

Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) Program

Funded by USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)
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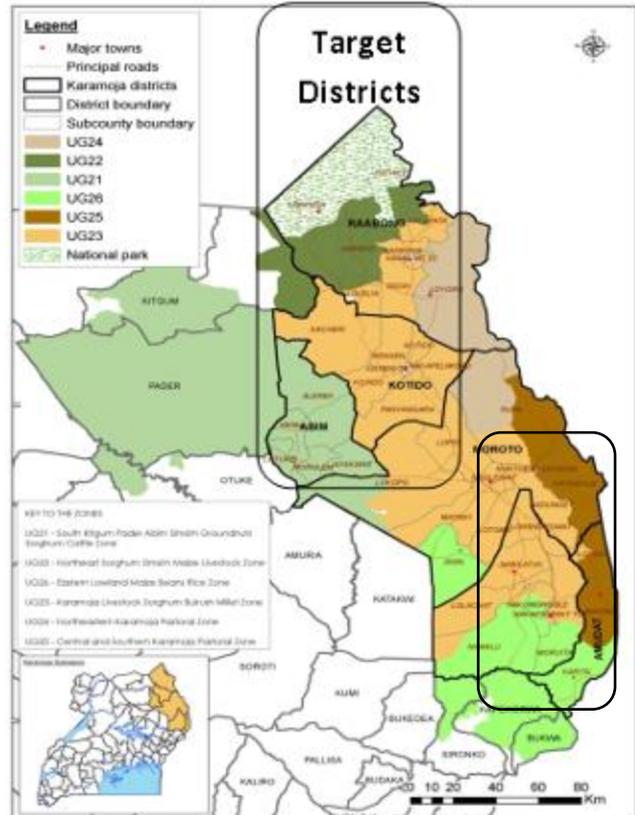


PROJECT SUMMARY	
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1. Program Overview

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

Those challenges are, however, matched by opportunities for long-term development, with the potential for significant impact on the food insecure. From 2010 to 2013, four successive large harvests filled village granaries in many areas, and the security situation improved thanks to successful military and NGO disarmament and peacebuilding efforts. Although pockets of severe food insecurity persist (particularly in Kaabong and Moroto districts), in recognition of the sub-region’s overall development, emergency humanitarian efforts are scaling down, leaving a gap for more development-focused interventions to fill. There is a peace dividend that is beginning to be realized in Karamoja.



However, the 2015 cropping season experienced a large El Nino effect and irregular rains, and subsequently 70% crop failure. GHG’s supplementary feeding program provides protective rations during the “lean season”, with the halt of protective rations in September of each year. Due to heightened food insecurity due to the 2015 crop failure, GHG started its protective rations early this year (in January 2016) and will continue the lean season protective rations through August 2016. However, the regions’ grazing resources and livestock population were not impacted by the irregular rains, with communities buffering the crop failure through measured livestock sales – a promising indication of the role of livestock in Karamoja’s long term resilience.

The Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) project was designed to capitalize on this pivotal moment through a range of economic, health, and governance initiatives that will cement the gains from increased security and build a foundation for broader self-sufficiency, while well targeted food aid for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two hastens the process of transition from decades of food aid by filling

nutrition deficits in highly food insecure households. GHG was also expanded in FY16 to conduct a livestock sector pilot program that examines the opportunity for livestock production and marketing in Karamoja's post-conflict development. GHG's overall geographical focus now includes the northernmost three Karamoja districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Abim, as well as Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripit in Southern Karamoja.

The GHG consortium pulls several complementary capacities into one coherent, unified approach, embodied in the *facilitative* approach that pushes local actors to take the lead in sustainably providing products (e.g., seeds, tools and livestock pharmaceuticals) and services (e.g., land opening, para-veterinary services, extension services, security, finance and healthcare) which improve the productivity and quality of life for many.

As the consortium lead, Mercy Corps takes overall responsibility for the development of GHG's facilitative strategy as well as the quality of all programming implemented by the project. Mercy Corps also implements all economic programming and employs a team of three Youth, Gender and Vulnerable Population Officers who are supported by a Regional Gender Advisor, to ensure that an understanding of Karamoja's complicated gender and youth dynamics are incorporated into all activities. World Vision Inc. (WV), with its robust commodity management and public health qualifications, is leading supplementary feeding activities. Together, Mercy Corps, WV and WHAVE conduct community-level public health initiatives, behavior change, water, sanitation, and hygiene programming. The Kaabong Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA) and Abim Women Together in Development (AWOTID), constitute the spear-tip for GHG's conflict management and governance activities, working primarily through local formal and informal authority structures to bolster local systems for conflict reduction and government service improvement. Six local youth groups complement these efforts and also work with communities to reduce harmful practices and behaviors. Lastly, Tufts University's Feinstein International Center (FIC) conducts annual impact evaluations using its community-focused Participatory Impact Assessment methodology that helps the rest of the consortium partners understand the impact of their work, and inform future implementation plans.

2. Key Lessons Learned & Constraints

During the past quarter, GHG learned the following lessons and has revised its implementation plans and/or strategies accordingly.

- In economies as underdeveloped as Karamoja, development programs need to conduct direct targeting activities in addition to building market systems in order to have the most vulnerable people benefit. When GHG relied on market systems to provide benefits to the most vulnerable, only 20% of the beneficiaries were vulnerable women, compared to 89% when we also conducted direct targeting. In 2013, GHG helped local shopkeepers improve their businesses so that farmers would adopt improved seeds. GHG trained six (6) shopkeepers to keep records, manage inventory and conduct marketing activities, but they only sold 3 tons of improved seeds that season, and only 20% of the customers were women and girls. The reason why more women didn't participate was that the improved seeds were more expensive than local varieties and the women are so risk averse that they couldn't



gamble on buying more expensive seeds when they were unsure of the yields. Another deterrent was that the location of the shops were only in towns which are located far from the villages. In 2014, GHG decided to provide vouchers to the target women and girls providing a 50% to 70% discount on the improved seeds. GHG continued to work through the 6 local shopkeepers, but we also helped them transport the seed to the villages. With those two changes, the shopkeepers sold 30 tons of seeds to over 4,000 farmers; 89% were GHG's target beneficiaries.

GHG learned that market systems can play an important role in the response to humanitarian crisis, such as those caused by crop failure. The 2015 crop failure in Karamoja has resulted in a widespread shortage of vital grains, such as sorghum and maize. With a nascent network of private sector grain traders who had received training from GHG in the previous year, GHG was able to share costs in a way that helps them overcome working capital shortages and expands their market distribution systems, while also providing commodities to rural villages at a reasonable price. This approach protects the economic development gains made by GHG in previous years while also responding to the humanitarian crisis. At the time of writing this report, GHG-supported commodity traders purchased 16.67 MT of maize, with a second delivery of 18.3 MT on order. Of the initial 16.67 MT, 98% was sold in the local communities within the first two weeks. GHG will support this initiative through continuing deliveries as long as there is sufficient demand (but not to exceed August 2016). The overall success of this effort will likely be impacted by the actions of other development organizations as well. For example, if they increase food for work programming in the areas where these grain traders operate, then the traders will not be able to sell the grain and development gains will be compromised. As an alternative, GHG is proactively requesting that only cash for work programming is conducted in the areas of Kaabong and Kotido where these traders operate. This would serve to both strengthen the market systems while also responding to the humanitarian crisis.

- Community peace committees are more effective and empowered when the individual members are selected through a community-wide participatory process. GHG has been working with peace committees for several years but recently reconstituted the committees to include community-selected members, versus obvious community leaders such as elders. The reconstituted peace committees in Kawalakol, Karenga and Kalapata sub-counties of Kaabong have now taken the initiative to create a pool of funds (contributing \$0.20 to \$0.30 each) that they will use to respond to conflict, for example to travel to the police to report a crime or to track stolen livestock. This enables the peace committees to become effective “first responders” to community conflict instead of just “spokespersons.”

GHG has also faced several constraints associated with program implementation due to Uganda's national and local election scheduled for mid and late February. The primaries, campaigning and other electoral preparations have made local leaders unavailable; campaigning has resulted in aborted food distributions, political claims have resulted in GHG needing to defend its programming to various officials, and several related issues have caused GHG to delay activities that may be perceived as controversial –such as the grazing



mapping activity. Over the past quarter, GHG has worked to further strengthen its relationship with local governments and to repeatedly communicate GHG program objectives and funding source to beneficiaries. While this has resulted in a diversion of staff time and a delay of some activities, GHG has been able to mitigate all other negative outcomes to date.

