

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) – <i>please add further partner(s) if applicable</i>
Name: CARE Austria	Name: CARE International in Uganda
Address: Lange Gasse 30/4 1080 Vienna	Address: P.O. Box 7280, Kampala Uganda
Telephone, e-mail: +43 1 715 0 715 ; care@care.at	Telephone, E-Mail: +256 312 258 100

Local partner organizations, contact persons:

Arua city/Omugo: CEFORD (Community Empowerment for Rural Development); Gulu city: PACHEDO

Country/Countries: Uganda	Region/locality: Gulu City, Arua City, Omugo Settlement and Omugo Host.
Duration from: 1st April 2019	To: 31st March 2024
Report per (date): 1.4. 2021 – 31.3.2022	Date of presentation: 29.7.2022
Total costs EUR 5.250.000,-	

Brief description of project progress (German, max. 2 pages)

Der Anfang des dritten Projektjahres war durch einen 42tägigen Lockdown geprägt, der aufgrund steigender COVID-19 Zahlen im Juni 2021 verhängt wurde. Einige Beschränkungen blieben auch danach bestehen. So öffneten Schulen beispielsweise erst wieder im Jänner 2022. Die COVID-19 Beschränkungen führten erneut zu hohen Fallzahlen von geschlechtspezifischer Gewalt und Schwangerschaften von Mädchen. Das Women and Youth Resilience Project (WAYREP) passte sich wie bereits im Jahr zuvor an die herausfordernde Situation an. Durch Methoden wie remote Psychological First Aid (PFA) konnte psychosoziale Unterstützung für Überlebende auch während des Lockdowns fortgesetzt werden, über Radio wurden die Gemeinden weiter aufgeklärt. Die Projektkontinuität wurde u.a. durch regelmäßige virtuelle Treffen mit den Partnern und gute Beziehungen zu lokalen Behörden ermöglicht.

Mit dem Ende des Lockdowns, nahm das Team auch die zeitweise ruhenden oder reduzierten Projektaktivitäten wieder auf und konnte einige Verzögerungen aufholen. So wurden im dritten Projektjahr 33.289 (22.818F, 10.471M) Frauen und Jugendliche erreicht, die von Gewalt bedroht sind. Insgesamt hat das Projekt bereits 42.672 (30.004 F, 12.668M) Frauen und Jugendliche erreicht und arbeitete mit über 1.000 VertreterInnen von lokalen Institutionen, formellen und informellen Dienstleistern und anderen Strukturen auf Gemeindeebene, die sich gegen Gewalt gegen Frauen und Mädchen einsetzen. 196.948 Menschen waren indirekt vom Projekt begünstigt. WAYREP wird die Arbeit mit ihnen fortsetzen, um nachhaltige Ergebnisse zu erreichen.

Etwa die Hälfte der Projektbegünstigten gaben laut Mid Term Review an, das ihr Einkommen gestiegen sei. 4.969 Mitglieder von Spargruppen (F=4.161, M=808) haben in ihren Gruppen in Arua insgesamt UGX. 718,487,200 (ca. EUR 171.068) an Ersparnissen ausgeschüttet, in Omugo UGX 617,794,200 (ca. EUR 147.094) und in Gulu 100,693,000 (ca. EUR 23.975). Im Zusammenspiel mit neuen unternehmerischen Fähigkeiten nutzten sie dies für notwendige Ausgaben, oder Investitionen in kleinere Geschäfte. WAYREP finanzierte die Business Pläne von 14 Spargruppen mit Start Up Kapital. 189 (F=179, M=10) jugendliche Spargruppenmitglieder beendeten ihre 6monatige Lehre erfolgreich mit einem national anerkannten Abschluss in unterschiedlichen Bereichen (z.B. Friseur, Schneiderei, Auto- und Motorradreparatur). Rund dreiviertel der Jugendlichen verdienen damit bereits Geld. 526 besonders vulnerable Menschen, unter ihnen von Gewalt betroffene Frauen, erhielten einjährige finanzielle Unterstützung von monatlich UGX 35.000 (ca. EUR 8,50) in ländlichen Gegenden und UGX 40.000 (ca. EUR 10) in Städten, um ihnen zu ermöglichen, ihre Grundbedürfnisse zu decken. 41% von ihnen sind daraufhin Spargruppen beigetreten und haben einkommensschaffende Maßnahmen begonnen.

Die Aufklärungsmaßnahmen gegen geschlechtsbasierte Gewalt (GBV) zeigen bereits erste Wirkungen. Insbesondere Haushaltsdialoge, die von den 75 "Role Model Men and Boys" geführt wurden, erwiesen sich als effektives Mittel, um Machtungleichgewichte und Geschlechternormen in den Familien und auf Gemeindeebene zu hinterfragen. Dies stärkte die Beziehungen innerhalb von Haushalten, insbesondere zwischen Eheleuten bzw. Eltern und ihren Kindern. Die sichtbaren Erfolge beeinflussten wiederum ihre Nachbarn und trugen so zu einer weiteren Abnahme von Gewalt in den Gemeinden bei. Einflussreiche Gemeindemitglieder, institutionelle Verbündete und lokale Führungspersönlichkeiten stärkten als SASA! AktivistInnen das allgemeine Bewusstsein zu GBV und erreichten, dass Gemeindemitglieder mehr Fälle von geschlechtsbasierter Gewalt meldeten und dass sie wussten, an wen sie Überlebende von Gewalt verweisen können, um Unterstützung zu erhalten. Um die Kooperation und Koordination zwischen den beteiligten Institutionen zu verbessern (insbesondere Gesundheitsstellen, Polizei und zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen), unterstützte WAYREP Koordinierungstreffen und Fallkonferenzen zur besseren Abstimmung und Diskussion konkreter Herausforderungen und Lösungen. Auch ermöglichte WAYREP relevante Fortbildungen zur Verbesserung der formellen und informellen Unterstützung von Überlebenden

sowie zur besseren Nutzung der Nationalen GBV Datenbank durch staatliche Institutionen und zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen. CARE, CEFORD und PACHEDO selbst begleiteten in diesem Jahr 322 Überlebende von insbesondere physischer, psychischer und ökonomischer geschlechtsbasierter Gewalt (F=286, M=36). 274 dieser Fälle konnten abgeschlossen werden, da sich der Zustand der betroffenen Menschen ausreichend verbessert hatte.

Auf anwaltschaftlicher Ebene engagierte sich WAYREP zu Themen von geschlechtsbasierter Gewalt sowie zu Frauen, Frieden und Sicherheit (Women, Peace and Security -WPS). In Gulu und Arua wurden städtische Arbeitsgruppen unterstützt, um lokale Aktionspläne zur Umsetzung der Nationalen Aktionsplans zur UN-Resolution 1325 zu erarbeiten. Um die Qualität von GBV Dienstleistungen zu verbessern, wurden Indikatoren für Community Score Cards entwickelt. An diesem Prozess nahmen VertreterInnen von lokalen Gesundheitszentren, Polizei sowie Gemeindemitglieder teil. Er wurde leider unterbrochen und wird im vierten Projektjahr beendet. Es wurden zudem Advocacy Gruppen sowie Aktivistinnen dabei unterstützt, relevante Themen in den Gemeinden zu identifizieren und bei lokalen Entscheidungsträgern vorzubringen, sei es im Rahmen von Gemeindedialogen oder anwaltschaftlichen Treffen. Zentrale Themen waren Schwangerschaften von Mädchen, Gewalt in der Partnerschaft, Alkohol- und Drogenmissbrauch, sexualisierte Gewalt, Erziehungsprobleme und SchulabbrecherInnen. Auf Basis von Gemeindedialogen stimmten etwa lokale Autoritäten in Omugo Settlement zu, eine Verordnung zur Regulierung von Alkoholkonsum und zu Öffnungszeiten von Diskotheken zu erlassen.

