

Strategic Partnership

Interim Report

Project N° 1980-03/2019

Project title: Women and Youth Resilience Project (WAYREP)

| Contract Partner in Austria | Local project partner(s) |
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| | |
|--|--|
| Country/Countries: Uganda | Region/locality: Gulu City, Arua City, Omugo Settlement and Omugo Host. |
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Brief description of project progress (German, max. 2 pages)

Im vierten Projektjahr hat das Projekt 26,632 (F 17,926 / M 8,706) Frauen, Mädchen und Jugendliche erreicht, die Überlebende von geschlechtsbasierter Gewalt (GBV) sind oder dem Risiko von Gewalt ausgesetzt sind. Insgesamt hat WAYREP seit Projektstart 65,368 Begünstigte durch verschiedene Aktivitäten wie Trainings, Veranstaltungen auf Gemeindeebene, Hausbesuche oder GBV-Fallmanagement unterstützt. Das Projekt arbeitete dieses Jahr zudem mit 294 Stakeholdern zusammen, insbesondere formellen und informellen GBV-Dienstleister*innen und lokalen Autoritäten wie etwa Vertreter*innen der Städte Arua und Gulu, von Terego Distrikt, und der Flüchtlingsiedlung Omugo. Ziel war es insbesondere, eine qualitative Unterstützung der Zielgruppen, inklusive von GBV-Überlebenden zu gewährleisten. Gemeindestrukturen spielten hierbei eine wichtige Rolle. Dies sind lokale Freiwillige oder Führungspersonen, die Frauen, Mädchen und Jugendliche vor Ort unterstützen und Aufklärungsarbeit zur Prävention von Gewalt und zur Unterstützung von Überlebenden von Gewalt durchführen (z.B. lokale Trainer*innen, Aktivist*innen, institutionelle Unterstützer*innen oder Mitglieder von Male Action Groups). Sie sind in den Gemeinden inzwischen als Ansprechpersonen etabliert und für ihre Arbeit geschätzt. Im letzten Projektjahr werden ihre Kapazitäten und Netzwerke auf lokaler Ebene weiter ausgebaut, damit sie auch nach Ende des Projekts ihre Rolle weiter ausführen können. Etwa 196,948 Menschen wurden vom Projekt indirekt in den Gemeinden und Haushalten erreicht.

Das Projekt unterstützte in diesem Projektjahr 7,761 (F 6,433 / M 1,328) Mitglieder von 303 Spargruppen. Sie sparten insgesamt ca. UGX 597,171,000 (ca. EUR 163,608.5), bei einer Kreditanspruchnahme von 54%. 171 Spargruppen haben ihre Ersparnisse ausgezahlt, welche sich auf insgesamt UGX 823,344,300 (ca. EUR 225,573.7) beliefen. Dies ist ein Anstieg von etwa 12.7% im Vergleich zu letztem Jahr, was insbesondere auf die besseren unternehmerischen Fähigkeiten und den Ausbau ihrer Geschäfte zurückzuführen ist. Die Mehrzahl der Spargruppenmitglieder erreichten ihr Sparziel, das sie sich zu Beginn gesetzt hatten. Einige reinvestierten ihre Gewinne in ihre Einkommen schaffenden Tätigkeiten, während andere Anschaffungen machten, etwa für Häuser. WAYREP unterstützte in diesem Jahr zusätzliche 18 Spargruppen mit Start Up Kapital von durchschnittlich UGX 5,000,000 (ca. EUR 1,369), welche diese für gemeinsame Geschäftsgründungen nutzten, beispielsweise die Produktion und den Verkauf von Mehl oder den Verleih von Stühlen und Zelten für Veranstaltungen. 88 (F 69 / M 19) jugendliche Spargruppenmitglieder erhielten Ausbildungsplätze z.B. im Bereich Schneiderei oder Friseur. 75% von den Jugendlichen, die im Projekt die Ausbildung abgeschlossen haben, können inzwischen ihren Lebensunterhalt erwirtschaften und tragen z.T. substantiell zum Einkommen ihrer Familien bei.

526 (F 426 / M 100) besonders vulnerable Frauen, Mädchen und Jugendliche wurden für ein Jahr monatlich finanziell unterstützt. Zugleich nahmen sie an verschiedenen Trainings teil, um ihre wirtschaftlichen Fähigkeiten sowie soft skills zu stärken. 41% von ihnen sind bis zum Ende der Berichtsperiode Mitglieder von Spargruppen geworden, mit einer durchschnittlichen monatlichen Sparsumme, die inzwischen UGX 21,600 (ca. EUR 5.9) beträgt.

Lokale Freiwillige spielen eine zentrale Rolle in der Prävention von GBV. Die 75 Role Model Men and Boys unterstützen Haushalte, in denen Gewalt herrschte und tragen dazu bei, diskriminierende und schädigende Geschlechternormen zu hinterfragen und positive Maskulinität zu fördern. Es wurde sogenannte Male Action Groups gegründet, in denen Männer sich gegenseitig unterstützen, die aber auch in den Gemeinden Aufklärungsarbeit machen. All dies trug zu verbesserten Beziehungen in den Haushalten bei und dazu, dass Aufgaben in den Haushalten besser aufgeteilt wurden, dass die Kommunikation zwischen Ehepartnern sowie Eltern und ihren Kindern verbessert wurde und es mehr gemeinsame Entscheidungen in den Familien gab. Zudem haben 127 SASA! Aktivist*innen, welche Gemeindemitglieder, lokale Führungspersonlichkeiten, institutionelle Unterstützer*innen und andere umfassen, die Gemeinden gegen GBV und für die Nutzung

von Überweisungsmöglichkeiten im Falle von GBV informiert, z.B. in Sportstätten, Bars oder Motorradtaxi Haltestellen oder in Treffen auf Gemeindeebene. Diese Aktivitäten führten zu einer geringeren Akzeptanz von Gewalt in den Gemeinden sowie verbesserter lokaler Unterstützung von Überlebenden von GBV, indem u.a. Fälle zunehmend berichtet und an Stellen verwiesen wurden, an denen sie Hilfe erhielten.

In diesem Jahr wurden 213 (F 198 / M 15) neue GBV-Fälle registriert und 86 (F 83 / M 03) Überlebende für gesundheitliche, polizeiliche, rechtliche oder andere Unterstützung weiterverwiesen. 175 (F 164 / M 11) Fälle wurden abgeschlossen, von denen alle berichteten, dass sie mit den erhaltenen Services zufrieden waren.

Die Koordination zwischen den GBV-Dienstleister*innen wurde weiter verbessert, wozu insbesondere auch Fallkonferenzen beitrugen, in denen die fachlichen Expert*innen spezifische Herausforderung in der Prävention von GBV und der angemessenen Unterstützung von Überlebenden diskutieren. Hierdurch wurde die Zusammenarbeit und Kommunikation unter den beteiligten Akteur*innen intensiviert, was zu besserer Qualität der Leistungen führte. Zudem wurden die Akteur*innen in ihren Kapazitäten gestärkt und z.B. Trainings zur Nutzung der Nationalen GBV Datenbank organisiert. Community Score Cards trugen zu weiteren Verbesserungen bei: Auf Basis gemeinsam entwickelter Indikatoren und im Austausch zwischen GBV-Dienstleister*innen (vor allem von Polizei und Gesundheitssektor), Entscheidungsträgern und der Zivilgesellschaft wurden Aktionspläne entwickelt, um GBV-Dienstleistungen weiter zu verbessern. Die Umsetzung wird zurzeit gemonitort.

WAYREPs anwaltschaftliche Arbeit konzentrierte sich auf GBV, insbesondere den Zugang zur Justiz, sowie auf Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Das Projekt führte die Lokalisierung des Nationalen Aktionsplans zu WPS fort. Die Stadträte in Gulu und Arua bewilligten in diesem Jahr die Lokalen Aktionspläne zu WPS (LAP). In Gulu wurde der LAP bereits offiziell lanciert. In beiden Städten wurden sie durch Radiosendungen und weitere Gelegenheiten in der Öffentlichkeit bekannt gemacht. Der Prozess hat das Verständnis der Stadtbehörden, der lokalen Zivilgesellschaft und Gemeinden zu WPS gestärkt. Auf Gemeindeebene, engagierten sich Aktivistinnen darüber hinaus zu Themen, die von Frauen und Mädchen aufgebracht worden sind, etwa Genussmittelmissbrauch, Teenage Schwangerschaften oder Herausforderungen von Eltern in der Erziehung ihrer Kinder. Sie organisierten u.a. Gemeindedialoge, sowie Treffen mit Entscheidungsträger*innen. Ein Erfolg war beispielsweise, dass die Polizei und die Geflüchtetenvertretung in Omugo nun nachts in einigen Gemeinden patrouillieren, um mehr Sicherheit zu gewährleisten.

