

1. Report Summary Sheet

Project title: Kasese Agriculture and Livelihood Project (KALIP)

Member organization: Emergency Relief and Development Overseas (ERDO)

Implementing partner: Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) Uganda

Project #: CFGB 3139

Project start/end dates: 12/1/2022-11/30/2025

Report submission date: 30th/12/2024

Reporting timeframe: 1st December 2024 - 30th November 2025

Project locations: Kabukero East, Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka Villages in Karusandara Parish, Karusandara Sub County in Kasese District in PAG Rwenzori Pastorate.

Total annual budget: USD\$ 196,358; CAN\$ 268,355, UGX. 724,559,670

Total year-to-date expenditures: USD\$ 164,338; CAN\$ 224,596 UGX.606,407,939

Total year-to-date unique project participants: 602 Participants (204 males, 398 females)

For all questions in this report, please refer to the AGL Guide for additional guiding questions.

2. Project Contexts

Provide an update on the local context, focusing on the food security situation by identifying the factors impacting the food security of project participants (both positive and negative) since the project began. (*maximum one page*)

The factors that have impacted the food security situation of the project participants include the following as illustrated below:

i. Weather pattern variations throughout the year:

Farmers predicted first season rains to start in March 2024 but they did not come until April 2024. The largely erratic nature of the rain negatively affected farmers' prospects for early planting. Subsequently, the late onset of rains resulted in the shortening of the first season which affected growth of crops including maize, cowpeas, beans and ground nuts, in turn leading to reduced harvests. The farmers in Karusandara sub county have continued to depend on rain for agriculture and dry spells have continued to affect farming despite availability of water from Mubuku river, with only illegal irrigation taking place on small scale due to the threat of flooding it poses the community due to weakening of the riverbanks. To sustainably exploit this water resource for irrigation, a safe way of channeling the water from the river to farms with minimal or no exposure of community to the risk of flooding should be explored.

The second season rains expected in August also started in mid-August 2024 but were stable until early September 2024. Unfortunately, thereafter, heavy rains set in, leaving several participants' and community members' fields destroyed due to heavy floods and water logging in the flood prone lowlands in Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka villages. This heavily affected the good-looking and promising crop that was expected to give a bumper harvest.

ii. Flooding

The flooding that ensued in November 2024 was the first of its magnitude since major project interventions in the project area and presented a serious setback for the project team in Kasese, calling for serious reflection as to the persistence of the flooding despite project interventions, especially as the project was coming to the end of its 2nd year. The monitoring and support visit to as a follow-up of the flood event showed that persistent flooding was due to 1) blocking of channels by farmers during the dry season; 2) Farming in channels and/or very close to channels; 3) poor orientation and diversion of channels to maximize farmland at the expense of effective drainage; and 4) low engagement/commitment to

communal/voluntary work. Several recommendations by the DRR committee and project team were identified and these are outlined under immediate outcome #1.1.

3. Project Response

a. *Significant Changes:* Describe any significant changes to the approved project design, why these changes were necessary and when they were approved by the member and CFGB.

There were no significant project design changes made in the year.

b. *Participants and People Reached:*

Main Activities	Direct Participants				
	Total	Women (18+)	Men (18+)		
1. Self Help Groups (SHGs)	602	398	204		
2. Farmer Field School (FFS)	496	299	197		
3. Gender Champions	21	13	08		
Totals					
Total Unique Participants¹	602	398	204		
# of households				Girls (0-17)	Boys (0-17)
People Reached (Direct Participants plus their household members)	4432	1064	1005	1177	1186

c. *Participant Changes:* Explain any participant turn-over, drop-outs or additions during the reporting period.