List of abbreviations

CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CEFORD	Community Empowerment for Rural Development
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease-19
CBTs	Community Based Trainers
CSC	Community Score Card
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DIT	Directorate of Industrial training
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
MTR	Mid Term Review
NAP	National Action Plan
NGBVIMS	National Gender Based Violence Information Management System
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PACHEDO	Partners for Community Health and Development Organization
RMM/B	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
Y/VSLA	Youth/Village Saving and Loan Association

Detailed description of *project* progress

1. Project outcome achieved / discernible impact

a) Target groups reached

Through the different interventions, WAYREP reached **33,289 (22,818F, 10,471M)** impact group members in this year, of which 32% were in Gulu, 35% in Arua, 23% in Omugo, and 10% in Omugo settlement. About 70% are women and girls. The project also worked closely and built the capacity of **760** 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. The majority of project participants were youths. Of the female participants, 53% were youth aged 14-24 years, 43% were women aged 25-45 years, and 4% were adults above 45 years. While 76% of the male participants were aged between 14-30 years and 24% were adults above 30 years. Cumulatively, the project has reached **43,705 (30,676F,13,029M)** direct beneficiaries, and 196,948 persons benefitted indirectly from WAYREP's interventions.

Overview over direct beneficiaries

Category of beneficiaries	Location	Reached in Year 3			Reached to date (since project start)		
		Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Total (Impact Group)	Gulu	7,623	3,029	10,652	30,004	12,668	42,672
	Arua	7,872	3,779	11,651			
	Omugo Host	5,174	2,483	7,657			
	Omugo settlement	2,149	1,180	3,329			
	Total	22,818	10,471	33,289			
Total (Other Direct Beneficiaries)		478	282	760	672	361	1,033
Total (Impact group + other direct beneficiaries)		23,296	10,753	34,049	30,676	13,029	43,705

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

141 out of 183 Youth/Village Savings and Loans Association (Y/VSLA) with 4,969 members (F=4,161, M=808) shared out their savings and dividends amounting to UGX. 718,487,200 (appr. EUR 171.068) in Arua, UGX 617,794,200 (appr. EUR 147.094) in Omugo and in Gulu 100,693,000 (appr. EUR 23.975). 39 YSLA groups were linked to Formal Financial Institutions, and they have saved UGX 108,417,250 (appr. EUR 25.814). By now, 169 YVSLA groups have registered with Local Government.

4639 (F 3,803 and M 836) Y/VSLA Members were trained on financial literacy and business skills, to be able to make smart investment options and prepare their savings plans. Notably a total of 827 persons started income generating activities (IGAs), mostly from the cities where they ventured into small retail business such as selling of fresh vegetables and re-tailing sugars consumable and non-consumable products.

In a bid to increase their capability to perform economic activity, 14 Y/VLSA groups with 350 members (F=287 M=63) were supported with IGA start up items following the business plans they developed.

The IGAs include Produce selling, food processing, Liquid Soap Production, and events management. On average, the established businesses are realizing a sale of UGX 20,000 (appr. EUR 4.7) – 50,000 (appr. EUR 11.9) per day.

"I was hopeless before training on soft skills. I got married when I was teenage and I was facing difficulties from my parents and in-law. So the training on journey on the river of life made me gain hope, confidence and set my goals that I can still live a better life."

Young mother 24 years old from Gulu

"If women are empowered economically, they can have a voice. There is need for WAYREP to support more Youth/Village Savings and Loan Associations. As a beneficiary of one, I realize it encourages one to work hard and save money. Y/VSLAs have helped many women to be financially independent without waiting for small handouts from their husbands and it has taught them how to protect themselves from any form of GBV,"
Kalsum Swali, CARE woman activist

A total of 1,165 YSLA members (F 932 & M 133) were enrolled for soft skills training to empower them with skills that would build their self-esteem, help them to express themselves, reflect on their lives, deal effectively with demands and challenges of daily life and focus on the future.

Monthly Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MPCT) were disbursed to 526 (F=426, M=100) most vulnerable individuals. Because of overwhelming numbers of GBV survivors and those at GBV risks, the target was overachieved by 166%. Following the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report, 87.5% of the project participants reported that the MPCT support is appropriate and useful. 41% of the cash recipients have joined savings groups and are operating IGAs. 91% were completely satisfied with the MPCT.

In the area of Apprenticeship, 189 (F=179, M=10) youth out of 215 (F=180, M=35) completed apprenticeship training in different trades. The team held engagement meetings with a total of 1,125 (F=774, M=351) caregivers of the targeted youth and artisans from the various locations to obtain feedback from parents/caregivers and assess progress of the youth. Based on the engagements, some caregivers committed to supporting their children with childcare while the young mothers attend the trainings. In some locations, caregivers have contributed meals at the training centres. Two successful female entrepreneurs and motivational speakers provided careers guidance and motivation sessions to a total of 134 Apprenticeship Youths and YSLA Members from

"I am now able to provide for my household basic needs, pay for school fees and requirements for my two siblings and my children. I am independent. This is possible because of the skills training and start up kits I got from WAYREP Project"

Former Head girl from Double Women Clubs in Gulu.

Arua and Gulu. Thirty youth (F=29, M=1) participated in exposure visits to Arua to learn from successful entrepreneurs.

The youth continued to engage in recreational activities at the various youth spaces in all the project locations. A total of 284 (F=187, M=97) youth were reached with psychosocial support activities and team building.

Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) lessons commenced with 180 Learners from the Y/VSLAs and livelihood groups in ten learning centres. They use the Government FAL curriculum.

Reduced Acceptance and tolerance to GBV in targeted communities

114 (29M, 85 F) SASA! Activists, 88 (22 M, 66 F) Community Leaders and 24 (14 M, 10 F) institutional allies from the cultural institutions of Lugbara Kari and Kerkwaro were trained on SASA! together methodology. 75 Role Model Men and Boys (RMM/B) were trained in engaging men and boys' methodology.

During the year an estimated 4,500 people have been reached by the role model men through the weekly household dialogues and one on one sessions. The dialogues have transformed behaviours of 5 to 6 out of 10 men in each of the 10 households supported by the role model men. These men now demonstrate positive masculinities such as doing household chores and responsibilities and engaging more in mutual conversations and joint decision making on the number of children, joint planning for the family and supporting their wives to associate and participate in public spaces among others. The household sessions have also continued to attract neighbours to participate, reflect, challenge, and take actions in relation to their use of power, healthy relationships among others.

“My husband used to drink a lot. He wouldn't stay home. He had a group of friends that he would always move around drinking with. He never supported me in any way, I was just on my own and when I tried talking to him about his behaviours, he became very violent. But when a Role model man called Joel befriended him and continuously talked to us, he changed after some time. He has now stopped drinking, and supports me with chores. Things he used not to do. He has become productive and financially supports me. He has stopped being violent at home and I feel happy and safe”.

a participant during one of the home visits to a household in Bardege

“The number of GBV cases that comes to Sub-County for mediation has reduced because of the engagement of Role Model Men and Boys. I therefore request CEFORD to reach to Schools for Psychosocial Support services because some of the children come from families with GBV Cases.”

the speaker of Omugo sub county, Terego district

Monthly GBV awareness raising session (e.g., on intimate partner violence, violence against women and girls, early marriage) were championed by SASA! Activists and community leaders. They have increased the communities' awareness on forms, causes and consequences of gender-based violence (GBV), on referral mechanisms and the importance of early reporting of GBV cases. Between 30 to 50 people turn up for every community awareness session and 2 to 5 GBV cases are reported by the community members. The GBV team registered the cases and referred them to other service points for further management.

