual farmers and provide technical guidance appropriately.	50 groups
Continue to sensitize honey producer groups to establish bee forage fast maturing trees of high pollen and nectar e.g. sunflower.	8 groups
Link mature apiary groups to honey buyers (Golden bees) to offer technical guidance in apiary/honey production.	6 groups
Learn about the FAO Model of collective honey production and marketing in Karamoja for a potential adoption of the good practices within RWANU groups	4 groups

Sensitize honey producer groups to form producer associations and establish processing sites.	5 groups
Facilitate Golden Bees to train Tepeth and other bee keepers on quality improvement and strengthen market linkages.	2 groups
Facilitate Golden Bees to conduct further trainings to Community Based Facilitators (CBFs) in modern bee hive management practices, i.e. site identification, monitoring, inspection, harvesting, simple processing & other bee products.	6 groups

IR 1.4 Increased Access to Credit

1.4.1. Accumulated Savings and Credit Association (ASCA) Support

Access to loans: Two hundred and three members have access to loans from their savings groups for business startups. Most of these members have since engaged in retail business like selling of produce. The majority of loan beneficiaries are women who account for 77% of the acquired loans.

New ASCA group formation: Sixteen ASCAs were formed in the sub counties of Apetolim, Kakomongole, Nadunget and Namalu, where previously there were none.

Savings kits distribution: Newly formed FTG groups and WLG groups were supported with saving kits for the groups to save money securely. Thirty five savings kits were distributed to WLGs and FTGs to begin saving and one saving kit was also given to a Mother Care Group in Lemusui, who had requested a kit. The participating groups also received training on savings and credit management.

Registration of ASCA groups at sub county level: The team supported the formal registration of the IY 2 and IY 3 ASCAs at the sub-county level so they can have legal recognition in the community. This was done with six women ASCA groups in Namalu, Nabilatuk, Loregea and six FTG ASCA groups of Lolachat. These groups have since acquired the required documentation including recommendations letters from the community development office and have made payments to the accounts office for certificates. They are currently waiting for the certificates. The ASCA team introduced another 16 ASCAs (two groups in Namalu, seven groups in Kakomongole and seven groups in Loregea) on registration requirements needed at the sub-county level.

Saving and Credit Cooperative Society formation:

The team presented farmers and mother care groups (MCGs) with information on Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO) formation and linked some of the groups to existing SACCOs within RWANU operation areas. Nine groups were educated on SACCO formation. During the sessions, the team shared with the beneficiaries, the advantages of SACCOs, how SACCOs are created and managed.



ASCA group members during savings meeting

Promoting income generating activities (IGAs):

One of the key activities in the first quarter was encouraging the ASCAs of MCGs and WLGs to take on income generating activities. The groups were also encouraged to save as a group. Two MCGs have started joint group businesses of buying and selling of cereals given the poor harvest this season. The MCGs hope collective buying and selling will ensure more favorable costs of sale and purchases.

Training ASCA and Village Savings and Loan Association groups on group dynamics: The groups were trained on proper group dynamics. A total of 16 MCG and five WLG ASCAs were reached in the districts of Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto. The team also trained 42 VSLA group leaders (21 males, 21 females) on group dynamics, saving mobilization, management, financial literacy and record keeping in Nadunget sub-county. One hundred and fifty-two ASCAs group leaders (61 males, 91 females) in Napak district in Iriiri, Lorengechora and Lokopo sub county were trained on financial literacy, group dynamics, saving and credit procedures, loan management, constitution making and record keeping in groups.

Identifying community based facilitators:

The VSLA team participated in identifying community based saving facilitators (CSFs) to help saving groups with the day-to-day transactions during the saving mobilization meetings. A total of 105 people (66 males, 37 females) with reading and writing skills were identified from the ASCAs groups. These selected members will be trained to become trainers and facilitators of VSLAs in Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Amudat and Napak communities. The CSFs will submit monthly reports of their activities. The trainings and selection of leaders will provide a more sustainable approach to ensure the groups continue after the project, given the facilitators are members of the communities.

Ten CSFs were trained on money management, group dynamics, savings and investments plans by Centenary Bank. They also

ASCA Support Lessons Learned

- Women are more active in joining ASCAs and this could be due to the fact that when households lack basics, women are more affected than men.
- Community based participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are important for sustainability of program activities. Promotion of a community based saving facilitators approach provides a good opportunity for participatory M&E.
- Implementation of ASCA activities needs continuous sensitization and awareness creation for the population to develop a good understanding and appreciation of

received training on the bank’s new mobile banking product, called “*CHAP CHAP*.”²

Saving Mobilization: The team continued supporting active ASCAs groups and helping beneficiaries identify investment avenues for their savings, however, the project also supported the 65 ASCA groups that had stopped saving. Three of these ASCAs were MCG saving groups (Nakoreto in Lolachat and Nachuka in Nadunget) that stopped due to their domestic commitments, such as securing food for the household and other basics needs. The team also helped ASCAs with loan recovery process from defaulting members and helped improved their loan records.

Monitoring and support supervision: To ensure best practices the savings and credit officers, field coordinators and health promoters carried out regular field visits, providing on site supervision. This quarter, 305 ASCAs (FTGs, MCGs and WLGs) were reached in Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto. Field visits were also performed with 126 FTGs in different sub counties by FEWs who also collected data from the groups who continued saving. During the monitoring, group secretaries were mentored on record keeping using the loan ledger.

