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THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

STABILITY PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN UGANDA
(SPRING) PROJECT



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Submitted by:

Theresa McElroy, Jessica Huber and Hayden Aaronson
Emerging Markets Group, Ltd.

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ACRONYMS

ASB	Arbeiter-Samariter Bund Deutschland
ADFA	Apac District Farmers Association
CPAR	Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief
DCOF	Displaced Children and Orphans Fund
LIDFA	Lira District Farmers Association
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NECPA	North East Chili Producers Association
OVCs	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
SPRING	Stability Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Uganda
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WACFO	Women and Children First Organization



1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

Most children living in northern Uganda today were born into conflict and have experienced varying degrees of violence, destruction, and loss. In addition to the 66,000 children abducted into the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebel forces, over one million were displaced into squalid IDP camps and thousands joined the nightly march as "night commuters" in search of a place to sleep in safety. While the majority of northern Ugandans have returned to their homes, numerous challenges remain for children and their caregivers during the current recovery period.



1.2 Child Health & Development Approach

To address the most pressing issues of children in northern Uganda, SPRING has developed a two-phase approach recognizing that children are highly vulnerable to their environment and as such, attending to the environment first greatly enhances the impact of direct interventions.

- i) **Supportive Environments for Children** through projects that improve social inclusion and economic security of families and communities, and,
- ii) **Developmentally-Appropriate Interventions for Children** that address children's needs in a comprehensive, holistic manner.

1.3 Qualitative Impact Assessment Methods

A SPRING consultant, Theresa McElroy, an expert in child health and development, conducted a rapid impact assessment over a two-week period in September 2009. The views of 17 SPRING implementing partner representatives and 122 SPRING project participants (78 males/54 females) were captured through interviews and focus group discussions.

1.4 Supportive Environments for Children

SPRING is building supportive environments for children through projects that increase productivity and marketing of both staple food and high value commercial crops and provide vocational education projects for vulnerable children and youth in areas such as agriculture, construction, and machine repair.

Project beneficiaries report that SPRING's projects are having, or are projected to have, the following impacts:

- **Improved household livelihoods** - Bolstering the ability of caregivers to meet the needs of their children through improved household food security and nutrition, access to education, provision of basic needs (clothing, shelter, soap), and health care.
- **Improved skills for the household** - Skills developed through SPRING projects will remain with participants when the project ends, ensuring that the cumulative impact over time will be sustainable. Farmers are not only applying the teachings to improve their own livelihoods, but are passing this knowledge of improved farming techniques to their children and this will enhance their futures as well.
- **Improved social environments for children** - Participants report feelings of motivation and possibility from involvement in SPRING projects. Prospects for the future are being created. This is bringing hope and expectation to families for the first time since the conflict which is also



impacting on the well-being and drive of children. Because their families can, children can also dream bigger, work harder, and expect more of their futures.

- **Improved social inclusion** - All of the groups felt that their participation in the SPRING project had brought harmony and given them friendship, unity, and cooperation at a challenging time.
- **Improved family harmony** – The majority of groups discussed how involvement in the SPRING project has improved harmony in the family environment, including reduced domestic violence, improved relations with children, and improved relationships between husbands and wives.

1.5 Developmental and Psychosocial Needs of Children

SPRING has just launched three projects directly addressing the psychosocial and development needs of children:

- 1) **Youth Reconciliation Support Program** – This program will support the reconciliation of war-affected youth in northern Uganda by providing sports and culture, peace building, and agricultural opportunities.
- 2) **Peace Education and Guidance Counseling in Secondary Schools in Northern Uganda** – To be developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, this one-year pilot project for a peace education course and school guidance and psychosocial counseling program in secondary schools to help children rebuild their lives and improve overall reconciliation in northern Uganda from two decades of the LRA conflict.
- 3) **Fortifying Families in Recovery** – This project will strengthen families as they resettle by programming a combination of economic security, peacebuilding, leadership development, and rights of child activities for parents, youth, and children.

SPRING is also in the process of developing a **Child Care Cooperative** project. Building on traditional communal childcare strategies and best practices in modern early childhood development, this cooperative model would work through SPRING's existing farmer group network to facilitate low cost childcare options that benefit both parents and children.

1.6 Conclusions

The 29,675 children currently impacted by SPRING's projects not only have enhanced prospects through growing up in supportive environments that meet their basic survival needs for food, shelter, and health care, but they are also in environments that can provide them with greater access to formal education and enhanced vocational and agricultural skills. Additionally, they are developing into adulthood surrounded by much greater potential for a peaceful future. Their social environments are healthier and they are exposed to positive ways of interacting with others. Children are immersed in opportunities to look forward to development rather than focusing on the lack, restriction, and conflict of their recent past. There clearly remains more work to be done, including the implementation of phase two, which will directly target children, but the results of this survey indicate that the children of northern Uganda are being impacted positively through SPRING's programs and that impact will increase significantly as phase two is implemented.



2.0 CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA

2.1 Impact of the Conflict on Children: Background

Children living in Northern Uganda today were born into conflict and have been impacted in varying degrees by violence, destruction, and loss. The region is now emerging from over twenty years of brutal conflict between the rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and the Government of Uganda. Violence perpetrated against civilians was the norm and children were deliberately targeted. In addition to the estimated 66,000 children and youth¹ abducted into rebel forces to become fighters, scouts, porters, "wives," and "child mothers," millions were displaced into squalid internal displacement camps, and thousands joined the nightly march as "night commuters" in search of a place to sleep in safety. Exposure to violence and trauma was high. The daily living environment in displacement was one of hunger, disease, and social dysfunction as a population of nearly 2 million people languished in over-crowded camps². The previous experience of familial sufficiency was largely destroyed as aid-dependent families were unable to meet their children's most basic needs for food, health, and protection. As IDPs, family resources were stolen, destroyed, or made inaccessible. Nuclear family structures were decimated by the war, leaving many extended households responsible for orphans and vulnerable children. Routines and culture that nurtured and protected children, such as nightly teachings around the Wang-OO (fireside), could not be maintained in the atmosphere of conflict and displacement.

Food Security & Nutrition:

- Stunting levels (indicating chronic malnutrition) in Gulu, Amuru and Kitgum were above the recent UDHS-2006 estimates of 34% for Northern Uganda region
- Household food consumption decreased substantially between 2008 and 2009.
- Households were using coping strategies that put nutritional, health and ultimately their lives at risk such as limiting portions, skipping meals and eating seeds designated for the next planting.
- Causes of diminished food consumption included: insufficient self-production last year, end of general food distributions, increased market purchases and high food prices

* Findings of Food and Nutrition Assessment in Acholi Sub-region June-July 2009 presented at the Food Security and Agriculture Livelihoods Cluster Meeting, 11 August 2009, by the UNFAO



2.2 Impact of the Conflict on Children: The Situation Today

While a final peace agreement proposed in 2008 remains to be signed, the north has not seen conflict-related violence since 2006 and is now moving forward toward recovery. The post-conflict transition has been a difficult time for families. While an estimated 78% of the population are in transit sites or have returned to their villages of origin³, many thousands remain displaced and there are numerous challenges in this complex time of transition. Land disputes are prevalent, infrastructure destroyed in the conflict must be rebuilt, and skills and knowledge lost must now be regained. Rebuilding homes and livelihoods, when beginning from abject poverty caused by conflict, has been challenging and is now further complicated by a drought that hit the region from April through June of this year. The drought caused a severe water crisis, large crop loss⁴, abnormal increases in food prices, and incited theft and asset stripping just as many people were moving into their first major planting season upon return to villages.