3. Livestock Production and Market Strengthening Program

In October 2015, GHG launched the Livestock Production and Market Strengthening Program (Livestock Sector Pilot) to build transformative capacities for market access, livestock health services, and optimal use of rangeland through improved governance around land use. The combined result will be improved knowledge and learning on livestock productivity and market competitiveness in Karamoja, feeding squarely into many of the prioritized dimensions of the Feed the Future Learning Agenda, providing data driven learning to prioritized research questions with relevance to Karamoja but also applicable across pastoral areas currently facing similar challenges. Outcomes from the Livestock and Market Strengthening in Karamoja pilot will inform policy dialogue and reform as well as design of future livestock sector support activities financed by donors and the Government of Uganda that will drive economic growth and improved household and community resilience.

During the October to December 2015 period, GHG hired the overall manager of the pilot program (Livestock Advisor) and five of the six pilot staff including two Livestock Production Officers, a Livestock Marketing Officer, a Poultry Officer and a Veterinary Officer. Four of these staff, including the Livestock Advisor, are based in Moroto while the remaining two staff are based in Kotido. An Agricultural Economist is currently being recruited.

These staff began work in November/December and successfully conducted the first quarterly meeting with RWANU partners WHH, Concern and ACDI/VOCA, as well as district and sub county stakeholder consultation meetings in Kotido and Kaabong to introduce the Livestock Sector Pilot to local government. At these meetings, two sub-counties were selected as focal points within each district. Furthermore, two parishes were then selected within each sub-county (please see table 1 below). This selection was made by the communities, but was based on criteria developed by GHG. Input from RWANU led GHG to select sub-counties in Amudat and Nakapiripit where WHH is not focused on livestock production activities. Similar community meetings are planned for Amudat, Nakapiripit and Moroto in the second quarter. GHG also developed its baseline survey for both livestock production and human nutrition during the first quarter and hopes to implement the survey in February 2016, barring potential disruptions from the pending elections.

Table 1: Geographical focus of the Livestock Sector Pilot

District	Sub-County	Parishes	Status
Kotido	Kacheri	Kacheri	Confirmed by Community
		Lokiding	“
	Rengen	Nakwakwa	“
		Lopuyo	“
Kaabong	Lolelia	Lolelia	“
		Kaimese	“
	Kalapata	Kalapata	“
		Lotim	“
Nakapiripit	Namalu	TBD	Community meeting scheduled for February for parish selection

		TBD	“
	Nabilatuk	TBD	“
		TBD	“
Amudat	Amudat	TBD	“
		TBD	“
	Karita	TBD	“
		TBD	“
Moroto	NA	NA	“

GHG initiated its Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS) process as planned, conducting the kick-off meeting in December 2015. The STRESS is a relatively new methodology for applying a resilience lens to strategy development and long-term program design. It builds an understanding of the dynamic social, ecological and economic systems within which communities are embedded. During the kick-off meeting, a team of stakeholder identified the environment, social, health and economic sectors as the key drivers of resilience, or lack thereof. GHG then initiated a range of investigations and workshops that will guide the STRESS process throughout the next quarter. This process is being supported by GHG staff, international and local consultants, stakeholders and partners, well as by Mercy Corps’ Director of Environment, Energy and Climate Technical Support Unit, David Nicholson.

Together with GIZ and the Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), GHG is leading a group of fourteen local and international organizations to conduct a participatory grazing area and land use mapping that will provide information on existence and size of grazing areas in the region, locate concentration of grazing areas, corridors and routes, map out conflicts and hot spot areas of conflicts to influence livestock development policies throughout Karamoja and perhaps other pastoral areas, and possibly inform pastoralist-centered advocacy activities. The mapping activity will begin its field work in March in order to avoid disruptions due to the Ugandan election period (National and local elections are scheduled for mid to late February). It will identify, demarcate and document livestock grazing areas, conflicts and migratory routes in and around Karamoja.

In addition, GHG completed the scope of work for FIC to complement this activity by conducting an in-depth study of the drivers, barriers and accompanied decision-making from a gendered and livelihood lens--associated with pastoral grazing and livestock production patterns in Karamoja. The study will examine four agro-pastoral communities, two in northern and two in southern Karamoja. The FIC field work is scheduled to begin in the end of February, 2016.

GHG’s new Livestock Advisor also conducted a cross-visit to the PRIME project that conducts livestock development and resilience programming in the pastoral areas of Ethiopia, funded by USAID’s Feed the Future. The PRIME program operates in a more developed setting in comparison to Karamoja, yet the natural resources are similar and the lessons learned are relevant. In additional to learning about the methods used by the PRIME project, GHG also learned about specific interventions that may hold promise for GHG, such as the livestock market linkages and fodder production activities. GHG’s COP also met with the PRIME COP to

discuss additional exchange visits and a general framework to increase information flow between the two programs.

Upcoming activities for the Livestock Sector Pilot will include conducting the grazing mapping activity, STRESS process, completing community selection, conducting the baseline assessment, developing a community-specific work plan, and initiating livestock development activities in the pilot communities, and other activities as defined in the current implementation plan.

4. Construction Status

GHG is engaged in multiple construction activities that complement its programming related to SO1 and SO2. These activities are progressing well, with two facilities completed during the 1st quarter and the remaining facilities are anticipated to be completed during the upcoming quarter. GHG employs a team of ten qualified engineers who are ensuring that these facilities are all constructed to a high standard that meets Ugandan standards, as well as USAID environmental standards including waste disposal. GHG recently incorporated incinerators and other waste disposal components to ensure that USAID environmental standards are fully met.

#	Construction Facility	Status	Planned Completion
1	Abim - Amita opd	Completion of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
2	Abim - Alerek maternity ward	Completion of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
3	Abim - Nyakwae maternity ward	Completion of walling and roofing	2 nd Quarter 2016
4	Abim - Students house	Completion of walling and roofing	2 nd Quarter 2016
5	Kaabong - Students house	Completion of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
6	Kaabong - Lobalangit maternity ward	Completion of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
7	Kaabong - Toroi maternity ward	Completion of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
8	Kaabong - Kaimese maternity ward	Construction of walling	2 nd Quarter 2016
9	Kotido - Construction of staff house napumpum	Completion of all works –handover planned for january 2016	1 st Quarter
10	Kotido - Construction of slaughter house	Completion of all works – handover planned for january 2016	1 st Quarter
11	Kotido - Apalopus opd	Completion of walling, roofing,	2 nd Quarter 2016
12	Kotido - Napumpum construction of maternity ward	Walling completed	2 nd Quarter 2016
13	Kotido - Nakapelimoru construction of maternity ward	Walling completed	2 nd Quarter 2016
14	Kotido- Health center iv Construction of students house	Walling completed	2 nd Quarter 2016
15	Kotido - Kacheri- lobalangit road	Gravel works km 24+000- km 36+000 Culverts installation 14 lines @ 7m of 600 mm dia. From km 28+000- km 36+000	2 nd Quarter 2016

5. Updates by Strategic Objective

SO1: Livelihoods Strengthened

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

The GHG program strengthens agricultural livelihoods that depend on both crop and livestock production. Within the livestock category, GHG works with cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, while the crop-sector work focuses on agro-input dealers, farm extension services and food commodity traders. In addition, GHG has included honey production as a value chain for the Ik community who do not have viable economic opportunities with other livestock.

Table 2: IR 1.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Performance	
			Year to Date	Comment
9. Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.	8000	1252	1252	On-track: Planting season begins in 3 rd quarter
10. Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.	56	69	69	Exceeded target due to apprentice CAHW program (52 CAHWs)
11. Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.	750	61	62	On track: Planting season begins in 3 rd quarter
13. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training.	3000	52	52	On track: Extension activities will ramp up in 2 nd quarter
15. Number of female-owned businesses included in stockiest/agent/distribution networks supported by GHG	30	19	19	On track: Result is mostly from female CAHWs
17. Kilometers of roads improved or constructed	8	4	4	28 km was completed in the previous year. On track: Construction is on-going

Commodity Trade

GHG up-scaled its former commodity trade support activities to improve food security following a 70% crop failure throughout Karamoja during the April to September 2015 cropping period. In both Kotido and Kaabong, GHG executed agreements with seven (7) local commodity traders (Kotido 3, Kaabong 4) (3 male, 3 female, 1 group-owned) to enable them to aggregate their orders of maize, sorghum and other staple commodities, and to sell the commodities in both the town centers as well as villages at a controlled price that corresponds to regular market pricing yet prevents opportunistic price gouging due to the crop failure. GHG subsidizes a portion of the commodity price (~ 20% depending on the commodity), transport cost, and rental fees for fourteen community grain stores (Kotido 5, Kaabong 9) where the village-based commodities will be sold. The first order of 16.67 MT of maize was delivered in late January, with 98% sold in the local communities in the following 2 weeks. A second order of 18.34 MT is awaiting delivery. Repeated rounds of shipments will continue based on market demand and program resources. Coupled with this, GHG will continue to build the business capacity of the local commodity traders to manage their businesses effectively and efficiently through record keeping, market linkages and access to credit.