Planned Activities for SO 1 IR 1.4 for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Conduct SACCO performance assessment in South Karamoja Region.	1
Sensitize ASCAs groups according to SACCO assessment results to form SACCOs in sub-counties where they are not present.	50 groups
Hold round table meetings with the District Commercial Officers on the sustainability of ASCAs/VSLAs in the region.	4 meetings
Facilitate the legalization of ASCA groups which the sub-county and district authorizes.	20 groups
Conduct trainings of Community Saving Facilitators (CSF) on introduction to saving, group dynamic, saving and credit operations, loan management in groups, record keeping and constitution development in groups.	153 CSFs
Train ASCA group members in business skills, how to start a business, record keeping in business and management.	35 groups
Conduct refresher training for ASCA leaders on loan management, record keeping and constitution making for ASCA groups.	100 leaders

² CHAP CHAP is an Airtel mobile money product targeting small savings and credit groups, where group(s) can open accounts with them and keep their money on the platform. A password is given to three people within the group. In order to withdraw money all of them must be present.

Continue with ASCA linkages to financial institutions (Centenary Bank and micro finance support center in Moroto).	10 groups
Conduct ASCA members exchange learning tours to improve the operation of ASCAs in Karamoja.	10 visits
Follow up on the performance ASCAs of IY1, IY2 & IY3.	107 groups

2.0 Strategic Objective 2: Reduced Malnutrition in Pregnant and Lactating Mothers and Children Under Five Years

I.R. 2.1: Improved Health and Nutrition Practices at Household Level

2.1.1 Behavior Change Communication

2.1.1.1 Promotion of improved Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Practices at Household Level through Mother Care Group (MCG) Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Module 4 Training

In September 2015, the roll out of the MCG SBCC Module 4 on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) began in all four districts of RWANU operation. The four-lesson Module training is scheduled to be completed in January 2016.

By the end of December 2015, the MCGs had been trained on three of the four lessons, including Hand Washing, Safe Disposal of Feces, and Safe Water Transport and Storage. All 49 Health Promoters (HP) and 14 Health Educators (HE) were trained on the material and subsequently all 342 active MCGs were reached on the messages, with an attendance of 3,239 (93%) Lead Mothers (LM).

District	Total HPs	Total LMs	Total MCGs	Number Trained on WASH		Latrines in use	Fuel-saving stoves in use
				LMs	MCGs		
Nakapiripirit	20	1,508	146	1,372	146	95	1,566
Amudat	3	171	23	167	23	49	110
Moroto	4	336	31	281	31	81	325
Napak	22	1456	142	1419	142	143	1,604
	49	3,471	342	3,239 (93%)	342 (100%)	368	3,605



HHCG mudding her latrine in Lokachikit village, Nabwal parish, Iriiri subcounty, Napak

There was a gradual introduction of WASH concepts during the roll out of the three lessons, which has resulted in gradual behavior change. For example, by the end of October, 570 pits had been dug for pit latrine construction and 368 latrines had been completed and were in use by the end of December, along with tippy taps for hand washing. RWANU is making sure the latrine construction timeline matches fits well within women's daily household activities.



Fuel-saving Stoves constructed by Lead Mothers in Ngoleriet sub-county in Napak district.

In addition 60 MCGs in the four districts were trained on the construction and use of fuel-saving stoves in November 2015, with technical support from ACDI/VOCA. By the end of December 2015, a total of 3,605 stoves had been constructed at the household level, including those made by the Lead Mothers and the household caregivers reached by the Lead Mothers. When interviewed, a mother in Lotaaba village in Lopei sub-county in Napak explained that her new stove saves her up to two-thirds of firewood, compared to the 3-stone cooking alternative.

With the lessons learned from fuel-saving stove construction training among the 60 selected MCGs, the training will be gradually extended to other MCGs alongside the SBCC Module trainings.

2.1.1.2 Improved Health and Nutrition Practices at Household Level through the Male Change Agent (MCA) Strategy

From October to December 2015, the 14 Health Educators trained a total of 134 MCAs (84%) in the four districts on at least eight of the 23 lessons on Maternal and Child Health and WASH (MCA Curriculum Part 2). As it was becoming more challenging to monitor the influence of other men by each MCA, a modified version of the MCG approach was applied to the MCA training for other men in their communities. Each MCA was encouraged to enlist 5-10 men within his community whom he could meet and follow-up with on a regular basis, preferably among those who had already exhibited curiosity regarding changes in the MCA's behaviors. With this approach to MCA influence monitoring, a total of 1,442 men were enlisted by the end of December 2015 in the four districts.

District	Total HEs	Total MCAs	Trained on MCA Curriculum part 2			Men reached	Latrines complete	Keyhole gardens
			Lesson 1-8	Lesson 1-14	Lesson 1-17			
Nakapiripirit	6	67		34	19	703	97	12
Amudat	1	12		8	0	82	22	00
Moroto	1	13		10	0	19	19	17
Napak	6	66	62	0	0	638	371	366
	14	158	62	52	19	1,442	509	395

The most common activities adopted by the men influenced by the MCAs included latrine construction, with 509 latrines completed and in use (in addition to the 368 latrines constructed by the Mother Care Groups), and the establishment of keyhole gardens, with a total of 395 gardens established by the men. “What the RWANU project is doing is good, because it is changing men’s behavior,” said Logiel Losike, an elder in Lopuke village, Lorengechora sub-county in Napak district.