The trauma, distrust, and social dysfunction created during the conflict and displacement remain deeply entrenched in the population. Rebuilding relationships and harmony will take time and require

¹ Annan J, Blattman C, Horton R. The State of Youth and Youth Protection in Northern Uganda: Findings from the Survey for War Affected Youth. UNICEF, AVSI. www.sway-uganda.org. September 2006.

² OXFAM International. (2008). *From Emergency to Recovery: Rescuing northern Uganda's transition*, OXFAM Briefing Paper 118, September.

³ Inter-agency Standing Committee in Uganda, May 2009

⁴ SPRING crops losses among groundnuts, maize, rice and chili were losses of -56%, -94%, -33% and 46% respectively.



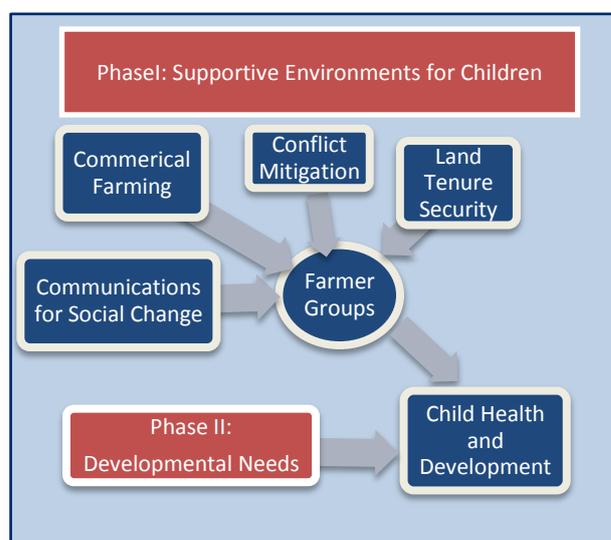
prolonged reconciliation efforts. Most children, especially orphans and vulnerable children, living in northern Uganda today were born in displacement camps where they were exposed to numerous factors that substantial research has demonstrated to be risky for early childhood development: poverty, poor health, malnutrition, lack of stimulation, and violence.⁵ Various studies conducted by both government and non-governmental organizations have indicated that the north has higher poverty levels and lower social indicators than other regions in Uganda. These indicators are largely reflective of the levels of poverty and children's limited access to quality education, health care, and basic social services, much of which was seriously weakened in the prolonged conflict.⁶

Children who do not reach their cognitive, physical and social emotional potential often have lower educational attainment, lower adult income, and fewer resources to draw upon when they become parents themselves, thereby perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage.⁷ Not surprisingly, districts in northern Uganda have the lowest primary leaving results in the country. For older children, poverty is associated with emotional distress, greater propensity to risky behaviors, malnutrition, and missed opportunities for education with all its related lifetime benefits. The *Survey of War-Affected Youth (SWAY)* in northern Uganda, conducted in 2005-06, described economic opportunities for youth as 'abysmal' and the situation remains poor today although little data is available.⁸

2.3 SPRING Child Health and Development Strategy

Children impacted by conflict are clearly a highly vulnerable group and SPRING recognizes the need to attend to their unique needs in order to successfully transition from relief to development and ensure their future is better than the past. To address the most pressing issues of children in northern Uganda, SPRING has developed a two-phase approach incorporating supportive environments for children and developmental needs of children.

This phased approach addresses children's needs in a comprehensive, holistic manner. Children are highly vulnerable to their environments; therefore, attending to the environment first greatly enhances the impact of the direct interventions that follow. (Please refer to appendix A for a causal model outlining SPRING's approach to children.)



2.3.1 PHASE I

SPRING has been working with local implementing partners and communities to create supportive environments that nurture and protect children. By implementing projects that improve economic security and social inclusion at the family and community levels, SPRING's initial programs target several of the most significant risk factors for children's health and development: 1) poverty; 2) malnutrition; 3) poor health; and, 4) violent/disharmonious environments.

⁵ Walker SP, Wachs TD, Gardner JM, Lozo B. Child development: risk factors for adverse outcomes in developing countries. *The Lancet*. 2007;369(9556):145-57.

⁶ Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2006. Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Kampala, Uganda.

⁷ Irwin LG, Siddiqi A, Hertzman C. *Early Child Development: A Powerful Equalizer*.: World Health Organization; 2007 June.

⁸ Annan J, Blattman C, Horton R. *The State of Youth and Youth Protection in Northern Uganda: Findings from the Survey for War Affected Youth*. UNICEF, AVSI. www.sway-uganda.org. September 2006.



2.3.2 PHASE II

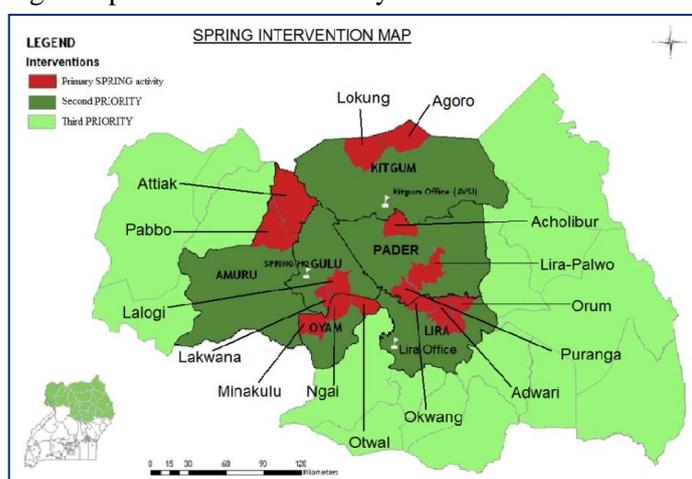
In April 2009, SPRING launched a range of focused projects that directly address the developmental needs of children at various ages. As children grow they move through developmental stages that are both biologically determined and heavily influenced by environment and culture. SPRING recognizes that if children are to benefit to the maximum extent possible, they need programs targeted to their developmental stage and unique circumstances. To meet the needs of older children, SPRING supports projects that address social-emotional health and development, resilience, life skills, productivity (agriculture and vocational programs), and leadership and peace-building skills. For young children, SPRING is finalizing plans to involve parents, youth, and children in economic security, peace-building, and rights of the child activities. SPRING is also in the planning stages of supporting early childhood development cooperatives that would provide nurturing and stimulating day care for the children and OVCs of mothers involved in SPRING's farmer groups as well as provide an important venue for awareness raising on issues such as nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention.

2.4 SPRING Project Impact on Children

2.4.1 STABILITY PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN UGANDA PROJECT (SPRING)

The SPRING project, a three-year stabilization project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), began operations in February 2008. SPRING delivers

innovative solutions that support the transition from relief to development by mitigating the causes and consequences of the LRA conflict in northern Uganda. SPRING's unique strategic approach integrates *economic security, peace and reconciliation, and access to justice* activities that strengthen the recovery process in northern Uganda, support local capacities, and build concrete solutions for creating sustainable peace. As USAID's flagship peace and stabilization project in Uganda, SPRING designs and delivers short-



term, small-scale pilot projects that demonstrate best practices in stabilization programming and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming. SPRING is based in Gulu with field-support offices in Kitgum and Lira. To date SPRING has 21 Stability Fund projects and partners totaling \$2.4 million across six districts in the Acholi and Lango Sub-regions impacting approximately 15,000 households and 29,675 children.

2.4.2 SUMMARY OF PROJECTS ASSESSED

A total of 12 projects were assessed. The majority of the projects (8) comprised agricultural livelihoods activities supporting farmer groups to increase production and marketing around SPRING's three targeted sub-sectors - rice, maize, and groundnuts. Another two projects assessed were focused on higher value commodities such as chili and honey. The final two projects assessed addressed the lack of employment and educational opportunities for vulnerable youth through integration in vocational training programs, courses in life and business skills, and provision of start-up kits and business loans.