The 2nd year of the project registered a total enrollment of 409 (F=257 M=152) participants in 24SHG, in addition to the 193 (F=88 M=105) in 14 SHGs in the 1st year, making an overall total of 602 (F=398 M=204) by the end of year 2. whereas this leaves a deficit of 38 participants, it represents

¹ In a project with many different activities, there may be overlap between the different participant groups and the totals will not, in that case, be a straight sum of each column.

marked progress towards the achievement of the project participant target of 640 given that the 1st year target of 320 participants had been barely hit with only about 40% of participants enrolled. The new members who joined the groups were motivated by the need to access financial literacy training, savings and loan through the groups like the project participants. They were also motivated by the unity in the groups and the transformation being witnessed by the SHG members including purchase of livestock (goats, pigs), poultry, starting businesses and improvement in gender relations. With this positive trend, it is expected that the project participant target of 640 will be exceeded by the end of the first quarter of year 3 and the staff and CBFs are committed to continuously mobilize and sensitize the community members to join the project.

Women are taking the lead in both SHG and FFS membership compared to men due to their relative willingness to commit to regular meetings. Normally, men are taken up in many activities within and outside their communities, and thus, prefer women to represent their households in such activities. Men also prefer to be part of things that bring significant returns quickly as compared to those that take long and are not so direct. On the other hand, women also use the SHG membership as an opportunity for exposure, social networking and sharing personal and community issues. The lower participation in FFSs than SHGs may be generally attributed to the fact that the community in one of the four target project villages, that is, Kabukero East, is largely pastoralist although there are some participants as well who are more interested in savings activities than in farming activities.

4. Gender and Empowerment

a. Describe how the project is delivering gender-sensitive activities and achieving gender-sensitive outcomes:

Community awareness sessions on gender themes, namely, 1) gender roles and workload burden, 2) gender and family conflict management, 3) Gender-Based Violence (GBV), 4) mainstreaming gender in agriculture and joint household decision-making, and 5) budgeting and visioning were conducted mainly through community dialogues and home visits (mentorship and counselling). To accomplish this, Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs) and Gender Champions (GCs) were trained to complement the efforts of the Gender Officer in facilitating the different sessions. During the reporting period, a total of 21 (F-13, M-08) GCs and 4 CBFs were trained to support the Gender Officer in this regard. During this reporting period, the following activities and outcomes were achieved towards improving gender relations in target households and communities.

- a) **Counselling and mentorship home visits by CBFs and GCs:** Gender CBFs in all the four villages of Kabukero East, Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka reached out to all the 24 SHGs with training on gender themes as above. The training involved the use of drama and skits (stage theater) while focusing on the gender issues in the Community. The gender champions also identified and provided support for couples that had domestic issues at household level. They also conducted routine home visits to encourage the development and reinforcement of positive

attitudes and behavior. A total of 241 homes visits were made, with 146 visits to SHG participants and 96 to non SHG participants. The gender CBFs are now recognized in the Community due to this service and referred to in cases of critical gender issues. Agaba Emmanuel a gender CBF proudly remarked,

"Since I started carrying out mentoring and counselling session in Kabaka village where I work as a CBF, cases of domestic violence have reduced as men become more involved in reproductive roles such fetching water/ firewood, cleaning house/compound, and cooking; and women are getting more involved in decision making as compared to how it was before the inception of the project. I feel proud about it because I am frequently called upon to settle domestic violence issues given the high level of trust vested in me by the office of the Community Development Officer (CDO) to handle such cases. What motivates me is the transformation among spouses that results in peace and reconciliation after successful counselling. I'm so grateful for this project for the opportunity to serve my community'."

The gender CBFs are invited to affected homes to help in counseling and reconciling spouses whenever the need arises. The common gender issues that were addressed during the home visits were cases of gender-based violence, workload burden and the need to embrace role sharing. There were also cases of men dominating in household decision-making and such households requested for support from the gender CBFs. For example, one of the project participants by the name of Nyiramahoro Peace from Kabaka village sold off the family yams without the husband's consent resulting in a fight, which she reported to police. Agaba Emmanuel, the gender CBF was then engaged by the police to handle the domestic violence case. The wife accepted the mistake and asked for forgiveness from the husband and the gender CBF advised the couples to always plan together to achieve their family goals. The couple has since reconciled and they are at peace with each other because of the counselling and mentoring given to them. Another gender CBF, Biira Desire Lane from Kabuga Village shared her experience in restoring peace and love on one of the households visited. This involves one Hagaba John who threatened to cut his spouse with a machete after receiving rent money from a farmland tenant and used it for school fees and food without his permission. After a hot exchange with her, which he demanded for it, she was forced to run for her life and rent a house somewhere away from him given that her sister had been killed by the husband in similar circumstances. As a result of counselling sessions by the CBF, the lady has since returned home although more counselling and mentoring was still needed to completely calm her fears.