List of abbreviations

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| CARE | Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere |
| CBAFP | Community Based Advocacy Focal Person |
| CEFORD | Community Empowerment for Rural Development |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease-19 |
| CBTs | Community Based Trainers |
| CSC | Community Score Card |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| IEC | Information Education and Communication |
| IGA | Income Generating Activity |
| JLOS | Justice Law and Order Sector |
| LAP | Local Action Plan |
| LC | Local Council |
| MAG | Male Action Group |
| MEAL | Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning |
| MPCT | Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NGBVIM | National Gender Based Violence Information Management |
| OPM | Office of the Prime Minister |
| PACHEDO zation | Partners for Community Health and Development Organi- |
| RMMB | Role Model Men and Boys |
| PDM | Post Distribution Monitoring |
| SASA | Start Awareness Support Action Together |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| SRHR | Sexual Reproductive health and Rights |
| UWEP | Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution |
| WAYREP | Women and Youth Resilience Project |
| WPS | Women Peace and Security |
| Y/VSLA | Youth/Village Saving and Loan Association |

Detailed description of *project progress*

1. Project outcome achieved / discernible impact.

a) Target groups reached

During this fourth year of the project, WAYREP reached 26,632 (F 17,926 and M 8,706) women, girls, men and boys with 67% being women and girls. In the age group of 14-24 years were 4% of beneficiaries, in the group of 25-45 years 40%, and above 45 years 20%. Out of the overall reach, 35% were from Gulu, 30.3% in Arua, 27% in Omugo host, and 7% in Omugo settlement. Cumulatively, WAYREP has reached 65,368 (F 48,447 and M 21,890) direct beneficiaries, and 196,948 persons indirectly. The project strengthened the capacity of 294 key stakeholders including formal and informal GBV service providers, community structures, and local leaders through trainings who then positively influenced lives of impact group in the community.

Overview over direct beneficiaries

| PY4 (April 2022 to March 2023) include cumulative | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Category | Location | Reached in reporting period | | | Reached to date (since project start) | | |
| | | Women | Men | Total | Women | Men | Total |
| Total (Impact Group) | Gulu | 6208 | 3116 | 9324 | 43,456 | 20,585 | 64,041 |
| | Arua | 5692 | 2378 | 8070 | | | |
| | Omugo Host | 4700 | 2458 | 7158 | | | |
| | Omugo settlement | 1168 | 618 | 1786 | | | |
| Total (Other Direct Beneficiaries) | | 158 | 136 | 294 | 830 | 497 | 1,327 |
| OVERALL Total | | 17,926 | 8706 | 26,632 | 44,286 | 21,082 | 65,368 |

Note :

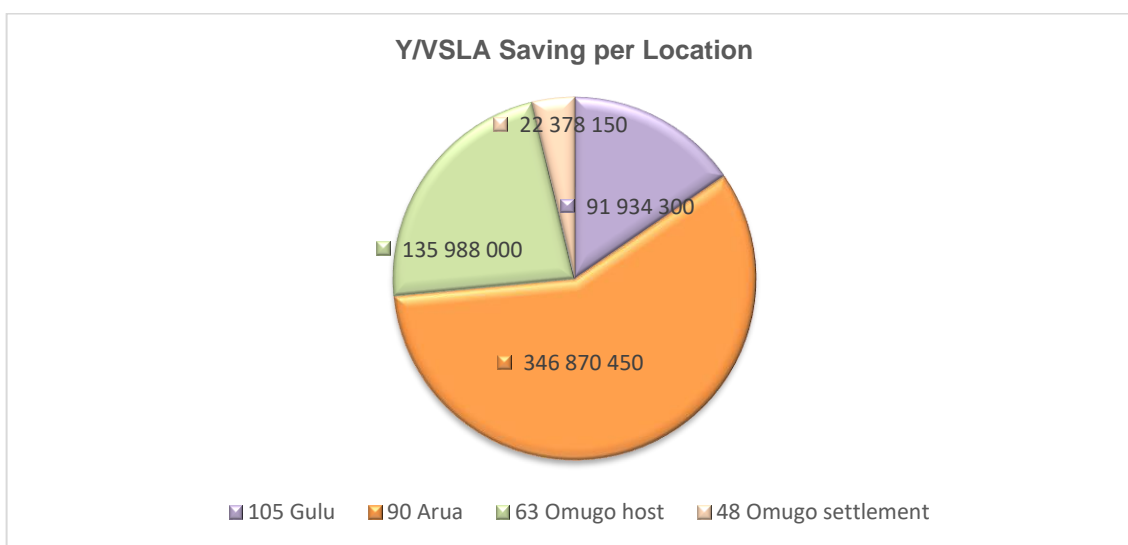
- Impact group: those that the project exists for / that justify the existence of the project (women and girls at risk 75% and disempowered male youth 25%)
- Other direct beneficiaries: those that also participate and benefit from activities, but not necessarily the ones the project has been created 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

b) Activities implemented

Enhancing sustainable and dignified Livelihoods for Women and Youths.

Members of 306 Y/VSLA have increased income opportunities

During this year, WAYREP continued to work with 306 Y/VSLA groups of the targeted 320 group. They comprised of 7,761 (F 6433 M 1,328) members representing 95.6% of V/VSLA groups. As a result of the continuous sensitisation and trainings, 87% of the group members are now active users of informal financial services with total saving value of EUR 163,608.5 and loans value of EUR 89,057 representing 54% of loan utilization. 171 out of 306 Y/VSLA groups with 4,275 (F 3,419 M 856) members conducted an action audit with total savings and dividends amounting to EUR 225,574. Out of these, EUR 120,976 in Arua, EUR 69,170 in Gulu, EUR 30,900 in Omugo host, and EUR 4,524 in Omugo settlement.



The Y/VSLA members participated various interventions including trainings in business skills, financial literacy, soft skills, and livelihoods support. For example, a total of 3,480 (F 2,909 and M 571) Y/VSLA members received refresher trainings on financial literacy this year. Generally, the Y/VSLA members were able to better exercise enterprise management principles, including record keeping and continued to improve both their individual and group enterprises. This is reflected in the increased loan utilization rate in Gulu from 46% (PY3) to 60.2% (PY4), for instance.

129 new VSLA were formed in PY4. The 1,304 (F 1,065 and M 239) new Y/VSLA members were trained in business skills. This enhanced members' skills in business development and management and increased their access to financial resources to start and expand their enterprises. As a result, 827 (F 703 and M 124) of them started income generating activities (IGAs), mostly in the cities where they ventured into small retail business such as selling of fresh vegetables, poultry, goat rearing, selling charcoal, and produce in the markets.

In PY4, 10 Y/VSLA groups formally registered with their respective Local Governments, bringing a cumulative total to 179 groups supported to obtain registration certificates. 31 Y/VSLA groups were linked to formal financial institutions this year, that is cumulatively 70 groups (52 in Arua and 18 in Gulu). These groups have saved UGX 131,050,900 (appr. EUR 35,904) in their respective bank accounts. This has enhanced safety of members' money and minimized risks of loss of money in cash boxes. Individual members gained access to other banking products including business loans. Legalization and bank accounts enabled groups to access additional funds. For example, this year, 03 Y/VSLA groups were linked to Emyooga a Presidential Initiative on Wealth and Job Creation. In total, 5 groups were so far supported by the Government of Uganda program, each group receiving UGX 1,000,000 (appr. EUR 274).

“Joining Adrofin VSLA and attending business skills training changed me. Unlike in the previous savings where I used to pick loan to buy nice food and clothes, I picked a loan, rented land for crop production and after sales I used the money to buy a plot of land, 2 goats and 1 pig and during our share out, I received my UGX 190,000 saving and bought 4 chairs at home for we had none and used the rest for my farm work.”
A member of Adrofin VSLA group in Omugo host

“The use of CHOMOKA application saves time. It is accurate, and transparent because it gives summary to members on Short Message Service (SMS) at the end of the transaction.”
Chairperson Charity Y/VSLA group in Arua

Based on the achievements of Y/VSLA groups in WAYREP, a CARE USA initiative selected some Y/VSLA groups to pilot the Digital CARE package (DCP). The DCP is a strategy to support VSLA group members to adopt digital tools by introducing a smartphone application (CHOMOKA) for recordkeeping. Consultants from Flip Africa capacitated 30 (F 15 and M 15) staff who then trained a total of 38 Y/VSLA groups (Gulu 13, Arua 10, Omugo host 10, and Omugo settlement 5) in digital literacy, in the use of smart phone, record keeping with the Chomoka app, and potential risks of GBV resulting from the use of phone.

WAYREP is monitoring unintended consequences in collaboration with MEAL, DCP and GBV team.

18 Y/VSLA groups received materials for their group enterprises, such as mobile catering, craft shoes making, wood workshop, events management, piggery, goat rearing, and maize milling. Cumulatively, the project has supported 39 groups and 07 (F 06 and M 01) individuals with IGA start up items following the vetting of their business plans which were confirmed to be viable enterprises considering local market opportunities. The supported groups implement different enterprises such as catering, juice making, craft work, grinding machine and have reported good business performance. In Gulu city, for instance, Yele Ber Juice processors reported earning an average of 30,000UGX daily from their business and all money is reinvested back to build the business. They envisage growing their savings and have ability to loan to group members, hence increasing access to financial resources. In Omugo host, 2 groups of Munguajini and Ama Owezara VSLAs lend profits from the livelihoods enterprise to members at 10% and non-members at 15% interest rate. In Arua city, Asianzu VSLA was supported with chairs and tents for events management and added a 10 seater tent from the returns. Post distribution monitoring assessment was conducted to assess progress of groups and individuals in more detail.