2.1.1.3 Dissemination of MCG SBCC Module Messages Through drama and at Food Distribution Points (FDPs)

In addition to updating the RWANU food ration beneficiary lists, the Health Educators are responsible for dissemination of MCG SBCC Module messages at RWANU food distribution points. The 14 Health Educators disseminated the messages on Hand Washing, Safe Disposal of Feces and Safe Water Transport and Storage (MCG SBCC Module 4) at the 64 RWANU food distribution points. The trained household caregivers from nearby villages supported the Health Educators in this endeavor by translating the messages into songs and short skits for the large audience at each distribution point.

The Health Educators also trained a total of 16 drama groups, comprising 296 members, in the four districts, on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (MCG SBCC Module 4) skits. These groups in turn performed these skits at 28 Health Centers, three RWANU food distribution points, two community shows, and two National Campaign Day celebrations, including World AIDS Day and Independence Day, reaching thousands of people with these messages. Post-performance interviews with the audiences at these shows revealed that the messages were clear and easy to adopt, particularly the importance of hand washing and proper disposal of feces.

The drama group members were also encouraged to adopt the messages they disseminate. By the end of December, 64 of the 296 drama group members trained had constructed latrines at their homes and 108 members had established keyhole gardens.

2.1.1.4 Material Distribution

Over the course of this quarter, all 1,456 Lead Mothers in Napak received T-shirts for visibility and bags for carrying training Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Additionally, all 3,471 Lead Mothers in the four districts received 5-liter jerry cans and bar soap for tippy tap construction and hand washing. The MCAs received an assortment of items to facilitate their RWANU training lessons to other men. A total of 148 MCAs received T-shirts for visibility, jerry cans and watering cans for tippy tap construction, and hoes and pangas for

keyhole garden establishment. A total of 252 drama group members also received T-shirts for visibility and continued message dissemination in their respective communities.

S.O. 2.1.1 Cross Cutting themes

Training of Local Government Officials on Complaints Response Mechanism: In November 2015, a total of 46 members of Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM) Committee(s), at health facility and sub-county levels, in all seven sub-counties of Napak, were trained on how to apply the CRM in their respective communities. The committees will sensitize their community members and operationalize the CRM in all the sub-counties. The CRM committees will assume the responsibility of receiving, following up, and providing feedback on complaints from their communities. RWANU will provide the complaints boxes to be used by the committees.

Staff Training on HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming: Following a prior training of Concern Worldwide Karamoja staff on Program Participant Protection Policy in July 2015, it was recommended that the staff be trained on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming to dispel myths and misconceptions. Therefore in December 2015, a total of 48 staff including 17 in Nakapiripirit office and 31 in Moroto and Napak offices were trained on important information related to transmission and treatment of HIV infection. A similar training will be conducted in January 2016 for the field-based Karamoja staff.



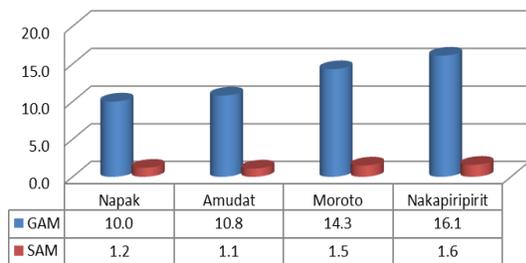
Drama show on child feeding during the Community Show at Nakapelimen ground in Moroto Municipality

The RWANU SO2 team also participated in the FHI360 Communication for Health Communities (CHC) “How is your Love Life” Campaign community show on HIV/AIDS at the Nakapelimen ground in Moroto Municipality. The RWANU team conducted MUAC screening, cooking demonstrations, and provided facilitation for a drama group to present on good feeding practices. A total of 200 RWANU Recipe Books were distributed at the show, as nutritious meals are particularly important to prevent malnutrition among people living with HIV.

2.1.2 Link Project Activities and Learning with the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan

2.1.2.1 Support to the Districts in Mass MUAC Screening and Referral of children Under 5 Years with Acute Malnutrition

The alarming Global Acute Malnutrition levels shown in the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) report disseminated in August 2015 warranted the mass screening of children under 5 years in Karamoja. The Concern Karamoja Nutrition teams in RWANU and SURGE programs supported Nakapiripirit, Moroto, and Napak districts in this exercise in October.



During the month of November, the preliminary results showed the following:

Nakapiripirit had critical levels of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM): 15-20%.

Of the 1,511 children found to be severely malnourished, 777 (51%) were not enrolled in the appropriate nutrition program.

On November 30th, 2015, the RWANU SO2 and Concern SURGE teams held a nutrition coordination meeting to discuss the response plan. It was agreed that the RWANU SO2 team work closely with the Concern SURGE team in strengthening the referral and follow up of children with acute malnutrition in southern Karamoja. This would be achieved through the following methods: (1) RWANU SO2 to strengthen the Village Health Team (VHT) and Lead Mother linkages for follow up of malnourished children after referral to nutrition programs; (2) SURGE and RWANU SO2.1 to follow up with malnourished children identified at RWANU **Improved health and nutrition practices at household level** supported outreaches and ensure that they get enrolled in appropriate programs; (3) SURGE and RWANU **Improved service delivery for prevention and treatment of maternal and child illnesses** to attend VHT monthly meetings to ensure that screening, referral and follow up of malnourished children is part of the agenda; (4) SURGE to procure clear bags for VHTs and Health Facilities and Supplementary Feeding Program outposts for collection of referral tickets to track the referral trail for malnourished children and; (5) Lobby for and institute regular meetings with Supplementary Feeding Program running partners for better coordination and improved tracking of referrals and beneficiary adherence to feeding program(s).