2.4.3 METHODS

A SPRING consultant, Theresa McElroy, a child health and development expert, conducted a Qualitative Impact Assessment over a two-week period in September 2009. Data collection involved a range of methods including focus group discussions with project participants, interviews with leaders, observation of project sites, and compiling reports and anecdotal evidence provided by implementing partners.

The Assessment team made an effort to capture a range of representatives from all of SPRING's programs in the six focal districts, that is Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Oyam. Participants were a mix of male and female, of varying ages, and from varying geographic locations. Focus groups were composed of 6 to 9 participants who were asked three open-ended questions regarding the impact of SPRING's programs on themselves and their families:

- *Has involvement in the SPRING project impacted the livelihoods for the members of your group?*
- *Has involvement in the SPRING project impacted your ability to care for your children?*
- *Has involvement in the SPRING project helped your family's recovery from conflict and displacement?*

Clarification was given to participants to ensure they understood that "impact" meant both positive and negative factors. Responses were probed to ascertain details and explanations. Discussions were conducted in Luo and translated immediately into English whereupon they were written down. Analysis occurred using qualitative coding and grouping of items appearing in transcripts.



2.4.4 DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

The qualitative survey targeted 12 SPRING Stability Fund projects in the six focal districts. The views of 17 implementing partner representatives and 122 SPRING project participants (78 males/54 females), ranging in age from 17 to 64 years, were captured through interview and focus group discussions. Among them, the 139 SPRING project participants had 708 dependents under the age of 18 years old in their care (this includes both biological children and non-biological dependents including orphans).

2.5 SPRING Phase 1 Results: Creating Supportive Environments

Respondents provided a range of responses that have been grouped into two over-riding domains that capture the impacts on children: *impacts on the economic environment* and *impacts on the social environment*. It is important to note that the majority of the Phase 1 programs are nearing the mid-term of implementation. Farmers have just completed the first harvest cycle, so the full impact on children has not yet been realized. Participants were projecting some impacts based on their experiences thus far.

2.5.1 IMPACTS ON THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT – FAMILY INCOMES

Reports from SPRING Implementing Partners (IPs), collected by SPRING's monitoring and evaluation team at the beginning of the first harvest season, indicate that the lack of sufficient rainfall in May and June in northern Uganda had a devastating impact on many SPRING farmers and their newly planted fields, with losses of 50% for three out of four major crops that SPRING is promoting, including a 94% loss in maize production. Despite the disappointing harvest, projected household incomes for 2009 Season A are still far higher than what was realized by farmers a year ago. The table below illustrates that farmers will likely realize significant household income increases, ranging from 57% for groundnuts to 334% for rice. For many farmers, last year was their first year of production



since leaving the camps and much less land was cleared. This year, farmers were encouraged by support from SPRING to increase acreage under cultivation.

SPRING Agricultural Livelihoods Impact Data ⁹

Crop	# Farmers	Expected Yield - Average Season (KG)	Yield 2009 Season A (KG)	% Loss Due to Drought	Household Income/ Farmer (UGX)	Baseline Data Season A 2008 (UGX)	% Household Income Increase 2008 - 09 Season A
G'Nuts	4,920	1,083,290	477,340	-56%	213,445	135,620	57%
Maize	5,050	63,151,200	3,544,895	-94%	421,176	168,387	150%
Rice	1,502	1,302,500	867,500	-33%	1,270,639	293,068	334%
Chili	854	341,600	184,400	-46%	755,738	358,975	111%

In all focus group discussions, respondents reported that SPRING's projects had either already had a positive impact on household income, or would have an impact after the upcoming harvest (the second harvest) and because of the establishment of group savings and loan funds. The degree of impact reported varied with the project location and project activities, but the pervasive mitigating factor was the drought.

Nonetheless, respondents reported a range of experiences from no yield in the first season (April – June) to good yields, and most had successfully harvested at least a portion of their crops. Many of the farmer's groups expressed appreciation of the high quality of seeds provided by SPRING and reported that, had it not been for the drought, they would have had a very productive first season. All regions reported that the second planting season was doing well and hoped that with the continued rains, yields would be strong. Additionally, farmers were optimistic about the potential that agricultural storage and processing facilities would have on increasing livelihoods once construction was completed.

'The availability of the store [warehouse] increases our market potential; we can be more competitive in our sales and increase our income. This income helps us to better meet the needs of our children.'

– 27 year old male farmer caring for 5 dependents aged 2 to 8 years; participating in the SPRING Project - Commercialization of Maize, Sunflower and Groundnut Production in Oyam implemented by the Apac District Farmers Association (ADFA).

A. Impacting Food Security and Child Nutrition

The most commonly reported impact of the SPRING projects on children was improved food security at the community or household level. This was mentioned in all focus groups and was linked to enhanced ability to feed families. Some had already experienced increased access to food, whereas others were hopeful for the near future.

The ways in which food security was enhanced through participation in SPRING's projects included: direct consumption of foods grown through the project activities, increased ability to purchase food through sales of produce or business profits, and through having storage facilities to ensure that food would be safely stored and available as needed.



Newly built SPRING agricultural warehouse in Pader with 32,000kgs of storage capacity.

⁹ The harvest data for Season A is projected data from SPRING IPs and has yet to be verified for accuracy by SPRING's monitoring and evaluation team.



As household food supply and income increases, respondents reported that the quantity, quality, and variety of foods given to children had improved, which had a positive impact on both health and happiness of their children. Additionally, some of SPRING's projects, such as those in Amuru and Lira Districts, have incorporated training components that directly address food security and nutrition issues at the household level. As a result, many farmers are planting household gardens and ensuring a range of foods are kept in the home and given to the children.

Finally, some respondents reported that the modern agronomy techniques learned through project training would help them control external factors that had destroyed or diminished their food crops in the past such as pests, depleted nutrients in soils, or droughts. They believed that this knowledge would impact their families for years to come and have significant impacts on nutritional status of children.

B. Impacting Family Ability to Access Education

Increasing access to schooling was the second most frequently mentioned impact of SPRING's projects on children. While primary education is free in Uganda, there are other costs for such necessities as books, uniforms, exam fees, supplies, lunches, etc. that can be prohibitive to families. Accessing education higher than primary level also requires payment of tuition - and often boarding fees. Additionally, because so many

'I had three children who had dropped out of school. I sold the chilli and took all of the children back to school with that money.'

- 45 year old mother of five youth, farmer under SPRING's Promotion of Chili Production and Marketing project implemented by the North East Chili Producers Association (NECPA).

households have taken in orphans and other vulnerable children as result of the conflict, education expenses have become more difficult to meet. Through improved household income, the children of SPRING's project participants are getting access to education. Some are able to return to school after dropping out, others are going farther than would have been previously possible, and still

others are starting school at a younger age. With improved access to schooling, children's future prospects are greatly enhanced.

'Since the maize is now ready there is food in the home and I don't have to wait for food to be distributed. This has improved the hunger situation that came because of the drought.'

- 27 year old father of 2 children under 5 years, farmer with the ASB program.

'The store that is being built can be used for storing our produce so our children can always have access to these stores unlike before when we would just sell it. Now it will be here in case of famine.'

- 34 year old female farmer participating in the SPRING Project - Commercialization of Rice and Groundnuts Production in Lira implemented by the Lira District Farmers Association (LIDFA) (Odwardi), caregiver to 9 dependents between aged 3 to 17 years.

'We have also been trained in having household gardens so that we have a balanced diet. Because of the variety of crops we plant, we can feed our children a balanced diet and it helps us fight hunger.'

- 31 year old female farmer beneficiary under the SPRING project implemented by Women and Children First Organization (WACFO), caregiver to 6 children between 5 months and 16 years old.



