



Interim/Final Report¹

Via e-mail to: zivilgesellschaft-international@ada.gv.at

The originals of supporting documentation can be sent to the Civil Society International and Humanitarian Aid (ZGI+HUHI) unit.

Programme N° 1980-03/2019

Organisation, Project Manager:

CARE Austria, Karen Knipp-Rentrop, Karen.knipp-rentrop@care.at
 CARE International in Uganda, Aramanzan Madanda, Aramanzan.Madanda@care.org

Local partner organisations, contact persons:

Arua Municipality/Omugo: CEFORD (Community Empowerment for Rural Development);
 Contact Person: Jean Asipkwe jasipkwe@gmail.com

Gulu Municipality: PACHEDO (Partners for Community Health and Development Organization);
 Contact Person: Sam Okuni – Sam Okuni@pachedo.org

Programme title: Women and Youth Resilience Project (WAYREP)

Country/Countries: Uganda	Region/locality: Gulu City, Arua City, Omugo Settlement and Omugo Host.
Duration from: 1 st April 2019	to: 31 st March 2024
Reallocation(s): 12.12.2019, 08.2020	Extension of programme until: -
Report per (date): 1.4. 2020 – 31.3.2021	Date of presentation: 30.7.2021

Financial statement per (date) (euros)

Total costs	Cleared items	Submitted for examination	Open items
5.250.000	660.979	945.300	3.643.721

Date, author of report: 30.7.2021 - Aramanzan Madanda and Karen Knipp-Rentrop

¹ Delete inapplicable items

Summary description of programme progress

The second project year was strongly affected by the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic. The government had declared very strict restrictions to contain the pandemic. From March to June 2020, mobility was very limited and CARE could only move after having received an exemption as it provides life-saving services. Therefore, many activities had to be postponed or adapted. The situation affected especially WAYREP's impact group of women and girls at risk of exploitation and gender based violence. Poverty rates increased, Youth and Village Saving and Loans Associations (Y/VSLA) had to share out money to cope with the situation, and new ones could not be created. Direct awareness raising activities with community interaction could not be implemented and had to be replaced with radio jingles and other media outreach. Support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) was only possible after intense advocacy which ultimately led to the integration of GBV into government COVID 19 response plans. CARE adapted quickly to this constraint by introducing a new approach to GBV response: remote Psychological First Aid (PFA). PFA addresses the psychosocial challenges that community members faced in this very stressful situation and identified survivors of GBV, as violence raised in confined homes. The outbreak of the COVID pandemic called for a reassessment of the needs and risks faced by WAYREP target groups. Accordingly, a Rapid Gender Analysis was conducted in April/May 2020 which helped to better understand the situation and adapt the programming. The baseline process was delayed but could be finalised despite the challenging circumstances. The findings shed further light on priority needs of WAYREP's target group, as the team had adjusted the baseline tools to take into account the effects of COVID 19. WAYREP's goals to "strengthen resilience of refugee and Ugandan women, girls and youth to live a life free from violence in Uganda" gained in relevance due to the challenging situation of many women, girls and youth at risk.

As soon as the restrictions were eased, the WAYREP team reorganised and accelerated implementation in the 3rd quarter of the year. 184 Y/VSLA groups were formed and their capacities strengthened. Members started to use loans for income generating activities. Youth received soft skills trainings and were identified for skilling and apprenticeship opportunities. 35 of them started to learn trades with local artisans. 75 Role Model Men and Boys (RMM/B) and 135 SASA! Activists were capacitated to do behaviour change communication activities in the communities. Thousands were reached with GBV prevention messages across locations, for instance during a 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) which focused on the emerging and very COVID-relevant issue of teenage pregnancy. Formal and informal service providers were trained on referral pathways and case management skills and their coordination strengthened in Gulu and Arua. A total of 262 GBV cases (Female 236 and Male 26) were received and managed by WAYREP case workers. Advocacy work on GBV continued and was complemented by efforts to raise awareness on the newly adopted National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 among local stakeholders. WAYREP initiated the creation of city coalitions on GBV and engaged in existing networks and coalitions. Community advocacy groups were identified among the Y/VSLA groups and supported to develop and implement Action Plans to advocate for issues they identified in their locations.

Through the different interventions, CARE, CEFORD, and PACHEDO managed to reach 19.522 impact group members in this year, of which about 64% are women and girls, and worked closely with 1.239 other key stakeholders such as local authorities, formal and informal GBV service providers and other community structures that can influence the lives of the impact group members. 67.696 persons benefitted indirectly from WAYREP's interventions, of which about 60% are women and girls. Since project start, WAYREP has reached 21.410 women and youth at risk, of which about 35% were located in Gulu, 32% in Arua, 23% in Omugo host and 10% in Omugo Settlement.

Change processes began to be observed e.g. at individual level such as transformation in attitudes of adolescent girls and youth or the transformations in masculinity with men beginning to share into unpaid care work; district and national level authorities prioritised and integrated GBV in COVID 19 response; and service providers strengthened coordination for GBV prevention and response.



Despite remarkable progress and emerging impact, key risks have been faced and mitigated through several measures to maintain momentum. These have included the outbreak of COVID 19 in March 2020. The project only continued after embracing adaptations including developing business continuity plans and working closely with and influencing partners and duty bearers. Political campaigns at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 swayed project beneficiaries due to temporary attractions and benefits provided by the campaigners. Despite these challenges, WAYREP continued to strengthen self-reliance of women, girls and youth at risk, in order to support them to better deal with the current crisis and to being better prepared for future ones.



Programme progress (Project Year 2)

Expected results	Results achieved / indicators	Activities implemented to achieve these results	Reasons for deviations	Steering measures
<p>Result Area 1: Increased income opportunities for women and youth.</p>	<p>Indicator: % increase in income for targeted women and youth (SADD)</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (at BL average weekly income was 16USD-12 USD for women, 20 USD for men)²</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth/Village Savings and Loans Associations (Y/VSLA) that have commenced savings activities have accumulated 114,469,000 UGX (appr. 32.100USD) while outstanding loans are at 78,272,800 UGX (appr. 21.950USD) representing 48.9% loan utilization rate. Members borrow money for household needs and investment in Income generating Activities. By joining Y/VSLA, groups member become financially included. Additionally, twenty-Five (25) groups have registered with the Local government to strengthen their legality and possible access to other development interventions. Impact group members enhanced their capacity and knowledge in financial literacy and practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 184 Y/VSLA groups were supported by the project. Of these, 173 groups with 4,771 members (82% female) received financial literacy training. Provision of standardized manuals and tools to partners and Community-Based Trainers (CBT) 35 Youths (32 Females and 3 Males) started apprenticeships in various trades. Identification of 244 youth for possible skilling and apprenticeship placement in upcoming quarters Sessions with 398 care givers and parents of youth to assess their progress and challenges 58 girls and women at risk, including commercial sex workers, received soft skills training and career guidance Safe spaces for adolescent girls and young women were equipped and supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID 19 outbreak delayed activity implementation for almost 3 months until the restrictions were eased and adaptations were in place Initially V/VSLAs were identified from existing groups. These were later phased out as they did not sufficiently include the women and girls at risk of GBV and exploitation. New Y/VSLA groups were formed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring of VSLAs, impact groups and making changes as appropriate Accelerated implementation when the COVID situation and restrictions eased, e.g. by establishment of 184 Y/VSLA. Adaptations to take into account the COVID 19 context, e.g. by having trainings with smaller groups, adherence to SOPs, distribution of Personal protective equipment