2.1.2.1 Train District Health and Agriculture Officers on Linking Agriculture and Nutrition

Following the training of MCGs and VHTs on Linking Agriculture and Nutrition, the members of the District Health Teams and the District Nutrition Coordination Committees in Moroto and Nakapiripirit were also trained. A total of eight district officials attended the training in Nakapiripirit and 15 in Moroto. This training was aimed at raising the officials' awareness on this intervention that is meant to improve the availability of a variety of vegetables at household level all year round. The district officials appreciated the work that RWANU is doing to improve nutrition outcomes in their communities and pledged their continued support to the project. The District Health Officer of Moroto also added that while the nutrition status of children in Nadunget sub-county has been steadily improving since RWANU arrived, other sub-counties in the district appear to be declining and suggested that RWANU consider extending to those sub-counties.

Lessons learned

- Male change agents achieve greater influence on behavior change among other men in groups rather than on individual basis.

- Health education at FDPs is more effective when conducted in the form of song or skits rather than speech.
- Conducting continuous impact assessments of Module lesson trainings in the additional two weeks at the end of each lesson improves HP identification of training gaps by Lead Mothers and can provide opportunities for refresher training(s).
- Fuel saving stoves are a welcome concept, reducing fire wood required by up to two-thirds.

Challenges:

The mobility of communities affects MCG meeting attendance, maintenance of keyhole gardens and construction of latrines. Training schedules had to be modified to suit the beneficiaries.

Planned Activities for SO 2.1 For the Next Quarter

Activity	Targets
Complete Module 4 training and conduct post-training assessment.	100% MCGs, 95% Lead Mothers reached
Conduct MCG Module 6 training.	100% MCGs, 95% Lead Mothers reached
Support the DNCC to finalize the DNAP in 4 districts.	4 districts
Refresher training of MCGs on MUAC screening and referral ticket use.	100% MCGs, 95% Lead Mothers reached
Regular nutrition coordination meetings.	Quarterly meeting
Next steps for strengthening the uptake of the training on linking agriculture and nutrition (keyhole gardens).	Conduct monthly monitoring and support visits
Conduct MCA training on the MCA curriculum.	95% MCAs trained on the MCA curriculum part 2
Exchange visits for MCAs.	1 per sub-county
Drama performance during national events.	2 shows
Drama performance on MCG SBCC modules.	34 performances
Drama group training on MCG SBCC modules.	At least 12 groups trained on Module 6
Impact assessment of MCA, Drama group and FDP activities.	4 sub-counties
Community sensitization on MCG SBCC modules.	100 community leaders sensitized on Module 6

IR 2.2: Improved Service Delivery for Prevention and Treatment of Maternal and Child Illnesses

2.2.1 Collaborate with Ministry of Health to Improve Health Center and Outreach Services in Target Areas

RWANU supports the MoH health facilities in extending health services in hard-to-reach communities beyond the five kilometer radius of the health facility catchment area. Overall, a total of 240 outreach activities (86%) have been conducted this quarter, including 91 in Napak,

75 in Nakapiripirit, 45 in Moroto, and 29 in Amudat. It was not possible to achieve 100% outreach activities in the four districts due to the absence of a driver for the Amudat district outreach vehicle from October to mid-November 2015.

The outreaches offer a comprehensive package including immunization of children, antenatal and postnatal care services, as well as nutritional screening of children under five years of age. A total of 10,201 children were seen at outreach posts throughout the quarter, including 417 receiving BCG vaccine, 956 receiving measles vaccine, 922 receiving DPT3, 10,201 receiving deworming tablets, and 4,357 receiving Vitamin A. Out of 9,442 children screened for malnutrition using MUAC tapes, 8,866 were classified under Green (normal), 473 under Yellow (moderately malnourished), and 103 under Red (severely malnourished). A total of 726 pregnant women attended the first Antenatal Care visit and 435 attended the fourth.

In a bid to increase coverage, the outreach services are concomitantly conducted at 29 food distribution sites each month. A total of 71 (82%) out of the targeted 87 outreaches planned were achieved. The failure to achieve 18% is attributed to less integration in Amudat due to the absence of a driver.

Service Delivery for Prevention and Treatment of Maternal and Child Illnesses

Indicator	Moroto	Napak	Nakapiripirit	Amudat	TOTAL
Community Outreach					
Number of RWANU supported outreaches conducted	45	91	75	29	240
Number of RWANU supported outreaches integrated with FDP	11	47	24	6	88
Outreach services--Child Health					
BCG/polio	27	40	242	108	417
DPT3/Hep B/Hib/polio3	248	219	290	165	922
Measles	226	288	293	149	956
Vitamin A	831	2,146	584	796	4,357
Deworming	1,153	7,008	820	1,220	10,201
Growth Monitoring and Promotion at Outreach sites					
MUAC 6-59 screened	3,181	2,725	1,328	908	8,142
MUAC 6-59 Green	2,831	3,945	1,255	835	8,866
MUAC 6-59 Yellow	221	103	98	51	473
MUAC 6-59 Red	24	14	43	22	103
Outreach services--Maternal Health					
ANC 1	126	276	215	109	726
ANC 4	139	220	64	12	435
PNC 1 weeks	22	37	48	31	138
PNC 6 weeks	150	169	272	40	631

2.2.2 Conduct Bi-annual Health Facility Assessment

A second round of health facility assessment was conducted in the 35 health facilities in the four RWANU supported districts. Unlike the first round, where criteria was based on Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) service provision, this round focused on cooperation and/or success of Community Score Card (CSC) application, apparent need as determined by RWANU technical staff, recently upgraded or new health facilities, remoteness of facility location, level of health facility, findings of previous RWANU assessment, and sources of other donor funding and/or support to the facility.