Crop Production & Marketing

The FEWSNET projection for the 2016 planting season are favorable for Karamoja based on higher than average El Nino rains. GHG made several preparations for the upcoming planting season during the quarter, including preparation of training and educational materials, selection of twenty two (22) agricultural extension workers (AEWs), and recruiting a Kaabong-based Assistant Agronomist. The AEWs will provide consistent and practical messaging to target farmers, primarily women, to help them adopt climate-smart cropping techniques that improve their household food security.

GHG also began work with the Karamoja Zonal Agricultural research center (NabuZARDI) to identify seed varieties that are resilient and productive within the Karamoja context for multiplication within northern Karamoja in the 2016 cropping year. GHG is targeting the priority crops of sorghum, maize and legumes which are available as locally-adapted foundation stock through NabuZARDI. Together with ACDI-VOCA and GIZ, GHG made plans to work closely with the research center to support its seed multiplication and agricultural extension activities.

In the coming quarter, GHG will focus on training the AEWs and agrodealers on safe pesticide use and handling, as well as to initiate activities for the cropping season that will begin in April

Gardening & Vegetable Production

Several communities, bolstered by GHG's mother care group permagardening initiative, have started large permagardens at the site of community boreholes to increase vegetable production. GHG staff are highlighting the growth of these gardens among other mother care groups



and water user committees to encourage greater uptake of these activities.

Vegetable garden at Loperu.

Livestock Production & Marketing

Animal Health Services

With improved peace and security in Karamoja, livestock kraals continue to disband, which means that the dispersed livestock require a larger number of community animal health workers and veterinary drug shops to provide the same level of service and coverage. To address this, GHG identified and trained 52 youth (aged 18-26 years) to become apprentice community animal health workers (CAHWs) and work alongside senior CAHWs in an apprentice veterinary service delivery program. This is in addition to the 128 CAHWs trained and equipped by GHG in 2015, who continue to provide services to farmers. [The apprenticeship period is 6 months upon which a performance evaluation will be conducted by a Senior CAHW, District Veterinary Officer and GHG Veterinary.](#)

[Sex and location disaggregation of Apprentice CAHWs](#)

District	Female	Male	Total
Abim	3	9	12
Kaabong	19	9	28
Kotido	3	9	12

To improve access to veterinary drug shops (agrovets), GHG began working with two additional agrovets in Kaabong during the quarter: the Dodoth Farmers Animal Drug Shop (DOFADs) and Amaikori drug shop. This brings the number of GHG-supported drug shops to six (6) in northern Karamoja, who served 834 farmers and CAHWs during the quarter with improved access to quality drugs, veterinary and farm extension advisory services. GHG provides the agrovets with [training on records keeping, financial management, business planning, marketing strategies and customer care to improve and inform their business decision making.](#) In addition, GHG helps the agrovets establish business linkages with livestock drug supply companies.

The six (6) month herd health pilot successfully ended in September, positioning GHG and private sector partners (Norbrook Ltd, Quality Chemicals Ltd, and Eram Ltd) to scale the pilot to 20 kraals and 1,500 farmers. The pilot provided evidence that livestock farmers in northern Karamoja are willing and able to pay for preventative livestock drugs once they understand their use and have personally observed their effectiveness. The diseases addressed during the pilot includes trypanosomiasis, tick-borne diseases, and also endoparasites (worms).

To strengthen poultry production, GHG trained 94 poultry vaccinators in poultry production systems and household decision making related to poultry production and marketing. The vaccinators will disseminate this information to farmers during routine vaccinations and advisory service extensions. Also, local agrovets are now beginning to stock I-2 thermo-stable vaccines

delivered by Quality chemicals at factory price, and vaccinators can access them with in some areas of Karamoja. Since December, vaccinators have reached 278 farmers (66% women) and vaccinated 4,956 Chicken, Turkeys and Ducks, at a cost of UGX100-200 per bird, against Newcastle disease to prevent flock mortalities and increase production and productivity. The current vaccination exercise will end in January 2016.

Honey Production

The Ik- community in Kamion County of Kaabong district is one of the more marginalized communities in Karamoja, with limited or no livestock or cropping activities, although they have a promising potential for honey production. In preparation for engaging the Ik to improve their honey production and marketing, GHG conducted a baseline assessment to understand their bee keeping practices, and honey production potentials, opportunities and challenges. The field data is now being analyzed and will be used to design a new GHG intervention in the upcoming quarter. Progress and interventions will be reported in the next quarterly report.

Meat, Hides and Skins Market Development

GHG partnered with Uganda Leather and Allied Industries Association (ULAIA) to strengthen hides and skins value chains in Kotido and Kaabong. ULAIA is a national umbrella body that brings together all key players and stakeholders in Uganda's hides and skins industry including skimmers, local hide dealers, buyers, abattoirs, tanneries and exporters. In partnership with ULAIA, GHG trained thirty (30) skimmers and hide dealers in proper animals flaying, production of quality hides and skins, hide and skin preservation, storage and marketing, formation of a hides and skins association and utilization of damaged hides and skins.

In the coming quarter, GHG will conduct a meat handling and hygiene training for butchers, slaughter house workers to improve sanitary practices that improve meat quality. GHG will also launch the newly renovated slaughter house in the upcoming quarter now that the construction is nearly complete.

Fuel Efficient Cook Stoves

GHG helped five local businesses to access and establish retail channels for fuel efficient stoves with the national fuel efficient stove manufacturer African Energy Solutions. All the retailers aggregated their demand to receive 251 stoves which they will sell to local communities on market terms. GHG also provided the retailers with basic business management training on record keeping and marketing.



Mr. Samson of Kotido with his new stoves in front of his shop.

GHG also began the recruitment of a consultant to conduct an assessment of locally available renewable resources for biomass energy briquette manufacture and to train 28 local entrepreneurs in the manufacture and marketing of briquettes. The briquettes will be made from locally available waste products, such as cassava peelings and groundnut stems, which are a direct substitute for charcoal. The consultancy will be conducted in the upcoming quarter.

IR1.2 Business investment environment stabilized

GHG is continuously strengthening the activities of financial institutions and business organizations in northern Karamoja to stabilize the business investment environment. In this regard, GHG is working with a number of stakeholders, from community based financial services such as SACCOs, VSLAs, district level departments and other implementing not-for-profit organizations.

Table 1: IR 1.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter		
			Year to Date	Comment
12. Value of agricultural and rural loans (USD)	90,000	39,437	39,437	On track
14. Number of MSME's receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (including farmers).	700	126	126	Figure is underestimated due to a lack of disaggregation of group loans. This will be corrected in Q2.
16. Number of MSME's, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG-assisted sources.	170	58	58	On track
18. Business Confidence Index	70	na	Na	Index is measured once in year in August
19. Percent of Chamber of Commerce chapter members who are female	45%	0	0	1 st membership dues will be collected in the 2nd quarter
20. Number of Karamojong-language weekly business shows produced on a cost recovery	0 FY15 target	0	0	Activities underway to meet FY15 (LOA) target of 3

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter		
			Year to Date	Comment
basis as a result of USG assistance.	of 3 not reached			
21. Number of communities with early warning and response systems working effectively	19	0	0	On track: plans are currently being developed based on training provided in Q1
22. Number of people trained in disaster preparedness as a result of USG assistance	135	76	76	On track

* Shaded rows indicate an area of focus in the upcoming quarter.

Financial Access and Enterprise Development

One of the largest constraints for Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) to increase their lending activities is a lack of capital. To address this constraint, GHG worked with the Microfinance Support Centre and three of its partner SACCOs to examine opportunities for wholesale financing. Lokitelaebu, Thur and Kitogogong SACCOs met with Microfinance Support Center and discussed their wholesale financing needs. Kitogogong successfully negotiated a loan for 20 million Uganda Shillings (~\$5,900), while negotiations with Thur SACCO are ongoing. The SACCOs will use these funds to on-lend to their members, making a profit that will sustain the SACCOs operations.

GHG conducted training for its seven partner SACCOs during the quarter. Kitogogong and Thur SACCOs participated in a second training on the Management Information System (MIS) platform installed by Future Link Technologies last year. The training will enable them to accurately digitize their records and manage the data. The Financial Access team also met with Future Link Technologies about piloting MTN mobile banking with SACCOs currently utilizing the MIS platform. The registration of SACCOs with M-SACCO would enable the SACCO's clients to make deposits and withdraw money from their mobile phone without entering the SACCO branch. This would greater extend the SACCO's reach to rural underserved communities and the majority-women run Village Savings and Loan (VSLA) groups banking with the SACCO.

The SACCOs also participated in a two-day workshop with Uganda Credit and Savings Cooperative Union (UCSCU) to review their successes and challenges in 2015 and to develop operational plans for 2016. Each of the seven GHG partner SACCOs created an annual work plan with monthly targets in areas of marketing, product development and refinement,

governance and membership development and retention. The SACCOs committed to present their work plans to their Board of Directors for approval in January 2016.

Next quarter, GHG will work with Future Link Technologies to install MIS platforms at two additional SACCOs to improve financial record management.