² Given that this indicator measures a **percentage increase** in income that would occur as a result of WAYREP interventions, the value at baseline is zero. We provide instead the baseline average weekly income which is at 16 USD (12 USD for women, 20 USD for men, including 399 respondents who reported zero income.” (for more details see baseline, annex 1)



Programme progress (Project Year 2)

<p>Result Area 2: Reduced acceptance for Gender Based Violence in communities</p>	<p>Indicator: % of respondents rejecting IPV (SADD)</p> <p>Baseline: 75% (65% F, 73% M)</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained partner staff and 75 RMM/B, 135 SASA! activists (106 Females and 29 Males) and other community structures used their newly acquired skills to raise awareness on GBV, Intimate Partner Violence, and GBV referral pathways in the target communities. Community Based Facilitators, for instance, facilitated community conversations and household dialogues which reached 3,169 (Females=1930, Males=1239). RMM/B conducted household dialogues that reached 1,030 people (601 F & 429 M). WAYREP team observed that, as a consequence, relations in households started to change and reporting of GBV increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training, follow-ups, experience sharing, cross-learning and joint planning of Community-based Facilitators (CBFs), Community-based Trainers (CBTs), RMM/B and SASA! activists to implement behaviour change communication (BCC) activities SASA! Together start phase training for 24 staff of CARE and partners and 135 activists. Identification of 90 community leaders for SASA! activities GED Training conducted for SASA activists, Role Model Men/Boys, Community Based Advocacy focal persons and CBTs, artisans, etc. Radio and community campaigns with messages on GBV prevention and teenage pregnancy e.g. during 16 Days of Activism, International Women’s Day and Men’s Day celebrations. Re-organisation of BCC structures, phasing out CBFs and replacing them with SASA! Activists and Role Model Men and Boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As members of local authorities, the CBFs played an important role during the COVID-19 restrictions since they were in a position to reach the target group and community members even during lockdown. However, being part of the local “elite”, their engagement did not allow for a truly community-based approach COVID-19 restrictions slowed implementation of prevention activities (e.g. SASA trainings had to be postponed and it was not possible to do awareness raising activities for big groups) Across the world, COVID 19 has led to increased rates of GBV. In Uganda, this meant higher rates of physical violence but also of early marriage, of school drop outs and of teenage pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to ensure a more community-based approach, WAYREP team decided to specifically recruit community members as RMM/B and SASA! activists and to phase out the CBFs. WAYREP still collaborates with some of the CBFs in view of their community leadership role. Accelerated implementation when the COVID situation and restrictions eased. Adaptations to take into account the COVID 19 context, e.g. by having trainings with smaller groups, adherence to SOPs, more focus on radio and integration of messages relevant to COVID-19 context, in particular with regard to teenage pregnancies
--	---	---	---	--



Programme progress (Project Year 2)

Expected results	Results achieved / indicators	Activities implemented to achieve these results	Reasons for deviations	Steering measures
<p>Results Area 3: Enhanced quality of services for Gender Based Violence.</p>	<p>Indicator: # of users of GBV services in Omugo settlement, Gulu and Arua municipalities, disaggregated by services and sex and age. (SADD)</p> <p>Baseline: 0%</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 262 GBV cases (Female 236 and Male 26) were received and managed. 73 cases were closed. All GBV survivors received were registered and information updated in the National GBV Database (NGBVD). • Knowledge and use of NGBVD by GBV service providers increased in Arua, Terego and Gulu Districts. Coordination of formal and informal service providers improved referrals. • WAYREP supported community members to better deal with COVID 19 related stress: 2 170 (1498 female and 675 male) project participants were reached through remote PFA, 113 (15 male and 98 female) community members and health workers from Gulu regional referral hospital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial support, identification and support to survivors during strict COVID 19 restrictions through remote Psychological First Aid and outreach at Gulu regional referral hospital • Partner staff trained in Case Management & remote PFA • Ongoing identification of and case management for survivors of GBV (e.g. comprehensive support, referral, home visits, survivor fund) • Training on case management skills and referral pathway for formal and informal service providers and duty bearers • Technical support on the use of the National Gender Based Violence Data base (NGBVD) • Participation in Coordination meetings for GBV and COVID 19 task forces (at community, district, settlement and national level) and organisation of 7 case conferences to strengthen service provision, coordination and referrals for survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV response services were severely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. Medical and other support services were re-oriented to focus on time-sensitive COVID recovery efforts and many other public services, including GBV response services, were either cut or sidelined. This therefore greatly reduced an already limited amount of support available to GBV survivors in 2020 and affected WAYREP's direct service provision for GBV survivors such as counselling during total lockdowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAYREP adjusted to the changed context by adapting its GBV response. For instance, CARE Austria, CARE Uganda and CARE UK collaborated to deliver a remote PFA training programme which enabled WAYREP project staff and partners to address psychosocial needs and to provide potentially life-saving support to survivors of GBV in a context where they had little to no other alternatives for support.



Programme progress (Project Year 2)

Expected results	Results achieved / indicators	Activities implemented to achieve these results	Reasons for deviations	Steering measures
<p>Results Area 4: Increased action on implementation of relevant frameworks for the protection of women and girls' by public authorities.</p>	<p>Indicator: # of advocacy asks that have been implemented by Government of Uganda.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of GBV into national COVID 19 response through a government circular that required local governments to integrate and prioritize GBV service provision within taskforce response plans Enhanced awareness and capacity on NAP III on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), demonstrated by buy-in and commitment to Local Action Plan development by the new city council authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of WAYREP Advocacy Strategy and a COVID 19 Advocacy Plan Advocacy on integration of GBV in COVID 19 national and district level response (e.g. through participation in COVID 19 task forces) Orientation on international and national legal and policy frameworks for GBV and WPS to various stakeholders and partners, incl. NAP 3 localisation learning workshop Commemoration of 20 years of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Creation of city based GBV coalitions, participation in national coalitions and participation in advocacy spaces at national and district levels Support to development and implementation of advocacy action plans of 19 community advocacy groups Organised 6 studio bases radio talk shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID 19 made face-to-face advocacy activities impossible hence their postponement (e.g. community score card) Political campaigns limited community activities which were not part of the campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country office adapted to some online activities. Face to face activities accelerated when lockdown was eased The Country Office stayed apolitical during political campaigns

Detailed description of programme progress

1. Results achieved with regard to alignment with government and sector policies of the partner countries and to ADC programmatic requirements concerning:

- **Poverty reduction**

Actions implemented by WAYREP align to the Uganda Third National Development Plan whose goal is “to increase average household incomes and to improve the quality of life of Ugandans.” Through the Y/VSLAs, project results have included raising savings and investments through income generating activities (IGAs) not only for nationals in Arua and Gulu cities but also Refugees in Rhino Camp and host communities in Omugo Sub County. By contributing to socio-economic empowerment of women, girls and youth at risk, WAYREP is empowering a section of society that is at the margin of development and making inroads into reducing poverty for the target population.