88 youth have increased technical skills

88 (F 69 and M 19) youths were enrolled for apprenticeship training in various trades in PY4. Cumulatively a total of 303 (F 249 and M 54) youths from various Y/VSLAs acquired vocational skills in various trades including in motorcycle mechanics, tailoring, hair dressing, and knitting. A total of 74 (60F, 14M) youth were taken for a learning visit to successful entrepreneurs and business centers including salons, tailors and metal fabrication workshops in Gulu and Arua cities where they learned about customer retention skills, profit making, management of micro and small enterprises amidst demanding daily expenses. Out of the 303 youths, 215 sat for DIT exams and 189 passed. Field monitoring reports indicate that 75% of youths who completed apprenticeship are employed. Some were retained by training centres where they graduated. This has improved their ability to earn income and to save in their Y/VSLA groups. They now meet their individual and families' basic needs. 02 youths have even established their own tailoring training centres in their locality and are equipping other vulnerable girls in their community with the skills they acquired through WAYREP.

"I sold tailored clothes and earned UGX 150,000, combined with my friend and we rented a shop where we tailor together. Our customers have increased, I now earn minimum on weekly basis UGX 50,000 and am now training other 3 girls at a rate of UGX 60,000 per month each."
A former apprentice in Gulu

Engagement meetings with 347 (F 253 and M 94) caregivers of youths that completed the apprenticeship program confirmed changes in their households as well as in the lives of their children. The caregivers appreciated the positive impact of youth skilling on these youths. For example, they testified that the youths are now meeting their own basic needs, contribute towards school fees for their siblings, buy food at home, and some stopped drinking alcohol. Routine project assessments also indicated gains in terms of better standard of living, more responsible behaviours exhibited by the youth, increased power balance among women and men and better communication among couples and family members.

"My daughter has been able to sew over 500 uniforms for pupils in primary schools. Her financial status has improved, and this has saved me a lot from the burden of providing for her. Instead, she now supports me by buying food and other necessities in the house."
A caregiver from Bura in Omugo host.

526 of the most vulnerable project participants graduated

526 (F 426 and M 100) project participants graduated from extreme vulnerability, with final transfers of multipurpose cash transfer (MPCT) done in December 2022. In addition to the MPCT, they had received further trainings, in particular those who joined VSLAs where some even benefitted from skilling. By end of December, 41% of them had joined VSLA groups with increased monthly saving from UGX 13,200 (appr. EUR 3.6) to UGX 21,600 (appr. EUR 5.9). Post Distribution Monitoring results indicated that 93% of MPCT recipients were satisfied with the support received. 96% of women and 95% of men reported to being able to meet their basic needs. 73% of women and 64% of men reported being involved in income generating activity. 87.5% appreciated the usefulness of MPCT, and about 80%% are now able to make decision on how to spend their money. (see PDM III, annex 4) In PY5, another 140 individuals are to be enrolled for MPCT, based on a validation exercise with 314 (F 273 and M 41) potentially eligible individuals, finalised in PY4.

"My husband neglected me and our only child leaving us helpless, I resorted to alcoholism and suffered depression. But after few months of MPCT support, my life changed, from my savings I started selling braids and now I pay my child in school, feed and take care of our necessities."
A former MPCT and GBV survivor in Arua

Project participants have enhanced confidence, soft and life skills

863 (F 752 and M 111) project participants attended soft skills trainings this year, including 103 (F 80 and M 23) MPCT beneficiaries. They have strengthened self-confidence and self-esteem, communication and decision-making skills, learned to cope with emotions, etc. This helped them create a sense of belonging, expand their social network and encouraged them to actively engage in community activities. Some were able to better address issues of substance abuse. Soft skills helped especially MPCT recipients when establishing income-generating activities, as observed and reported by the Community Based Trainers (CBTs). Altogether, the CBTs trained 2,028 (F 1,684 and M 344) project participants in soft skills to enable them effectively to deal with daily life challenges.

17 Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) centres were established (3 in Gulu, 5 in Arua, 6 in Omugo host, and 3 in settlement) with 454 (F 436 and M 18) learners reached this year and cumulatively totalling to 662 (F 638 and M 24) learners. 211 (F 203 and M 8) FAL learners graduated in March 2023. FAL classes have enabled project participants to read and write short sentences and manage their IGA records of daily transactions including calculation of profits and losses.

“I had no confidence and low self-esteem because of the inability to read and write, I could not associate and speak in community meetings. The training has built my agency to speak with confidence in gatherings.”

A FAL learner in Arua

Reduced Acceptance and tolerance to GBV in targeted communities.

Men and boys demonstrate more positive masculinity

“I am grateful to the Role Model Man in our village who has been close to me and other men. He has supported us to embrace nonviolence, healthy relationships, and positive masculinity. I used to hold power over my wife, solely make decisions in our household. I and my wife now jointly make decisions for our family, share household chores and I treat women equally and respectfully.”

A Household member in Gulu.

In PY4, the 75 Role Model Men and Boys (RMMB) conducted 1,415 household dialogue sessions, reaching 1,616 (F 838 and M 778) new project participants. Moreover, 316 (F 112 and M 204) people were reached at male spaces including boda boda stages, trading centres, betting centres, and youth leisure corners. Cumulatively, the RMMB reached an estimate of 5,778 people of which 30% are female and 70% are males. As a result of the continued engagement through the RMMB, there is growing mutual respect among

couples. In household and monitoring visits, the team observed behaviours of positive masculinity such as men supporting their wives with household chores and to access and utilise sexual and reproductive health services, mutual conversations and joint decision making. An estimated 45% have transformed and report improved relationships. Beyond the targeted households, the good practices are being emulated by neighbouring households who have started participating in some of the dialogue sessions which is also shifting their actions in relation to the use of power and promoting healthy relationships.

619 male project participants participated in Male Action Group (MAG) sessions where they discussed sexual reproductive health issues especially family planning and antenatal care, and acquired soft skills that help prevent Intimate Partner Violence, and violence against women and girls.

Role model men and boys and MAGs organized couple seminars for a total of 573 couples. Through these seminars, couples learned about healthy relationships, management of family finances, and sharing household responsibilities among other topics. The RMMB and MAGs continue follow up with the couples after the seminars.

“The first time I was called for this seminar I did not like it, I felt my wife was exposing me but when I heard other men confessing how terrible they were and now changed because of this meeting, I picked courage. I have now seen and felt the benefit of cooperating with my wife.”

A male participant in Arua

Communities are more aware and have increased knowledge on Gender Equality and GBV

MAGs and RMMB organized 09 Football matches through which the project was able to reach up to 1,057 community members (F 261 and M 796). The focus of the sports events was to create awareness on GBV prevention, negative cultural norms that promote violence against women and girls, and sexual reproductive health messages. The matches were also used as an avenue of promoting male role models in the community who speak up against GBV and negative masculinity.

“This football match happened timely in our community, as its rare and the youth are for holidays. Many of us would be idle and disorderly, and gambling. It brought us men and youth together to understand more about rights, GBV and how we can support women and girls.”

A youth from Negri village, Gulu

“In my home I support my wife, I fetch water for her, I sometime walk with her to the market to buy food stuffs and I do it because I now know it’s not a taboo to support my wife, all this is because of the message I received from awareness sessions by the SASA activist.”

A resident of Layibi A in Gulu

127 (F 94 and M 13) SASA activists gained skills in implementing the SASA! Support Phase. With these, they conducted 1,243 awareness sessions reaching a total of 3,916 people (F 2,553 and M 1,363). The SASA activists utilized existing spaces including markets, religious gatherings, sports centres, water points, men’s spaces, among others to create awareness. The visuals for the support phase (power posters) had been adapted to the local context by an adaptation committee of 28 (F 18 and M 10) members (see annex 3). Community leaders conducted 625 SASA awareness sessions reaching 6,595 (F 4,501 and M 2,094) people. The leaders used tools including the quick charts, deeper discussions,

leadership leaflets, and community talking points in social gatherings to create awareness on the effects of GBV, power imbalance, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse, among other relevant topics. These sessions have been utilized as avenue by SASA Activists to amplify GBV prevention messages, improve household relations and reconciliations and challenge negative cultural norms that promote violence against women and girls. 32 (F 11 and M 21) institutional allies continued to conduct sensitization meetings on negative cultural norms such as forced marriage, early marriage, gendered household division of labour, and GBV reaching 252 persons (F 93 and M 159). The Lugbara Kari cultural institution held 02 awareness sessions which were attended by 86 (F 14 and M 72) cultural and clan leaders in Logiri sub-county in Arua. As a result of the various GBV prevention activities, communities have demonstrated uptake of GBV prevention information by sharing household responsibilities. Some women now have access to productive assets like land, and there are notably improved relationships in households.