The awareness sessions have empowered women and girls to speak up and report when GBV occurs to them or their fellows. 70% of the GBV cases registered in the year were reported by women.

Under the community leadership strategy in SASA! together, the community leaders are engaged in awareness sessions using activities under the methodology such as community talking points, quick chats, leadership leaflet and a few used social media especially those in River Oli who are in the urban centres and have access to social media.

Enhanced support to GBV survivors

A total of 322 GBV cases (F=286, M=36) were received and managed during the year. 274 of these cases were closed, the remaining 48 are being managed. Particularly vulnerable survivors could get financial support from the survivor fund to help them, for instance, afford transport in case of referrals. All cases received were registered and information updated in the National GBV Database (NGBVD). GBV case documentation and management has improved in the NGBVD across all project locations since WAYREP facilitated onsite technical support to staff and relevant GBV service providers, provided by Ministry of Gender Labour Social Development.

WAYREP continued to enhance capacities of formal and informal GBV service providers: 36 (F=15, M=21) health workers were trained in clinical management of rape, 4 case conferences were organised for 40 (10 F, 30M) service providers to share experiences on service delivery and discuss difficult GBV cases and 50 (F=26, M=24) GBV service providers trained on documentation of GBV data into the NGBVD and 29 (F=16, M=13) case mediation committees trained in basic case management skills, among others. Collaboration and coordination among duty bearers and partners has been strengthened through quarterly case conferences and coordination meetings as major platforms for engaging stakeholders in GBV response.

The GBV team adapted their services to current needs in the communities. For example, they conducted individual psychosocial support sessions with 83 (F=71, M=12) individuals who approached the team during and after the community awareness sessions. These were non GBV cases, but persons with long-term chronic illnesses and other issues who were then linked with other stakeholders for support, e.g., child neglect cases were referred to the probation and welfare office. In view of the significant rise in teenage pregnancies, WAYREP conducted 13 psychosocial support session with teenage mothers, reaching out to a total of 210 persons (Nationals=180 and Refugees=30), as well as awareness raising sessions and dialogue on teenage pregnancy with girls and young women, e.g. at Emilliana training institute in Gulu.

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

To ensure increased accountability of the government of Uganda on the implementation of relevant frameworks for women and girls' protection and rights, WAYREP continued to build the capacity of the community members and community advocacy groups to influence the duty bearers to take actions.

The project embarked on the process of preparing Community Score Card (CSC) in the four project locations of Arua, Gulu and Terego (Omugo Settlement and Omugo host). The CSC is one of the strategies to identify and address issues affecting GBV service delivery, thus involving community members (service users) as well as GBV service providers, in particular health personnel and the police. In project year 3, key issues have been generated and indicators developed. Scoring of the issues has been done for Gulu city before the process was interrupted by staff turnover.

The project trained 88 (F=52 female, M=36) Gulu and Arua city officials on the Third Ugandan National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (NAPIII). Based on this, LAP task forces were established which developed two Local Action Plans (LAPs) for the implementation of the NAPIII, for Gulu an Arua cities. The LAPs have been validated and await presentation to the respective city councils for approval and adoption as working documents. Once they are approved, WAYREP will embark on monitoring their implementation

across the two cities of Gulu and Arua cities and support the implementation of some areas of the LAP.

17 women/youth advocacy groups (5 from Arua city, 3 from Omugo host and 2 from the settlement and 7 from Gulu city) were reached during the year. The project also worked with 41 women activists and 20 change agents. The advocacy groups played an important role in identifying advocacy issues prevailing in communities. The activists and change agents leverage on knowledge and skills acquired from Policy Dialogue 3 trainings to conduct dialogues and demand for protection of the rights of women and girls from duty bearers. The key advocacy issues across all the locations included teenage pregnancy/child marriage, sexual violence, poor parenting, drug abuse (alcoholism and other toxic substances), domestic violence, night discos, school dropouts and women’s right to participate in decision making. These advocacy issues were jointly presented before the women councillors in Arua city and Omugo sub-county for redress.

The community advocacy groups conducted a number of community dialogues reaching out to 12,766 people (F=8469, M=4297) across all the project locations during the year. Duty bearers were engaged during the community dialogues to find holistic and lasting solutions to the advocacy issues raised. The community dialogues also provided a platform for sensitizing and creating awareness among communities on issues such as access to justice for GBV survivors, GBV prevention and response, NAPIII and the Local Action Plans.

Nine community radio talk shows were conducted by CARE, women activists and change agents together with duty bearers to discuss issues affecting women, girls, and youth in Omugo settlement, Omugo host and Arua. During these talk shows, calls came in from the community as well as from local leaders who recognized the need for more collaboration and support of all stakeholders in addressing these issues. Some of the radio talk shows were conducted during the 16 days of Activism to popularize the NAP III and the Local Action Plans. A total of 1,383 (F=723, M=660) participants were estimated to be reached during the community radio talk shows. The community radio talkshows were recorded and aired on Arua One FM.

A total of 11 strategic meetings were conducted with duty bearers, reaching a total of 187(F=114, M=73) community leaders, religious and cultural leaders. These meetings provided a platform for the women activists, change agents and advocacy groups to table the key advocacy issues to duty bearers who were expected to further present these issues in the bigger Council in order to devise strategies to address these prevailing issues. The duty bearers committed to speak about the negative effects of social issues affecting communities to the community through platforms available to them such as radio talk shows, community barazas, churches, and mosques, funerals, weddings among others.

WAYREP joined the Domestic Violence Act 2010 coalition in holding a press briefing in which a press statement was issued. The aim of the press briefing was to increase understanding of the new Elimination of Violence Against Women laws. It guided coalition members’ engagement to influence a gender focused response to COVID-19 pandemic. One key demand

“In my community, there is a lot of forced marriages being ignorantly termed peaceful settlement. Most times after teenage girls become pregnant, parents would rather quickly arrange a marriage between the victim and the perpetrator than waste time trying to lawfully solve it. Many young girls at 15years are already in their husbands’ homes instead of at school. Girls should speak up and share problems without fear. As a woman activist empowered by CARE, I will be teaching young girls to raise their voices.”
 Alice Selwa, Chairperson Women Council I, Omugo.

“Let us make use of the different platforms we must teach people at every opportunity we get to speak about GBV and SRHR. I am a catechist, and I can teach about teenage pregnancies, condemn alcoholism and night discos at church or during home visits to small Christian communities.”
 Amanio Margaret Asiku, Catechist-Omugo parish.

was, for instance, the equitable allocation of the COVID-19 emergency funds to women as well.

Variation in relation to Activity implementation.

- The COVID-19 second wave that resulted into 42-days total lockdown slowed down the implementation of some activities, for instance SASA! trainings. Vocational activities could only start again with re-opening of educational institutions in January 2022. This delayed the completion of the activities especially for the students enrolled at the vocational training institutes.
- The process of implementing Community Score Card was put on hold due to exit of the technical staff who had been facilitating the process, as well as resignation of Advocacy Specialist.
- 4 Y/VSLA Groups dropped out (3 in Omugo Host and 1 in the settlement) because they were attracted by development partners who promote a different VSLA approach that includes monetary support.