Rapid urbanisation and displacement to cities and rural refugee settlements in Uganda have had particularly adverse effects on women and girls typically compromising their livelihoods and threatening to throw these populations into extreme poverty. With tensions in Uganda’s neighbouring countries, the flow of refugees has continued further stretching livelihood options amidst falling funding levels. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have further increased livelihood challenges of poor and marginalised groups. The pandemic led to a great loss of livelihoods and one of the most striking findings of the Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) conducted by CARE in Spring 2020 was that families were struggling with their food supplies. With various interventions including apprenticeships in trades that generate incomes for women, girls and boys at risk of exploitation, hope is being re-built and transformative inroads being made into the lives of the impact groups. By this, WAYREP aligns well with Uganda’s Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan 2020-2021.

- **Promotion of democracy and human rights (if applicable)**

WAYREP places the right of women, girls and youth to be free from violence and to live a life of dignity at the centre of its intervention. This has involved working closely with women, girls and youth at risk and the community and other public authorities which interact with them to sensitise them to these rights and provide them with opportunities to address any related issues by connecting them to services and other sources of support. While still mid-way, WAYREP implementation has involved interaction with key actors in the Justice, Law and Order Sector such as police, prosecution and the legal fraternity as part of efforts to understand and improve the system through which survivors and perpetrators of GBV can be dealt with. It has brought to the fore some of the limitations faced in dispensing justice with regard to GBV and violence against women and girls in refugee and poor rural and urban areas. A number of limitations for the Justice, Law and Order sector (JLOS) have been noted in the delivery of services especially for GBV. These include corruption, limited logistical support for police to follow-up GBV cases and/or lack of prioritisation of GBV cases as compared to other complaints.

- **Consideration of gender, environment and social standards**

The WAYREP results align closely with relevant national and international normative frameworks on gender and gender based violence. As such WAYREP activities around advocacy, capacity development, coalition building and networking align closely with gender and GBV policies and enhance their implementation and accountability amongst duty bearers. These have included action on implementation of relevant frameworks for protection of women and girls by public authorities namely: The Domestic Violence Act 2010; the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and Uganda’s third National Action Plan (NAP). CARE and Partners have also contributed to raising awareness on the international normative frameworks such as CEDAW, the SDGs and the Goma Declaration among others. As a gender transformative programme WAYREP approaches challenge underlying negative gender and social norms in refugee and host communities in which it is

implemented. WAYREP regularly reviews its CARE Gender Marker, resilience marker and governance marker scores in order to identify further areas of improvements. WAYREP also aligns with EU Gender Action Plan III goals.

2. Results achieved / visible impact on

• Capacity Development

In the second year of implementation, WAYREP significantly contributed to capacity development of CARE Uganda, CEFORD and PACHEDO staff and of stakeholders across all project locations and in all result areas. The results build on the foundations laid in the first year of the project and contribute to strengthening sustainable national and localised capacity.

❖ Result Area 1: ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

WAYREP enhanced capacities of Community-based Trainers (CBTs) and Y/VSLA group members and strengthened skills of youth through skilling and apprenticeship opportunities.

In order to strengthen the capacities of Y/VSLA members, WAYREP trained 34 Project staff (CARE, PACHEDO and CEFORD) and community based trainers (CBTs) in financial literacy and business development enterprise skills. Several training activities equipped staff and CBTs with relevant knowledge to support established Y/VSLA groups. Training manuals for V/YSLAs were provided to CBTs and project staff to provide standardized reference material. Equipped with this knowledge, the project's 28 CBTs trained 173 Y/VSLA groups across project locations. With an attendance rate of 72.9%, Y/VSLA groups started saving and implementing activities despite limitations of COVID 19. Due to sensitization, five Y/VSLA groups have opened accounts with Absa Bank for safety of their money as well as establishing possible future financing streams. Women, girls and youth trained in financial literacy were steadily improving and had set goals to set up income generating activities for school fees, asset acquisition e.g. land and motorbikes or paying bride price. A formalisation process commenced with 25 V/YSLA groups being formally registered as community based organisations with respective local authorities in Rhino Refuge Settlement, Arua and Gulu. This is an important linkage to government programmes and services since registered groups are recognized by government and development agencies.

To contribute to sustainable dignified livelihoods, WAYREP commenced artisanal activities in 2020/21. Artisans were identified in Gulu, Arua and Rhino Settlement in the following trades: hair dressing, tailoring, driving, brick laying and concrete practice, basic mechanics, masonry, carpentry and joinery, welding, computer applications skills, bakery, catering and juice processing. After orientation and training (e.g. on prevention of sexual harassment and abuse, gender equity and diversity), women and girls at risk including commercial sex-workers, were equipped with personal empowerment skills and provision of career guidance. Apprenticeship also commenced in the year across the project locations. Monitoring has so far revealed that training girls and youth in apprenticeship and life skills provides a second chance to many of the impact group members and to regain hope.

Following a mapping of youth spaces and conducting a needs assessment, youth spaces were equipped with materials for infotainment, awareness creation and psychosocial support. Some of the youth have used the materials to reach out to communities on important public days such as the International women's Day (IWD) and are making some money by using their newly acquired skills.

Nineteen (19) feedback meetings conducted in all project locations with 398 care givers/parents (255 females and 143 males) provided insights in evolving positive attitudes for youth, reduced loitering and increased focus on savings and investments.

❖ **Result Area 2: REDUCED ACCEPTANCE FOR GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES**

CARE, PACHEDO and CEFORD staff and community structures (in particular CBFs, CBTs, RMM/B, SASA! Activists) were capacitated with skills on gender, GBV, RMM/B methodology, SASA activism and gender equity and diversity. With follow-ups, experience sharing and cross-learning, the structures developed confidence in handling and referring GBV cases and implementing behaviour change and communication (BCC) activities.

Community-based Facilitators (CBFs) applied knowledge by facilitating intra-household conversations on taboo topics such as denial of sex, demand for intercourse by drunken husbands, women's concerns for the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and men who said they are no longer respected by women because of failure to provide for household needs following COVID 19 challenges.

WAYREP project structures used the new capacities to reach out with GBV prevention messages e.g. during the 16 Days of activism against GBV, celebrations of the International Women's Day and other public events. A key messaging focus was on ending teenage pregnancies and early/child marriage. As a result of the continued behaviour change communication (BCC), WAYREP observed increased reporting of GBV cases, rising awareness of the GBV referral pathways and improvement in family relations.

RMM/B were capacitated to influence positive change in communities by challenging negative cultural norms, behaviour, attitudes and practices that promote gender inequality. Some RMM/B translated the knowledge acquired in their own lives by starting a change process within their own households. This is as reflected in the testimony by a Role Model Man from Arua city, "I used to have the final say in my home but after learning about power, I realized that I was using my power negatively and I had to change by ... listening ... to everyone's opinion in the house". While in Gulu training, a role play about a "man's life in a woman's world" changed Opio Charles' (RMM) perception of gender roles and he exclaimed, "Truly, women go through a lot, I pledge to support my wife and children by taking up some of the household roles" (see also stories in chapter 9).