2.2.3 Growth Monitoring and Promotion

As a strategy to scale up Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) for children under the age of 5 years at community level and overcome the challenge of human resources at health facilities to carry out GMP activities, 136 literate VHTs were selected and trained on basic GMP activities. This included weighing children, determining their age, and counselling sessions basing on child nutrition assessment results.

2.2.4 Technical Joint Monitoring visits with Ministry of Health (District Health Teams)

Four joint monitoring visits are conducted in the four districts on a quarterly basis for quality evaluation and improvement. During this quarter, the activity was organized by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the RWANU IR2.2 team participated in the visits in Nakapiripirit and Amudat.

Lessons learned

Use of indicators that are prioritized on the political agenda improves District Local Government involvement in activities and paves way for sustainability.

Challenges:

Amudat district outreach vehicle had no driver and as result there were no outreach activities conducted for one month.

- Political campaigns interfered with attendance of mothers/caregivers for services at community outreach activities.
- Poor harvest leading to food insecurity has contributed to the migration of families to neighboring districts, which affects their attendance at outreach services.

Planned Activities for SO 2.2 for the Next Quarter

Planned Activity	Targets
Literate VHTs training on GMP Napak & Moroto.	75 VHTs
Distribution of Non-recurring Equipment.	35 HF's
Joint monitoring visits with MOH (with DHT Team-2 visits): Technical.	2 Visits

Provide logistical, material and supervisory support to MOH outreach services.	279 outreaches
Advocacy Meeting each quarter - finding of Community Score Card.	One meeting
Attend District Health quarterly performance review meetings.	4 meetings
HFCs attend the quarterly meeting.	4 meetings

3.0 Grants

Youth Livelihoods Innovations Awards (YLIA):

The grants unit continued monitoring the milestones and progress of nine youth group grantees under the Youth Livelihoods Innovations Awards (YLIA).

The team also conducted site visits to seven grantees to monitor their progress and provide support supervision. During these visits it was noted record keeping was a challenge for the grantees. This makes it difficult to measure the performance of the businesses to date. The team enlisted the support of the business services team, which started training the groups in bookkeeping.



A member of Apedor Ngichan youth group feeding the layer chicks.

For the round three YLIA, 92 applications have been received from seven sub counties of Lorngedwat, Lorengechora, Loegae, Moruita, Ngoleriet and Lopei. A technical team was formed to review the applications. After the review process, the best applicants will be supported with training in proposal writing.

Collaboration with NabuZARDI: The third on-farm trials by NabuZARDI are still on-going in the sub counties of Iriiri, Apeitolim, Kakomongole and Nadunget. In Iriiri and Kakomongole, NabuZARDI is conducting the trials with select farmers so as to evaluate their skills on best farming practices learnt from previous trials. In Apeitolim and Nadunget the demonstration gardens were set up to train farmers on the best farming practices and to test the performance of some crop varieties in the areas. Although monitoring visits confirmed the existence of these demo and individual farmers' gardens, farmers in Iriiri had planted only cowpeas in very small plots of land as opposed to the four crops proposed for the trials. Better models of individual farmers' gardens were seen in Kakomongole. The NabuZARDI technician reported that most of farmers they approached to work with objected to planting crops during second rains as it is the norm in Karamoja to practice free grazing of animals during this season. The few farmers who chose to plant as advised were faced with the challenge of free community grazing of animals and weather failure.

Planned Grant Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Collaborate with NabuZARDI to train farmers on seed multiplication.	
Participate in identifying more potential agro and veterinary input dealers.	6 agro input dealers 3 veterinary input dealers
Identify new bulking centers that can be supported with in-kind grants.	6 bulking centers
Award the Round III Youth Livelihood Innovations Award	14 grantees

4.0 Cross Cutting Themes

4.1 Gender

Fuel saving stoves: The gender team trained 74 health promoters and field coordinators in the construction of fuel saving stoves, who in turn trained MCG members. The purpose of the training was to introduce labor savings technologies in order to save time women spend collecting firewood and provide more time for caring for their children and other household chores. So far the MCGs have constructed 3,605 fuel savings stoves and several household caregivers have testified that the reduced fuel consumption has saved them from frequently collecting fuel wood. Monitoring reports indicate that frequency of fire wood collection was reduced from five times a week, per household to only once per week. Some of the MCGs have started constructing fuel wood stoves for sale to generate additional income for their household.