A 36-year-old farmer stands with his 8 children and wife in their sesame fields. Seeds and training were provided by SPRING's implementing partner Kica Ber Support for War Victims Organization in Amuru District, Atiak Sub-county:

'The seeds supplied were very good, they have given us very good support and allowed us to open up a lot of land....Even though most of the seeds did not do well in the first planting season [because of the drought], the ones we planted in the second season are giving good support to the children. It has given them something to eat and it caters for their school fees.'

C. Impacting the Family's Ability to Provide Other Basic Necessities for Children

In all of the focus groups, SPRING beneficiaries reported that improvements in household income would automatically increase their ability to meet basic needs for children and aid them in recovering their standard of living. Some of the items mentioned as basics included: shelter, clothing, soap, and salt. Again, there was some variability in the degree of impact that had already occurred at the household level, commensurate with income earned to date, but overall reports were optimistic for both present and future.



When people lived in camps, they were largely constrained from accessing their gardens and consequently their parental roles as providers were also limited. However, being involved in these projects that target economic security is allowing them to regain their ability to care for their families and it is having both physical and psychological impacts.

D. Children’s Health Care Needs and Emergencies

In nine of the thirteen projects assessed, participants mentioned that the economic benefits of being in the program had allowed, or would allow, them to attain health care for

‘Next year, I am going to make sure even if I am old, I will work more than I ever have before because I see the benefit, there is a good market and people are doing well.... Even alone as a widow with no husband I am going to meet all of the needs of the orphans in my care and I will sleep in a permanent house with iron sheets because of this chilli.’

– 50 year old widow caring for 4 orphans between the age of 12 and 15 years, farmer under SPRING’s Promotion of Chili Production and Marketing project implemented by the North East Chili Producers Association (NECPA).

‘Because of the project support, skills, knowledge, and production, in our families there is now hardly a lack of food, unlike in the past. If the school needs a payment, the money is there, there is food, our children are studying, there is less sickness and above all there is harmony in the family.’

– Female leader of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) farmer group under the SPRING project Agribusiness Market Linkages.

‘The program activities have helped me to get drugs for the children. In government health care facilities the lines are too long and the drugs are not there (out of stock) so I was able to get treatment from a private clinic for the children.’

– 28 year old father of 3, farmer benefiting from the SPRING project - Strengthening Economic Recovery and Reconciliation in Gulu District implemented by CPAR.

‘Children will be able to go to better hospitals for better medication- before we would just have to give them aspirin bought at a drug shop’.

– 46 year old male farmer with SPRING’s project implemented by ADFA, caregiver to 6 dependents ranging in age from 1 to 16 years.

‘Through our savings and loan scheme we have a few accounts. One is for serious needs in the community for instance if you child is sick or you need school fees you borrow the money and then you pay it back with interest.’

– 30 year old father of 5 ranging in age between 3months and 9 years, farmer with SPRING’s project implemented by WACFO.

their children. Some reported they would have the money to travel to health care facilities, others reported it would allow them to access care at private clinics, or buy drugs when needed.

Additionally, several of the farmer groups have been trained in management of savings and loans and have established savings accounts or savings boxes that can be accessed by group members or used to assist community members in need. This has provided a social security net that previously did not exist and this was mentioned by a number of groups as a source of support for families and children in times of need.

E. Building Skills, Impacting Futures

Whether or not they were immediately feeling impacts at the household level, respondents in all of the focus groups consistently praised the training they had received. They reported that the knowledge, skills, and new practices gained would be, or had already been, very beneficial to the family well-being through improved livelihoods.

SPRING’s project participants witnessed the benefits of modern agricultural methods, which have boosted confidence and initiative. Older respondents reported that their new approaches were of tremendous value when added to the techniques of the past. For young people who had spent most of their lives in camps, the training has introduced farming as a respected profession that could be profitable rather than a last resort.

‘The agronomic skills I have learned have helped me to grow my own food instead of relying on food aid. I have been relieved of listening for when the truck is coming delivering the food.’

– 33 year old female caretaker of 6 children between the age of 4 and 15 years. She is a member of the Gem Onyot ASB Farmer group under the SPRING project.

‘When we return to the village, we will be able to train other peasant farmers so they too take agriculture as a profession and not just the thing you do if you are illiterate.’

– 21 year old female student caring for her one biological child and two dependents between the ages of 3 years and 21 years old, currently enrolled in the ACADOS agricultural training course for youth under SPRING.



Building Skills, Building futures: Patrick and Scovia's Story of Training with the Koro Agricultural Institute

Odong Patrick, age 17 years: I lost my father when I was still very young. My mother took over full responsibility but then she also died when I was in primary 3. My grandmother took in my 5 siblings and me and we lived in a displacement camp with her for 3 years before we were able to return to our village as a family.



When I sat for my primary leaving exams, I didn't do very well and there was nobody encouraging me to re-take them, so I had to go into peasant farming. I joined the CPAR farmers group under the SPRING project in my area and then ACADOS came to our parish. They told us they were starting a 3-month agricultural training program and the criteria for joining was that you had to be a vulnerable youth and you had to be willing to attend the training. I was both and so I was selected. The training I get at the Koro Agricultural Institute will help me to earn more income in the future. They are helping me to learn farming as a business and not just for subsistence. I have also created more friendships since being here and when I go home I will train others in my area to plant high quality crops that will bring good prices. The money I earn will help us as a family; it will help me pay bride price so that I

can marry, and buy animals that will also help us meet our needs.

Akelo Scovia, age 17 years: My mother died a long time ago when I was young so I didn't know much about her. After her death, I stayed with my grandmother in Gulu and I went as far as senior secondary 2 before I was forced to stop because my grandmother had too much responsibility and could not raise my school fees. After this, I looked for my father and moved in with him in the camp. We returned to the village and joined the SPRING CPAR farmers group. Later our group was approached and asked to send someone who could read and write for more training. I thought it was a great opportunity to gain modern agricultural skills.

I am the mother of a baby, 2 years old. The father of my baby ran away and I am left responsible. This program will allow me to now meet the needs for my child. The knowledge I get will help me to produce quality food crops and cash crops. We are taught when to plant and what to plant if we want to make good profits, such as tomatoes. I will be able to teach others when I return home, for example, I will teach them how to make and apply organic fertilizers. When my boy grows I will pass onto him the same knowledge of modern agronomy practice and that will also help him in his future. The program will impact my life very positively. My level of income will increase and the money I raise will help me to meet the needs for all my family members, my 13 year old brother, my father and my son.



The communal culture in northern Uganda and SPRING's emphasis on strengthening farmer group networks means that families work together and knowledge and skills are shared. Farmers are not only applying the teachings to improve their own livelihoods, but they are teaching their children the improved techniques, and this will enhance their futures as well. The learning of today has the potential to impact many generations to come.

2.5.2 IMPACTS ON THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS OF CHILDREN

A. Creating a Vision for the Future

Respondents express excitement about what they are learning and the potential for improving their futures. They are seeing positive results: high seed germination and strong yields, agronomy techniques having the intended impact, good quality stores preserving their assets in greater quantities, and they have better access to markets and profit when they sell together. This encourages them to invest further. Hope helps parents to recover from conflict and the displacement to camps where productivity was impossible. Hope also impacts on the well-being and drive of children. Because their families can dream, children can dream bigger, work harder, and expect more of their futures.

'In the past you could only afford a bicycle, but now you can buy a motorcycle. You've gone from a mat to a mattress. Your children go on to tertiary education, not stopping at this primary level of education. Our vision is bigger now.'

– 40 year old male farmer with the Apac District Farmers Association under the SPRING project, father of 7 children between the ages of 2 and 18 years.