CARE, CEFORD and PACHEDO staff were trained as trainers for the refined SASA! together approach by Raising Voices. The WAYREP team then capacitated a total of 135 activists in skills required for the SASA! together start phase in Arua, Omugo, and Gulu. Based on this training and information gathered during a baseline survey on SASA! the activists will reach out in their communities in the remaining project period.

❖ **Result Area 3: ENHANCED SUPPORT TO GBV SURVIVORS**

During project year 2, CARE and partner staff as well as community structures and GBV service providers have improved their capacities for GBV response.

As reaction to the lockdown, skills for remote Psychological First Aid (PFA) were introduced by a training provided by CARE UK and support of CARE Austria. As mobility was restricted, remote PFA was provided through phone calls that followed a specific structure. Thereby, CARE and partner staff reached 2,170 community members (1,498 of which are female). This allowed inter alia to identify GBV cases for psychosocial support, referral and home visits, if required. Additionally, psychosocial support outreach was conducted at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital for health workers and community members during the COVID 19 lockdown. It helped in restoring hope, enabled the target population to cope with the COVID19 crisis and eased access to services through referral.

Case Management Training was provided for formal and informal GBV service providers (i.e. police, legal, community development and probation officers as well as protection partners and health workers) and for CBFs and para social workers. Furthermore, WAYREP organised peer support sessions for WAYREP and partner staff to reflect on their case management experience and support each other as

peers. The trained case workers effectively responded to GBV in a timely manner. WAYREP managed 262 GBV cases (Female 236 and Male 26) in project year 2. Thirteen (13) GBV survivors were supported with the survivor fund to help survivors to access police, medical and legal services, as well as meals and sanitary pads, among others. Follow ups showed that all the survivors accessed the services they required.

To address the national challenge of limited GBV data collection, WAYREP supported the provision of technical support on the National Gender Based Violence Data base (NGBVD). Facilitated by WAYREP, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) trained CARE and partner staff, duty bearers and GBV Actors in Gulu and Arua (32 participants). The training also provided an opportunity for UNHCR and the MGLSD to discuss the harmonization of the GBV database used in refugee settlements (GBV MIS) and GBV database for the host community (NGBVD). Follow-ups by the MGLSD were facilitated by WAYREP and showed that partners had made more entries of GBV cases into the database in Arua, Terego and Gulu districts. All GBV survivors that were supported by WAYREP were registered and information updated in the NGBVD.

❖ **Result Area 4: INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT FRAMEWORKS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' PROTECTION AND RIGHTS**

WAYREP focused on raising awareness and knowledge on GBV policies and frameworks of Women, Peace and Security, both among the team as well as of key stakeholders.

WAYREP organised, for instance, a 2 days' learning workshop on NAP III and its localization that brought together actors from the Western Uganda districts of Bushenyi and Kasese, and participants from the project cities of Arua and Gulu. WAYREP also oriented legal, health, police, Community Development and civil society actors on relevant policies in Gulu and Arua on Women Peace and Security, GBV and gender policies. Some of the reflections from this meeting were integrated into the draft project advocacy strategy which had been developed as follow-up of an Advocacy Strategy Development workshop for CARE and partner staff.

WAYREP supported the creation of city based GBV coalition platforms and strengthened their capacities on relevant international and national frameworks on GBV. Community advocacy groups were trained and supported to identify issues for community advocacy in Gulu, Arua-Oli division, Omugo Host and in Omugo Settlement. After the trainings, the groups designed advocacy action plans which they are implementing with the support of WAYREP.

• **Advocacy**

Even though physical advocacy engagements were restricted by government during the COVID 19 pandemic, WAYREP conducted advocacy activities amidst COVID 19 lockdown. CARE, CEFORD and PACHEDO successfully advocated for inclusion of GBV service provision in the district COVID 19 taskforce plans and response during the 2020 lockdown. This was addressing the fact that government's initial directives on continuity amidst strict lockdown had not categorized GBV among the essential services. Amidst restrictions on public transport usage, health services were restricted for pregnant women who had to seek clearance for movement from Resident District Commissioners. GBV services were not prioritised and GBV service actors were not able to provide survivors with access to timely critical lifesaving GBV services. Broadcast media stories and the CARE/WAYREP Rapid Gender Analysis (April, 2020) findings revealed rising cases of GBV during the COVID-19 lockdown. The RGA findings were shared on National Television and national coalition spaces where WAYREP sits.

Working closely with PACHEDO and CEFORD, the CARE team supported partners to undertake advocacy with a "Call to action to ensure the continuity of GBV prevention and response services amidst COVID-19" (see annex 2), targeting the District Taskforce committee and sub-committees especially the one on risk communication. PACHEDO in Gulu, in particular, made significant advocacy progress

on the integration of critical lifesaving GBV prevention and response services into Gulu district COVID-19 taskforce responses and WAYREP obtained clearance to continue GBV service provision in form of outreaches to reach GBV survivors. The outreach enabled WAYREP to work with Gulu regional referral hospital which was critical in strengthening the referral pathway. Ultimately, advocacy efforts of WAYREP and its allies culminated into a revision of the Ministry of Health Guidelines on Continuity of Essential Services by Government of Uganda to include a GBV Module. This led all government and all district local governments to integrate and prioritize GBV service provision within taskforce response plans.

After this success, WAYREP continued to build coalitions and participate in advocacy spaces at national and district levels focussing on GBV and WPS, including with the national gender machinery.

In Austria, WAYREP continued to focus its advocacy mostly on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security. Focus areas were the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Austria (e.g. by organising meetings of Friends of 1325, and providing feedback and input to the implementation report of the Austrian NAP on WPS) and the integration of gender aspects in the international COVID-19 response and international cooperation policy (e.g. expert's input during a meeting of the subcommittee on international cooperation of the Austrian parliament in December 2020 and providing inputs for the new Austrian humanitarian strategy and the upcoming OEZA 3 year planning). WAYREP also raised the awareness of civil society partners and relevant experts in ministries on the relevance of integrating gender aspects in international climate finance and climate change adaptation measures (e.g by organising a webinar on gender, climate change and displacement). Due to COVID 19, there were relatively few interactions at EU level, such as the organisation of a webinar on "[Women At The Frontline – Women, Peace and Security in times of COVID-19](#)" (30/06/2020) (see annex 3) or the active participation in the Informal consultation on strategic programming 2021-2027 of the 'Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument Thematic Programme on 'Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention' (November 2020).

- **Cooperation with Local Partners**

CARE continued to work with two partners selected during the first year namely PACHEDO and CEFORD. The local partners have a strong on-ground presence and working relations with local authorities which enhances localisation and allows for more sustainability. During COVID-19, for instance, restrictions on transport would have locked out the geographically spread CARE staff - a challenge that was covered by PACHEDO and CEFORD staff who are largely drawn from the local communities where the project is implemented.

There is regular communication and collaboration with the partners through meetings, emails and phone calls. They receive trainings in the different approaches that WAYREP uses and CARE specialists support them in the implementation. Institutional capacity development was provided for instance on MEAL, compliance and finances. Regular project meetings with CARE, PACHEDO and CEFORD ensure that all partners are up-to-date and that challenges are identified and solved jointly.