(b) Community dialogue sessions. During this reporting period, the gender team conducted a total of 9 Community dialogue sessions on all the gender themes in the 4 target villages, and often, scripture is used to illustrate different aspects of gender including mutual love and role sharing at household level. A total of 485 (F-346, M-139) participants attended the dialogue sessions. The dialogue sessions were conducted in churches and the trading center near the field office to reach out to community members, especially men who prefer spending their leisure time in trading centers.

The dialogue sessions especially raised awareness on gender issues among community members who were not yet members of SHGs and did not know what they were missing. Thus, the non-SHG members expressed their need to join so as to acquire more knowledge and develop like the SHG members. On the hand, the dialogue sessions provided an opportunity for other stakeholders such as the sub-county CDO, Parish Chief and pastors to contribute. These sessions have not only had an impact on trainees, but also on the trainers. For instance, Zziwa Julius, a gender champion from Kabuga village remarked, "I was a drunkard, and a womanizer who used to beat his wife, and could not provide for my family. However, after attending several gender sessions and dialogues, I reformed, and I am now living in harmony with my family. My wife never used to greet me in the morning or call me by my "petty" name but from continuous visits by the gender CBFs my family is at peace. We were able to wed last year in August".



Ziwa Julius sharing his success story to the NO, PDC, Staff and community members

In addition, the annual gender and family conflict management community dialogue was carried out on 14th November 2024 in Kabuga village at the field office with a total of 255 participants in attendance (M=85 F=170).

During the session, Kivengenyi Twetungure and Tukurakurane groups presented a drama skit on decision-making in a family setting. The issues raised during the drama included adultery, and alcoholism and substance abuse e.g. of Marijuana and tobacco by both men and women. Among the dialogue facilitators was Bishop Moses Okumu, the leader of the PAG Rwenzori Pastorate, who emphasized on the need for women to work so that the burden of providing for the home does not rest on only the men. He advised participants that men and women are partners, and all should work and support each other. He added that men should be leaders not rulers in a family. During the dialogue, five (5) people were touched by the Bishop's preaching and gave their lives to Christ. Among the five, one was a drug addict, and he pledged never to use drugs again. When given an opportunity to share their experiences, another participant, Kamisha Asumani shared a story of how he was food insecure and did not involve his wife in decision-making, but after acquiring a training on joint decision-making, he started engaging his wife in decision-making. He affirmed that the two have since embarked on joint decision-making, for instance, on what crops to plant, where and when. He intimated that their home had since moved from having inadequate food to having plenty. During the session, the Sub County Community Development Officer was given the opportunity to share on government's child protection policy, emphasizing avoiding scenarios that put children at risk of danger such as kidnap or rape, for instance, by sending children alone at night; as well as exposing them to dangerous materials that corrupt morals such as pornographic movies.

b. Describe progress made to date on women's empowerment and gender transformation:

- ❖ The project has made significant progress towards achieving women's empowerment and gender transformation within the two years' period. For instance, the mid-term assessment conducted in September 2024 revealed that more women were becoming actively involved in household decision making with men, unlike before. For instance, Jane, a participant from Kabuga village testified that the land which she once used to cultivate food crops was taken over by the husband to plant a beer banana plantation without her involvement in the decision-making process. However, after attaining training on joint decision making, they jointly decided to demarcate the land into two portions, one for food crops and the other for the beer banana plantation. During a home visit by gender CBF, another lady called Tumusiime Jackline from Kabuga village had this to say:

"Since I got married, I did not know that a woman's money is also for the family and that I should have a say in the apportioning of our family land for farming since it was never my role. Each planting season, my husband would take his sons to open the land, and my role was to plant, weed and harvest. He decided on the size of the plot of land and the crop to plant. As a result, we would have little harvest. Besides, I felt I had no right to participate in any agricultural decision. When I received the training on the need to plan together as a family in all aspects, I shared the message with him. He later attended a community dialogue meeting on mainstreaming gender in Agriculture and decision making. That evening, we both shared the learning and resolved that we should be making joint decisions. During the second

planting season in August 2024, we decided together, we now have 1 acre of maize garden that we plan to sell to pay our child's fees in the first term in 2025. I feel that my dream of having enough food for my family will soon pass if we continue to work and plan together, something I have never experienced before. I'm grateful for this project and request other community members to embrace the message of gender transformation."

- ❖ The mid-term assessment further revealed progress towards gender transformation in terms of **ing** increasing role sharing and reducing workload burden on the women. Through the continuous engagements by the project team participants have increasingly appreciated and embraced the messages and **s** a result, some men have started sharing some reproductive roles with women, something which was for the most part unheard of prior to the project. This has not only reduced the workload burden on the women, but also improved the gender relations between men and women as one Niwandinda Siyama, a spouse to Aggrey Byarugaba, a Muslim Gender Champion from Kabaka village testifies:

"My husband is a Muslim and Islam emphasizes the greatest form of respect for men. However, I experienced a surprise change in the involvement of my spouse in some of the reproductive roles like bathing children, washing clothes, cooking food and harvesting green vegetables from the garden, something he never used to do. I picked courage to inquire from him only to realize that he had been attending dialogue sessions on role sharing and workload burden for women. He responded that he was challenged by the messages and regrettably acknowledged, 'I punished you a lot.'" This marked the beginning of good things in my household. He now values and participates in different roles at home and work has become easier because it is no longer mine alone but ours and because of that I love my husband more. I will forever be grateful for the project for this transformation of my home'.

- ❖ As part of promoting women empowerment and gender transformation, the project team joined the project participants in Kabuga village on 29th November, 2024 to celebrate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in commemoration of an annual Global campaign that runs every year between 25th November and 10th December globally. During the event, 169 participants attended (M-50, F-119). The celebration was led by three (3) facilitators, that is, Bishop Moses Okumu, CDO and Pastor Owori James, with its main message being ending violence against women and girls. It was stressed that men and women are all equal before God and women should respect their husbands and vice versa. The bishop added that in every 11 minutes at least, a woman is being killed by a man somewhere in the world. During the event six (6) people got saved and were prayed for by the bishop. The theme of the celebration was, "Unite!" to end violence against women and girls (VAWG)." The objectives were to mobilize the project participants and non-participants, religious leaders, government officials, civil society, local communities and development partners to collaborate in preventing VAWG through taking a stand publicly, report cases of VAWG and raise awareness of

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VAWG and its implications to families, communities and overall national development, advocate for increased long term, sustainable investments from Government, private sector, Foundations, and other donors to women's rights organizations working to end VAWG. Taking part in the activities of this commemoration highlighted PAG's resolve to pay attention to and respond to the need for women empowerment and gender transformation.

5. Environmental Stewardship

a. If an environmental analysis was conducted during this reporting period, attach a copy of the EA.

NA

c. For any significant environmental risks identified in an environmental analysis, what steps were taken to protect against those risks? What were the results of the steps taken? If they have not been effective, how will the project activities and approaches be adapted to ensure that environmental risks are minimized?

NA

d. If there were any significant environmental impacts of the project (positive or negative) during the time frame of this report that were not identified in your environmental analysis, please describe them as well as the response to these impacts.

NA

6. Project Implementation

What adjustments or changes to the project plan, if any, are necessary to improve the quality of project implementation?