“These SASA awareness sessions have made me understand the benefit of treating everyone equally unlike before, I now look forward to teaching my children the value of respect and accord support to them equally without discriminating them on basis of gender.”

A community member in Omugo host

“I am 60 years old I have never sat in a meeting that brings together clan/cultural leaders to discuss negative cultural norms in our area. Thanks to CEFORD, CARE, Lugbara Kari for this organization since our community is facing a lot of challenges killing young generation.”

A participant from Logiri sub-county

WAYREP participated in the commemoration of International Men’s Day under the theme “Helping men and boys to access GBV services” reaching 517 (F 213 and M 304) people. Through the RMMB and SASA Activists, the project was able to pitch key messages to create awareness to communities on the impact of GBV, the need for their involvement in prevention, positive masculinity, and the referral pathways. Discussions pointed to the vulnerability of men and boys because cultural norms hinder them to report

cases of GBV against them.

Enhanced support to GBV survivors.

GBV survivors received enhanced support

“When I was raped, I felt like killing myself, but the Role Model Man made me talk with a GBV officer on phone who encouraged me to go to the health center and asked the LC1 to go with me. The next day she gave me UGX 74,000 which I am using for feeding as I take my drugs (PEP). I don’t want to die now; I want to become a policewoman so that I can arrest men who abuse young girls.”

A 14-year old survivor in Omugo host.

213 (F 198 and M 15) new GBV cases were registered and managed during this year with 46 (F 42 and M 04) in Gulu, 36 (F 34 and M 02) in Arua, 115 (F 109 and M 06) in Omugo host, and 16 (F 13 and M 03) in settlement, bringing the cumulative total of 797 (F 720 and M 77) cases registered by the project. 175 (F 164 and M 11) cases were closed this year, bringing the cumulative number of cases managed to closure to 449. All 175 persons reported satisfaction with the services received. The remaining 86 cases are being managed. During this year, the

project referred 86 (F 83, and M 03) GBV cases to access services from other service providers out of whom 52 were referred to Police, 49 to health, 16 to local leaders for mediation, and 01 to the GBV shelter. 18 GBV survivors were financially supported this year to access GBV services (cumulatively 34 survivors). The funds received largely contributed to their transportation to access health care services, buy required drugs for treatment, hygiene materials, and meals as they access the required health and police services. All survivors supported expressed satisfaction with the services received from the health facilities, Police, and court. This was obtained from the client satisfactory survey tool which is administered to the survivor at case closure. During this year, a total of 08 survivors (2 in Arua, 2 in Omugo, and 4 in Gulu) were supported and accessed justice in the courts of law as follows: 02 cases in Arua with 01 perpetrator remanded for 25 years while another for 3 months. In Omugo, 1 perpetrator was sentenced to 3 years while perpetrators of a gang rape were sentenced to 7 years imprisonment each. In Gulu, 01 perpetrator was sentenced to one month community service, 01 opted for plea bargain and is still on remand awaiting sentencing, and the other 02 are still on remand too awaiting court ruling.

Formal and informal GBV survivors have enhanced capacities

There is improvement in case documentation because of the refresher training provided to 27 (F 17 and M 10) project staff and service providers from Gulu, Arua, and Terego district. All cases received are recorded in the National GBV Management Information System (MIS) that is centrally managed by the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development. The project also facilitated the staff from the Ministry to conduct technical support and supervision to both WAYREP GBV team and Arua and Gulu city authorities on data entry into the MIS which has enhanced GBV information management. Currently a total of 230 (Arua 51, Gulu 39, and Omugo 140) entries have been made in the NGBVMIS.

During this year, 40 (F 22 and M 18) community structures including RMMB, SASA Activists, and community leaders received Psychosocial Support training which equipped them with basic counselling skills to better support people undergoing traumatic experiences in the community. They conducted group psychosocial support sessions with 24 groups and individual sessions with 178 (F 96 and M 82) vulnerable people in the community such as teenage mothers.

“I never thought I would come to an open space and share ideas with other people. I didn’t imagine there are some other girls like me in this area who have gone through challenging experience like me, I’m happy I now have hope, I can be a better person in future and live to achieve my dreams.”

A teenage mother, Arua.

GBV service providers better coordinate their services

The project continued to strengthen coordination among GBV service providers by conducting 11 case conferences with overall 52 (F 18 and M 34) participants including police child and family

protection unit, GBV focal points, representatives from health units, Resident state attorneys, probation officers, and members of civil society organizations such as Action Aid, FIDA Uganda, Uganda Law Society, among others. These conferences provided a platform for experience sharing, discussion of difficult cases, and strengthening referral pathways as well as survivor-centred service delivery. Case conferences have continued to improve case management and timely service delivery to survivors through multi-disciplinary case coordination. (see annex 5)

Increased accountability of the government of Uganda on the implementation of relevant frameworks for women and girls' protection and right

Government is hold accountable for GBV services of good quality

07 (F 05 and M 02) Community Based Facilitators received a refresher training on Community Score Card (CSC) processes. In all the four project locations Community Score Cards were developed right from issue generation, indicator development, scoring, consolidation meetings, and finally interface meetings with both GBV service providers and service users. With a total of 114 (F 70 and M 44) service providers and service users three action plans were generated to enhance service delivery to GBV survivors by health sector and police. Duty bearers made commitments in addressing these issues. The Action Plans will be followed up in more details in PY5.

City authorities are localising NAP 1325

The Local Action Plans were presented to the city technical committees for review, then to the council. Following the approval of Local Action Plans (LAP) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) by Gulu and Arua city councils, Gulu city council officially launched the approved LAP on WPS during the commemoration of International Human Rights Day in December 2022. Arua city is yet to launch their approved LAP during the next reporting period. Amidst financial constraints by both cities to implement the Local Action Plans, there was solid commitment by city officials to implement the LAP by incorporating it into the city development plan as well as by using it as a resource mobilization tool to the relevant stakeholders in the city. The city officials continued to make significant efforts on creating awareness in the community on the Local Action Plans through radio talk shows and utilization of existing spaces to pass information on women peace and security. (see, for instance annex 2) This increases the understanding of UNSCR 1325, NAP III on WPS, and the Local Action Plan among the community, civil society organizations, the media and local government leaders. In a breakfast meeting organized by USAID Domestic Revenue Mobilization for Development Activity, WAYREP raised the issue of how the mobilization of domestic revenues within the two cities could contribute to the implementation of the approved Local Action Plans for Gulu, and Arua City. It was agreed that USAID Domestic Revenue Mobilization for Development Activity will continue to engage CARE International in Uganda and other relevant stakeholders to promote the implementation of the Local Action Plans on women, peace, and security.

"Honorable councilors, I urge you all to take the approved Local Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for Gulu city very seriously as its proper utilization by the city will go a long way in promoting women, peace and security and in curbing Gender Based Violence which is one of the biggest issues affecting Acholi region"
Deputy Mayor, Gulu city

CARE organised a national learning event on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) reaching 30 (F 21 and M 9) participants drawn from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, UN Women, Civil Society Organizations, the media. This provided a platform for reflection on Uganda's journey in the WPS agenda, information sharing, and benchmarking of best practices on implementation of Local Action Plans by local governments. It created awareness on progress made by government of Uganda and strengthened networking and partnership between CARE Uganda and other actors in the WPS Agenda. The project also participated in a one-day national forum on Women Peace and Security in Kampala with participants from government ministries, UN agencies, INGOs, academia, security institutions, media, among others to discuss progress,

challenges, emerging issues, and recommendations to improve NAP III implementation process after one year of its launch. The event was organized by CoACT 1325 and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP).

Women activists advocate for issues they identified in the communities

The project conducted 06 follow-up meetings with 98 (F 70 and M 28) duty bearers on progress they have made on addressing previously identified advocacy issues affecting women peace and security such as substance abuse, night discos, teenage pregnancy, poor parenting, and property rights in their communities. These leaders included city officials, representatives of the city and division councils, sub-county officials, and representatives of Refugee Welfare Committees. It was observed that local leaders have begun taking key actions towards addressing these advocacy issues. For example, in Omugo settlement, the Refugee Welfare Committee (RWC) I and a Security team conduct night patrols to ensure teenagers do not attend night discos. They have also regulated market hours which previously was a threat for safety of female market vendors who would sell up to dark hours. In Arua city, the community and local leaders of Osu Cell in Oli division began consultative processes of developing a byelaw to regulate alcohol consumption and some of the issues therein include penalty on those who disturb others after getting drunk, toilet facilities at households to improve hygiene, among others. Similarly, in Omugo host community, the female councillors presented to the sub-county council a need to formulate a byelaw to regulate alcoholism in the community. Other council members were receptive of this call for action and committed to have a byelaw in place. The project team will follow up on the implementation of these commitments in PY5.

04 women caucus meetings were held with 139 persons (F 125 and M 14). The women leaders raised issues that affect especially GBV service provision, women’s access to economic resources and their participation in leadership and decision making. In Gulu City, the issue of high interest rates at 20% levied by money lenders coupled with stringent conditions requiring the women to make daily repayments was debated. Consequently, the women urged the city authorities to urgently address these challenges to which the City Resident Commissar committed to take up the matter with the city leadership and the micro credit facilities.