- **Networking and co-operation with relevant stakeholders**

WAYREP ensures extensive networking and cooperation with stakeholders including the local governments of Arua City, Omugo Sub county and Gulu City plus the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) which is responsible for managing Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement. Working closely with these established government entities helped, for instance, to influence government such as the integration of GBV messaging in the main government COVID 19 response. WAYREP engages actively in the COVID19 task force meetings at community, district and national levels as well as in Rhino Refugee Settlement, which included support towards management of the pandemic. At national level, CARE reached out to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and several duty bearers throughout the year - from the Justice, Law and Oder Sector (JLOS) namely police, judiciary, public persecution; the probation services and community development among others. At technical level,

staff participated in relevant working groups, incl. sector working groups on GBV and protection as well as the Cash Working Group. WAYREP participated in GBV coordination meetings and conducted itself 7 case conferences in Arua and Gulu at which various duty bearers participated. Challenging GBV cases were discussed and cross-referrals made.

In particular in regard to its advocacy work, WAYREP has engaged in several networks such as the Coalition for Action on 1325 United Nations Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (CoACT), the HIV/SRH/GBV integration coalition and the Domestic Violence Act 2010 Coalition. Participation in CSO coalitions spaces facilitated joined planning and action. WAYREP also partnered with the Makerere University Peace Centre to hold a one-day orientation for cultural and religious institutions from Gulu and Arua/Omugo to discuss harmful norms and practices that perpetuate GBV; popularize the women, peace and security agenda under UNSCR 1325 and strengthen the leaders' understanding of NAP III on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

In Austria, WAYREP was active in different civil society working groups (e.g. from WIDE, AGGV and the Allianz für Klimagerechtigkeit), in the Interministerial Working Group on UNSCR 1325 as well as CARE International Working Groups, e.g. on Women, Peace and Security or the Gender Network. WAYREP substantially contributed, for instance, to discussions and to AGGV internal briefing papers on the nexus and on climate change & displacement, as well as to a CARE Policy Paper on Women, Peace and Security. It also shared its gender expertise with peers and decision makers in webinars, exchange meetings and the development of further position papers and briefings.

- **Innovation**

Most innovations in the year were related to addressing the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic and to enable business continuity despite COVID 19. These included utilising virtual and online interactions for capacity development, internal coordination and cooperation and networking. When it was possible again, meetings and trainings were held in small groups which were allowed by the government SOPs. CARE SOPs ensured that infection and protection control (IPC) measures for staff, partners and beneficiaries were strictly followed. Hybrid formats combining virtual and physical meetings continue up to now.

Due to the increased psychosocial needs during the strict lockdown, remote psychological first aid (PFA) was introduced to address increased stress levels of the population and to identify GBV survivors. When teenage pregnancy and child marriages became a critical issue (exacerbated by the COVID 19 impact that brought about school closures), key messaging in WAYREP activities re-focused on this such as in radio discussions, messaging for 16 Days of activism against GBV and messages for celebrating the International Women's Day.

- **Systematic knowledge management**

WAYREP conducted a [Rapid Gender Analysis in May 2020](#) following the outbreak of the COVID Pandemic and contributed to the [Uganda COVID 19 Inter Agency Rapid Gender Analysis](#) conducted in cooperation with the Government of Uganda, UNWOMEN, International Refugee Council (IRC), ALIGHT (formerly American Refugee Council) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The studies provided insights in the relationship between COVID 19 and GBV which escalated amidst the lockdown. The findings and recommendations were disseminated on national TV and in virtual and physical meetings with decision makers and other relevant stakeholders. This contributed to the integration of GBV messaging in the national COVID 19 response.

Learnings from COVID 19 were also discussed with other CARE offices from the region and globally, e.g. in a webinar that presented CARE Uganda and WAYREP's experiences with remote PFA. Exchange at CARE International was very intense and many reports were developed and shared with peer organisations and decision makers in Austria and beyond. WAYREP developed a sharepoint page on staff wellbeing and psychosocial support measures in times of COVID 19 that was accessible for all CARE International staff and included, for instance, a document on [Staff Self Care during COVID 19 outbreak](#).

Throughout the year, there were also a series of learning and reflection opportunities organised with the project team and partners, e.g. on the challenge of teenage pregnancies, COVID 19 adaptations or in form of a virtual awareness session on the UNSCR 1325 and Uganda's 3rd National Action Plan. WAYREP's learning agenda has been further developed and updated with questions relating to COVID 19. For the finalization of the Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer Standard Operating Procedures (MPCT SOP, annex 4) the project drew on CARE internal resources such as Cash and Markets Advisors and external sources such as the Cash Working Groups and its members who are implementing cash transfer programs in refugee settings in Uganda. After feedback from CARE Uganda's humanitarian and development teams, MPCT SOP now provides the Country Office with a structured modality for implementing cash transfers to selected women, girls and youth in the greatest need of cash for survival, possible saving and investment. These learning on cash programming also contributed to the review of the SOPs for financial support to GBV survivors.

- **Added value of programme approach**

The holistic design of the project which focuses on resilience, gender transformation and governance through advocacy is a real value add. While results will be clearer from the mid-term review and through the years to come, emerging evidence of its impact is promising. The value add lies in the synergies between the different result areas. These results are likely to be sustained through advocacy gains that became more visible during the COVID 19 response but will be more present as the Community Score Card is fully implemented.

WAYREP is one of the projects that fully embraces the three CARE quality markers of gender (by focusing on gender transformative results), resilience (by sustainably building resilience of most at risk women, girls and youth) and governance (by working closely with duty bearers to address policy and the policy environment through advocacy). The advocacy element has ensured that impact at the local level such as the COVID 19 advocacy gain, was multiplied throughout the country, beyond the project geographical confines of West Nile and Northern Uganda.

The flexibility of the strategic partnership was very advantageous in these challenging times. The flexibility in programme approaches and budgeting allowed for adapting project activities to the existing needs in the communities, e.g. by shifting the focus to GBV prevention and response, when it became necessary due to COVID 19, and reconfiguring structures such as from the CBFs to the SASA and RMM/B to accelerate the BCC activities after the first lockdown ended. By working closely with local communities and local partners the project has demonstrated resilience and adaptation in turbulent times. Budget flexibility helped also in the adaptation to COVID 19 as it allowed to buy Protection Materials or to reduce the number of participants per training and thus increase the number of trainings provided by WAYREP.

3. Target groups reached

In project year 2, WAYREP reached 19.522 impact group members, of which about 64% are women and girls, and worked closely with 1.239 other key stakeholders such as local authorities, formal and informal GBV service providers and other community structures that can influence the lives of the impact group members. 67.696 persons benefitted indirectly from WAYREP's interventions, of which about 60% are women and girls.

Since project start, WAYREP has reached 21.410 women and youth at risk, of which about 35% were located in Gulu, 32% in Arua, 23% in Omugo host and 10% in Omugo Settlement.