Measures taken to address them

- The project introduced some adaptations regarding the COVID-19 situation for example by conducting meetings and trainings with smaller groups, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and integration of messages relevant to COVID-19 risk communication, e.g., with regards to teenage pregnancies and awareness on vaccination. WAYREP procured and distributed the Personal Protective Equipment to community structures that is CBTs, SASA! Activist, RMMB, Women Activists, Change Agents, and community leaders.
- The project identified another staff (MEAL Advisor for Gender Justice program) who previously implemented CSC to continue with the process in the next reporting period.

c) Results achieved with regard to

• **Capacity Development**

WAYREP significantly contributed to capacity development of partner staff and of stakeholders across all project locations and in all result areas. Capacity building of the various community and district level structures and stakeholders was conducted to help them fulfil their specific roles and to capacitate them on issues around gender and diversity, and GBV (see also chapter 1b). Several testimonies were received from the local structures and the GBV service providers of how the project has greatly built their capacity and created change within the communities, beginning with themselves.

In Result Area 1, Community Based Trainers (CBTs) reported that participation in a VSLA had visible effects on several families. WAYREP staff observed an increased ability of families to access soft loans to start-up income generating activities (IGAs), pay for school needs and access to other basic needs like health care. As a result of the various capacity development measures and other WAYREP activities, income opportunities for women and youth increased for nearly half of the participants that were interviewed in the midterm review (see annex 1). 14 Females group members opened individual bank account from formal financial institutions after having received training on financial Literacy. 75% of the youth who were trained in vocational

“I no longer spend money recklessly, I don’t incur losses. This is because of the skills and experience I got from the training such as record keeping, how to avoid losses, stocking of goods”

Male refugee, 20-30 years at Omugo 6.

skills are gainfully employed or own their income generating activity. They are meeting their basic needs and are reinvesting.

In view of Result Areas 2 and 3, WAYREP increased the capacities of 20 staff (7 M, 13 F) from CEFORD and PACHEDO as well as CARE staff in GBV prevention and response. This has strengthened their ability and confidence to cascade the knowledge to the community structures through trainings. As a consequence, an increase in knowledge and skills for prevention of GBV has been observed among the trained community structures, that is Role Model Men, SASA! Activists, community leaders and institutional allies, through reflection meetings, focus group discussions, onsite mentorship sessions, practice sessions among others. They use the acquired knowledge and skills to challenge the negative sticky gender and social norms within their communities, in particular 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. The radio talk shows, mass awareness sessions and dialogues have benefitted an estimated number of one million people during the year, as the radio stations cover areas beyond the project location itself (e.g. West Nile Radio). 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.

Capacity development of both informal and formal GBV service providers has enhanced their knowledge and skills in GBV case management and has improved their coordination. GBV service providers stated that, as a result, they experienced increased referrals and follow-ups, improved communication, and networking among the various service providers. In general, all these capacity development measures have resulted into improved quality of services such as psychosocial support, safety and security by the police, medical services by the health workers. The MTR confirmed that there is a significant improvement of GBV services in particular for survivors accompanied by WAYREP team members.

- **Advocacy**

WAYREP continued to leverage on the existing advocacy spaces at community, district/city, national, and international level (see also chapter 1b). The project focussed on 4 advocacy issues during the year, these included.

1. The limited knowledge of stakeholders on UNSCR 1325, the NAP III on Women Peace and Security and the Local Action Plans for Gulu and Arua cities,
2. The existing gap between service users, service providers and duty bearers affecting quality GBV service utilization and provision,
3. Access to justice for GBV survivors,
4. Limited capacity of GBV service providers to provide quality and timely GBV services to survivors

At city level, the project partnered with CoACT 1325 in the localization of NAP III in Gulu and Arua cities. The two cities identified a few technical and political leaders who participated in a 2-days training on localization, conducted by CoACT1325 with the support of the CARE Uganda Advocacy Specialist. Each city authority then formed a Local Action Plan (LAP) taskforce comprising of 12 members who spearheaded the development of Local Action Plans. WAYREP conducted validation workshops in the two cities to triangulate the information captured in the draft LAPs. The 2 refined draft LAPs await council approval in the next year of the project.

The project continued to participate in CSO and government coordination meetings and joint activities at the city and district level. For instance, the project in partnership with Arua city GBV network advocated for improved service delivery for mothers during the commemoration of International Women's Day in March 2022. An engagement meeting was held with leadership of River Oli health centre IV. The health centre leadership committed together with

the office of the District Health Officer to improve the quality of services to breastfeeding and expectant mothers. The project team will follow-up on the implementation of this commitment made.

At community level, communities are increasingly showing interest in participating in platforms aimed at discussing and addressing issues affecting them. Some take up leadership roles and hold duty bearers accountable. As a result of these community efforts, we have witnessed increasing commitment and support from the local leaders to amplify emerging issues to relevant authorities, and to address issues themselves. For instance, from the community dialogue in Omugo settlement, the local leaders agreed that they would come up with a by-law to regulate alcohol use and timing of night discos.

Three women activists from Omugo Settlement were elected to leadership positions which has strategically positioned them to participate and voice up critical issues in respect to women's rights and to mobilize other women to exercise their rights. Capacity development initiatives conducted both under the WAYREP and Policy Dialogue III contributed to enhancing the confidence of women and girls to express interest in taking up leadership positions, while others have already taken up leadership positions in their communities.

CARE Austria continued to focus on Gender Equality and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in its advocacy work. Through reviews and inputs in form of joint letters (e.g. with SRHR working group or the network WIDE) and subsequent exchanges with representatives of the Foreign Ministry, WAYREP contributed to the inclusion of more aspects of Gender Equality, SRHR and GBV in the draft humanitarian strategy and the draft 3 year program of Austrian Development Cooperation. WAYREP also contributed a gender perspective to papers from Austrian civil society working groups, such as in the elaboration and dissemination of a paper on [Climate Crisis, Forced Displacement and Development Policy](#) (WG Migration and Development). Various Rapid Gender Analysis and other relevant reports were shared with Austrian stakeholders to promote gender equality and ensure that no one is left behind (e.g. on accompanying measures on COVID-19 vaccines or climate justice). A commentary on the important role of women leadership in the health sector was published in *Welt-nachrichten* (2/2021).

WAYREP advocated for enhanced efforts of Austria to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by successfully providing inputs into the Annual Implementation Report of the Austrian National Action Plan 1325 and by doing presentations in forums such as an event on WPS in the Austrian parliament, organised by the Green Party, or the 3C workshop on Burkina Faso. CARE Austria also engaged in relevant meetings at EU level, for instance by being rapporteur in a breakout group on WPS during the CSO-LA Structured dialogue on the EU's Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III).

Throughout the year, CARE Austria aimed at amplifying the voices of our partners to speak in different forums. Julia Kharashvili, chair person of the Georgian partner organisation Consent, for instance, spoke about WPS during the Symposium of Global Learning. CARE partners from Uganda, Malawi and Ghana presented in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) Side Event on "Gender Transformative Climate Adaptation: African's women leadership as a driver for change" (a [summary can be found here](#)).

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

The project continued to work with the 02 implementing partners (CEFORD and PACHEDO) and strengthened their capacities. In particular during COVID-19 restrictions, the partner staff was essential to achieving project goals due to their expertise and local connectedness.

CARE continued to work with CEFORD in the implementation of project activities in West Nile region (Arua city, Omugo sub-county and settlement in Terego district), throughout the year. CEFORD added relevant experiences to the project implementation, such as FAL expertise.

The identification process for a new partner in Gulu was launched and will be finalised by revising the expressions of interest of 4 potential partners and conducting due diligence in the first quarter of year 4. In the interim, CARE has been directly implementing activities in Gulu city. To ensure continuity of project implementation CARE has employed most of the former staff. They were oriented into CARE internal systems, policies, and procedures.

The CARE team maintained regular collaboration with partners through joint planning and reporting on quarterly basis, frequent discussions via phone calls, emails, zoom meetings, and in-person meetings. Capacity development and technical support were provided by Specialists, Coordinators, Grants and MEAL to partners in the areas of report writing, procurement, psychosocial support, GBV case management and SASA Together Awareness phase. Peer support sessions brought together WAYREP staff where they got to share experiences and received support from each other.