GHG also conducted a training of trainers on business planning and business development in October 2015. The multi-sectoral training included District Business Forum executive members, Agrodealers, Hand Pump Mechanics, SACCO staff and a local youth leader. The fourteen (14) selected trainers will now cascade the training to members in their respective sectors. Each trainer made a commitment to train 50 individuals, with the goal of reaching 700 business owners with financial and business education in the region by April 2016.

The 1st Annual Moroto Agricultural Trade Fair was conducted during the quarter. GHG facilitated the attendance of Agrodealers, Business Forum leaders and SACCO managers from Kotido, Abim and Kaabong to participate in the event. Agrodealers met with wholesale seed companies and irrigation companies to learn about their products and explore possible supply relationships. The Business Forum Leaders of Kotido, Abim and Kaabong volunteered at the Trade Fair throughout the week with other Karamoja Business Forum Leaders. They also attended a Trade Fair debrief and planning meeting for the upcoming year.

The Kotido Business Forum conducted two outreach events for business owners this quarter. The first outreach registered 140 business owners interested in joining the Forum. A total of 82% of the outreach meeting attendees were women. The Kotido Business Forum with support of GHG Gender and Financial Access teams, held a workshop in Kotido with 74 business women to identify their needs as businesses owners and the support the Kotido Business Forum can provide. The key needs identified by women business owners are: knowledge and support in accessing capital for their businesses, access to market information, and a body to lobby for policies that support business growth in their community. The Abim Business Forum also held an outreach to 42 women business owners.

Early Warning and Response

In partnership with ACTED and BRACED, Sub-county disaster management committees (SDMCs) were reconstituted and trained in national disaster policy, early warning systems, membership roles and responsibilities. A total of 76 community development officers (CDOs), sub-county chiefs, parish chiefs, CAOs and district disaster management committee (DDMC) secretaries were trained. The training is expected to lead to the formation of SDMCs and strengthen early warning systems, information collection, analysis and dissemination to farmers to mitigate risks and shocks and build resilient communities.

SO2: Nutritional Status among Children under Five Improved

GHG's activities for MCHN, WASH and Supplementary Food Distribution are implemented by Mercy Corps, World Vision and WHAVE Uganda. Quarter 1 saw significant expansion of activities with the scale up of behavior change interventions to 11 additional sub-counties and the

introduction of WHAVE Uganda, which is focused on water safety and sustainable water point maintenance.

Initial progress indicates that GHG is on track to meet the FY16 Indicator Performance targets for SO2 activities, with the noted exception of certifying ODF communities.

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

GHG increases access to public health care resources to improve maternal and child health services as part of the prevention of malnutrition for children under two approach (PM2A).

Table 3: IR 2.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Performance	
			Year to Date	Comment
35 Number of government health staff trained in planning and management of health facilities.	59	0	0	Pending the arrival of HMIS II forms for facilities
36. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs.	7,664	2,856	2,856	Trainings are counted cumulatively; on track to reach annual target.
37. Number of VHTs consistently attending monthly review and mentoring meetings supported by USG.	520	157	157	Meetings are duplicative of the work of other IPs. Propose to focus on capacity building through other means.

* Shaded rows indicate GHG focal areas in the upcoming quarter.

Public Health Care Sector Capacity Building

Year four activities are focused on improved governance of health resources and construction of facility infrastructure. In FY15, the program introduced the Citizen Report Card (CRC) intervention at district and sub-county level. The CRC is designed to increase accountability of health resources and increase demand for health services. It works through a series of dialogues between the facility staff and community members, clarifies rights and responsibilities within the health sector, and results in joint action plans for improvement.

Dialogues are driven by facility-specific data that reflects gaps and successes in facility performance as compared to district averages. The quarter focused on data collection with facility surveys completed at all 60 public health centers II and III. In addition, 1,225 community level surveys were completed in Abim and Kotido. Kaabong community surveys and data analysis will continue into Quarter 2. Reports will be generated for each facility, reflecting both community and facility views. These reports form the basis of the dialogues and will be shared with local government and implementing partners in the region for advocacy and coordination purposes.

Significant progress was made in the construction of health facilities during the quarter. The staff house at Napumpum Health Center II was handed over to the local government. The

handover was celebrated by the local community, RDC, and LC5 Vice Chairperson. Remaining structures have all been walled and are in various stages of roofing. Sites are being closely supervised to ensure compliance with tree planting and waste requirements. Handover of all facilities is expected in Quarter 2.

During the quarter, GHG also conducted a follow up of equipment handed over to districts in FY14 and FY15. Equipment has been effectively used, with particularly high impact from the maternity beds and stethoscopes. Clinical staff reported increases in health center deliveries as a result of the maternity sets and increases in case detection of pneumonia in children through use of stethoscopes. Agnes Okuda, midwife of Lopuyo Health Center II noted,

Nurse Agnes Okuda with the delivery bed provided through GHG support.

received this equipment most of the women used to deliver at home but with the availability of the equipment, there has been an increase in the number of women attending antenatal care. As a result the number of deliveries at the facility has greatly

increased from one delivery in May to ten in June, 23 in July, 24 in August, and 33 in September 2015. Mothers are able to deliver at the facility without having to go to Health Center III and the issue of mothers delivering on the way to HCIII is unheard off now days since services have been brought near to the community.”

Training of health facility staff on the updated health management information system (HMIS) reporting tools is still pending the provision of HMIS forms at the facility level. GHG remains committed to cascade training of the revised HMIS tools only when all the required HMIS tools have been supplied to the health facilities by the Ministry of Health and continued to advocate together with Baylor and CUAMM/UNICEF for these tools at relevant forums. The availability of these tools is essential to the sustainable functioning of the health system and requires national level commitment.



GHG strengthens the capacity of VHTs to deliver health services in their capacity as the health center one. Within the quarter, VHTs were trained on essential nutrition and hygiene actions through infancy as a part of the mother care group approach. Additionally, VHT review meetings were conducted in Abim with a total of 157 VHTs (64 females 93 males) participating. Kaabong and Kotido districts were unable to hold the meetings due to commitments from other agencies.

Attempts to coordinate nutrition meetings for VHTs with CUAMM, CAfH and IRC have not gained traction due to the limitations in budget flexibility among partners. In light of this, GHG plans to discontinue VHT coordination meetings. VHTs are currently overburdened through the separate coordination

meetings, while partners already discuss nutrition outcomes and ICCM functionality at three meetings per month (IRC, CUAMM, CAfH). In addition, GHG engages VHTs on a monthly basis in nutrition related training as part of the MCG approach. Phasing out VHT coordination meetings will reduce duplication of activities at field level.

Immunization Outreaches at Food Distribution Points (FDPs)

Food Distribution Points (FDPs), where the project's supplementary feeding beneficiaries converge every month, provide an opportunity for taking health services closer to the community using the outreach model. During this quarter, the project continued supporting immunization outreaches at FDPs. A total of 1280 children were immunized, 1889 received de-worming and Vitamin A supplementation. In addition, 490 mothers received Tetanus Toxoid vaccination.

Table 4: Summary of the number of children immunized during outreaches conducted

Antigen	Children <5 years		Total
	M	F	
BCG	11	9	20
POLIO 0	10	9	19
POLIO 1	75	51	126
POLIO 2	76	60	136
POLIO 3	67	54	121
DPT 1	75	55	130
DPT 2	77	73	150
DPT 3	73	51	124
PCV 1	72	36	108
PCV 2	78	57	135
PCV3	70	58	128
Measles	54	29	83
Total	738	542	1280

Table 5: De-worming and supplementation summary data for the quarter

Item	Age group	Not segregated by sex
Vitamin A supplementation	Children 6-59 months who received 1 st or 2 nd dose in the year	728
De-wormers	Children <14 years	1161
	Total	1889

Table 6: TT vaccination summary data for the quarter

Category	TT1	TT2	TT3	TT4	TT5	Total
Non-Pregnant Mothers	126	51	11	10	0	198
Pregnant Mothers	99	72	65	31	25	292
Total	225	123	76	41	25	490

IR 2.2 Increased consumption of nutritious foods for households

GHG promotes nutrition education and food production training to Mother Care Groups (MCGs) to improve household food production, food utilization and dietary diversity.

Table 7: IR 2.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Year to Date	
			Year to Date	Comment
44. Number of households adopting 3 or more improved gardening/poultry production practices promoted by the project	150	381	381	El nino weather was favorable for establishment of perma-gardens.
45. Number of mother care groups supported by USG assistance	245	216	216	Remaining Care Groups to be identified in quarter 2
46. Number of children 6-23 months receiving PM2A rations, disaggregated by sex	9,116	6,290	6,290	Behind target
47. Number of PLW receiving rations	5,158	4,064	4,064	Behind target
48. Number of individuals receiving a protection ration, disaggregated by sex	53,041	0	0	Protection rations were not scheduled for 1 st quarter but will begin in 2 nd quarter
49. Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs	20,009	18,869	18,869	Protection rations starting in January will include children aged 3 and 4.