Category of beneficiaries	Reached in Year 2			Reached to date (since project start)		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Impact group members (women and youth at risk)	12,416	7,106	19,522	13,657	7,753	21,410
Other Direct beneficiaries	754	485	1,239	812	573	1,385
Impact Group + Other Direct Beneficiaries	13,170	7,591	20,761	14,469	8,326	22,795
Indirect beneficiaries	42,204	25,492	67,696	44,624	26,550	71,174

Note :

- Impact group: those that the project exists for / that justify the existence of the project (women and girls at risk 75% and disempowered male youth 25%)
- Other direct beneficiaries: those that also participate and benefit from activities, but not necessarily the ones the project has been created for e.g. journalists, CBTs, RMMs
- The summation (TOTAL number of IMPACT group) is not necessarily an addition of people reached across all 4 quarters. This is to avoid double/triple counting and the latter is most likely to occur with Y/VSLA and RMM/B activities.
- The summation (TOTAL number of OTHER Direct Beneficiaries) MAY include some persons reached more than once in one or more result areas

4. Problems encountered and modifications

A major challenge during the second project year was the **outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic**. Following the declaration of the pandemic as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on March 11, 2020 by the World Health Organization, implications were immediately felt in Uganda. The first case was reported on 21st March 2020. The government of Uganda promptly instituted measures to mitigate its spread. The President issued directives suspending group engagements, which affected group based activities. The strict lockdown restrictions continued from mid-March 2020 to July 2020 when government started to slowly ease restrictions. The lockdown delayed implementation since community engagements got affected and staff was confined before an exemption could be obtained. More project adaptations are described under the section on innovations above (see chapter 2).

To address the COVID 19 occasioned challenges, several adaptations were made. At country office level, a business continuity plan was developed and CARE SOPs introduced. At project level, virtual engagements, use of traditional media (e.g. radio) for outreach, adapting smaller meetings, introducing COVID prevention procurements and working closely with government COVID 19 task forces made continuity possible. Some activities such as on livelihoods had to be rescheduled and the team focused more on GBV interventions. At the same time, the context changed as poverty increased, some VSLA groups shared out their savings as a coping mechanism and GBV incidents increased while GBV services were limited. Close cooperation with the partners and local authorities in the target communities was a success factor as they ensured that essential activities could be implemented in the communities or at least taken up again relatively quickly. This was key as some activities required physical meetings and could not be replaced by virtual tools, e.g. the support to survivors of GBV or some advocacy elements. Virtual contacts worked relatively well within the team and with other CSO partners, whereas contacts with political decision makers and community members are more challenging. In particular, vulnerable and marginalized women and girls often have limited access to phones and virtual tools. Having to work largely online and from home was also a challenge for many CARE and partner staff.

During the first phase of the COVID 19 pandemic in Uganda, in 2020, adaptations for continuity of WAYREP implementation were largely successful. While in the initial phase of the pandemic – especially from March to June 2020, activities were delayed, the pace of programme implementation accelerated especially from the October 2020 to the end of the reporting period. Lessons drawn from this experience continue to inspire current and future adaptations. COVID 19 contingency plans continue to be developed and updated for continuity.

COVID 19 also affected international travel and physical presence of international technical support by CARE Austria. Meetings on technical and programmatic issues had to go virtual. While this enabled

continuity, it is debatable that the quality and depth of engagement remained the same. In an attempt to replace monitoring visits by CARE Austria, regular meetings of CARE Austria and CARE Uganda Senior Management Team members was established to discuss progress, challenges and planning of WAYREP.

During the reporting year, both **Arua and Gulu Municipalities received city status**. This impacted on administrative boundaries. Omugo Settlement and Omugo Host Communities shifted to a new local government authority namely Madi-Okollo district. This in a way expanded the project scope to operate in three districts. In Gulu, city status led to a merger of existing four divisions into two larger divisions. Whereas WAYREP's targeted locations remained the same, there was need to on-board new city and district officials/leaders.

Political campaigns in preparation of the February 2021 presidential, parliamentary and local government elections were massive occupying the last quarter of 2020 and the start of 2021. The campaign period was challenging especially for implementation of community advocacy group action plans. Politicians paid out money and rallies were accompanied with entertainment (music) making them more attractive to community members than usual community activities. During political campaigns, some of the groups that progressed with implementation of their advocacy action plans, partnered with willing politicians to obtain slots for awareness creation prior to their campaign speeches. These focused on ending teenage pregnancies, child marriages and reduction in alcohol consumption especially in Gulu city.

Internally, **staff turnover and the orientation of new staff during lockdown and confinement** was a challenge. The advocacy specialist, for instance, started on 24th March 2021 just at the beginning of the COVID 19 lockdown while the position of the PSS/GBV Specialist was replaced in January 2021. The Project Manager position had to be covered by the Program Manager for more than 6 months – from December 2020 to June 2021. Whereas CEFORD staffing was stable throughout the year, PACHEDO experienced staff turnover. However, these staff changes did not significantly disrupt program delivery as the CARE and PACHEDO acted swiftly to recruit and/or replace.

5. Risk Management

To a great extent the original risk matrix was sufficient and proposed adequate measures. The only difference is that while it envisaged epidemics, the nature and intensity of it as presented by COVID-19 was not envisaged and hence the program team has been intensely involved to innovate on a constant basis to ensure continuity. Given that COVID 19 is not disappearing now and that government is constantly issuing new directive updates, the context is fluid and requires frequent updates. As such the risk matrix has been reviewed and although most of the risks mapped still hold, CARE Uganda has updated and specifically added COVID 19 and changed the rating of its impact and likelihood. We have also removed the election period which is already past. The political interference risk other than elections still holds because interference from leaders may still be experienced.

During the implementation, there was a surge in reported GBV cases arising from restrictions and stress occasioned by the lockdown as potential perpetrators were confined with survivors. This kind of scenario was not envisaged before and threatened to reverse the project gains as incomes of the poorest who form the target groups were further eroded. Rapid gender analysis helped to better understand the newly arising risks and successful advocacy at the national and local government levels helped to address the rise in GBV. There was also increase in teenage pregnancies that resulted from school closures sending many girls and boys into child/early marriages. This problem continues though WAYREP started to focus its messaging around these issues.

Please see attached risk matrix (annex 5)

6. Sustainability / capacity development

Deliberate effort was placed in developing capacity for the implementing partners namely PACHEDO and CEFORD. Several training sessions were held in business skills, Y/VSLA methodology, GBV case management etc. and joint advocacy efforts made. Together with partners, several capacity

development initiatives were implemented for CBFs, CBTs, SASA Activists and RMM/B across all project locations. Besides, training and orientation sessions were held for duty bearers including police, the office of State Attorney, Community Development Office and Probation officers on GBV policies and international normative frameworks on gender, GBV and women's rights. These skills and structures will definitely outlive the project. The enhanced capacities and resilience of the target groups, women, girls and youth at the greatest risk of exploitation and abuse, will benefit them also in the future. For more details see chapter 2.

Working with local partners and strengthening the capacities of community structures, local duty bearers' capacities (e.g. local governments, cities, sub counties) and partner organisations form part of key exit strategies. Skills, business investments, provided information and enhanced knowledge will remain in the community long after WAYREP has ended. Advocating for implementation of the NAP on UNSCR 1325 and translating this into local action will further improve the protection of women's rights, GBV prevention as well as women peace and security on the national and international levels for many years to come. Awareness on integration of GBV in the national crisis response has taken root and will provide a basis for not ignoring it in similar pandemics, as government and stakeholders are now more alert on this issue.

No specific environmental interventions have so far been implemented but WAYREP coordinates its actions with other CARE programs in West Nile and Northern Uganda, some of which are focussing on Natural Resource Management.