- **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 partners with Raising Voices in the adaptation of SASA! Together methodology. Raising Voices provided technical support to the project staff through trainings in the first 2 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 (example see annex 2). The project also collaborated with CoACT 1325 in the localization of NAP III on Women Peace and Security in Gulu and Arua cities. There has been good working relations between CoAct 1325 and CARE Uganda and continuous joint engagements between the two organisations through information sharing, joint advocacy and learning events, among others.

WAYREP participated in the National Women's Conference on Economic Empowerment. This learning event was organized by the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) in partnership with CARE International in Uganda, Action Aid Uganda and International Centre for Research. WAYREP's GBV specialist presented on WAYREP's approach to contribute to women's and girls' resilience and leadership in pursuit of gender equality amidst the challenges of climate change, disasters risk and the COVID 19 pandemic.

In Austria, WAYREP continued to engage in relevant civil society networks. Furthermore, it shared insights in CARE approaches for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in forums targeting the general public as well as civil society organisations (e.g. by conducting workshops at the Development Days in Tyrol and Vorarlberg in 10/2021).

- **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. At local level, the project continued to participate in the quarterly Cash working group meetings which has enhanced and streamlined cash transfer interventions to most vulnerable groups both in refugees and in host communities. The project also participated in sector working group meetings such as the Protection Sector Working Group meeting, Arua city and Gulu city GBV Network Partners' meeting.

WAYREP also worked closely with grassroots structures such as Local Councils 1 (LCIs) or parish chiefs and even district/city authorities to mobilize for and participate in project activities. The close cooperation with the district and the active participation in the COVID-19 task force was essential for the project's continuity even throughout the strict lockdown, as it facilitated, for instance, access to travel clearances for CARE and partners. The project worked with Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions especially Police, Health, Directorate of Public Prosecution, and the Judiciary to enhance access to justice to GBV survivors. For instance, WAYREP organized case conferences drawing participants from JLOS institutions, city/district authorities, and civil society organizations to discuss difficult GBV cases, share experiences, and derive mechanisms to address the prevailing challenges with access to justice for survivors. In order to increase access to GBV services, WAYREP supported the police stations in critical locations with copies of the Police form 3 both for sexual and physical assault. As a result, district authorities are highly appreciative of the close cooperation with the WAYREP project and are looking forward to continuous engagement.

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, coordinated by the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development.

- **Systematic knowledge management**

WAYREP's learning agenda consists of four key questions. In project year 3, learning focused on Learning agenda question 1: Better understanding of challenges faced by the WAYREP impact group members, in particular in the current COVID 19 environment. A qualitative assessment helped to shed more light on this issue as well as on the definition of "Self-efficacy" (a question that had been raised in the baseline). Participatory tools were employed to engage impact group members to define their visions in 5 years, as well as their challenges and opportunities to achieve these visions. The findings of this assessment helped the team to refine the measurement of WAYREP's indicator on self efficacy in the mid term review. The Learning Brief "[Strengthening Women And Youth At Risk Of Gender Based Violence: Challenges and opportunities for enhancing resilience, with a focus on urban contexts and adolescent girls](#)" summarised the learnings from this and other WAYREP studies and assessments in view of learning question 1 (see also annex 4). It was disseminated to stakeholders in Gulu City, shared within relevant communities of practice at CARE International and published online. Overall, the stakeholders confirmed the findings that WAYREP's integrated and comprehensive approach to GBV programming is very relevant, in particular in view of the current context.

The project team included reflection sessions in the regular project team meetings and established a MS Teams channel to share key documents. At community level, local structures would get together during quarterly onsite mentorship and reflection meetings to share and learn from each other's experiences and to reflect how to cooperate with each other to facilitate effective and integrated project implementation. The project structures included the Local leaders, SASA! Activist, Role Model Men/Boys, Community Based Trainers, Advocacy Focal Persons.

WAYREP team also continued to learn from existing experiences and expertise at CARE Uganda and CARE International. Colleagues from CARE Malawi, for instance, provided feedback on the indicators that have been developed for the CSC and WAYREP members attended webinars and sessions of CARE communities of practice, e.g. on GBV.

- **Added value of programme approach**

WAYREP's assumption - that poverty and gender inequality are key drivers of GBV - was confirmed in various studies. Access to and control over resources, prevention and response to GBV and the promotion of gender equality by transforming agency, relations and structures are all key elements to strengthen resilience of women and youth at risk of GBV. The programme approach allowed for mainstreaming of Gender and GBV throughout the project and facilitated the integration of the 4 Result Areas. This was also facilitated by joint capacity development measures and exchange meetings. For example, CBTs whose role is mostly to support activities of economic empowerment are also playing a role in handling GBV cases in their groups, through providing referrals to GBV Officers. The GBV team on the other hand, refers very vulnerable GBV survivors to Y/VSLAs and MPCT support. GBV service providers are involved in Result Areas 2 to 4, providing essential support to GBV survivors but also partly being involved in CSC and LAP activities, for instance. These synergies allow for bigger impact.

The budget flexibility has allowed for the project team to better deliver interventions to the vulnerable women and girls. During the reporting period, for instance the qualitative assessment identified that the lack of adequate basic sanitary items continued to affect young girls and that this exposed them to risks of unwanted pregnancies and relationships. The project therefore purchased and distributed hygiene items including sanitary pads and soap for vulnerable young women and girls. It was also possible to increase the number of MPCT beneficiaries.

2. Lessons learned / outlook

- **Experience from implementation of project**

WAYREP's research and learning indicated areas for improvement and recommendations that would strengthen WAYREP programming further. Some of them are mentioned below.

Having and maintaining strong partnerships continued to be 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 during the lockdown for 42 days. Due to the active partnership and participation in coordination forums, it made it easier for the project to obtain required movement permits and to continue engagement with communities, with strict adherence to SOPs.

Frequent review/follow up meetings with the different community structures and project stakeholder's paves way for information sharing on developments in the community, prevailing issues affecting communities and provides an opportunity for stakeholders to jointly develop strategies aimed at addressing such issues.

Monthly reflection meetings and mentorship sessions have also continued to be a great source of inspiration and knowledge for the community structures. It is always said that knowledge is power. With no monthly salary for the community structures, and the challenges they face while carrying out their work in the community (including exposure to cases of GBV), one would easily give up. However, the continuous sessions between peers and with the technical officers have caused personal changes within the activists themselves and empowered them to continue working. Changes in the communities have prompted household members to demand for more sessions with the structures and to put more trust in them after having observed changes in their life and in the lives of other community members.

To achieve increased participation of the Men and Boys in project activities requires a more intentional approach, in particular in urban areas. During the year, the GBV team faced a

challenge of getting men to participate in the household dialogues because of their mobility in the cities. Some men talked of being “busy looking for money”, yet could just be seated along the roadside chatting with other fellow men and boys. The team brainstormed with the community members to start men alone sessions, to use football and other activities to attract men to participate in the GBV sessions, and to form Male Action group to reach fellow men who may not be reached by the Role model men. This has since worked, and more men have started participating in the households.

The learning activities showed that supportive relationships and effective communication at household level are enhancing self-efficacy of the impact group members and are reducing the risk of doing harm. The Household Dialogue Model is a very powerful engagement tool in bringing together all members of the household that is, husband, wife, children to discuss, dialogue and agree on the family welfare, financial goals, and other priorities for peaceful co-existence between spouses, and with the children. Monitoring hinted to a lack of knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and on good parenting skills among many community members

Approaches that encourage project participants to envision their future, to set their own goals (even aspire higher) and reflect on opportunities and challenges for achieving them proved to be very beneficial for the participants of the qualitative assessment.