“I want to encourage women to engage in income generating activities and embrace savings and invest in viable enterprises to attain financial freedom. In that way they will be able to support their partners and live a life free from violence. I have witnessed several women from my cell join VSLA groups and now share responsibilities with the partners. I have also noticed that cases of GBV is low in their households.”
A woman leader from Ozua Cell Arua City

The female leaders who participated in the caucus meetings committed to create awareness and encourage fellow women in the community to form or join VSLA groups whose loan terms are favourable with low interest rates.

“When I became a woman activist, I met a community of fellow women who have turned out to be my friends and support system who I can share life challenges with at any time and I am always sure to get good advice from. These activists have encouraged me to stand for councilor in the next elections and I will be running for the position of woman councilor for my community”. Women activist. Gulu

Women activists and change agents continued to engage communities and duty bearers through dialogues on issues identified in the communities, such as child marriage. A total of 114 dialogue meetings reached 5,398 persons (F 3,582 and M 1,816). These dialogues provided platforms for awareness creation on GBV prevention and response, NAP III on WPS, and advocacy issues identified in the community. At such occasions, cases of GBV were identified and later followed up by the activists. A total of 48 teenage mothers, for instance, returned to school this year due to combined efforts of the women activists and local leaders in the community. In Arua city, a group of 12 women activists, change agents and women leaders from Oli division held their leaders accountable for information sharing to grassroots women by seeking

audience and guidance from the Resident City Commissioner (RCC) on procedures for accessing

government funds targeting women like Parish Development Model and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP).

CSOs and duty bearers advocate jointly for women and girls' rights

The project participated in 11 joint advocacy sessions at both national and local levels through commemoration of international days and conferences. Firstly, during the 16 days of activism against GBV in November/December 2022 under the theme “UNITE! Activism to end Violence Against Women and Girls”, the project conducted 04 radio talk shows (Arua 1 FM with listenership of 23.1% (357,714 people) in West Nile region and with Rupiny FM with listenership coverage of 41.8% (290,679 people in Acholi region). Furthermore, 02 community radio dialogues with 273 (F 212 and M 61), and 48 radio spot messages. The talk shows were conducted to create awareness on GBV and NAPIII on WPS, and 50 radio spot messages were aired with GBV prevention and referral pathway messages. The city stakeholders utilized this space to provide feedback to the community on progress being made in addressing some of the advocacy issues. Moreover, feedback was obtained from individuals who called in during the talk shows. For example, one of the callers noted the need to intensify awareness raising on cultural and religious norms that have remained a challenge to gender equality work. (for 16 days see annex 1) Secondly, WAYREP participated in the commemoration of International Human Rights day under the theme “*Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All*” during which Gulu city officially launched their Local Action Plan on WPS. Thirdly, during the commemoration of International Women’s Day under the theme “Digital: Innovation and technology for gender equality” WAYREP reached 641 (F 380 and M 261) through community leaders, SASA Activists and Role model men and boys. 02 (01 in Gulu, 01 in Arua) radio talk shows were conducted on the rights of women and girls in the digital space and the need to address online and ICT facilitated GBV. Moreover, a cook event in Gulu involved 09 couples demonstrating household shared responsibilities which was followed by a dialogue meeting on unpaid care work by women in the community, with 95 (F 80 and M 15) participants. (for IWD, see annex 8) Other events included the regional annual Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) conference which was organized by the Office of the Prime Minister in partnership with the SDG Secretariat and the United Nations ahead of the first Annual National SDG Conference, the International Youth Day under the global theme “*Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a world for all Ages*”, the 14th Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) meeting organized by UNHCR and U-Learn in Kampala during which WAYEP facilitated a session on evidence-based Advocacy, the Commemoration of International Day of African Child under the theme “*Uganda’s progress in Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy & Practice since 2013*”, and World Refugee Day under the theme “*Whoever, wherever, whenever, everyone has the right to seek for safety.*”

c) Results achieved with regard to

- **Capacity Development**

The project continued to make significant contribution towards capacity development of partners staff and stakeholders including local leaders, City and District officials, Councils, and GBV service providers across all project locations and in all result areas. Feedback obtained during implementation reflect improved coordination and improved capacity of especially of GBV service providers to meet needs of survivors. Leaders testified both personal development and developments in the community they serve because of various capacity development initiatives provided by the project.

The project continued to strengthen the capacities of partner and CARE staff members e.g. on the SASA! Model, the Community Score Card and the Digital CARE Package. For example, the project enhanced capacity of 33 (F 21 and M 12) staff through a virtual training on Community Score Card (CSC) delivered by a CSC Expert from CARE UK. 16 (F 9 and M 7) staff from CARE, CEFORD, and Thrive Gulu participated in a 3-day ToT in SASA Support phase which was facilitated by an accredited trainer from Raising Voices. The staff rolled out the same training to the 75 SASA Activists who continued to utilize the skills during community awareness sessions. In addition, routine on-site technical support was provided by CARE technical staff. 13 (F 06 and M 07) GBV team members (both CARE and partners) held 04 peer support sessions. These sessions improved the psychological well-being of case workers and enhanced coordination and capacities among GBV staff as they utilized the space to share their experiences, seek support from each other on case management, and strengthen capacities on issue of safety and security, self care and case management.

"I find it easier to share my issues with my colleagues than any other person, I just feel they always support me better and I am free with them. I feel the idea of having friends in working environment is a good initiative and enables us to reach out to each other easily."

A GBV case worker in Arua

The project staff and community-based structures (the Role Model Men and boys, SASA Activists, community leaders and institutional allies) have built a wealth of skills and experience around GBV prevention and response. The project staff continued to enhance the capacities of the community structures including CBTs under result area 1 through reflection meetings, onsite mentorship sessions, and practice sessions among others. The CBTs have in turn disseminated knowledge and skills in the community who have continuously appreciated and recognized the efforts of these structures in positively transforming their lives. 31 monthly review meetings were conducted with 28 community-based trainers (CBTs) in the project locations. These meetings provided platform to CBTs to share their experiences, reflect on learnings, challenges, provide support to each other, jointly plan, and harmonize activity implementation strategy and timelines. Their skills in presentation, data collection, and documentation have continuously improved due these interactions and reflections. During this year, 04 review and reflection meetings were held with 117 women activists and change agents with focus on progress being made, existing gaps to inform tailored capacity building, learnings, and challenges. The community structures used the acquired knowledge and skills to challenge the negative social and gender norms within their communities, through community awareness, household visits and dialogues, and radio talk shows. These initiatives have enhanced the level of awareness and knowledge on GBV among community members and enhanced referral pathways on GBV. Positive changes have been reported during review meetings by Role model men, feedback sessions by community members and leaders, testimonies from the spouses, and neighbours among others.

The project continued to build capacity of both GBV formal and informal service providers on GBV case management, as well enhanced coordination among service providers through coordination meetings and case conferences. As a result, there is improved knowledge and utilization of the referral pathway, networking among various service points, and improved holistic support to GBV survivors' safety, psychological, emotional, and economic needs.

- **Advocacy**

The project continued to leverage on the existing advocacy spaces at community, District/City, National, and international levels such as commemoration of international days with focus on popularization of NAPIII on WPS and Local Action Plans for Gulu and Arua cities. The continuous advocacy on utilization of referral pathways and GBV services, as well coordination among GBV service providers through case conferences have resulted into enhanced access to justice for GBV survivors in the project location. The project continued to participate in CSO and government coordination meetings and joint activities at the city and district level. For instance, in partnership with Arua city GBV network WAYREP advocated for improved service delivery for mothers and

an engagement meeting was held with leadership of River Oli health centre IV. As a result of these engagements, the maternity ward at the health centre was furnished with delivery beds.

The capacity building provided to women activists both under WAYREP and Policy Dialogue especially on leadership and decision making enhanced their capacity to better engage in advocacy issues that affect members of their community. For example, 08 women activists double as Area Councillors representing their constituencies at division and city councils, and they are well placed to voice out issues affecting women and girls in the community at council level. Some of them testified and attribute their leadership skills to the various trainings they received from the project. As a result of the community advocacy efforts of women activists and other community structures, there is registered commitment and support from the local leaders to amplify emerging issues to relevant authorities, and to address issues themselves.

"I contested in 2011, 2016, 2017 for women councilor and women chairperson respectively. I sat down and asked myself what was wrong. Until the training I received on leadership from the project and the topic that benefited me most was 'how to become a leader'. Today I am a Honorable Councilor and as well a woman activist."