There are no adjustments to the project plan at this point.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

a. Describe the activity monitoring that was completed during the reporting period.

Routine monitoring and data collection:

Throughout the reporting period, the SDS Pastorate team carried out routine weekly field visits to the four villages in the project area. During such visits, the field team captured data on community participation and involvement, progress made on agreed activities such as clearing waterways, desilting and construction of drainage channels as well as the progress made with the kitchen gardens and conservation agriculture study plots.

Where necessary, for instance, during the flooding in November, and during yield data collection, more frequent visits were made to keep a closer eye on the developments.

To keep track of the field activities, the Pastorate project staff and CBFs were required to submit activity reports for every visit made. Activity reports are submitted through Kobo to facilitate real time tracking of project implementation by project staff and CBFs. At the end of the month the activity reports, supplemented with other data sources, are consolidated into monthly progress reports which are submitted to the MEALO. During the last monitoring trip by the Head Office project team, the deadline for submitting CBF activity reports was set on the 1st of every month while the deadline for submitting monthly progress reports to the MEALO was the 5th of every month.

Prior to submission of the monthly progress reports to Head Office, the Pastorate project staff discussed the reports and the overall project performance during monthly meetings to inform the course of action for the following month. The monthly meetings were critical in assessing the level of performance and coming up with practical solutions to emerging challenges/issues during project implementation.

A total of 624 monitoring and support visits were conducted during this reporting period to the Self-Help groups (SHGs) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to address key specific issues. These visits were made by the SHG officer, Agriculture officer, M & E officer, gender officer, Programs manager and Community Based Facilitators. Among the key issues addressed during these visits were:

- **Waterlogging and Heavy Rainfall Damage:** During the field visits, the team observed larger volumes of floods and waterlogging due to heavy rainfall and stagnant water, which caused significant damage to maize, beans, ground nuts, cowpeas and kitchen garden vegetables. Signs of root rot and stunted growth were observed, indicating the adverse effects of excessive moisture. Actions taken and support given by Agricultural facilitators to farmers was on use of effective soil management techniques for instance use of drainage channels, digging of raised beds and use of ridges.
- **Fall Armyworm Infestation:** An outbreak of fall armyworms was detected at an early stage in maize fields of the farmers due to low rains. In the field visited, up to 30% of the crops showed damage, with leaf defoliation, withering of leaves and reduced plant vigor. If left unchecked, this would pose a significant threat to yield, potentially lowering harvests substantially. Farmers were advised to regularly monitor their fields for signs of fall armyworm infestation. In areas where pest numbers were manageable, farmers used manual control methods, such as uprooting and destroying affected plants, to limit the spread.

- **Pest Infestation in other Crops:** Besides maize and beans, there were reports of termite and cricket infestations in other crops like kitchen garden vegetables, causing stem cutting and stunted growth. If not addressed promptly, this pest could spread further, worsening crop health and productivity. The officers and the CBFs conducted regular follow-up visits to monitor the effectiveness of pest control interventions such as mulching since they feed on cellulose, which is found in dry grass materials, timely planting and digging the holes where they live as a cultural control measure. They provided farmers with real-time feedback and recommendations to improve crop health.
- **Study plot and field establishment support:** Supporting Farmers in planting of maize and bean seeds to ensure proper line planting, spacing and seed selection. Farmers were advised to always use line planting, proper spacing and select seeds before planting to optimize land use, increase productivity, simplify crop management, which lead to healthier and more resilient plants.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** During this reporting period, the SDS Staff and the CBFs carried out frequent monitoring of the activities on desilting. Data on desilting and construction of drainage channels was collected during the period of three weeks (5th March to 22nd, 2024) in the three villages of Kabuga, Kabaka and Kivengenyi where the DRR activities were being implemented. A total of 80 project participants were involved in desilting, 47 being males and 33 females. The data was collected using activity forms designed by the project team.
- **Capacity building:-** Pastorate SDS staff attended a training on photography, videography, story and report writing in October 2024 at the Mission Training Center in Migadde to strengthen their report writing skills. Additional training on report writing and capturing the Most Significant Change (MSC) story was carried out during the CFGB partners conference in November 2024 in Soroti.
- **Monitoring by National office:** The SDS National Office team made (5) monitoring visits including two visits during oxen training and mid-term assessment in August and September 2024 respectively. In September 2024, the MEALO conducted a monitoring and support visit to the project area and advised the Pastorate project team on various aspects including:
 - Proper documentation of participants practicing Conservation Agriculture (CA) and conventional practices;
 - The need to monitor and support 1st cohort participants to to scale out CA practices based on the trainings conducted and experience gained from the study plots
 - Urgency to identify and strengthen Model Groups, particularly for FFS, SHG, and other key components