'When children see such positive changes like the storage facilities, then they see that things are changing, there are positive things ahead, unlike in the past.'

– 30 year old male farmer with the Apac District Farmers Association under the SPRING project, he is currently caring for 6 dependents between the ages of 1 and 17 years.

'During the conflict I lost all of my productive assets. With chilli, I have re-built them all- I have bought animals again, and I could afford to marry my wife. Many men cannot do this today.'

– 23 year old male farmer with the NECPA, he is currently caring for 6 dependents between the ages of 1 and 17 years.

'For me, this project has given me strength. While in the camp, I used to think about a lot of things: hunger, the things I lacked. Now with this land I can cultivate and end poverty. The work prevents the mind from thinking about these things that were evil.'

– 45 year old male farmer with ASB program.



B. Working Together, Growing Together

All of the focus groups felt that their participation in the project had brought harmony and given them friendship, unity, and cooperation at a challenging time. Such social unity is invaluable to children as it promotes safety, security, and general well-being within their environments.

'In the past people lived in the camp and had diverse ways of thinking and acting, but through such a project you learn better ways of cooperating and sharing with each other.'

– 46 year old male farmer with the Apac District Farmers Association under the SPRING Project; currently caring for 6 dependents between the ages of 1 and 16 years.

'Having the stores and grinding machines closer to people keeps the mothers and children from traveling long distances from the home. Women used to have to travel far and would get less money for their products. Now when the stores and machines are near, women don't have to travel as far with the baby tied to her back and the other children are not left alone at home without food.'

– Female leader, Apac District Farmers Association, under the SPRING project.

In addition to motivation and understanding that comes from working communally, communal work through farmer groups also brought tangible, direct benefits to livelihoods through improved production and profits. Participants noted that working together could accomplish more and gave them greater access to resources such as stores. Additionally, being in farmer groups allowed vulnerable members to remain involved and active; elderly people, people with disabilities, single mothers or those without kin or tribe could benefit from these group activities. Vulnerable members and their children gained access to benefits and labor that would have been difficult or impossible alone.

Many of the focus groups also report that they do communal development planning and problem solving. They have established and practice social behaviors or group norms that are impacting their own sense of well-being and that of their families. For instance, members of farmer groups emphasized the importance of conflict management and resolving issues through discussion rather than violence, pulling one's weight and working hard to contribute to the group livelihood, reduced alcohol consumption, working and planning together regardless of gender, and helping others at times of need. Participants reported that their farmer groups would support them, not only in productive pursuits but also in personal issues by offering advice or assistance.

'Initially I wasn't in the group, but now they helped train me in farming, they have helped provide me with money so I can send my children to school. The group identified my family as needing assistance and helped us. Before I did not have land, but the group gave me the land and the seeds I planted.'

– 34 year old man; father to 10 dependents between the ages of 1 and 17 years. The man walks with a crutch following an injury sustained during a rebel ambush. The LIDFA farmers group, under the SPRING project, identified his family for assistance from their group "bol chup" or savings scheme.

C. Improved Family Harmony

'When there is poverty, there is conflict in the family, so if you reduce poverty, you improve relations....There used to be conflicts between parents over managing the products harvested because the man used to sell off the products and use the money, but now they learn to manage the money at the household level.'

– Female leader, Apac District Farmers Association under the SPRING project.

'As a result of this intervention there is a good relationship between my husband and I. Before it looked as though the men were abandoning their families, but now, we have come together, even through this drought'.

– 44 year old female farmer with CPAR farmers group. Mother of 6 between the ages of 3 and 14 years, Female leader, Apac District Farmers Association under the SPRING project.

When participants are members of supportive communities who model positive social interactions, and when they are bringing in greater income so basic needs are met, it reduces stress at home and provides better coping mechanisms. Nine of the thirteen groups discussed how involvement in the project has improved harmony in the family environment, including reduced domestic violence, improved relations with children, and improved relationships between spouses. Children are learning how to relate to others through the modeling of their social environments so their chances of also developing positive interaction skills are greatly enhanced.



Clearly when children live in harmonious families, they are more likely to receive greater amounts of positive attention from parents. Their personal well-being is greatly enhanced and they learn skills for interaction, managing difficulties, in short, developing a resilience that will last a lifetime.

D. Additional Positive Impacts on Children

This last section summarizes some of the other impacts on children mentioned less frequently by participants but still worthy of note.

- **Reduction in Child Labor** - In three of the focus groups, there was discussion about how the provision of equipment was reducing, or would reduce, labor of the family. This clearly is beneficial to children as it translates into more time in school, more time in leisure pursuits, and less time in labor.

'The support given has impacted my family a lot. We used to dig using manual labor, but with the oxen we were given, it has reduced the amount of labor so we can produce more crops and there is more income for our family. My children are not as burdened now with digging (cultivation work), the fees we earn can be used to pay school fees and meet their needs.'

– 51 year old male respondent from Meeting Point farmers group under the SPRING project.

'The project has promised to give us groundnut shellers, so this will improve the quality of the seeds we will plant. Children always got involved with the shelling, so this will reduce on their work, on their burden.'

– 46 year old female farmer with LIDFA (Adwari) under the SPRING Project, mother of 6 children aged 6 to 14 years.

- **Environmental Conservation** - Three of the groups discussed training they received on methods for preventing degradation of the environment, such as tree planting and organic techniques. The north is a fertile region but clearly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Ensuring that the land remains healthy and able to support future generations is a key factor in the health and well-being of children.



Going Green: Youth from the Koro Agricultural training school describe the process of making organic fertilizers from manure and compost.

- **Reducing stigma:** Respondents from implementing partners who target vulnerable populations such as those who are HIV/AIDS affected, also report that being in the group and receiving positive teachings has reduced stigma and withdrawal from society that they previously experienced.

'Before there was a lot of stigmatization, but now I am very free, even if someone talks ill of me, I don't mind. I have returned to my home and the way I live there is in harmony, we have very good relations. When someone in the village tests positive now, they often refer them to me and I talk to them and help them. I am now recovered from conflict, I used to be very violent, but now people are referred to me because they see how I am living peacefully'

– 37 year old farmer with Meeting Point, father to 5 children between 1 and 15 years.

- **Reducing Risky Behavior.** In 3 of the 13 focus group discussions, participants discussed the impact of programs on reducing risky behaviors in their children such as theft, idleness and roaming. They attributed the change to food and resources being available at home.

'Children don't roam around now, they don't go to other peoples gardens to steal because there is food in their own homes now so there is no longer these cases'

– 25 year old farmer with ASB, father of 2 children age 2 and 5 years.

- **Communications for Social Change** – Through its partner, Straight Talk Foundation, SPRING has released 99 media stories, many focused on children and child rights, through spot messages, print media, and radio shows disseminating information to improve the overall reconciliation and recovery process.



"We like Dongo Paco Karacel program very much because it is educative and entertaining. It has helped us talk to our children better than we could in the camps. It taught us how to look after our children and they are now more respectful and attending to school unlike in the days we were in camps. Since Dongo Paco Karacel aired a program on Child Rights and Defilement, child related crimes have reduced. Many thanks to SPRING Project for the program and it should continue.