16 days of activism: To commemorate the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, RWANU participated in four district level planning meetings aimed at attracting development partners to consolidate efforts on community sensitization and awareness. The gender specialist and staff developed key messages that were passed on to the different program beneficiaries at the field level. Deliberate effort was also made to ensure that senior managers talk about the dangers of gender based violence against women and girls in both the community and within families. The Male Change Agents (MCAs) were also engaged in sensitizations on domestic violence and they understood the unpleasant impact of domestic violence on their spouses and children. This approach helped reinforce the importance of peaceful families and communities in our area of operation.

Stakeholder mapping: RWANU continued to participate in different district level gender meetings meant to facilitate active engagement of all stakeholders currently addressing women empowerment and gender equality issues to create a common understanding of the key issues that impacts implementation in the districts. RWANU played a key role during the mapping of the gender stakeholders in Moroto District to document the scope of the stakeholders and avoid service duplication.

4.2 Conflict Mitigation

Link the community action groups (CAGs) to the formal structures:

The CAGs are RWANU supported structures established to mitigate conflict within the project supported groups and the larger community. These structures mitigate conflict by resolving disputes with the affected persons and holding sensitization meetings with community members. In order to ensure that the CAGs structure continues beyond RWANU, the conflict mitigation officer conducted meetings with the different Local Council One (LC 1) in the various villages and communities where these CAGs exist. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce the LC 1s and community members to the CAGs, to provide an overview on the mode of operation of the CAGs and to establish consensus among the stakeholders on how the two structures can work hand-in-hand to help mitigate conflicts in their communities.

Monitoring the performance of the CAGs:

During the first quarter, the conflict mitigation officer monitored the performance of eleven CAGs. The officer conducted meetings with the CAGs and reviewed the records of their activities and meetings. When conducting the meetings with the CAGs, the review included the level of community participation in the CAGs meetings, the ability of the CAGs to meet at least once per quarter, the documentation of the number of disputes resolved, the relation and recognition with the community leaders and their understanding of their roles and responsibilities

4.3 Disaster Risk Reduction/Natural Resource Management

Monitoring: RWANU monitored and collected data on benefits and challenges, coping practices and the sustainability strategies of three of ten previously established Farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) sites and will continue into the upcoming quarter.

Collaboration with other partners: Through learning visits, the team was able to share and learn from other implementing partners ACTED and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) on some of the climate adaptation strategies they are enforcing and encouraging communities to use to help mitigate the effects of climate change. These included:

- Opening learning centers from where workers are taken through the best practices such as water harvesting, kitchen gardening, seeds harvesting and propagation, simple irrigation systems, interlocking bricks, energy saving stoves, post-harvest handling, and enterprise diversification amongst other were being exhibited.
- Information for disaster preparedness through early warning bulletins, short and long term forecasts, coordination and networking with other stakeholder's e.g. local government, NGOs, media etc.
- Direct implementation of some of the best coping practices to foster replication and adoption.
- Supporting groups to register with their respective district and sub county leadership for legal recognition.

Climate smart agriculture training: Nineteen staff members attended a one-day training on climate smart agriculture and environmental compliance. Senior Technical Director, Natural

Resource Management-Technical Learning and Application. [REDACTED] from ACDI/VOCA headquarters facilitated the session.

Challenges:

- Charcoal burning for income generation and wood collection for construction of Manyatta remains a threat to the FMNR sites and the environment at large.
- Indiscriminate cutting or bark removal of trees for IGA or land demarcation by non-group members.
- Mistrust of the early warning information by farmers who have cited inconsistencies in the forecast.

Planned Cross Cutting Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Gender	
Participate in district gender coordination meetings with stakeholders.	4 meetings
Facilitate trainings for staff on gender integration.	2 trainings
Train WLGs on construction of fuel saving stoves.	300 WLGs
Follow up progress of the fuel saving stoves.	
Support women’s participation in the international women’s day celebrations.	
Conflict Mitigation	
Develop a checklist for staff reference on conflict	
Training for staff on conflict mitigation.	1 training
Refresher training for CAGs.	16 CAGs
Conduct conflict analysis.	4 districts
Disaster Risk Reduction	
Capacity building for team leaders and technical support officers on community managed disaster risk.	1 training
Refresher training for field extension workers in their districts of placements.	
Support to established FMNR sites.	7 sites
Identify new FMNR sites to be established.	5 sites
Facilitate exchange learning visit for farmer training groups and horticulture groups.	1 visit

5.0 Commodity Operations

5.1 Commodity Distribution:

During this quarter, the commodity distribution team successfully reached a total of 16,365 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and children under two with non-lean season rations. To streamline the distribution process, the team distributed 10,803 ration cards to the beneficiaries. This improved and boosted distribution, ensuring that food was being given to the right beneficiaries. The team also retrieved 9,295 expired ration cards from PLWs and children under two reducing the rate of double dipping by beneficiaries. The team successfully recruited and oriented 55 commodity distribution clerks on distribution process.

5.2 Post Distribution Monitoring

The commodity distribution team conducted a cumulative of 104 post distribution monitoring, 371 household surveys and 32 market surveys in all the four districts of operation.

Challenges:

- There was increased rate of absenteeism and returns of commodities to the warehouse from the FDPs. 1,006 beneficiaries never turned up to receive rations during the quarter.
- Increasing number of alternative collectors who receive rations on behalf of the prime beneficiaries and as a result the prime beneficiaries miss the pre-distribution and health messages passed on at the FDPs.
- Low rate of updates, particularly on the pregnant women category.