A woman Activist in Gulu

CARE Austria's advocacy work continued to follow up on similar issues as last year. In view of Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Ukraine was an important topic, but did not reduce WAYREP's focus on other fragile and conflict areas. For instance, when contributing the gender perspective to discussions in Austria and EU on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WAYREP mostly used the Ugandan and other African examples to underline the relevance of including WPS, gender considerations and local women's organisation, among other things. In collaboration with the MFA, WAYREP was able to provide input into EU Foreign Affairs Council's Council Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security. Generally, the engagement at EU level was relatively limited, as the EU Informal Task Force was less active in PY4. An important event was the organisation of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) side event together with Austria and Uganda on "The power of mobile technology: Uganda's experience of making digitization work for women and markets", with representatives of the Ugandan and Austrian government, civil society and the private sector. The Deputy Country Representative of UN Women Uganda facilitated the session which also strengthened relations in-country. The project has developed a video on digitalisation in WAYREP for this occasion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8X_vOcEDM. CARE Uganda's Program Manager Gender Justice attended the CSW and was able to provide relevant inputs in events on digitalisation, localisation and other topics (see annex 7 and 8)

- **Cooperation with local partner(s) (type of partnership, strengths / weaknesses in cooperation, etc.)**

During this period, the project successfully identified a new partner (ThriveGulu) that replaced PACHEDO whose contract agreement was terminated. CARE signed partnership agreement with ThriveGulu in August 2022 who quickly integrated into the project. The transition was made smoother since some of former PACHEDO staff were onboarded. There are good working relationship with both CEFORD and ThriveGulu. Both partners continued to implement project activities in all the four project locations. They have strong commitment to women's empowerment, have good grants management system, and strong physical presence in the community. However, both partners still require investment and support in technical capacity development in the areas of gender equality and advocacy.

The CARE project team maintained regular collaboration with partners through joint planning and reporting on quarterly basis, joint activities implementation in the field, joint monitoring visits to project sites, and close collaborations through in-person meetings, online meetings via Teams, phone calls and emails which have resulted into timely activities implementation, uniform application of activities implementation strategies, and timely response to implementation challenges

experienced by the team. Capacity development and technical support were provided by Project Manager, Specialists, Coordinators, Grants, and MEAL to partners in the areas of report writing, procurement, psychosocial support, GBV case management and SASA Together.

- **Cooperation with other organisations: synergies, information exchange, etc.**

WAYREP continued to collaborate with other Civil Society Organizations both at local and national level. For example, the project partnered with Raising Voices in the adaptation of SASA! Together methodology. Raising Voices continued to provide technical support to the project staff through trainings in the three phases of SASA Together, as well as for the adaptation of IEC materials, in particular the contextualisation and translation into three local languages commonly spoken in the project locations (Acholi, Nuer, and Lugbara) for easy application and ownership by communities. The last phase will be concluded next year.

The project also continued to collaborate with CoACT 1325 in the localization of NAP III on Women Peace and Security in Gulu and Arua cities through information sharing, joint advocacy, and learning events. This partnership resulted into the development of Local Action Plans on WPS by Gulu and Arua cities.

In Austria, WAYREP provided valuable inputs to various civil society networks, focussing on integrating gender perspectives, learnings and experiences from WAYREP in the discussions and in joint letters and provided feedbacks to strategies. WAYREP also managed to integrate speakers from the Global South into meetings such as the AGGV General Assembly.

- **Networking and co-operation with relevant stakeholders (e.g., Local authorities / ministries: policy level coordination, lobbying, etc.).**

WAYREP continued to cooperate and participate in various coordination and networking spaces at all levels, involving the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, district/city authorities, Office of the Prime Minister, development partners, religious and cultural institutions, Local councils, private sector, among others. The project participated in 41 coordination meetings including GBV and protection sectors working groups, quarterly Cash working group, inter agency meetings organized by OPM, in Arua city and Gulu city the GBV Network Partners' meeting, District Chain link Committee meetings instituted under Justice law and order Sector (JLOS) and planning meetings for 16 days activism against GBV and International women's day celebrations. These meetings strengthened collaborations between the project and other stakeholders responsible for providing GBV support, thus, enhancing holistic response to GBV survivors.

The project also continued to work very closely with local structures such as Local Councils 1 (LCIs), parish chiefs and district/city authorities especially the office of the Speaker, Gender officers, and Community Development Officers. The close cooperation with the city/district and the active participation in various coordination meetings enhanced activities implementation and support to GBV survivors in the community.

At national level, WAYREP participated in joint planning and implementation of activities during the 16 days activism against GBV and the commemoration of International Women's Day which were coordinated by the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development.

WAYREP participated virtually in the commemoration of World Peace Day organized by UN Women on 21st Sept 2022 in Dar Es Salaam- Tanzania under the *theme "Accepting differences and Promoting peace"*. The event provided a platform for different countries that subscribe to UNSCR 1325 and have adopted NAPs on Women, Peace, and Security to share their journey, experiences, challenges, success stories, and best practices. During the event, the UN Women Representative for Uganda recognized different CSOs including CARE International in Uganda for their contribution in the localization of NAP III. WAYREP's national event on implementation of LAP further strengthened collaboration and partnership between CARE International in Uganda, Gulu City Council, and other like-minded organizations.

- **Systematic knowledge management**

Periodic assessment and reflections on the program quality drivers were conducted by the project team including partners. This entailed reflection on how well the project integrated the 10 Program Quality and Learning (PQL) drivers which include gender equality and inclusion, feedback and accountability, relevance, and effectiveness of project interventions, among other aspects. The project was confirmed to be gender transformative, promoting good resilience of project participants as well contributing to good governance. Evidence was generated and archived in the Project Integrated Implementation and Reporting System (PIIRS) and the CARE International knowledge Hub CAREShares. Knowledge papers were developed on the case conference as well as on the contextualisation of IEC material (see annex 3 and 5).

The project continued to hold monthly and quarterly reflection meetings at community level with local structures including CBTs, SASA Activists, women activists and change agents, and institutional allies. This provided platforms for experience sharing, learnings, and knowledge exchange among the structures. Capacity gaps would be identified and addressed. Key learnings were continuously integrated in the day-to-day activities' implementation.

WAYREP team also continued to learn from existing experiences and expertise at CARE Uganda and CARE International. For example, the project MEAL Coordinator and GBV Specialist participated in a MEAL gender transformative training internally conducted by the Senior Gender Advisor. The project team also exchanged knowledge on multi purpose cash transfer with CARE International VSLA in Emergency specialists and other working groups.

- **Added value of programme approach**

WAYREP's comprehensive approach reflects the CARE Power Model, which works across multiple target groups: individuals, households, communities, local-level duty bearers, service providers, and decision-makers.¹ It contributes to gender equality through contributing to changes at agency, relations, and structural levels.

WAYREP managed to link the different result areas, e.g. through the close cooperation among community structures such as CBTs, Role model men and boys, SASA Activists, women activists, change agents, and institutional allies. The community structures conducted joint activities, and shared learnings among each other through joint reviews, training and reflection meetings. This led to more sustainable change. For example, CBTs attached to Result Area 1 were trained in advocacy on women's socio-economic rights, leadership, and basic case management and have since ably conducted referrals as well encouraged VSLA members to take up leadership roles in their groups and communities.

The Strategic Partnership's budget flexibility facilitated the implementation of recommendations from various studies and assessments. The MTR findings identified a slow progress with formal financial institutions due to the fear expressed by project participants for bank charges and distrust towards the banking sector. This was addressed by facilitating information and awareness-raising sessions with banking officials, to allow them to present to community members facts on costs, risks, and rewards in opening bank accounts to demystify the perceptions for formal financial sector. The digitization of VSLA piloted on the project will start to link VSLA members to the Mobile Network Operators as a further means of Financial Inclusion. Results from the MPCT reports were also integrated in the ongoing implementation. (see annex 4)

The programme approach of delivering programs with local organisations, in particular Women's Rights and Women-Led organizations has contributed to sustainable changes at the local level. CEFORD and ThriveGulu are locally well-grounded agencies with physical presence in the target locality. They are known in the communities and regularly coordinate with relevant local authorities.

¹ http://gender.careinternationalwikis.org/_media/the_power_model_summary_180613.pdf

2. Lessons learned / outlook

- **Experience from implementation of project**

Previous research and learnings conducted by the project indicated specific areas for improvement and recommendations that the project continued to focus on for improvement of the general programming. Experiences from last year were still relevant, while new ones emerged:

Strong partnerships yield commitment and better results: One of the crucial areas for success by WAYREP has been maintaining strong partnerships with various stakeholders including 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 to date. The project's participation in various coordination forums have enhanced holistic and quick service delivery to survivors of GBV as well other vulnerable groups in the community it has also made some Y/VSLA groups to access government funds for women groups under Emyooga program.

MPCT reports demonstrated the success of the graduation approach as well as areas of improvement: Based on the PDMs and experiences in implementation, certain adaptations in the MPCT approach were done. In view of relatively high numbers of third parties collecting the cash on behalf of the MPCT recipients, for instance, training and information on the transfer process and modalities and mobile money use were increased, and linkages to sim card vendors enhanced. Training on digital and financial literacy and business skills now also starts earlier to allow recipients to prepare better for the MPCT.