Quarterly case conferences and coordination meetings have provided impactful opportunities for stakeholders to communicate and network effectively when there is a GBV case for management. The platforms not only empower people to learn and share experiences on GBV response but also give opportunity to discuss difficult GBV cases. This has improved the quality of service to GBV survivors in the project locations.

- **Outlook for next reporting period**

Economic strengthening activities will be continued and complemented, where relevant, e.g. by soft skills or gender sessions. WAYREP will pilot to digitalise record keeping of potentially 60 Y/VSLA groups and, where possible, introduce digital financial transaction with MTN Uganda. Planning has already started to identify the groups that will benefit from CHOMOKA.¹

A more intentional approach such as reaching out to men in spaces where they converge, introducing of some of the activities they like such as football and using the changed men or boys in the community to reach out to other fellow men and boys will be applied to increase men and boy’s participation in the project. Engagements at household level will be intensified. Where possible, WAYREP will introduce aspects of SRHR and parenting in engagements with community and impact group members.

The close cooperation with the GBV service providers and community structures will continue. The project plans to document successful approaches such as the case conferences and support the participants to lobby for its institutionalisation.

WAYREP will test to use inspiring success stories via social media or more traditional channels to influence community members and stakeholders to contribute to WAYREP’s goals and to follow the example of others.

WAYREP will follow up with city authorities to approve and implement the LAPs 2021-2025.

¹ 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.

- **Outlook regarding medium- and long-term sustainability of the project**

A capacity development plan for the new and the existing partner will be developed and implemented.

Village Agents are being trained on VSLA methodology to enable them to supervise existing groups and train spontaneous groups. They will gradually take over tasks of the Community Based trainers.

Support to recipients of MPCT will be enhanced through psychosocial interventions, strengthening relevant soft and economic skills and by facilitating them to join VSLA or other (e.g. solidarity) groups to reduce the risk of them falling back in their vulnerability status.

WAYREP will continue to link Y/VLSA groups with formal Financial Institutions, government programs and other development partners for sustainability.

The project team will mentor and continue to capacitate community structures to successfully fulfil their tasks. It 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.

The project will document learning from the increased and adapted strategies to attract men to the household dialogues and to engage in particular young men more efficiently, so that other projects can learn from it.

3. Challenges encountered and modifications

- Challenges in implementing the project and impact on project

Staff changes slowed down implementation of some activities in the affected period. However, the team accelerated activities implementation in the 3rd and 4th quarter, and by year end, all planned activities were implemented.

- Change in external circumstances / conditions

The second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic in the country send the country into the second lock down. Many project participants feared to attend sessions especially the household awareness sessions by the community structures. Working with participants in smaller groups to fit the COVID 19 SoPs was challenging for the community structures as this would increase their workload and collide with their daily livelihood activities. This was becoming overwhelming given the fact that these roles are on voluntary basis. All the project staff were vaccinated. The community structures and project participants were encouraged to use the opportunities for vaccination, as the government ensured that vaccines are available at health facilities as well as through outreach at the churches, mosques and community location where people gather. The consequences of COVID-19 negatively impacted the livelihoods of many project participants. Food ratios in the refugee settlement were further reduced, as were many remittances. Many beneficiaries are struggling to put food on the table and/or seeking negative coping mechanisms, which makes it more difficult for them to attend, e.g. awareness raising sessions.

The 2021 general elections resulted in a transition of the leadership at community, district/city and national level. As a result of such transition, some of the leaders that had been engaged

and trained on the project exited their offices and some new leaders were ushered in. This and regular staff turnovers required creating fresh partnerships and strategic alliances to ensure their understanding and buy-in of the project but also building their capacities on the relevant frameworks for the protection of women and girls' rights.

- 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 are the following:

- Due to the high demand by community members, the number of Y/VSLA will increase substantially, from originally 120 groups to about 318 groups, i.e. appr. 7.900 members
- Due to COVID-19 and the lack of vocational training institutions in particular in Terego, WAYREP changed its strategy and mainly works with local artisans. As this on-the-job training requires tools and other support to the artisans, the costs per trainee increased. WAYREP will thus reduce the skilling participants from 900 to 450 youth who will be attached to local artisans. The project will continue to reflect if other (more cost efficient) opportunities will arise to support additional youths with other opportunities, such as internships.
- The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic increased the vulnerability in particular of the WAYREP impact group. Therefore, WAYREP has already increased the targets for MPCT beneficiaries from 360 to 526. The number will further increase as there are very vulnerable GBV survivors and referrals from UNHCR who should be integrated among the participants. The new target is 750 MPCT participants.
- Due to budget limitations, the number of livelihood groups will reduce to 49, instead of 90. The team will provide continuous technical support to those that already received the support, to support them to further grow their businesses.
- During COVID-19 restrictions, the number of survivors of GBV has increased but their opportunities to access case management support was rather limited. Additionally, the process of establishing community structures who refer such cases was delayed. The structures are now increasingly referring survivors of GBV, however, the original target of 1920 case management beneficiaries seems unrealistic. The team thus suggests to reduce the number to 1.000.

4. Risk Management

During the year, the project team reviewed the risk matrix and found all originally identified risks to be sufficient. However, during the review, 01 additional risk relating to increasing price of fuel which is largely triggered by post COVID-19 situation and war in Ukraine was added to the risk matrix. The rising fuel price translated into increasing price of essential commodities as well as local transport in the country. Although its effects were not largely felt this period, it is anticipated that the continuous increase in prices of commodities and fuel may negatively affect the project budget especially in procurement of goods and services in the next year if the trend continues. The project team will continue to monitor the trend and plan accordingly in the budget forecast.

Whereas the project had envisaged epidemic outbreaks such as Ebola, Cholera, and COVID-19, the nature and intensity as witnessed with COVID-19 was not envisaged. During the first quarter, the COVID-19 wave escalated in the country leading to a 42-days total lock down pronouncement by the President of Uganda on June 6th, 2021. During this period, all group meetings and in-person training were put on hold, cases of GBV continued to increase

in the community because of the lock down. The project team continued to provide psycho-social support to GBV survivors through remote PFA, and accelerated implementation following the ease of lock down. Additionally, COVID-19 also negatively impacted on the community due to increasing cases of teenage pregnancy as schools were closed sending many girls into unplanned parenthood and marriage. WAYREP through its community structures joined government of Uganda in sensitizing parents to send back their expectant and breast-feeding teenage daughters to school following re-opening of schools.

There is a risk related to mobile money for some participants. Due to the lack of national identity cards, some project participants do not have access to registered sim cards (majority of them refugees), due to the lack of a national Identity Card. This has exposed them to the risk of harassment because some refugees buy registered sim card from nationals who, in turn, want to influence their decision on how to use the MPCT cash. Some women are using their spouse's sim cards who then tends to want to have control over the money. The project team has focused on initiating dialogues to resolve conflicts and to closely monitor participants who may want to change their sim cards due to GBV related incidences or anticipated risks. The upcoming Post Distribution Monitoring report will indicate, if further adaptations will be required.

5. Sustainability / capacity development

- Sustainable impact on the local context

WAYREP addresses important challenges that gained even more importance in the current challenging context. The skills and knowledge acquired by partners, duty bearers and community structures are and will remain relevant and, thus, continue to be used by the different stakeholders. Furthermore, WAYREP enhanced communication between key actors, for instance among GBV service providers, among community structures and among communities and local leaders. Positive impacts of this can already be observed. For examples, in cases of need, GBV service providers take the initiative to reach out to each other. The enhanced capacities, resilience and networks of the impact groups members will benefit them also in the future. The Local Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security will be approved by the city councils, being valid at least from 2021-2025. The project continuously engages community and district structures and stakeholders to foster a sense of ownership and to facilitate their taking over of project aspects. For instance, allowing the district, city authorities and other partners to chair the GBV coordination meetings or case conferences empowers them to own the processes.