Planned Commodity Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Lean season distribution of commodities to pregnant & lactating mothers and children under 2 based on new ration sizes (Jan- Aug).	17,844
Orientation of newly recruited commodity distribution clerk and food management committees.	1
In- house training for staff on commodity distribution and management.	1
Registration of beneficiaries who missed out on the previous census.	
Conduct post distribution monitoring, market and household.	51 markets 1,200 households 192 on site distribution points
Coordinate with the inland contractor regarding transportation of new commodities from Dar-es-Salaam to the RWANU warehouses.	
Explore staff exchange learning visit options within similar USAID Title II programs.	

Joint monitoring visits in the four program districts with the district and sub-county officials.	1
Arrange for receipt of FY16 commodity shipments to Soroti, Moroto and Tokora warehouses.	
Commodity transshipment between the different warehouses to replenish stock levels.	3

6.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

6.1 Census Update

Using 15 community based registers, the department coordinated the process of updating the census records to include eligible beneficiaries for commodity distributions that had not be counted in the previous census.

6.2 Annual Results Report

The team compiled the annual results report for IY 3 that ended in September 2015. The report includes analysis on routine project data and annual survey data. The team also updated the indicator performance-tracking table and the USAID reporting performance system to enable the project meet the stipulated reporting requirements.

6.3 Studies

M&E supported the project to carry out two studies. One study is an agro-input demand assessment to inform the decision and strategy of agro input dealers for the upcoming farming season. The second study was to determine the performance of the community action groups in conflict mitigation.

6.4 Data Quality Assurance

Facilitated an external data quality audit conducted by USAID consultants for FY15 reported data. Lessons learned from the exercise were used to improve the quality of data under the project e.g. filing of source documents for all reported data. The department also conducted a field level verification of source documents and worked with the field team to effect corrective actions (these will be followed through in the second quarter for compliance to maintain confidence in project reported data).

The M&E team also worked with the respective team leaders to review, revise and develop tools required for data capture for FY16 project performance tracking. Additionally, the department worked with the database developers to design mobile app versions of all farming data so as to enable timely data delivery and hence ready use of data for adaptive management.

Planned M&E Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned Activities	Targets
Conduct joint monitoring of field activities (quarterly) in Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Napak, in liaison with district authorities.	1 joint monitoring
Monitor community-based field activities in Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Napak and disseminate feedback.	10 monitoring visits
Hold knowledge sharing meeting between program teams and partners to share lessons and experiences.	1 meeting
Train M&E team in data analysis and technical report writing.	1 training
Procure mini projector and video recorder for documenting successes.	1 mini projector 1 video recorder
Conduct training of M&E staff in research methodologies.	1 training
Conduct Internal Data Quality Assessment.	1 assessment
Carry out low cost internal program assessment to measure change and determine effect. Results to be used for learning and adaptation (See list of suggested assessments in the Appendix 2).	2 assessments
Conduct learning visits to food security programs / partners in the region and identify best practices.	1 visit
Participate in field visits with USAID during the Quarterly monitoring visits.	1 visit

6.5 IPTT Quarterly Reporting

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
Project Goal: Reduced Food Insecurity among vulnerable people in South Karamoja						
OP1	Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG assistance	Total	36,811	41,071	41,071	Community based registers updated the census records and the update allowed the program to reach more households in quarter 1
		HHFNM	12,148	8,726	8,726	
		HMMNF	1,472	200	200	
		HHF&M	23,191	32,109	32,109	
		HHCNA	612	36	36	
		New	3,149	373	373	
		Continuing	33,662	40,698	40,698	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO FOOD FOR MEN AND WOMEN						

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
OP2	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	Total	8,007	2,494	2,494	<p>October to December are the months of crop harvest, trainings were limited post-harvest handling</p> <p>For honey, focus was on training community based facilitators who are intended to provide technical support to honey groups</p> <p>Horticulture trainings were for the 14 groups that received drip irrigation kits</p> <p>All continuing goat rearing group members received trainings in the previous quarters</p> <p>One agro vet dealer trained 15 (1 female, 14 males) community animal health workers (CAHWs)</p> <p>NB: the total and subtotal are unique numbers of farmers trained</p>
		Farmers – Male	2,399	750	750	
		Farmers – Female	6,827	1,672	1,672	
		Honey producers – Male	262	10	10	
		Honey producers – Female	149	0	0	
		Horticulture – Male	273	34	34	
		Horticulture – Female	833	28	28	
		Goat rearing group members – Male	n/a	0	0	
		Goat rearing group members- Female	2,100	0	0	
		CAHWS- male	115	14	14	
		CAHWS- female	20	1	1	
		Sub-Total – Male	2,082	794	794	
		Sub-Total - Female	5,925	1,700	1,700	

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
						i.e. without double counting
IR. 1.1: Improved smallholder farm management practices adopted						
OP3	Number of farmers who practiced the value chain activities promoted by the project in the last 12 months	Total	6,542	4,381	4,381	These are farmers practicing post-harvest value chain activities e.g. drying in aerated cribs, storage using plastered granaries
		Male	3,205	2,861	2,861	
		Female	3,336	1,520	1,520	
OP4	Number of technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: in Phase II: under field testing as a result of USG assistance in Phase III: made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance	4		3	3	Three crops were under field testing in quarter 1 (Beans, sunflower and sweet potato varieties)
OP5	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	Total	920	706	706	Honey groups continued to use Kenyan top bar hives
		Honey groups new	5	0	0	
		Honey groups continuing	35	35	35	14 horticultural groups using drip irrigation technology
		Horticulture groups new	15	14	14	
		Horticulture groups continuing	27	14	14	124 livestock groups using improved livestock management practices e.g. use of goat shelters & vaccination
		Livestock groups new	70	0	0	
		Livestock groups continuing	140	124	124	
		Savings groups new	0	0	0	