* Shaded rows indicate GHG focal areas in the upcoming quarter

Mother Care Groups (MCGs)

During the quarter, Mercy Corps scaled up mother care groups to the 11 sub-counties of Kaabong and Kotido that were not yet reached with MCHN behavior change messaging, including 7 sub-counties in Kaabong (Kaabong East, Kaabong West, Kaabong Town Council, Kalapata, Karenga, Lobalangit and Sidok) and 4 in Kotido (Kotido Town Council, Kotido sub-county, Rengen and Kacheri). In October, 11 new staff were oriented to the program and trained on behavior change approaches and communication skills, through an adapted curricula based on the CORE Group Make Me a Change Agent training. Immediately, community meetings commenced to elect leader mothers. Coverage was limited to 38 of 44 parishes in Kaabong and 8 of 13 parishes in Kotido (80% of parishes) to ensure a high quality supervision ratio of staff (1 field staff: 15 groups). Targeting focused on parishes with the highest GAM prevalence, with most town council parishes and unsettled migratory communities excluded. At the time of the report, 110 groups were newly formed, however, in January formation was completed and we now have a total of 125 newly established care groups reaching 1,278 new lead mothers and 13,367 new neighbor women. Combined with the pre-existing network (inclusive of promoters, leader mothers, and neighbor women) GHG now reaches more than 25,000 caregivers with behavior change information through the care group approach.

Geographic coverage of newly initiated Mother Care Groups (MCG)

Sub-county	No. New MCGs	No. New LMs	No. New NWs
Kaabong District	69	707	7,449

Kaabong East	5	54	585
Kaabong West	13	126	1,310
Kaabong TC	2	19	192
Kalapata	18	201	2110
Karenga	11	118	1,293
Lobalangit	7	71	745
Sidok	13	118	1,214
Kotido District	56	571	5,918
Kacheri	17	167	1,757
Kotido Sub-county	14	143	1,508
Kotido TC	4	42	509
Rengen	21	219	2,144

After community election meetings, staff held follow up discussions with lead mothers and promoters to introduce the program, gain consent from lead mothers and their partners, and to engage in participatory neighbor women mapping. Numbers were verified by the VHT, ensuring 100% coverage of PLWs and households with children under two in MCG communities. During November and December, 110 care groups (1,100 leader mothers) were identified and oriented. Combined with the World Vision Care groups, this brings the total number of Care Groups to 216, with a few additional care groups expected in Quarter 2 as identification is completed in January.

As a part of new staff orientation, Mercy Corps partnered with the Kotido District Health Officer to provide training on Essential Nutrition and Hygiene Actions based on the updated CORE Group Curricula. This training standardized knowledge among new staff regarding nutrition and hygiene interventions and strengthened our relationship with the local health office. Seventeen (17) staff (14 Mercy Corps, 3 World Vision) participated.

World Vision care groups focused on the roll out of Module 3: Essential nutrition, hygiene and care during infancy. Module 3 has ten lessons: Exclusive Breastfeeding (1), Proper Positioning and Attachment to the Breast (2), Increasing Breast Milk Supply (3), Complementary Feeding for Children Under 1 Year (4), Complementary Feeding for Children 1-2 Years (5), Hygienic Food Preparation and Handling (6), Danger Signs during Childhood Illness (7) Feeding during Illness (8), Identification of Undernutrition (9), Growth Monitoring (10).

Roll out of lessons began with the orientation of the promoters across the three districts. Kotido is ahead of the other districts because it oriented the promoters on module 3 much earlier (in Q4 of FY 15). However, by the last month of this reporting quarter, all districts finished orienting promoters. In summary, 99 CGs were trained on lesson 1, 95 CGs were trained on lesson 2 and 47 CGs were trained on lesson 3. In total, 2,742 lead mothers were trained on positive breastfeeding behaviors. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 8: MCG Module 3 Lesson Roll-out

Module 3	Lesson 1		Lesson 2		Lesson 3		Total
District	# CGs	# LMs	# CGs	# LMs	# CGs	# LMs	# LMs
Abim	20	215	20	219	-	-	-
Kaabong	32	334	28	282	-	-	-
Kotido	47	564	47	564	47	564	-
Total	99	1113	95	1065	47	564	2,742

Table 9: Number of LMs and Promoters trained on module 3

Category	Male	Female	Total
Promoters	93	21	114
Lead Mothers(LM)	-	2742	2742
Total	93	2763	2856

During the last two quarters, GHG’s primary MCG focus has been on quality assurance to improve outcomes. As a result, some care groups with low numbers were merged in late 2015, and in this quarter, two groups in Kaabong were dropped from the program. Due to security and terrain difficulties, the team was not able to consistently engage with the groups resulting in long gaps between lessons and low interest of the mothers. As the situation is not expected to change, the groups were dropped, bringing World Vision Care Group numbers from 108 to 106.

Male Change Agents (MCAs)

GHG barrier analysis results indicate that men have significant influence on the uptake of the key behaviors promoted under SO2. GHG addresses male involvement and support through the role model MCA program. During the quarter, GHG scaled MCA activities, focusing on identification and election of MCAs in the Mercy Corps expansion zones. A total of 500 MCAs (4 per care group) were identified in the new zones. Quarter 2 will focus on training of new MCAs and follow up of existing MCAs. Under World Vision, there are 208 MCAs spread across Kotido and Kaabong. During the quarter, World Vision conducted a census of MCA knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) in Kaabong. The survey was designed to provide a standard for comparative measurement for intervention impact. It was also used to provide guidance for training rollout, allowing us to build on existing knowledge. There were some striking findings:

- Strong awareness (75%) among men of appropriate need for 4 ANC visits for pregnant women
- High self-reported support for joint decision making around ideal family size (92%)
- Low acceptability of condom use in married relationships (39%)
- High prevalence of physical violence over a quarter (34%)
- High social acceptability of pro-violence attitudes- 74% believe there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten

A total of 60 World Vision MCAs were mobilized and trained in Kaabong on Lessons 1-8 of Module 1. The three day MCA training included MCAs and their partners and was designed to encourage critical thinking around concepts of equality, gender and power in a participatory and positive manner. At the end of the training, MCAs make action plans with specific commitments to adapt their behaviors. Common areas of action that the MCAs generated included:

- ✓ Construction of the sanitary facilities at household level. (Latrine, bathing shelters, drying racks and rubbish pits)
- ✓ Embracing and practicing joint decision making.
- ✓ Household chore sharing with partners e.g. cooking, fetching water/firewood, sweeping compound, washing clothes and utensils.
- ✓ Encouraging and supporting their spouses to attend ANC during pregnancy.
- ✓ Supporting their spouses with savings for health facility deliveries.

During the quarter, World Vision conducted 114 household follow ups of MCAs, with a goal to increase follow up frequency in Quarter 2. Follow-ups are designed to provide support to the couple in achieving their action plans. It is expected that behavior change in these areas will contribute to the reduction in undernutrition by addressing one of the basic causes of undernutrition--gender inequality (women's time poverty, decision making control, etc).

Community Dialogues

GHG conducted 307 community dialogues in the quarter in Kotido (36) and Kaabong (271). The dialogues encourage critical thinking around behaviors promoted by the program. They are participatory and result in community action plans to address harmful behaviors.

A total of 9,455 individuals were reached during the quarter through dialogues. Among the audiences reached there were 2,995 men, 3,365 youth, 1,621 mothers in law and 1,514 opinion leaders such as elders and religious leaders (numbers not mutually exclusive).

During the quarter, Media Africa was hired to develop video clips that will be used to enhance community dialogues. The firm filmed content in Karamoja and initiated the editing process, with production expected later in the year.

Supplementary Food Distribution

Three cycles of supplementary food distribution (October, November and December 2015) were conducted across three districts during the quarter. The total tonnage distributed during the quarter was 145.797MT out of the projected 181.983 MT representing 80% achievements. This brings the total tonnage distributed since the inception of the program to 5,938.872 MT. In addition to the food distribution exercise, community mobilization, new beneficiary registration, community sensitization, verification and photo taking was carried out in all the 37 FDP's.

Table 9: Summary of commodities distributed

Beneficiary Category	Tonnage Distributed from April 2013 to December 2015 (MT)	Tonnage Handled during the Quarter (MT)	Total tonnage distributed – Inception to date
Children Under 2 Yrs.	534.014	55.488	589.502
Pregnant Women	563.301	58.881	622.182
Lactating Mothers	365.01	31.428	396.438
Protection ration	4,330.745	0	4,330.75
Total MT	5,766.07	145.797	5,938.872

The number of primary beneficiaries was lower in October than November. This was a result of the verification and registration process in Kotido districts, which carried forward the distribution of supplementary food in 10 FDPs into November 2015 cycle. The lower beneficiary numbers in December were due to the strict enforcement of policies that prohibit proxy beneficiaries, food distribution without an identification card, and also stricter time limitations that enable distributions to take place before noon.