- Specific measures to develop local capacities

Capacity development provided by WAYREP to community structures (i.e. CBTs, SASA Activists, RMM/B, Women Activists, change agents), to informal and formal structures in GBV prevention and response, such as religious and cultural institutions, police, Judiciary, Directorate of Public Prosecution, city/district probation and Social Welfare Officers; district and city authorities, local leaders in the community will enhance sustainability of project interventions in the target locations. (see also chapter 1b and c)

- "Exit strategies" in place

Working with local partners and strengthening the capacities of community structures, local duty bearers' capacities and partner organisations form part of key exit strategies.

During this period, WAYREP introduced the Village Agent Model. These will take over from the CBTs in supporting Y/VSLAs as well as livelihood groups when the project phases out. Generally, many Y/VSLAs do not require additional support after having received all relevant

trainings. VSLA and livelihood groups were supported to formerly register with their respective local governments. In this way, they would be able to access various technical, financial, and material support through existing and future government programs as well from other development actors.

WAYREP used and strengthened already existing platforms like GBV coordination meetings. Case conferences and LAP task forces integrate participants of these meetings and allow them to fulfil their responsibilities more effectively. Community structures include many locally respected persons. The SASA Together and Role Model Men and Boys methodologies, for instance, engage various stakeholders including household members, local leaders, religious and cultural institutions, among others. All these stakeholders and groups will continue to function and taking collective responsibility in GBV prevention work beyond the project life cycle.

Additional actions to enhance sustainability have been described in chapter 2.

- If applicable: Financial sustainability and management beyond project of newly created structures

6. Monitoring / learning exercise

In a MEAL Workshop the project team from Partners and CARE jointly reviewed and introduced updated data collection and reporting tools, the project's complain and feedback mechanism, and the learning agenda focus areas. This increased the project team utilization of the tools and reporting. A presentation on the CARE International data reporting requirements was also done, including orientations on the Gender, Governance and Resilience Markers. Following monitoring and the first results from Mid Term Review, the project team updated the MEAL plan, the beneficiary targets and some of the indicator definitions for the WAYREP project.

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, MEAL, Program Manager Gender Justice, and Specialists. 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 also during monthly review meetings.

WAYREP conducted joint monitoring visits with district and city authorities in all the four project locations that is Gulu, Arua, Omugo host, and Omugo settlement. This 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.

CARE Austria was in regular online exchange with the team and participated in some of the regular team meetings virtually. In April 2022, the program coordinator capacity development visited the project to attend the annual planning and reflection meeting and to provide technical assistance.

To identify MPCT participants, WAYREP conducted Beneficiary Validation through trained data enumerators. The process involved pre-section of the proposed beneficiaries by the MPCT selection committee. Thereafter independent 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.

In addition to regular monitoring, WAYREP prepared a SASA! together baseline report. The project team continued to track the quality of the SASA! Activist sessions using the monitoring check list.

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

Key observation from monitoring helped to enhance project implementation. Some aspects were already mentioned in chapter 2 and others. Due to language challenges of SASA! Activists, for instance, English materials were translated into three local languages. Male Action Groups were formed to accelerate male engagement in the project. Monitoring also helped identify capacity gaps and strategies were put in place, such as refresher trainings on financial literacy, psychological first aid, and business skills development.

As a result of joint monitoring visits, district officials pledged to support groups (prioritising those who are formally registered). They acknowledged that domestic violence is still on the rise and the need to strategically involve men. The leaders in Omugo Sub County also requested that CARE expands to other parishes because of the positive changes they are already observing. The project was cautioned to closely monitor and mitigate the issue of mismanagement/theft of the Y/VSLA groups money.

Findings from the PDMs reflect positive changes in livelihoods of beneficiaries of MPCT. They can provide their basic household necessities. Several have even started small income generating activities and joined Y/VSLA groups. The PDM also referred to challenges, such as some beneficiaries accessing the cash through others and that a significant number of persons still had not joined any groups.

Lastly, it was recommended that MEAL team should refine tools to measure self-efficacy, ensure that data collection tools are adapted to different target groups, especially the younger target groups and that Monitoring should also include conversations with individual project beneficiaries.

7. Evaluation

During the reporting period, CARE Uganda planned and conducted a midterm review (MTR) for the project from March to April 2022. The purpose of the MTR was to provide an assessment of the progress to date and to document and analyse challenges and best practices in project implementation and in reaching the project goal. This should help identify clear, realistic, and practical recommendations. The MTR process was delayed due to unforeseen challenges with the consultants who did not deliver the quality of work outlined and agreed to in the Terms of Reference for MTR. The result was that a large proportion of the data collected to populate mid-term indicator values had to be disregarded. The MEAL team was able to salvage some relevant and important data but not at the planned scale, leaving us with a small sample of WAYREP respondents from which to measure and judge much further-reaching WAYREP performance and progress.

In order to mitigate the potential gaps and inaccuracies in measurement, the MEAL team drew on their on-the-ground insight and interactions with WAYREP partners and participants, and on additional sources of information, to triangulate data and assess its reliability. More details can be found in annex 1, the logframe and its explanations. There is need for more time to complete the review process and draw conclusions from the findings of the report that are relevant for programming.

8. Visibility and public awareness raising locally and in Austria

CARE utilized the available platforms during community dialogues, VSLA group meetings, sensitization sessions, working group meetings, 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 in all the 04 project locations, that is Gulu city, Arua city, Omugo host, and Omugo settlement. Participants included city Mayors, LCV, community development officers, Gender officers, women councillors, Secretaries of various departments, and Refugee Welfare Committees. This was aimed at creating awareness about project achievements, interventions, and creating visibility across all stakeholders.

Project IEC materials including T-shirts, caps, umbrellas, were procured and distributed to targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders to increase awareness on the project and its impact and improve the visibility of the project.

There were media engagement activities including radio talk shows and radio spot messages conducted for 16 days activism against GBV and commemoration of International Women's Day in Terego district, Gulu and Arua cities targeting urban communities, refugees, and hosting communities.

CARE Austria regularly reported on WAYREP's impact and issues on its website and social media channels: 7 posts on Facebook, 15 on Twitter, 11 on Instagram. Additionally, 4 news articles were translated for the website. It also disseminated videos on the project which were produced by an Ugandan female consultant (in [German here](#), in English [here](#)). The German-subbed videos reached nearly 30,000 people on Facebook since their release from Dec 2021 and achieved 1911 post interactions and 80 likes.

The 2021 social media campaign "UNSCHLAGBAR" during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence used several stories from the WAYREP project (e.g. an overview of the campaign posts in annex 3 and the link to the landing page [here](#)). The campaign ran successfully on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and the CARE website. The highest-reach posting was published as part of the 16Days campaign and reached approximately 9400 people and got 470 likes on [Instagram](#). The agency who developed the [campaign](#) (Wien Nord) won a bronze Venus in the category "mobile" in the CCA-Award show. WAYREP also participated in the annual Klappe Auf! Event during the 16 Days which had to be switched from a live Animation Shortfilm evening to a virtual event that covered the whole 16 days (in cooperation with other NGOs and Tricky Women, more information [here](#)). In the context of the International Women's Day, CARE's social media campaign focused on women who "re-write future". Again, WAYREP participants featured among them (for instance, [here](#)).

9. Other points

These are some of the many stories from project participants:

Sub-county mediation helps Josephine survive GBV

When 24-year-old Josephine Ikoreyo went on a visit to her boyfriend's place in Drimveni village in Terego district, she never anticipated pregnancy. Especially not one with twins. Left with no choice but to embrace fate, she quickly settled into her housewife duties.