WAYREP applied a deliberate approach to contextualise IEC materials. It proved to be very useful to adapt in particular SASA! materials to the local contexts to make it relevant for the target groups (see annex 3)

Working with youth in particular in urban areas continued to require adaptations and additional efforts, e.g. in sustaining YSLA or when providing start up kits to youth who finalised skills training. The project had to work on mindset change, since many youth focus on quick wins, rather than long-term investments.

Adoption of relevant tools to aid thinking and reflection helps communities to focus their growth ambition: The suggested introduction of tools to engage beneficiaries in visioning their future goals proved to be successful. WAYREP now uses Gender Action and Learning System (GALS) tools more deliberately, also in the support of MPCT beneficiaries and Y/VSLA members.

- **Outlook for next reporting period, including regarding medium- and long-term sustainability of the project**

The last year of the project will include continuous implementation of activities in the 4 result areas, as well as activities to document achievements and good practices and to facilitate sustainability of project results.

WAYREP will continue with economic strengthening activities such as livelihood support, financial literacy, MPCT, and have them complemented with soft skills and gender sessions. The project will continue to monitor the utilization of CHOMOKA² application as part of CARE Digital Package

² Chomoka is a social enterprise being incubated by CARE Social Ventures, a wholly owned subsidiary of CARE. Chomoka product is a smartphone application and digital platform offering saving groups (and women in particular) a low-risk entry point to the digital economy and a path to transform from informal to formal financial inclusion.

among groups under the pilot initiative. WAYREP will roll out selected GALS tools to help project beneficiaries build self-confidence, set their vision for sustainable livelihoods beyond project life, especially among MPCT beneficiaries. The project will support one more group of MPCT beneficiaries who will receive additional support through psychosocial interventions, relevant soft and economic skills and by facilitating them to join VSLA or other (e.g., solidarity) groups in order to strengthen their resilience and self-reliance. The project will conduct more Post Distribution Monitoring (PDMs) for MPCT beneficiaries, livelihoods support, and youth skilling to assess the relevance of support received, challenges faced, and progress being made by individual recipients. Village Agents were identified and are being trained on VSLA methodology, soft skills, business skills to enable them to supervise existing groups and train spontaneous groups. They gradually take over tasks of the Community Based Trainers. More Y/VLSA groups will be linked with formal Financial Institutions, government programs and other development partners for sustainability.

The project will continue to utilize Male Action Groups to reach out to men in their spaces as a means of getting more men to participate in project interventions. It will leverage on sports activities especially football as a platform for mass awareness raising in the community. The close cooperation with the community structures will continue and focus on strengthening their skills and linkages for sustainability. Learning circles involving community structures such as CBTs, SASA Activists, RMMB, institutional allies, Women Activists, change agents, and women councillors will enhance shared learnings, experience sharing, and greater coordination among the project structures. Regular meetings with them enhance their motivation and they will receive durable IEC material for continuity. The project will link them to other partners and existing government programs to enable them to continue their work beyond the project.

WAYREP will further strengthen the capacities of formal and informal structures to provide quality GBV prevention and response services to the community. This includes the creation of spaces for exchange, joint learning and relationship building. The team will aspire to transfer responsibilities and ownership for GBV prevention and response even more to existing structures and institutions, e.g. by disseminating a learning brief on the case conferences to relevant stakeholders.

WAYREP will continue to participate in existing government and CSO spaces on raising advocacy issues for the protection of rights of women and girls, and will take advantage of commemoration of international days in advancing women peace and security agenda. The project will closely follow up with Gulu and Arua cities on the implementation of the approved Local Action Plans on WPS. The project will intensify media campaigns through radio spots messages and documentation of inspirational stories and sharing via social media platforms and CARE website to create awareness on progress being made in transforming lives of individuals and communities.

The project will conduct an endline and evaluation to assess results attained during implementation, document learnings, good practices for dissemination, as well to inform programming for the next phase. The project will document learning from the MPCT graduation approach and the adapted strategies to attract men to the household dialogues and to engage young men more efficiently, so that other projects can learn from it.

WAYREP will conduct exit meetings in all the project locations and during which key project achievements, successes, learnings will be shared with relevant stakeholders.

- Challenges Outlook for target groups / beneficiaries after the end of the project

Current Monitoring indicates good progress of the target groups in terms of capacity development and increased linkages. Women, girls and youth have increased their savings and income generating activities, acceptance of GBV has reduced at household and community level, and households, communities and duty bearers have enhanced their support to survivors of GBV. However, despite increased self-reliance of the main beneficiaries, they are still facing challenges and have not yet achieved a socioeconomic status that would allow all of them to enjoy stable income and full meaningful participation at household or community level. Thus, the project will continue to

support the beneficiaries in the last year. Moreover, CARE and partners are planning to continue working in the project locations in a new Strategic Partnership, building on the current WAYREP project and focussing more on entrepreneurship and work at structural level, i.e. specific social norms.

3. Challenges encountered and modifications.

- Challenges in implementing the project and impact on project

During this year, staff changes slowed down implementation of some activities in the affected period. To address this, the project continued to utilize existing community structures in conducting field activities, ensured comprehensive induction to new staff, continuous capacity building, and joint activities that aided swift integration into the project by new staff. Moreover, the team provided more field support visits especially to the new staff for continuity and uniformity in project delivery.

Staff turnover particularly affected the implementation of the community score card (CSC), as both the advocacy specialist and a technical staff who had supported the project left CARE. Thus, the project sought technical support by a CARE International technical expert on Community Score Card who provided an online half-day training to project staff at CARE, CEFORD, and ThriveGulu. Further reference materials were shared and facilitated the team to resume CSC processes that had been put on hold for close to one year.

The selection process of the new implementing partner in Gulu took more time than expected. Partnership agreement was signed between CARE and ThriveGulu and the new partner only began implementation in September 2022. Additional administrative delays required to review the year 5 workplan, incorporating pending activities and funds carried forward from year 4.

- Change in external circumstances / conditions.

The country experienced an increase in both fuel price and food commodities which was partly attributed to ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, and political fallout between government of Uganda and Rwanda that resulted into Gatuna border closure between the two countries. The border was just re-opened in March 2022 although its effects remained felt for longer period on the economy of Uganda. Notably Gatuna border is very instrumental in East African region as it connects Kenya's Mombasa port to various cities in the region and on average 2,518 trucks pass through it on monthly basis so any slight disruption or closure results into massive negative impacts to Uganda. The increased fuel prices have resulted into more expenditure on fuel budget line by the project.

Equally the increased prices of food commodities have negatively impacted on livelihoods and upcoming income generating activities being established by women in the communities as they now have to spend more on buying food to put on the table. The project continued to roll out business skills training to encourage them to start up small scale IGAs and psychosocial support to those emotionally affected by this challenge.

At the settlement level, the food ratio to refugees have drastically been reduced by UNHCR due to reduction in funding being experienced as well change in priority due to other big emergencies across the globe requiring urgent relief and attention. This has negatively impacted on the livelihoods and psychological wellbeing of refugees in the project area. Additionally, many agencies have also reduced on their investment in the settlement. The project continued to encourage establishment of income generating activities by refugees for self-reliance and joining of saving or social groups.

In Terego District, the financial infrastructure is very limited which is an important obstacle for formal financial inclusion. The Digital CARE package in combination with mobile money is a means to support project participants to save in digital wallets, which are safer and can be a means to access formal financial services even in more remote areas.

- Required changes for project planning

The changes in the context have led to a few adaptations in the project implementation, but also in view of the project targets. The most relevant being the following:

- Due to the high demand by community members, the number of Y/VSLA was increased from the original 120 groups to 320 groups, i.e., appr. 9,600 members.
- The number of livelihood groups was reduced to 39 from the original target of 90 and the project also supported 07 (F 6 and M 1) individual enterprises. The team will provide continuous technical support to those that already received the support, to support them to further grow their businesses.
- In the last report, the target for MPCT beneficiaries was increased from 360 to 750. However, the project had to reduce the duration of MPCT support from 12 to 6 months due to time limitations, which requires a more intense support and follow up of the MPCT recipients. Therefore, the project limited the target to a total of 666 recipients, i.e. an additional 140 persons. Thus, each CBT can follow up on a maximum of 05 MPCT beneficiaries for purpose of close follow-up.

4. Risk Management

During the year, the project team reviewed the risk matrix and found all originally identified risks to be sufficient and no additional risks were added this period. The project team will continue to monitor the risk matrix closely and take actions as needed. In particular, GBV risks are followed up closely.

5. Sustainability / capacity development

- Sustainable impact on the local context

WAYREP has continued to engage with local leaders, district, city, and sub-county officials in fostering a sense of ownership of various project interventions in the community and equally facilitating their taking over of project aspects. For example, the district and city authorities and other partners now chair the GBV coordination meetings and case conferences which allows them to own the processes also beyond the project life cycle. The approval of the LAP by the city authorities ensures its continuous relevance as a means for GBV prevention and response and for resource mobilisation by the cities. WAYREP continues to build the capacities of implementing partners, duty bearers and community structures and to support their networking and relations. Their improved services are acknowledged by the communities and increasingly sought after, which motivates them in their work.

- Specific measures to develop local capacities.