Excerpt from a letter written by PEGENE MORIS, Otwe Village in Amuru District, regarding the SPRING funded radio shows, produced by its partner the Straight Talk Foundation

E. Negative Impacts

In general, respondents were very positive about the impacts of SPRING's programs on themselves and their families. In most cases the interview team had to intentionally probe about negative impacts in order to ensure we received a balanced picture of the impact of SPRING's programs. Two issues were raised by several of the groups that deserve mention:

- **Creating Inequities/Discord:** Several of the focus group participants mentioned that there was some resentment or discord between those who had been chosen to participate in the programs and those who had not. SPRING's projects are highly valued by community members and jealousy can arise in neighboring communities who witness the benefits, but who are not being directly targeted. In its third and final year of implementation, SPRING will address issues like this through its sustainability strategy, including addressing ways the community might expand community farming cooperatives and how some cooperatives could be expanded toward commercial enterprises.
- **Child Labor:** While no participants attributed child labor to SPRING's programs, several of the groups mentioned that children are pulled out of school in order to participate in family agriculture. When asked if this was an impact of the program, they confirmed that it was not, but was a long-standing practice.

To address this more explicitly, child protection and child rights will be further mainstreamed into SPRING's economic security projects through its work with its implementing partners and traditional leaders. Phase II activities will directly target this concern with projects that will address the rights of the child through education and early child development activities.

2.6 SPRING Phase 2: Meeting the Developmental and Social Needs of Children

SPRING has just commenced Phase 2 in which projects that directly address the social and developmental needs of children will be rolled out over the next year. All of the projects in Phase 2 are in early stages and have not yet begun direct engagement with children. Two of these are just beginning implementation and two remain in the planning stage. Therefore a summary has been provided outlining the project activities and, where applicable, the projected impacts as provided by the implementing partners in interviews and reports.

2.6.1 SUMMARY OF CURRENT PHASE II PROJECTS

The first two projects targeting the needs of older children have received funding and begun implementation: ***Youth Reconciliation Support Project - Athletes for Africa*** and ***Peace Education and Guidance Counseling in Secondary Schools - United Movement to End Child Soldiering (UMECS-Uganda)***:

Athletes for Africa: Youth Reconciliation Support Project

Based in Gulu, the largest town in the north and metropolitan centre of Acholiland, the project will build a new facility offering a cultural performance centre, sports and other training facilities, and a variety of youth services. A Sports Academy will develop the skills of talented children and youth as well as those involved in professional sport, enabling northern districts to have a presence in national and even international sports, focusing on soccer, basketball, netball and athletics. Meanwhile, work in rural areas throughout the north will assist youth groups to develop recreation spaces and facilities that will benefit their whole communities, and increase opportunities for all youth to participate in sports and cultural activities. This will in turn be linked to participation in competitions that will involve contact and dialogue between groups in conflict, and opportunities for those with talent to be supported in developing their skills. Training will aim to increase the capacity of rural youth groups in other





respects: leadership, income-generating potential, engagement in community development and ability to support their troubled and traumatised members. By empowering them as agents for social change, development impacts will be experienced by whole communities.

Projected impacts:

- Children will improve on their income
- There shall be a sense of belonging as hope is restored to the hopeless
- Sustainable group activities for youths
- Business skills, leadership skills training skills, counselling skills for youth
- Full development of talents in children especially age 9-25 years
- More children brought to school
- Development of reasonable coping mechanism for issues that cannot be changed
- Health for those actively involved in sports

United Movement to End Child Soldiering (UMECS-Uganda): Peace Education and Guidance in Counselling Secondary Schools in Northern Uganda project

This one-year pilot project will design and implement a peace education course, school guidance and psychosocial counselling program in secondary schools in order to help children rebuild their lives and improve overall reconciliation in northern Uganda from two decades of the LRA conflict. After the pilot phase the program is targeted for scale up through the Ministry of Education.

Projected impacts:

- A culture of peace and healing will be created and revived first through building peaceful schools and then emanating into communities.
- Teachers in northern Uganda become trained, qualified peace educators
- Youth become life-long peace building practitioners through learning new ways of working together, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, and mediation.
- Youth develop life skills for healthy, peaceful living (problem solving, decision making healthy relationships, reading and learning issues, study techniques, career guidance, motivational and attitudinal issues).
- Youth are developed into change agents who can actively voice their concerns and develop activities to create peace.
- Counselling and guidance is provided to assist youth with recovery from conflict and increase coping skills for day to day life.
- Ministry of Education policy is influenced so peace education becomes systemic and mainstreamed.



2.6.2 FUTURE PHASE II PROJECTS

SPRING is in the final stages of negotiation on its project *Fortifying Families in Recovery* and is working with implementing partners to develop a proposal for *Cooperative Child Care within SPRING Farmer Groups*.

Fortifying Families in Recovery

This project will strengthen families as they resettle in their homes and rebuild their lives by targeting needs at all levels: parents, youth and children. Interventions will employ an integrated and holistic approach targeting: Parents support groups, youth groups, children's groups and early child development activities by employing a combination of economic and peace building and children's rights interventions. The project will have three components:

Projected Impacts:

1. **Rights of the Child:** Through a series of activities aimed at children aged 0-5, primary and secondary children participating in children's groups, youth and parents groups, whole families will be sensitized on the rights of children, early childhood development (ECD) and will engage in activities that support these rights, promote ECD and strengthen the entire family dynamic.
2. **Improving economic wellbeing for war affected families:** By providing economically viable, sustainable & profitable income generating activities, parents and youth will be empowered to provide for family needs.
3. **Peace-Building and Leadership Development:** Whole communities will be impacted through activities that raise awareness about the psychological threats affecting community, creating safe spaces for children & youth to express their fears and hopes, providing leadership development & peace education trainings, mobilizing the community to promote peace-building using indigenous reconciliation approaches, and involving local communities in project implementation to sustain activities.





Cooperative Daycare within SPRING Farmer Groups

SPRING has recognized the need for more projects that directly target the stimulation and care needs of the very young (6 months to school entry). In order to thrive, young children require more than the survival strategies currently in place in Northern Uganda. There is a gap in ensuring that children receive developmental stimulation and nurturance in the early years, and this gap could mean that children do not reach their developmental potential. Currently, farmers who work the fields all day must either bring their youngest children with them to the fields or leave them behind at home, often in a situation of suboptimal supervision and care. Building on traditional communal childcare strategies and best practices in early childhood development, this cooperative model would allow childcare options that would benefit both parents and children. By investing in programs that address early childhood in a culturally appropriate manner, SPRING seeks to maximize the most rapid period of human development and help place children on the right course for success both academically and in life.

2.7 Conclusions

SPRING has taken an integrated, holistic approach to meeting the needs of children and is rolling this approach out in two phases:

Phase I: Supportive Environments for Children through projects that improve social inclusion and reduce the debilitating impact of poverty and conflict on children, and,

Phase II: Developmentally Appropriate Interventions for Children through projects that address social needs for children at various stages of development in a holistic manner.

It is too early to grasp the full impact of SPRING's projects on children, as most of the projects are only at mid-term or beginning. Nonetheless, respondents of this survey, the vast majority of whom are caring not only for their biological children but for other non-biological child dependents, including orphans, were overwhelmingly positive about their current experiences and the future potential. The 29,675 children currently impacted by SPRING's projects not only have enhanced prospects through growing up in supported environments that meet their basic survival needs for food, shelter, and health care, but they are also in environments that can provide them with greater access to formal education and enhanced agricultural and vocational skills. Additionally, they are developing into adulthood surrounded by much greater potential for a peaceful future. Their social environments are healthier and they are exposed to positive ways of interacting with others. They are immersed in opportunities to look forward to development rather than focusing on the lack, restriction, and conflict of their recent past. There clearly remains more work to be done, including the implementation of Phase Two, which will directly target children, but the results of this survey indicate that the children of northern Uganda have brighter futures because of SPRING's support.