7. Monitoring / evaluation

Monitoring activities were also affected by COVID 19. Still, the team tried to ensure them as good as possible even during lockdown, inter alia by an increased use of digital tools such as Kobo for reporting. CEFORD and PACHEDO conducted field monitoring activities to track progress. Monitoring tools were refined during the year and discussed in team meetings such as at a quarterly project meeting in December 2020. Starting in the 3rd quarter of the project year, the CARE Uganda Program Manager for Gender Justice conducted monthly field visits to Gulu City, Arua City, Omugo settlement to monitor progress that the impact groups, in particular Y/VSLA groups and participants in youth and women spaces, were making. These field visits and interaction with partners and field staff partly led to the phasing out of the CBFs and replacement with SASA Activists and RMMB basing on lessons learned and on-the-ground operations. The CARE Program Director also conducted field visits to Gulu and Arua cities.

Due to COVID, the baseline had to be postponed from early April 2020 to July 2020 and tools and approaches for data collection had to be revised to conform to physical distancing and lockdown measures, which either cut or heavily limited access to key data sources (i.e. WAYREP target groups). The originally contracted baseline consultant managed to develop the quantitative and qualitative tools for data collection and to collate the raw data collected. However, as she was not available later in the year, the project team - in particular the CARE Uganda MEAL Advisor and CARE Austria Gender Advisor - took on the tasks of drafting and finalizing the [baseline report](#) (annex 1). Findings were disseminated to the project CARE and partner staff in December 2020. Learnings and recommendations from the baseline data collection process also informed important revisions of the MEAL plan, results framework and set project targets where these had not been defined. Some indicators were revised in the Results Framework in order to increase their comparability and specificity, and improve the accuracy of their measurements, in particular for Result Areas 2 and 4 (for revised Results Framework see annex 7). In addition, the interaction with WAYREP target group members during the baseline put to light the need to clarify and better contextualise some key project terms and definitions – namely the term “self-efficacy” in the Specific Objective indicator. The WAYREP team is currently preparing a qualitative assessment to explore how this term is defined by our project participants so that we can ensure that the change the project is seeking to achieve is a locally relevant as possible.

A SASA Together Baseline Assessment – data collection was undertaken in the last quarter of the year.

Given the COVID 19 impact on global travel, physical visits by the CARE Austria technical staff was not possible. However, virtual reviews and interactions with CARE Uganda and partner staff was valuable in assessing progress and taking corrective actions as necessary.

8. Visibility and public awareness raising

The following public awareness and visibility activities were carried out during the reporting year in Uganda:

- Printing IEC materials for CBTs and duty bearers. The materials that included T-shirts and backpacks bore CARE and ADA logos.
- Monitoring visits and strategic engagements with government officials as well as engagements with likeminded CSOs contributed to further visibility. This included partnership with UNWOMEN, UNHCR, ALIGHT, DRC and IRC in conducting an RGA that furthered CARE's visibility and recognition for expertise in gender and GBV. Following completion of the CARE/WAYREP Rapid Gender Analysis done in April-June, 2020, a TV talk show was organised to disseminate and share key findings, implications and recommendations. The NTV show can be watched at <https://youtu.be/kBVnzKoRLoE>. The talk show was delivered in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister and Humanity Inclusion.
- There were media engagements during 16 days of activism against GBV, 2020 and the International Women's Day celebration for radios in Arua, Gulu and with reach to the refugee settlement areas and surrounding districts.
- There were also road drives, experience sharing by survivors of teenage pregnancies, key note addresses by guest speakers, activity launches and dialogues with representation from Cultural Institutions and Uganda's Justice, Law and Order Sector, Uganda Law Society, Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA), Police, and WAYREP Partner Organisations – PACHEDO and CEFORD which increased visibility.

In Austria, communication activities were affected by the lockdown and planned events and visits had to be done virtually or postponed. During the 16 days of activism, WAYREP published a [website with Human Interest Stories](#) and a campaign on its social media channels that was addressing the question "I feel safe when...". An Ugandan female photographer had been engaged to take the photos. On International Women's Day, WAYREP was part of a CARE Austria [online exhibition aiming at "making women and girls visible"](#). As press visits were not possible, WAYREP featured an article in Austrian newspapers on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights challenges in Uganda during COVID 19. Throughout the year, various postings were published on social media and the CARE Austria website. WAYREP also contributed 2 articles to ADA Weltnachrichten – one on [WAYREP](#), the other on [women leadership and participation during COVID 19 pandemic](#).



Arua one FM moderating community Radio Dialogue at Kubala Market, Obi Parish in Omugo Sub County.



Teaser for the Social Media Campaign during the 16 days of activism

9. Other points

Sophia's short story (a participant in the life skills training for women and girls at risk)

Sophia (not her name) a young lady aged 21 from Bardege division – Kasubi speaks out during the closing session after the series of engagements with targeted girls at Risk in Gulu Town in June 2020. She appreciated Local Council Leader for identifying her to be part of the group and bringing her to a circle of friends – something she has never been confident to do.

“My childhood was characterized by a series of bad breaks that have led me to attempted suicide twice in my life. I lost my mother at an age of 4 years and grew up with my step mother. Life was very difficult growing up ...with a lot of beating from my step mother, denial of food and a lot of household chores having to look after all children and adults in the house. I dropped out of school in p.4 because of the difficulty to balance school and all household chores I had to do. Many times I came from home to no food and too much house hold chores. Slept at 11pm and woke up at 5am daily in to be able to balance school and home activities. I never had an opportunity to play or even have friends at home or at school. I always felt too miserable to relate and even when I tried to have friends in the neighborhood, I was punished for wasting time playing instead of completing household chores.

At the age of 16 I decided to leave home and run to town for a better life. I was introduced into sex work as the quickest means to get money especially if you have no education and skills. I never enjoyed sex work and 'luckily' found a man who was willing to marry me. He took me in but was very violent. I had one child and lost the other in one of the very violent episodes. I had to endure because I had no options until he abandoned me early this year in our rented room and moved to another wife. Life has been very tough affording basics especially with a child. I had tried to resort back to sex work for the sake of my child but this too did not work anymore following COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown.

When I was identified to be part of this engagement, I was not sure what to expect but I just decided to keep attending the sessions. From day one of attending the psychosocial support sessions, I felt the facilitators were very good people, being part of the group has given friends I have never had. I feel happy in my life – my problems have not ended but I feel there is a ray of hope. I am confident that being part of this group will make me a better person. I look forward to skills building sessions especially knowing how to tailor where I can earn a stable income and give my child a better future' and I am also happy to have friends now who we know each other's past and can trust each other to develop together.”

“Living an exemplary life to other men in the community”

Amir Abbas is a 26 years old Role Model Man and a tailor living in Oli B cell, River Oli division in Arua City. He learnt about the WAYREP project when the community members and youth were mobilised to form VSLA groups. Abbas has been married for the last six years living together with his wife and parents in the same homestead.

“I grew up knowing household chores like washing utensils, washing clothes, fetching water, taking care of children is a responsibility of women since my childhood it was my mother and sisters who performed the roles.” said Abas. Abas also narrated that “When I got married, this responsibility rested on my wife because I believed one of the reasons, I married her was to come and do household work as I go out to raise income for taking care of other family need. After work, I would wait for my wife to carry for me water for bathing in the bath room. I equally believed that my work was heavier than all the work she did at home’.