Unemployed and a primary six school dropout, Josephine's 34-year-old boyfriend, a boda-boda rider, provided everything she needed. He was loving, supportive and often spoiled her with entrepreneurial tools like a tailoring machine, a garden for her to plant maize, beans, and cassava so she could sell the harvest and make money to take care of herself and the children. The storm was calm until she conceived their third son.



The happy couple, Josephine, and Jimmy pose for a photo in front of one of their houses

"My husband started saying the baby was not his. That I was sleeping around with neighbors. He started returning home late, being very angry. He would raise his voice at me, beat me and tell me to go back to my mother's house," she sadly narrates.

Still naïve, the first time her husband beat her, Josephine ignored it simply calling it, 'a mistake,' for the man she initially knew, was extremely humble. However, the beatings became regular for three months and more violent to a point where Josephine stopped hearing and seeing properly.

"I decided to involve my in-laws and tell them what was happening. But even when they came, my husband would still insist that I should leave. He broke the tailoring machine. I was emotionally suffering. Sometimes I was in so much pain that I couldn't cook for the children and we all slept hungry. And whenever they saw him beat me, they would cry but I could not do anything to help them," she continues.



Josephine works at her tailoring machine

Josephine was afraid to return to her mother's home because her uncles would never consent. According to her culture, when a woman moves in with her husband, all her property and future is at his home. Desperate and unwilling to leave for the sake of the children, Josephine decided to seek for help from the Women and Youth Resilience Project.

“I am in VSLA group under CEFORD. They created awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV), and we were taught referral pathways when there is a case. So, I was aware of how to get help. I reported to an officer from CEFORD, and our case eventually reached sub-county level with the CDO (Community Development Officer) and we were called in for mediation. Surprisingly he accepted his faults, blamed himself and apologized,” she smiles.



Jimmy Drapari, Josephine's husband

Jimmy Drapari, Josephine's husband, attributes his violence against his wife to blind fury and misunderstanding of the number of chores his wife had to do while he was away.

“I would go to ride my motorcycle and earn us money but would return when she has not done her part of the duties like digging. I would get so angry, beat her, and then leave home to stop myself from doing worse things to her. When the CDO explained to me my mistakes, I realized she did more work than me on top of raising the children and needed extra support,” he explains.

A changed man, Jimmy has been making sure he helps Josephine with some garden work before he leaves for work and when he returns and finds some chores undone, he chips into support. Jimmy advises men to sit and talk with their wives whenever they have problems instead of using violence.

December 2021 marks seven (7) months since Jimmy last lay his hands on Josephine.

I had a dream to become a nurse- Hawa tells her story



Hawa at a VSLA meeting. CARE provides free saving boxes for Y/VSLAs

“I should not sleep. I should stay awake and do something,” is a mantra that 40-year-old Hawa Ojaku uses to motivate herself and anybody that will pay attention any day. A resident of Ombizevuwa cell in Kenya, Central division in Arua city, Hawa knows what it means to sleep hungry.

A single mother of five, depressed whilst surviving on borrowed money from elder siblings, Hawa's ray of hope came through a Village/Youth Savings and Loans Association (V/YSLA).

“One day, a team from CARE and CEFORD came to me talking about benefits of being in V/YSLA. They told me to start saving the little I have and explained entrepreneurship and its benefits. By then, I had borrowed money from a friend to start a small charcoal business but was not getting any profits. They even counselled me and encouraged me to keep on trying so I got interested in joining.” Hawa narrates.

Finally, a part of the Ombizevua Umoja V/YSLA group, Hawa’s first saving was 2,000/= . As time went by, she borrowed a loan of 30,000/= from the group and bought half a sack of charcoal which she sold in two days. She then proceeded to get another 20,000/= from the social fund saving.

“The profit I got in total was 10,000/= . I was able to pay back my loans and borrow even bigger loans to boost my business” says Hawa joyfully.

Confident, happy, and excited, she wondered why the V/YSLA livelihoods program had not come into her life earlier. Uneducated, Hawa became a housewife at a very young age. Her father traditionally believed that girls grew up to become prostitutes if they studied and so he sent her six brothers to school.

“I had a dream to become a nurse when I grew up. But when that failed, I accepted child marriage. It was all great in the beginning. My husband was selling produce in Kampala and supporting our children to school. One day everything was stolen, and he never recovered from the loss,” she sadly tells.



Bitter and unable to further provide for his family, Hawa’s husband decided to abandon her when the last born was only six years old. Hawa, sickly and unable to further pay fees for her children painfully watched them drop out of school.



Hawa with her daughters.

20 years later, inspired to get up and do something with her life in 2020 by a young CARE Community Based Facilitator during a livelihood’s facilitation, Hawa is now the treasurer of her savings and loans association.

Besides the charcoal business, she also buys sweet potatoes and deep fries them realizing a profit of 50,000/= in a day. She then burns the sweet potatoes peelings to get local soda ash for sale. She

also sells charcoal dust to briquette makers and to those who want to smear and decorate their huts.

“I can now afford to pay my children through school. My last born will be 16 years old in Primary Six because I lacked school fees in the past, but I know she will do just fine. My only challenge now is Covid-19. Schools have been closed for too long,” she concludes.

SASA activism turns a new leaf for Koko

“My husband was a driver who carried my grandfather from time to time to the hospital at no cost and



Koko wearing her CARE SASA activism outfit

so when I married him, it was not because I loved him- it was my grandfather’s dying wish for his beloved orphaned granddaughter,” begins 40-year-old Rukia Koko, a SASA activist at Kebir Cell in Arua City.

Unfortunately, the driving job ended almost immediately she moved in with him. Left with only her belated grandfather’s land, house and belongings, Koko started to sell vegetables and mangoes on the streets to put food on their table.

“My husband was unappreciative of all this because he started stealing my profits to buy opium, alcohol and other drugs and when I

complained, he would beat me up to the extent that some of my teeth broke. His parents rejected me when I ran to them for help and instead continued beating me and burnt my belongings. Then he started sleeping with various women,” she sadly recalls.

With a fighting spirit, Koko forged her way into the campaign trail of a Local Councilor One (LC1) and became active in the community where she was eventually appointed chairperson women council. Luckily, a SASA activist under CARE International in Uganda noticed her and brought her in to be trained as a Community Based Facilitator (CBF).

“None of my achievements mattered to my husband for he continued to batter me. For some reason as I learnt about Gender Based Violence and to speak calmly to my husband during domestic fights, I still didn’t know how to help myself until I called one of the project officers from CARE who took him through psychosocial support and also told him to sit down and talk to me instead of fight when there is a problem,” she narrates.

As Koko’s husband begun to change and she went through more trainings on SASA activism, a tool implemented by WAYREP (Women and Youth Resilience Project) under CARE International in Uganda, meant to inspire people to take action to prevent violence against women and girls, peace in her household reigned.

Through the SASA Activist status and knowledge she has received from CARE on Gender Based Violence, Koko intends to run for LC1 chairperson of Kebir cell. She swears, “Even if the WAYREP project ends, I will keep being an activist against GBV and make sure my village will be safe to live in and have exemplary women who are empowered and skilled.”



Koko (far right) with SASA activists from Arua City

Annexes :

1. Progress Report Logical Framework, Updated Risk Register, etc.
2. a) and b) example for SASA! Posters that have been translated in local languages
3. Social Media Posts from CARE Austria's #16 days campaign
4. Learning Brief "Strengthening Women And Youth At Risk Of Gender Based Violence: Challenges and opportunities for enhancing resilience, with a focus on urban contexts and adolescent girls"