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
		Saving groups continuing	497	424	424	73 savings groups suspended saving following crop failure in FY15
		Farmer groups new	0	0	0	
		Farmer groups continuing	131	95	95	
IR. 1.2: Improved smallholder livestock management practices adopted						
OP5	Number of persons receiving livestock inputs	2,100		0	0	Per exit strategy meeting with USAID in Q4, RWANU worked in quarter 1 to revise the PREP to incorporate a strategy for reducing goat input handouts
IR. 1.3: Increased linkages to markets						
OP7	Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance	Total	920	559	559	Honey groups trained in savings and loans association
		Honey groups new	5	0	0	
		Honey groups continuing	35	32	32	
		Horticulture groups new	15	0	0	Horticulture groups received technical trainings in horticulture e.g. nursery establishment
		Horticulture groups continuing	27	0	0	
		Livestock groups new	70	0	0	124 livestock groups received support e.g. on savings and loans association.
		Livestock groups continuing	140	0	0	
		Savings groups new	0	0	0	Farmer groups figure arrived at through; Business skills development,
		Saving groups continuing	497	424	424	
		Farmer groups new	0	0	0	

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
		Farmer groups continuing	131	103	103	Conflict management, Group Governance, Management of Bulking centers, Sources of funds for investments in production 73 savings groups suspended saving following crop failure in FY15
IR 1.4 Access to credit increased						
OP8	Number of saving and credit groups formed	0		0	0	Program will continue to support continuing 424 savings and credit groups that are still active.
OP21	Number of MSMES, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources	100		110	110	9 micro enterprises from youth livelihood innovative awards (YLIA) and 101 enterprises from grocery shops and agro input dealership.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCED MALNUTRITION IN PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 5						
IR 2.1 Improved health and nutrition practices at household level						
OP7	Number of communities certified as "open defecation free" (ODF) as a result of USG assistance	3		01	01	Working towards reaching ODF status in additional communities in the remaining FY16 quarters.
OP8	Number of active mother care groups	350		342	342	Additional 142 MCGs formed in Napak by the end

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
						of Quarter 1, bringing total to 342.
Op9	Number of people benefiting from USG supported social assistance	Total	111,175	18,766	18,766	
		Pregnant & Lactating women	9,785	6,498	6,498	
		Male children	6,695	6,068	6,068	
		Female children	6,695	6,200	6,200	
		Other Household members	88,000			
OP10	Number of people trained on environmentally appropriate hygiene and sanitation behaviors	Total	30,617	30,182	30,182	<p>The 134 male changed agents trained changed their working approaching from reaching individual men to interacting with them in groups, hence the high number of men reached.</p> <p>For female the total includes: 257 drama group members & 3,239 lead mothers- these lead mothers reached a total of 25,072 household care givers (HHCGs).</p>
		Male	313	1,614	1,614	
		Female	30,304	28,568	28,568	
IR 2.2 : Improved service delivery for prevention and treatment of maternal and child illnesses						
OP13	Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through	Total	30,617	30,182	30,182	The 134 male changed agents trained changed

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
	USG-supported programs	Male	313	1,614	1,614	their working approaching from reaching individual men to interacting with them in groups, hence the high number of men reached. For female the total includes; 257 drama group members & 3,239 lead mothers- these lead mothers reached a total of 25,072 household care givers (HHCGs)
		Female	30,304	28,568	28,568	
OP14	Number of people trained on using the health center community score card	0		0	0	Training of community monitors and Health Unit Management Committees (HUMCs) on community score card was completed in IY3.
OP15	Number of children under 2 year reached by USG-supported nutrition programs	Total	13,390	12,268	12,268	
		Male	6,695	6,068	6,068	
		Female	6,695	6,200	6,200	
OP16	Number of health centers measuring performance using the community score card	34		28	28	
Cross-Cutting Gender IR: Increased number of households where women and men jointly make informed decisions regarding productive assets, food security, and nutrition						
OP17	Proportion of females among participants in USG-assisted programs	Total	61%	56.4%	56.4%	This proportion will continue to increase
		10-29 years	63%	23.7%	23.7%	
		30 and above	60%	42.7%	42.7%	

ID	Indicator	Annual Target		Performance in the Quarter	Year to date	Comment
	designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)	No age available	0%	0.04%	0.04%	throughout FY16 as there are more females in the program than males.
OP18	Number of Community Action Groups that meet a minimum of once every three months	56		19	19	19 community action groups were able to meet at least once in Quarter 1
OP19	Number of individuals receiving USG supported training in natural resource management and/or bio-diversity conservation	Total	3,432	0	0	October-December are dry months and therefore not feasible to train farmers on natural resource management e.g. tree planting
		Male	1,612	0	0	
		Female	1,820	0	0	
Cross-cutting: Disaster Risk Management and Reduction						
OP20	Number of farmer groups assisted to develop response plans to early warning information	16		19	19	Early warning information included; physical presence of anthills within and close to farmer gardens, dry spell, susceptibility to water logging due to close proximity of gardens to stream of water.