I was given opportunity by my community to serve as a Role Model Man in Tanganyika ward under WAYREP-Project. I was taken for a three days training on understanding gender, power, relationship etc. which came as a turning point to me. “I learnt that gender roles are set by culture and that a man can actually perform those gender roles that are perceived to be done by women”. Abas said. Now, I can wash clothes together with my wife, serve the family members when food is ready. The family now lives happily and now it is my responsibility to reach out to other fellow men in my community with the same message as a Role Model Man. I engage three households every week to ensure they live a responsible life.

I will always give back to my community, a big thank you to CEFORD and CARE for the capacity building opportunities and transforming my life.”



Amir Abbas is serving breakfast for the family.

Documented by Dama Emmanuel

Please find more stories [on the website](#) and further stories collected in September 2020 during the mission of an Ugandan female photographer in annex 8.

10. Lessons learned / outlook

Project implementation produced many learnings, both COVID 19 related as well as general ones. The COVID 19 pandemic may not end soon and as such the integration of lessons learned will be critical.

- **Flexibility and adaptation to evolving circumstances (e.g. COVID 19 outbreak) is critical for business continuity and effectiveness.** Switching to virtual engagements, working from home, flexibility in budget realignments, intensifying the work on GBV, among others, enabled continuity despite government restrictions. Emerging issues such as teenage pregnancy that escalated during the pandemic could be addressed by integrating messages in ongoing

activities while, at the same time, advocating for a more comprehensive response to the challenge.

- The **introduction of digital tools** proved useful in particular in view of project management that happens across different locations. However, there were clear limitations in view of reaching WAYREP's target groups, in particular vulnerable and marginalized women and girls who often do not have access and/or control over phones, even less internet. Some women could only be reached via husbands or neighbours which made follow up calls difficult. Moreover, it is important to note that while technology has potential to expand reach, it cannot replace the quality and purpose of human interactions that is key for some actions. In particular, in view of more specific support to survivors of GBV, digital or remote tools were not always well accepted and survivors preferred personal visits and conversations. Remote PFA could help identify persons who require support but more in-depth follow up usually had to happen in person, in order to ensure that nobody is left behind. In-depth exchange and lobbying meetings with decision makers could also not be replaced by virtual meetings.
- **Having and maintaining strong partnerships is crucial for success, in particular during crisis situations.** Partnerships with local partners, likeminded CSOs and local governments and regular and active participation in working committees and groups contributed to WAYREP's relative continuity in program implementation and advocacy wins. It was key that these partnerships had been well established before the crisis, as the establishment of new contacts and partnerships proved difficult during COVID 19 restrictions. International and national partnerships also helped to complement technical expertise, build on experiences elsewhere and create synergies.
- **Experience showed that WAYREP tools have to be adapted to specific target groups, in particular adolescent girls.** Adolescent girls or young women do not only have specific needs but assessment tools e.g. on gender relations usually focus more on adult women and do not take their specific situation into consideration. As the meta study had already indicated, some challenges are more relevant in urban than in rural areas, such as mobility of especially youthful target populations.
- **Ensuring to reach those most at risk requires active monitoring and a strategic approach.** As groups are self-select, for instance, the most vulnerable might not be selected and, in general, more "elite" groups might try to benefit from the program. WAYREP thus actively engages to integrate community structures in relevant selection committees and remains vigilant that impact group members are the ones to benefit from the project activities. For instance, membership to Y/VSLA groups was updated during the year to ensure inclusion of women, girls and youth at the greatest risk of exploitation including sex workers, and the BCC structures were re-organised by phasing out the CBFs. The project then instituted SASA Activists and Role Model Men and Boys identified through a community mobilisation approach. While CBFs had done a commendable job, they were not well structured to integrate BCC methodologies involving the use of the RMM/B approach that deals with transforming negative masculinity and SASA methodology that promotes community gender activism. Besides, the project team noted a higher representation of community leaders and needed to constitute structures that were more balanced and selected by women and men in the community to be more accountable and anchored amongst the impact groups.

- Outlook for next reporting period

While concrete data will emerge with the medium term review (MTR) scheduled for the next reporting period, by the end of the second year a clear foundation has been established for the impact groups of women, girls and youth in urban, rural, refugee and non-refugee contexts.

Some Y/VSLA members have already demonstrated visible resilience and progress towards dignified livelihoods. WAYREP will continue to strengthen their capacities and support their socioeconomic activities. Youth skilling and apprenticeship will also continue. A careful linkage of multi-purpose cash

transfers to Y/VSLAs may catalyse savings, investments and building of resilience for the extremely vulnerable women, girls and youth.

BCC work has shown first results in improving esteem and lowering acceptance of GBV while improving referral pathways and accessibility to services. The RMM/B, SASA! And other BCC activities will be intensified in project year 3.

GBV service gaps will require more work especially with regard to capacity development and coordination of GBV response and case management for survivors of GBV. GBV response will require building stronger partnerships particularly with the service providers within the Justice, Law and Order Sector. This will also need advocacy for adequate resourcing across the spectrum especially for women protection spaces and services which remain a nation priority with limited funding. Teenage pregnancy also remains critical in the project area and will need concerted efforts to address beyond integration of messaging currently incorporated within WAYREP.

Advocacy around NAP III and particularly its execution through local action plans will generate durable solutions with duty bearers and community actors. The implementation of the Community Score Card approach slated to intensify in the coming year will strengthen social accountability with the needed durability.

Last but not least WAYREP will continue to provide capacity development to its partners and will intensify its work on the learning agenda in order to share its insights and recommendations also with other stakeholders.

For more details see annual work plan (annex 9).

Annexes

- Annex 1: Baseline Report
- Annex 2: Call to Action
- Annex 3: Summary Women At The Frontline
- Annex 4: MPCT SOP
- Annex 5: Risk Register Updated
- Annex 6: Baseline Report
- Annex 7: Updated Results Framework
- Annex 8: Human Interest Stories
- Annex 9: Annual Work Plan
- Annex 10: Financial Report



List of Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CBFs	Community Based Facilitators
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CBTs	Community Based Trainers
CDOs	Community Development Officers
CEFORD	Community Empowerment for Rural Development
CEWIGO	Centre for Women in Governance
CI	CARE International
CO	Country Office
CoACT	Coalition for Action on the 1325 UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace & Security
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IPC:	Infection and Protection Control (IPC)
IRC	International Refugee Council (IRC)
L4C	Learning for Change
LC	Local Council
MEAL	Monitoring Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPCT	Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers
MTR	Mid-Terms Review
NAP	National Action Plan
NGBVD	The National Gender Based Violence Data Base
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PACHEDO	Partners for Community Health and Development Organisation
PFA	Psychological First Aid
RGA	Rapid Gender Analysis
RMM/B	Role Model Men & Boys
RWC	Refugee Welfare Council
SASA	Start, Awareness, Support and Action.
SAVIX	Savings Groups Information Exchange
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UGX	Uganda Shilling
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WAY:	Women, Adolescents and Youth Rights and Empowerment Programme
WAYFIP	Women and Youth Financial Inclusion Programme
WAYREP	Women and Youth Resilience Project
WPS	Women, Peace & Security
YSLA	Youth Savings and Loans Associations