Women, girls and youth have now experience in working together in Y/VSLA groups and have increased financial, business and soft skills, that they apply in their income generating activities and in their households. In view of the positive benefits of Y/VSLA membership, groups usually have a high sustainability. The enhanced capacities, resilience and networks of the impact groups

members are an important foundation for further growth. Further capacity development results have been described above.

- “Exit strategies” in place.

WAYREP invested in building capacity of local implementing partners, community structures, local duty bearers’ capacities as part of key exit strategies. This is aimed at fostering knowledge and skills retention among them. The team developed further recommendations for sustainability during a workshop in February 2023. This included introduction of Village agents to support VSLA and livelihood groups, further handing over of responsibilities to city authorities and deliberate linkages of WAYREP GBV prevention and response activists, of livelihood/ VSLA groups and community structures to local government structures. The workshop also highlighted that many relevant linkages and capacities were already existing and mostly had to be strengthened.

WAYREP continued to build on and strengthen the already existing platforms like GBV coordination meetings and case conferences to create a stronger network of professionals and individuals charged with the responsibility of ensuring appropriate services to GBV survivors. The community structures in place include those that are locally respected in the community and their involvement in the project assures community uptake of project interventions. The SASA Together and Role Model Men and Boys activists, for instance, comprise household members, local leaders, religious and cultural institutions, among others. All these stakeholders and groups will continue to exist and to take collective responsibility in GBV prevention work beyond the project life cycle. As part of exit strategies, the project will continue to link community structures to other partners and government programs, continue to disseminate the referral pathway to communities to foster their awareness on existing service providers and GBV services, and promote uptake and continuity of case conferences by local government and existing partners in the project location.

6. Monitoring / learning exercise

During this year, CARE Program Quality and Learning unit rolled out monthly and quarterly planning tools to support projects track their activities progress which increased the project team utilization of the tools and reporting.

The project team at CARE conducted a joint monitoring visit to the new partner Thrive Gulu. The team comprised of Project Manager, Specialists, GBV and MEAL Coordinators, and Grants Coordinator from CARE side, while the Senior Finance Manager, Accountant, Project Coordinator, GBV Officers, WEE Officer, and CBAFP represented Thrive Gulu. The team reviewed the partners books of accounts, filing system, M&E system, GBV case management, and conducted field visits to a few selected project sites. A debrief was held with the team, capacity building plan spelling out areas for improvement was developed and will be followed up next year.

Joint monitoring visits with district and city authorities were conducted in all the four project locations. These visits aimed at enhancing accountability to project stakeholders as well promoting transparency and feedback generation from project participants and stakeholders to improve project delivery and effectiveness.

The project team conducted several field monitoring visits to all project sites and in view of all result areas. These were done by Project Manager, Specialists, and Coordinators. They aimed at providing technical support to partners and community structures on quality project delivery. Additional feedback was given to the program team through the various forums after field visits and during monthly review meetings.

CARE Austria conducted two technical support visits to project sites in all the four locations. The first one was in the first quarter involving the Program Coordinator Capacity Development, focusing on individual exchanges with staff members and interactions with target group members, and

the second visit in the fourth quarter focussing on issues around learning and sustainability, after an ADA monitoring visit.

The project conducted a validation exercise for the enrolment of a last lot for MPCT support. The process involved pre-selection of the proposed beneficiaries by the MPCT selection committee. Thereafter independent data enumerators administered the MPCT validation tools to assess the beneficiary vulnerability.

Following the cash disbursement, the project conducted regular Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) to evaluate the effectiveness of multi-purpose cash transfer (MPCT) to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. The findings demonstrated an overall increase in IGA activities from 52% to 73% for female recipients and 49% to 64% for male recipients. It highlighted a notable increase in the number of recipients saving, especially among females averagely from 10% to 24%, and an overall increase in the ability of recipients to meet their basic needs from 60% to 98% for females and 58% to 97% for males. The MPCT resulted in an overall reduction in negative coping strategies such as child abuse, child mothers, subsistence abuse, psychological abuse among others from 65% to almost 5%. Important to note was the big difference between the male and females' preferences on cash modalities. More females (21%) preferred other methods compared to 4% of the males. This necessitated adaptations including training on Digital and Financial Literacy, Business skills, and awareness on VSLA before actual cash transfer started. (see annex 4)

- **Which learnings were gained from these activities?**

The monitoring activities revealed many learning and led to improvements in implementation. Some examples are:

SASA Activists and communities across the project locations confirmed that language barriers affect information dissemination and uptake during community awareness sessions. The project mitigated this by translating of learning materials such as SASA Together Power Posters in three commonly spoken local languages (Acholi, Nuer, Lugbara) in the project locations, as well translated radio spot messages in these languages for airing in radio stations, and use of translators during community meetings.

Continuous field monitoring visits conducted helped in the identification of capacity gaps among community structures delivering project activities in the community and these were addressed through mentorships and refresher trainings.

Findings from the PDMs reflect positive changes in livelihoods of MPCT beneficiaries. For example, they can now meet their basic household necessities, many of them started small scale income generating activities, and others joined VSLA groups where they are saving and getting social support. However, some gaps were also revealed from the PDMs including social isolation as some beneficiaries do not belong to any social network, and those who received their cash through third parties faced challenges of delay in delivery and fees from the phone owners. This challenge has been mitigated by encouraging beneficiaries to acquire affordable phones or sim cards to protect their cash.

7. Evaluation

The mid-term review that was finalised within the reporting period. The team had reflection sessions on the survey findings. Overall, the MTR showed good progress in view of the targeted outcomes. Since the sample was rather small and due to some challenges with the methodology the team was cautious in regard to some findings (see annex 6). Most of the original project targets were maintained, aiming at consolidating sustainable change for a bigger number of participants at endline. Some areas showed a slow progress towards achieving the targets. However,

monitoring indicates that there can be higher results expected by the end of the project. The programming recommendations of the MTR were considered in programming, while other recommendations are relevant for the endline/evaluation.

8. Visibility and public awareness raising locally and in Austria.

During this year, the project continued to utilize available platforms such as community dialogues, VSLA groups, sports events, Male Action Groups meetings, household dialogues, case conferences, coordination meetings, capacity building initiatives at community, city/district, and national levels to popularize the project. Joint monitoring visits with district, OPM, and city authorities were conducted across the four project locations of Gulu city, Arua city, Omugo host, and Omugo settlement with participants including city Mayors, Local Council V, community development officers, Gender officers, women councillors, Secretaries of various departments, and Refugee Welfare Committees. These were aimed at creating awareness on project activities, achievements, as well creating project visibility across all stakeholders.

Project IEC materials including T-shirts, banners, water bottles, bags were procured and distributed to targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders to increase awareness on the project as well improve the visibility of the project. There were media engagement activities including radio talk shows, community radios, and radio spot messages conducted during the 16 days activism against GBV and commemoration of International Women's Day in all the four project locations.

In the context of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and International Women's Day, CARE Austria produced social media campaigns which prominently portrayed WAYREP project participants. The "support provides wings" campaign was carried out on CARE's social media channels and on billboards in Vienna from 25 November to 10 December 2022.³ It presented stories of women and girls who broke the spiral of violence, discrimination and exploitation and are now fighting for a self-determined future. The campaign was very successful and had a big reach: Emily's story, for instance, had more than 44.000 impressions on facebook and Instagram. (annex 10 and see below) Last year's 16 days campaign won the „Best CSR Kampagne“ at the Austrian WebAd-Awardshow 2022. WAYREP also co-organised the annual "Klappe Auf" animation video event in cooperation other Austrian NGOs working on GBV (Annex 9). As in the last years, it reached a diverse target group in Vienna's Brunnenpassage. With the "#rewrite Future" campaign around International Women's Day 2023, CARE Austria put a spotlight on women with extraordinary stories. Despite challenges such as experiences of violence or displacement, these women go their own way by changing their environment and reshaping the future. Throughout the year, WAYREP stories were published in social media postings (facebook, Instagram, twitter) and news articles on the CARE website both in Uganda and Austria.⁴

³ <https://care.at/presse/16days-care-launcht-kampagne-unterstuetzung-befluegelt/>

⁴ Example from website: <https://care.at/uganda-ich-bilde-jetzt-selbst-junge-frauen-zu-schneiderinnen-aus/>



Examples from the 16 days campaign (left: social media posting of Emily, right: Dr Stift, CEO of ADA in front of billboard)

9. Other points

Annex 11 provides examples of human interest stories of project participants.

Annexes :

- Annex 1_CUGA_16DOA_Newsletter
- Annex 2_ARUA CITY LAP STORY
- Annex 3_WAYREP_How to contextualize IEC material_short
- Annex 4_WAYREP_MPCT PDM 3 Report
- Annex 5_WAYREP Case Conference Brief
- Annex 6_WAYREP_MTR report
- Annex 7_WAYREP_CSW Mini Summit Report
- Annex 8_CARE_IWD
- Annex 9_Klappe auf! 2022
- Annex 10_16 DAYS 2022 - CARE Österreich
- Annex 11_Human Interest Stories and quotes
- Annex 12_logframe