APPENDIX A: CAUSAL MODEL DEMONSTRATING THE IMPACT OF SPRING'S PROGRAMS ON CHILDREN

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
<p>PHASE 1: Building Supportive Environments For Children Economic security projects through implementing partners:</p> <p>Agricultural Livelihoods</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apac District Farmers Association 2. Arbeiter-Samariter Bund Deutschland 3. Mercy Corps 4. International Rescue Committee 5. Kisa Ber Support to War Victims Organization 6. Kitgum Women Beekeeper Association 7. Lira District Farmers Association. 8. Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief. 9. North East Chili Producers Association. 10. Women and Children first Organization. 11. Meeting Point <p>Vocational Training and Business Development Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. ACADOS -Aids Clients and Disabled Orphans Support: 13. Livelihoods, Education and Protection to End Child Labor 	<p># Of children under 18 in targeted households.</p> <p># Of persons trained in improved agronomy techniques and vocational trainings.</p> <p># Of persons trained in peace-related curriculum</p> <p># Of media stories/public information delivered.</p> <p># Of stores constructed.</p> <p># of focus group discussions and trainings on land tenure security</p>	<p>Current measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative data from focus group discussions in project areas suggest positive impacts. • Qualitative data from interviews with implementing partners suggest positive impacts. • % increase in productivity of targeted crops • % increase in sales of targeted crops • Increased positive relations within Acholi communities. <p>Future measures (Baseline Data Collected):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Of children of school going age in targeted households attending school • % Households reporting receiving 2 or more meals per day • % of households that are able to meet medical care expenses for children. • % SPRING's beneficiaries feeling economically empowered • # Of SPRING's beneficiaries adopting new technology. • # of new business partnerships created. • # Of media stories disseminated with SPRING support to facilitate the improvement of reconciliation or peace processes. • # Of persons reached through SPRING supported public information activities supporting child development issues.. • # Of persons trained in conflict mitigation and management. 	<p>Individual level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health of children and youth. • Improved nutritional status of children and youth. • Improved mental-emotional well being. • Improved school enrollment and attainment. • Decreased time spent in harmful child labour (i.e. missing school) • Improved social-relational ability in children. <p>Household level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved parental ability to meet children's needs. • Improved harmony in the home. • Improved skills of children- empowered to contribute to familial well-being and household income in the future. <p>Societal level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in strong leadership with a peace agenda. • Reduction in intergenerational transmission of poverty and disadvantage. • Prevent the loss of developmental potential in the next generation (educated parents have healthy, more educated, better nourished children).



Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
<p>Meeting the developmental needs of children at various ages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Athletes for Africa 2. United Movement to End Child Soldiering 3. Fortifying Families in Recovery 4. Childcare cooperatives for farmers groups. 	<p># of schools accessing peace curriculum.</p> <p># of teachers trained and delivering peace curriculum.</p> <p># of sport and culture events held.</p> <p># of sports and leisure facilities constructed.</p> <p># of cooperative daycares established.</p>	<p>Future Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of increase in targeted populations knowledge of rights of the child. • # of secondary students accessing peace curriculum. • # of secondary students accessing guidance counseling. • # of secondary students accessing sport and cultural activities. • Increased opportunity for youth to build life skills. • Increased opportunity for youth to engage in healthy leisure pursuits. • Increased stimulation provided to young children to maximize period of rapid brain growth. • % of children of school going age in targeted households attending school. • Increased positive relations within Acholi communities. • Increased positive relations between communities in the North. • Number of facilitated events geared towards strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. • Peace education becomes a Ministry of Education policy and is systematically delivered on a national basis. 	<p>Individual level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth engagement in positive leisure pursuits. • Less youth engagement in risky behaviours (i.e. alcoholism, early sex) • Youth become skilled in positive social skills: working together, conflict resolution, non-violent communication, and mediation. • Youth develop skills to increase future productivity: business training, improved agriculture, etc. • Improved physical health for children involved in sport and cultural activities. • Improved school readiness for young children. • Children keep their developmental potential in-tact as demonstrated by: improved school performance, improved productivity, and healthier social relationships in adulthood. • All teachers become trained peace educators. <p>Household level/ Institutional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved harmony in the home. • Improved harmony in the school. • Improved skills of children- empowered to contribute to familial well-being and household income in the future <p>Societal level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved employment rates for youth. • Reduction in intergenerational transmission of poverty and disadvantage. • A culture of peace and healing is created/ Prevention of further conflict.



APPENDIX B: PROJECT LEVEL CAUSAL MODEL FOR SPRING ECONOMIC SECURITY PROJECTS

Background: Following the visit by USAID DCOF consultants in January, each of SPRING’s implementing partners was asked to draft a causal model outlining the impacts that their programs would have on children. As was suggested by DCOF consultants, this raised consciousness about children’s issues and helped partners to both recognize and monitor their impacts on children. Below is a model of SPRING’s *Strengthening Economic Recovery and Reconciliation in Gulu* project implemented by Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR).

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
<p>Objective 1: Increase production of farmer groups through high-input agricultural practices</p> <p>Identify 40 Lead farmers in high-input production and post harvest handling for rice, maize and groundnuts.</p> <p>Facilitate lead farmers to conduct farmer to farmer extension services in the communities</p> <p>Develop revolving seed loan fund.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trainings conducted with lead farmers. Number of facilitators (District Vs Non-District). Number of trainings conducted. Number of Lead farmers supported Number of community members receiving extension services (disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). Number of farmers/groups that received the seed loans (disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). Quantity of seeds distributed (by type) per individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Of SPRING’s beneficiaries adopting new technology. % Increased productivity/yields. Increased access to seeds from harvest or the seed loan scheme. At least 80% of the youth refund seeds to the seed loan scheme. Reduced spoilage. Increased usage of bulking centers by farmers (disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). Youth farmer representatives engaged in productive and sustainable marketing and business skills. 	<p>Regional level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased productivity and declining poverty Decline in the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Building of positive relations between communities in the north. Increased educational attainment leads to improved parenting (improved health and developmental outcomes for children).
<p>Objective 2: Enhance agro-processing and value added activities for 1,200 farming households</p> <p>Procure and distribute simple agricultural processing equipments.</p> <p>Procure and distribute tarpaulins for post harvest management of rice and maize</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agricultural equipment procured by type. Number of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). Number of tarpaulins procured. Number of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in value of sales Business partnerships increased. % Of children of school going age in targeted households attending school % Households reporting receiving 2 or more meals per day 	<p>Household level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rising income/ increased financial security. Increased household assets. Increased ability to meet all basic needs of family (food, clothes, shelter, school fees, hygiene and sanitation facilities). Increased family harmony/ decreased family stress.
<p>Objective 3: Implement collective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trainings conducted. Number of participants disaggregated by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Of households that are able 	



Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
<p>marketing systems between 40 farmer groups</p> <p>Train 120 farmer representatives in marketing and business skills</p> <p>Facilitate farmers groups in Lakwana to form a Marketing Association</p> <p>Support Lakwana Marketing Association to establish bulking centers</p>	<p>youth vs. adults; male vs. female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of facilitators (District Vs Non-District). • Number of farmer groups reached. • Number of meetings held. • Meeting reports (List of participants attached, disaggregated by gender and age – youth vs. adults). • Number of meetings held. • Meeting reports (List of participants attached, disaggregated by gender and age – youth vs. adults). • Marketing Association formed. • Bulking centers established. 	<p>to meet medical care expenses for children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % SPRING's beneficiaries feeling economically empowered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased nurturance in environment for children. <p>Child and youth level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved nutritional status. • Increased educational attainment (attendance, retention, achievement) • Improved health status from improved living conditions and greater access to healthcare. • Improved developmental outcomes and school readiness. • Youth gain productive and sustainable agronomic practices. • Youth have greater earning potential. • Youth decrease risky behaviors resulting from idleness and poverty. • Increased self-esteem. • Improved mental-emotional well being.
<p>Objective 4: Stimulate economic cooperation within and outside Gulu District</p> <p>Facilitate 40 farmers on one Exposure visit to Luwero, Mukono and Kawanda Districts.</p> <p>Organize a cross border agricultural trade fairs with the Lango farmers or produce traders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of exposure visits conducted. • Number of participants disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults. • Number of cross border agricultural trade fairs conducted. • Number of participants involved in the agricultural trade fair (disaggregated by gender and age – youth Vs adults). • Number of Lango farmers/ produce traders involved in the agricultural trade fair. 		