Table 10: Summary of beneficiaries served

Month Cycle	Primary Beneficiaries						Protection Ration Beneficiaries			Grand Total
	CU2			Pregnant & Lactating Women			3 Years and above			
	Boys	Girls	Total	PM	LM	Total	M	F	Total	
Oct-15	2,533	2,475	5,008	2,210	1,005	3,215	0	0	0	8,223
Nov-15	4,149	3,992	8,141	3,582	1,568	5,150	0	0	0	13,291
Dec-15	2,923	2,797	5,720	2,219	1,608	3,827	0	0	0	9,547
Total	9,605	9,264	18,869	8,011	4,181	12,192	0	0	0	31,061

Cumulatively, a total of 18,869 (9,605 boys and 9,264 girls), children under 5 years were reached with food during the quarter across the districts. This implies the monthly average of 6,290. . Similarly, a total cumulative of 12,192 pregnant women and lactating mothers were addressed with monthly average of 4,064.

Table 11: Summary of children under 5 years reached

Month	Primary Beneficiaries			Protection Ration		
	CU2			Children 3 - 5 years		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girl	Total
Oct-15	2,533	2,475	5,008	0	0	0
Nov-15	4,149	3,992	8,141	0	0	0
Dec-15	2,923	2,797	5,720	0	0	0
Total	9,605	9,264	18,869	0	0	0

IR 2.3 Reduced incidence of diarrhea diseases among children

GHG addresses sanitation and hygiene gaps in order to reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease, a contributing factor to undernutrition.

Table 12: IR 2.3 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Performance	
			Year to Date	Comment
53. Number of people gaining access to an improved drinking water source	8,250	0	0	On track: Pending borehole construction in quarters 2 and 3
55. Number of boreholes constructed or rehabilitated meeting water quality standards	11	0	0	Sites identified. Pending borehole construction in quarters 2 and 3
56. Number of gender-balanced water committees established and trained at each water point	11	0	0	11 committees have been identified, training pending successful drilling in their communities
57. Number of communities certified as "open defecation free"(ODF) as a result of USG assistance	10	0	0	CLTS strategy has been refined to increase ODF achievements in quarters 2 and 3
58. Number of improved toilets provided in institutional settings	5	0	0	Sites have been identified and construction to commence in quarter 2

* Shaded rows indicate GHG focal areas in the upcoming quarter.

Construction of new boreholes

In November, a GHG conducted needs assessment conducted with local government identified communities in need of a new boreholes and their willingness to make a community contribution. Beneficiary lists were finalized and communities were mentored on their capital cost contribution requirements. Of the 11 boreholes to be constructed in FY16, two will be constructed in Abim, three in Kotido and six in Kaabong. Temporary selections of water committees from the selected communities is ongoing pending confirmation of successful drilling in these locations.

Table 13: Summary of villages targeted for new water points

SN	Village/Community	Parish	Sub County	District
1	Namoniebu	Rekitai	Panyangara	Kotido
2	Natapar - aporon	Loposa	Panyangara	Kotido
3	Lotome	Rekitai	Panyangara	Kotido
4	Lateedepong	Potongor	Nakapelimoru	Kotido
5	Olem West ward	Loyoroit	Alerek	Abim
6	Oringa dinga	Loyoroit	Alerek	Abim
7	Itanyia	Kapedo	Kapedo	Kaabong
8	Puta	Morungole	Kamion	Kaabong
9	Lorendechora	Kapedo	Kapedo	Kaabong

10	Lemokiel	Naseperwia	Kawalakol	Kaabong
11	Lemogete	Lemogete	Kathile	Kaabong

Rehabilitation of Existing Boreholes

Operation and maintenance of existing boreholes remains a challenge, with capacity gaps at the local government, water user committee and hand pump mechanic levels. Addressing these gaps is critical for the long term sustainability of water access initiatives. GHG partner WHAVE was contracted in Quarter 1 to introduce a market based approach to addressing these gaps in the 11 new sub-counties of Kaabong and Kotido where Mercy Corps is conducting the MCG activities (i.e. where WV is not conducting WASH activities), with a long term vision for sustainable private sector led operations and maintenance. Activities in the quarter focused on start-up including assessments of existing water points, mapping of water stakeholders, discussions with local government leaders, and hiring of new staff. WHAVE will be launching operations in Quarter 2.

Abim Hand Pump Mechanics

GHG has been working with the Abim Hand Pump Mechanics Association (HPMA for the past several years to develop their capacity. This quarter, the Abim HPMA rehabilitated 13 boreholes in the areas of Abim Town Council, Alerek, Lotuke, Morulem, and Nyakwae sub-counties, and also assessed the functional status of various boreholes. The HPMA purchased 20 U2 galvanized borehole pipes to stock and resell, demonstrating a nascent sustainable business model. This helps bring parts closer to communities and facilitates repair of broken boreholes. The HPMA also assessed areas with service gaps, identifying the following areas as needing additional HPM's: Nyakwae, Alerek, and Morulem.

In the upcoming quarter, GHG will work with the Abim HPMA to conduct an outreach campaign on the operation, management and preventive maintenance of water points, and create awareness about the HPMA via radio programming. GHG is also developing plans for an apprentice HPM program that will train youth on borehole repair and help them become self-employed.

VIP Latrines in Schools

Five drainable VIP latrines will be constructed in FY16. Kotido and Abim will get one block each, while Kaabong district will take three (3) due to the larger number of schools present.

Table 14: List of schools to benefit from VIP latrines in FY2016

#	Name of School	District	Sub county	Parish
1	Opopong primary school	Abim	Nyakwae	Rogom
2	Nakapelimoru primary school	Kotido	Nakapelimoru	Watakao
3	Nachakunet primary school	Kaabong	Lolelia	Lolelia
4	Kawalakol primary school	Kaabong	Kawalakol	Kawalakol
5	Narengepak primary school	Kaabong	Kathile	Narengepak

Locations with VIP latrines installed in prior years have struggled to maintain water for handwashing. To address this, GHG installed Rain Water Harvesting Facilities in four schools

with GHG VIP latrines. This will address water needs during rainy season, while program staff are encouraging schools to include handwashing water in their budgets for the dry season.

During this first quarter GHG also trained the School Health Club at Oreta Primary School in Abim. A total of 16 pupils (10 boys and 6 girls) attended the training which was meant to introduce them to the operation and maintenance of the VIP latrines that were constructed in FY15.

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

During the quarter, GHG conducted a strategy review of CLTS implementation and increased cross-learning with other CLTS implementing partners. Team workloads were also restructured to allow staff to increase the frequency of community follow ups. In the quarter, 91 CLTS follow ups were conducted in the 67 triggered villages. One hundred and thirty three (133) new latrines were constructed by the communities and 129 latrines were still under construction within the reporting period. Follow ups were done jointly with the district and sub-county officials to increase government commitment to good sanitation. After early inclusion by World Vision, Kawalakol sub-county officials have demonstrated high commitment to CLTS, and are now conducting follow-ups on their own.

Table 15: Summary of CLTS follow up in 1st quarter of FY16

District	Follow up	New latrines	Under construction
Kotido	16	11	65
Kaabong	42	52	35
Abim	33	70	29
Total	91	133	129

Commodity Update

Out of the current called forward, GHG received 78.877 MT of vegetables oil from the Port of Dar es Salaam in the quarter. The remaining shipments are expected to arrive at the Lira warehouse by January 2016.

Table 16: Summary of Commodities Called Forward and Received Commodities

Food type	Call forward (MT)	Bill of lading Net amount (MT)	Received (MT)	Difference (CF Vs BL) MT
Lentils *	260	183.800	0	76.200
Cornmeal	730	730.125	0	0.125
Vegetable oil	140	140.007	78.877	0.007
CSB	220	218.775	0	-1.225
Total	1350	1348.907	78.877	75.107

NB: * The program is yet to receive bill of lading and commercial invoices for the balance of lentils.

To mitigate the effect of the drought, USAID approved distribution of protective ration beginning in January 2016. Accordingly, a second call forward for 800 MT of corn meal, 80 MT

of vegetable oil and 300 MT of lentils was approved. To fill the pipeline break of lentils for January 2016 distributions, the program received a loan of 49 MT of beans from WFP Uganda which will be repaid back when GHG receives the second call forward.

No internal loss occurred in the reporting quarter; however 22.045 Kg of vegetable oil was recorded as external transit loss between Lira and Dar es Salaam.

Commodity Fumigation

In compliance with USAID's pesticides procedures 22 CFR 216.3(b), and in line with the USAID Mission's approved PERSUAP (Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan), GHG developed the SUAP (Pesticide Safer Use Action Plan) in September 2015 which has been serving as a fumigation compliance tracking and reporting tool, as well as a pesticide use and handling plan.

In accordance with the approved SUAP, GHG conducted fumigation on October 2, 3, and 4 in Lira, Kotido, and Kaabong respectively. In addition on December 9th 2015, Lira primary warehouse was sprayed in preparation to receive new shipments for FY 2016. The program developed a Fumigation Management Plan (FMP) to ensure the safety of the applicators, the storage facility employees, the surrounding community, and the environment. The FMP was actively used to ensure effective fumigation.

Other SO2 Activities

- *Coordination*-In December, Mercy Corps joined implementing partners at a UNICEF/Dfid sponsored regional nutrition coordination meeting. While there, Mercy Corps advocated for greater transparency from UNICEF regarding the formation of District Nutrition Coordination Committees as well as regional nutrition policies. In addition, partners discussed strategies for improved coordination at regional and district level.
- *Program Influence*- GHG attended the 6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, a multi-nation event designed to intensify commitment to achieving key food security and nutrition goals. GHG highlighted its innovative approaches with the integrated care groups, permagardens and male engagement activities in the exhibition booth. The exhibition tent was viewed by key stakeholders from regional bodies, national government and other NGOs. The GHG project was shared with the Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development, NEPAD representatives from the African Union, as well as Rhoda Tumusiime, guest speaker and former AU commissioner
- *Local government capacity building*- GHG sponsored the Nutrition Focal Persons from Kotido and Kaabong local governments to attend the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security. The team were able to network with supportive stakeholders from other local government offices and implementing partners and increased their exposure to a range of best practices through presentations on various projects within the region.
- *Knowledge Sharing*- In November, GHG conducted an exchange visit with the GOAL Accountability Can Transform (ACT) Health Project out of Agago District. The ACT Health project serves as the basis for the GHG citizen report card intervention. The exchange visit allowed for identification of best practices, observation of both community

and facility level dialogues, exchange of M&E tools and dialogue posters. Most importantly, it established a relationship between the two agencies for continued learning on accountability for health with likely support from the GOAL team in future TOTs.

SO3:Reduced Incidences of Armed Conflict

IR3.1 Local Conflict Prevention and Management Systems Strengthened

GHG implements its SO3 – IR3.1 activities through two local partners: KAPDA and AWOTID. GHG strengthened both organization’s capacities to engage local structures in conflict mitigation and response, to develop the capacity of their own organizations, and also directly assisted them to conduct conflict mitigation activities as needed during the quarter.

Table 17: IR 3.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Performance	
			Year to Date	Comment
52. Number of reported incidents of armed conflict in the past 3 months.	14 (quarterly target)	12	12	Poor rains have increased pressure for scarce resources including from visiting Turkana (water points and grazing)
54. Percent of supported community structures that have successfully mitigated or resolved at least two community conflicts.	90%	14%	14%	Conflicts during Q1 were relatively larger cross-border conflicts which were primarily addressed by regional structures in Moroto.
55. Number of groups trained in conflict mediation/resolution skills or consensus-building techniques with USG assistance.	10	0	0	Activities are planned for the second quarter.
57. Number of consensus building forums held with USG assistance	18	26	26	Target exceeded due to increasing need
58. Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	240	26	26	Behind schedule. Corrective actions planned.

* Shaded rows indicate GHG focal areas in the second quarter.

Table 18: IR 3.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Annual Targets	Performance in the Quarter	Performance	
			Year to Date	Variance Explanation
60. Number of joint initiatives between youth organizations and strategic governance agencies.	9	1	1	
61. Number of young people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance.	270	52	52	Training focused on transferable skills.

KAPDA (Kaabong)

KAPDA implements strategic objective three of GHG in Kaabong district, covering fourteen sub-counties and working with 34 peace structure, 15 sub-county peace committees, 17 traditional authorities’ and 2 women groups – or a total of 585 peace actors.

During the quarter, KAPDA facilitated four security meetings to ensure peaceful co-existence between the Dodoth, Ik and Turkana communities in Kalapata, Loyoro and Kamion sub-counties. These meetings were attended by the LCV Chairpersons of Kotido and Kaabong, RDC Kaabong, Brigade Intelligence Officer -503 Brigade, LC 3 chairpersons of both districts and non-governmental organizations working in the district. The local communities were represented by the sub-county peace structures, youth, women and elders. All together 274 people (154 male, 120 female) attended the meetings with a total of 17 leaders involved.

These security meetings led to the following resolutions and results:

- The communities of Dodoth, Ik and Turkana resolved that there should be prompt reporting and follow up of incidences of theft of each other’s cattle to avoid further conflict and as a result of this, the following recoveries were made: **35** goats raided from the Ik community by the Turkana were recovered and handed over as a result of the work of the peace structures during the peace meetings; 165 heads of cattle that were raided in four different raids by the Turkana from the Dodoth, were handed back to the people of Kalapata during the security meeting of December 10, 2015.



- The meetings also fostered a partnership between the peace structures and the security agencies in responding to incidences of conflict and this already yielded fruit as KAPDA peace structures collectively responded to one of the reported cases and recoveries

were instantly made. This partnership is seen as key to facilitate a holistic response to conflict in and it has also improved information flow between the formal and informal structures seen in the fact that reported incidences now evolve from both the security agencies and also the peace structures.



Meeting of peace committees, military and KAPDA in Lodiko Kaabong.

During the quarter, KAPDA also facilitated meetings in 11 sub-county peace structures to verify the existence of all members and assess the representation of women. One of the outputs of the meetings was to restructure the peace structures to facilitate inclusion of youth and women in the membership of the peace structures. These meetings took place in Loyoro, Lodiko, Kaabong Town Council, Kaabong East, Kalapata, Kamion, Kathile, Kawalakol,

Lobalangit and Lolelia sub-counties.

A key finding of the assessment was that there has been a reversal in the gender balance of peace structures representatives. Limited participation by women and youth acts as an obstacle to peace, since they account for at least 60% of the population in conflict prone areas. Lack of access to these fora means that women and youth concerns remain unaddressed, and yet they bear the brunt of the consequences for continued conflict and food insecurity. Historically, youth have been excluded from peacebuilding meetings despite the fact that they are the principle perpetrators of violent crime and conflict. To address low levels of participation, KAPDA convened meetings to discuss the importance of women and youth participation on peace structures. As a result of these meetings, 24 adult women were added to the peace structures across 11 sub-counties, along with 15 male and 4 female youth.

To systematically address the issue of low levels of minority representation, KAPDA organized advocacy trainings in 8 sub-counties. The goal of the training was to equip sub-county and district officials, and peace committees, with the basic lobbying and advocacy skills needed to influence the review of the 2011 peace structure guidelines. Peace committee guidelines currently limit women and youth participation in these fora through exclusionary requirements. Training topics included: understanding vulnerability and the root causes of poverty; understanding the role of women and youth in conflict management and peacebuilding; the unequal representation of women and youth on peace committees; structural barriers to more equitable representation; and recommendations for restructuring GoU peace committee

guidelines. The trainings culminated in the development of an advocacy work plan for influencing the 2011 peace committee guidelines review so they are more inclusive. KAPDA is in a strong position to lead this process since it supported a more flexible use of the guidelines in the first year of the program, which resulted in a significant increase in the number of women representatives on peace committees.

KAPDA has also initiated activities to build women peace structure representatives' capacity. To do this, it convened 11 meetings targeting sub-county peace structures in 11 sub-counties across Kaabong district to assess women's leadership capacity and their support needs. In total, 394 people (124 females and 270 males) attended the meetings. The goal of the meetings was to engage peace structure representatives in a discussion about the gaps that prevent women leaders' contributions to peace structures and ideas for how their participation can be strengthened. A follow up assessment was conducted involving one-on-one interviews with 60 female peace structure members across 11 sub-counties to understand the factors that motivated the women to join the peace structures, their role within the peace structures, the challenges they face as leaders and their ideas for improving women's leadership. Women listed the following gaps, which will be addressed through a comprehensive capacity building plan in subsequent quarters : low capacity, including communication skills and confidence; lack of free time and access to information; the discriminatory attitudes of male peers; and the lack of meaningful economic opportunities for women.

AWOTID (Abim)

During the quarter, AWOTID held three sub-county meetings to raise awareness on the importance of community participation in land conflict mitigation, peace building and governance processes in Abim Town Council, Abim and Lotuke sub-counties. The meetings were attended by 53 participants (19 female and 34 male). Key resolutions included: border demarcations will be marked across parishes, sub-counties and districts; government owned land at health centers, schools and sub county headquarters will be fenced; land area committees and other informal structures on land management will be trained by AWOTID and Mercy Corps. As a result of the trainings, the community in Lotuke sub-county petitioned the government for the



Nesto Ochen of AWOTID explains key details of the FY16 work plan and budget to Leaders of Abim Sub County.

use of government prison land that is currently being underutilized. The government has not yet made a decision, but the incident demonstrates that the community feels empowered enough to demand accountability from local government on land-related issues.