APPENDIX C: SPRING STABILITY FUND PROJECTS

Projects in green were part of the qualitative assessment carried out from September 8th – 15th

Project Number	Project-Implementing Partner	PROJECT DURATION	PROJECT GOALS	BUDGET CEILING
Phase I – Building Supportive Environments for Children (Agricultural Livelihoods Support)				
1	<i>Improving Rural Incomes Through New Technologies And Stabilization Support - MERCY CORPS</i>	November 17th 2008 - April 30th 2009 (5 Months) - Extension Until Oct 30th.	To increase rural incomes and economic security for farmer groups in southern Pader by accessing higher value markets through the promotion of new post-harvest processing technologies and addressing the most pressing stabilization concerns.	\$99,999
2	<i>Agribusiness Market Linkages - International Rescue Committee (IRC)</i>	January 5th - September 30th (9 Months)	To support farmers in Agoro Sub-County, Kitgum District, by increasing their access to agribusiness knowledge, resources, and markets.	\$99,948
3	<i>Promotion of Chili Production and Marketing - North East Chili Producers Association (NECPA)</i>	Jan 5th - Dec 31st (12 months)	1) Increase: production of high quality chili 2) Increase access to markets for chili farmers 3) Increase economic co-operation between Acholi and Lango Sub-regions	\$99,317
4	<i>Strengthening Farmers' Potential To Achieve Sustainable Livelihoods - Arbeiter-Samariter Bund Deutschland (ASB)</i>	15th Feb,09 -15th May,2010	1) To improve economic security among farmer groups in Oyam and Pader Districts through the promotion of commercial farming practices; and, 2) To promote cohesion within communities and between different communities through the development of economic linkages among individual farmers, farmer associations, and other value chain actors in the Oyam and Pader Districts of the Lango and Acholi sub-regions.	\$249,894
5	<i>Strengthening Economic Recovery and Reconciliation in Gulu- Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR)</i>	Feb 15th 2009 -Mar 15th 2010	1) Increase production of 40 groups through high input agricultural practices 2) Enhance agro-processing and value addition (1,200 HH) 3) Facilitate collective marketing for 40 farmer groups 4) Stimulate economic co-operation within and outside Gulu district.	\$206,962
6	<i>Improving Economic Security, Competitiveness & Peacebuilding in Amuru - Kisa Ber Support to War Victims Organization (KSWVO)</i>	Feb 16th 2009 - Aug 16th 2010 (18 Months)	1) Increase Crop Production, Productivity and Profitability of 1,200 Farming Households 2) Improve Incomes and Savings of 1,200 Households in Pabbo and Atiak 3) Promote Peace And Reconciliation through Agricultural Fairs, Drama And Music Shows, Speech Competitions, and Dialogue Among 40 Farming Groups	\$249,288
7	<i>Commercialization of Rice And Groundnuts Production</i>	Feb 15th 2009 -Mar 15th 2010	1) Strengthen 30 functional farmer groups 2) Develop effective marketing channels	\$187,388



Project Number	Project-Implementing Partner	PROJECT DURATION	PROJECT GOALS	BUDGET CEILING
	<i>In Lira - Lira District Farmers Association (LIDFA)</i>		3) Promote value addition (rice and groundnuts)	
8	<i>Commercialization of Maize, Sunflower & Groundnuts Production In Oyam - Apac District Farmers Association (ADFA)</i>	Feb 15th 2009 - Mar 15th 2010	1) Improve farmers accessibility to agro-processing equipments 2) Improve farmers access to markets 3) Avail stores for collective marketing and quality assurance 4) Improve access to marketing information 5) Provide trainings on post harvest techniques.	\$159,373
9	<i>Meeting Point Kitgum - Agricultural Support to PLWHAs</i>	March 1st 2009 - Aug 31st 2010	1) Promoting food security and reduce poverty among people leaving with HIV/AIDS; 2) Improving nutrition and health among people leaving with HIV/AIDS	\$37,000
10	<i>Improving Household Livelihoods in Post Conflict Kitgum through Increased Honey Production -Kitgum Women Beekeeper Association (KITWOBEE) -</i>	1st April 2009 through July 31st 2010	To strengthen apiculture farmer groups' organisational and technical capacity in apiary management and colony multiplication to increase production of hive products.	\$20,167
11	<i>Economic Security and Social Inclusion in Amuru - Women and Children First Organization (WACFO) -</i>	1st April 2009 through 31st August 2010.	Enhance food and economic security for at least 300 vulnerable households, restore societal values in relation to land and clan in a section of Pabbo Sub-county by August 2010. Promote Peace and Reconciliation through Youth Music, Drama and Dance activities.	\$25,571
Phase I – Building Supportive Environments for Children (Vocational Training and Business Development Services)				
12	<i>Economic Security and Social Inclusion in Gulu & Pader – Aids Clients and Disabled Orphans Support (ACADOS)</i>	April 1 st – March 31 st 2010	Vocational skills training & the provision of start-up capital through micro-finance (revolving funds) in order to promote self reliance, peace building and economic development among vulnerable youth.	\$35,600
13	<i>Livelihoods, Education and Protection to End Child Labor (LEAP) - AVSI</i>	April 1 st – 31 st of August 2009	LEAP Project in Gulu and Pader Districts is a follow-on project to an AVISI grant funded US Department of Labor (USDOL). LEAP targets 64 children who have been affected by armed conflict for their withdrawal and prevention from the worst forms of child labour through integration in vocational training programs.	\$19,508
14	Gulu Youth Development Association	TBD	Development of sustainable commercial production of wheelchairs.	\$50,000
15	Northern Ugandan Youth Development Center	TBD	Support of business development activities such as bee keeping, poultry, fish farming and agriculture.	\$50,000
16	Beads Production	N/A	The market for beads has been growing	\$50,000



Project Number	Project-Implementing Partner	PROJECT DURATION	PROJECT GOALS	BUDGET CEILING
			in Canada and a group supported by CARE has requested AVSI to help them in setting a structure that allows for the quality production and export of beads that involves other women's groups	
Phase II - Developmentally-Appropriate Psychosocial Interventions For Children				
17	<i>Youth Reconciliation Support Program - Athletes for Africa</i>	June 1st 2009 - June 30th 2010	To support the reconciliation of war-affected youth in northern Uganda by providing sports and culture, peacebuilding, and agricultural opportunities in their communities	\$151,157
18	<i>Formal Peace Curriculum and Guidance Counseling in Secondary Schools in Northern Uganda</i>	August 1st 2009 – August 15th 2010	Piloting a formal peace education and guidance counselling curriculum for secondary schools in Northern Uganda.	\$150,000
19	<i>Fortifying Families in Recovery – Concerned Parents Association</i>	Expected Start Date: October 2009	Strengthens families as they resettle by programming a combination of economic security, peacebuilding, leadership development and rights of child activities to parents, youth and children.	\$100,000
20	<i>Child Care Cooperatives / TBD</i>	Expected Start Date: November 2009	Building on traditional communal childcare strategies and best practices in modern early childhood development, this cooperative model would work through SPRING's existing farmer group network to facilitate low cost childcare options that benefit both parents and children.	TBD
Total				\$2,042,472