The substantive involvement of women and youth in leadership positions is a priority for GHG. In the last quarter, meetings were held in 12 parishes to speak to communities about the importance of involving women and youth in land related conflicts. 166 participants attended the meetings (112 male and 54 female) including LCII Executives, LCI Executives, PISO, Parish Chief,

Youth Representatives, Religious, Cultural, Women, Persons With Disabilities representatives and community members. The outcome of this meeting was that the community elected gender and youth balanced Land Focal Volunteers (12 male and 12 female) to act as their representatives. The Land Focal Volunteers will be trained by AWOTID and their core work will be at the parish level with formal and informal structures.

AWOTID also conducted meetings at the parish level to raise awareness about the mechanisms and referral pathways that are available for the resolution of land-related conflicts. The meetings were held in the following six parishes: Atunga, Aridai, Oruamuge, Gangming, Achangali, and Barlyec. Since the communities view informal governance structures as key to the resolution of land-related conflicts, AWOTID worked with communities to develop informal referral pathways and a draft case management tool. The tool will help communities document best practices and formalize their interventions on land related matters.

Table 19: Attendance in each parish

PARISH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ARIDAI	11	4	15
ORUAMUGE	10	5	15
GANGMING	8	3	11
ACHANGALI	14	1	15
ATUNGA	7	8	15
BARLYEC	8	5	13
	58	26	84

Youth Groups (Kotido)

In Kotido, GHG implements activities through six youth-led CBOs. In this district, there are high levels of youth initiated crime, which call for targeted actions to address the social drivers (youth disenfranchisement, alcoholism, harmful notions of masculinity and gender based inequity) that leads to small scale crime and rampant food insecurity.

Crime prevention training was conducted and introduced 70 youth participants (39 female and 31 males) across seven parishes of Kotido to the formal legal referral pathway, the concept of citizen security, and young people’s role in strengthening links between the community and the justice system. The training led to a reduction in crime, which police attribute to increased awareness of the relevant systems.

Twelve community dialogues were held on harmful cultural practices with elders, youth and women in 7 parishes of Kotido Town Council. 320 community members attended the community dialogues including: 31 elders, 101 women and 120 youth (60 male and 60 female). As a result, elders pledged to monitor adherence to previous commitments made to eliminate harmful cultural practices like forced marriage, courtship rape, widow inheritance, and denying food to first time mothers. **This has resulted in the prevention of at least one case of forced marriage. In December, elders reported** parents who were attempting to marry *their 13-year old daughter to an elderly man in Panyangara sub-county to pay back a debt. The Natya Youth group and police intervened; perpetrators were arrested; and leaders cautioned community*

members against early marriage. The girl is now back in school and pursuing her primary education. Youth groups have begun to run radio segments that discuss the causes and consequences of violence against women (including forced marriage) on the new Voice of Karamoja radio station.

Youth groups support SO2 with health promotion activities, aimed at improving outcomes for pregnant and lactating mothers. During the reporting period, seven meetings were held with LC1s, VHTs and drama group leaders to identify community change agents for health promotion activities. 246 people (116 females and 130 males) signed up to be change agents. Communities also identified activities, like the construction of pit latrines in homesteads that they could take on. One community has already begun to dig the foundations for pit latrines for families who lack access. These activities will be closely monitored in the coming quarters to understand the potential and challenges of working through change agents in the target communities.

Six public anti-alcohol campaigns were initiated in Kotido. A total of 18 dramas were staged and attended by 300 to 500 community members each. Dramas were followed by dialogues that engaged spectators in collective problem solving on the issue of harmful alcohol consumption. As a result, a number of villages have taken steps to restrict the importation and consumption of “Waragi” (Ugandan gin). In Rengen sub-county, leaders in Maaru village signed a document declaring the village “alcohol free”. The media was invited to witness the event and the leaders volunteered to travel to nearby villages with youth groups to serve as an example and to encourage other communities to take action against alcoholism.

Photos of alcohol prevention campaign (below)





The outcomes of this initiative include:

- A signed pact between the youth groups and the religious leaders who will now help spread the message of alcohol abuse in the sermons.
- The local leaders have offered to conduct a joint dialogue meeting with other local leaders to enforce the new resolution.
- The local leaders committed to engage the councilors to create an enforceable bye law.
- The youth have since conducted 21 monitoring visits on the implementation of already developed youth owned strategies to reduce alcohol consumption and drug abuse.

6. Cross-Cutting Activities: Gender & Youth

Integration is a priority for GHG as it ensures both the quality of the programming, by reducing the potential for harm and improving impact. In the October to December period, a youth and gender officer was hired to support the Kaabong office and activities across a range of sectors. A three person team now leads gender and youth integration efforts which include both embedded and standalone activities. The team works closely with sector leads and their officers, providing technical support with research, training, and behavior change strategies.

Gender and SO1

Strengthening the functionality of women oriented markets is a primary focus of gender-related activities under SO1. During the reporting period, gender and youth officers supported livestock teams in their efforts to build a viable poultry market. Poultry vaccination activities are on-going and teams identified 25 female farmers from Rengen, Nakapelimoru, Kotido and Kotido T/C sub-counties who will participate in poultry production activities (including trade) in the next quarter. Mercy Corps will provide business training and basic infrastructure, storage and

transportation facilities. The women are currently in the process of raising start-up capital for their business.

The gender and youth team also provided support to SO1 teams with the development of tools to assess the gender sensitivity of work targeting poultry producers, CAHWs and to explore new markets like, honey and briquette production.

The capacity of Karamojang market actors is low. This is especially true of women and youth, who lack access to education, direct experience and networks. In the previous quarter, 52 youth apprentices to CAHWs (16 female and 36 male) were given transferable skills training using an adapted version of a proven methodology developed and piloted by Mercy Corps in the middle east. The training builds critical "soft skills" in communication, leadership, organization, networking and people management. Two female commodity traders were recommended for -- and participated in--a trader exchange visit organized by the commodity network team in Oyam District.

In Karamoja, women and youth lack access to middle tier financing and are a potentially lucrative client group given their numbers and increasing engagement in the cash economy. The team provided coaching to two SACCOs (St. Monica's and Lokitalaebu) on strategies for increasing their numbers of female clients through outreach and product development. Client outreach then took place with 25 women and 4 men.

Although women are active as economic agents, their negotiating power and voice in the business community is weak. To strengthen their ability to advocate for their needs, the team held meetings with 208 businesswomen across the GHG area of operation to introduce them to the newly formed business forum. As a result of this meeting, 52 women registered with and paid their dues to become fully fledged members of the Kotido business forum. The team will work with business forum leaders in the months to come to ensure that these platforms adequately address the needs of women entrepreneurs.

Gender and SO2

The male change agent (MCA) initiative is central to GHG's overall strategy on gender since men have the ability to either enhance or obstruct household nutritional and food security outcomes. In the last quarter, the gender and youth team reviewed and input into the MCA baseline, trained 5 baseline enumerators, and interviewed 60 MCAs and partners. It also provided gender training and a general orientation to 7 recently hired MCA behaviour change assistants and conducted spot checks to ensure the quality of their engagement with communities.

Gender and SO3

The focus of gender and governance work is on promoting women and youth representation and participation in CMM and peace building fora and to address the gender related causes of continued crime and insecurity in the region. In Kaabong, an analysis of minority representation on peace structures revealed that the number of youth and female members had slipped. These findings were used to make the case for more minority representation and 24 new representatives

were recruited and incorporated into the structures. The team plans to advocate for revisions to promote greater inclusiveness in the GoU peace committee guidelines in the 2011 review process and is building a capacity building plan for women representatives.

In Abim, partner organization, AWOTID, promoted minority representation in structures dedicated to the resolution of land-related disputes. This resulted in balanced numbers of Land Focal Volunteers (12 male and 12 female) across the four sub-counties. In Kotido, youth groups continued to use the mediums of music dance and drama, community dialogues, and trainings to deliver important messages about the gendered nature of crime and insecurity in post-conflict Karamoja. The anti-alcoholism campaigns in particular are expected to have a positive impact on violent crime, which is consistently rated by communities as one of the top three drivers of cattle thefts and domestic abuse.

In the last quarter, the GHG gender and youth team worked closely with Mercy Corps' gender officers from a sister program (BRACED) to develop a regional gender strategy for Karamoja. The process was led by district government officials, and technical support was provided by the teams. The strategy is in draft form and has been submitted to officials for approval. Once approved, the strategy will be an important tool for advocating for increased resource allocations to gender concerns across the region.

Gender Messaging

GHG continues to leverage program platforms to disseminate messages about critical gender issues, that if left unaddressed, have the potential to undermine program outcomes. In the past quarter, the gender and youth team embedded messages about women's right to own property, to make decisions about production and to use income from the sale of poultry products in its vaccination campaign.