- Systematic collection of data from FFS study plots and to be diligent in identifying, recording, and sharing testimonies of progress through the use of the Kobo tool;
- Ensure that the Agro-inputs distributed by PAG are used only for experimental purposes by farmers to appreciate the technologies or practices before adopting them on a larger scale.

The National Office project team's final support visit of the year in December 2024 focused on reflection on project implementation and progress in line with the PMF, review of feedback mechanisms, contextualization of trainings on Financial Literacy, Farming as a Business and Entrepreneurship and Business Mindsets, and strengthening of teamwork. The key recommendations made included; use of the model household strategy and emphasis of the self-help group approach as a support system for mindset change; strengthening process monitoring; and expediting household data capture for agricultural yields.

b. If there was data collection conducted during the reporting period, describe the process and methodology.

Project midterm assessment: The mid-term assessment was conducted from September 24th – 26th, 2024. The assessment involved 85 (F=57, M=28) participants. Of these, 58 (F=35, M=23) participants were from cohort 1; whereas 27 (F=16, M=11) were from cohort 2. The assessment employed FGDs with participants selected by simple random sampling from selected SHGs and FFSs. The assessment was conducted across the four villages of Kabukero East, Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka in Karusandara Sub County. The assessment report is available.

Kobo tool and database setup: To ensure evidence-based reporting and proper referencing, the Pastorate project team, with the support of the MEALO developed and maintained a database. The database and Kobo data collection tools are saved on google drive where they are updated from time to time as may be necessary. This use of the kobo and database has also helped in minimizing challenges related to data inaccuracies, missing data and keeping track of the project's progress and project's beneficiaries while enabling faster analysis and timely reporting. There is improved efficiency and effectiveness in the project implementation as informed decisions are made based on data presented.

c. Describe any improvements that need to be made to the monitoring and data collection process.

Based on the project teams' reflection and learning, several recommendations including the following are targeted to further improve project implementation, monitoring, data collection, and reporting:

- Revision of M&E tools to incorporate monitoring activities of Managers and MEOs

- Review of tools to incorporate process monitoring to strengthen awareness of stepwise actions among staff and CBFs and how they relate with expected results
- Use of project activity trackers to fast-track implementation
- Review of AGL monthly reporting format to include missing parameters to encourage more specific follow-up on indicators
- Standardize data/project templates to capture relevant parameters (Visioning template Budget format Projected Income Statement (PIS), Business plan template, and feedback mechanism)
- Develop illustrative project visuals to facilitate linkage of outputs and outcomes by project teams (e.g. project TOC charts, model household poster and thematic area charts)

8. Results Achieved

a. *ITT*: Update the project's Indicator Tracking Table (ITT) for the period covered by this report and attach as an appendix.

b. *Outputs and activities*:

Use the Output-Activity Reporting template (separate excel document) to detail what was done over the reporting period of the current report to achieve project outputs.

c. *Immediate and Intermediate Outcome Results*

For each intermediate and immediate outcome² in the project PMF, use summary tables (below) to provide outcome data along with additional narrative analysis for each immediate and intermediate outcome.³

- Provide details on how these results have been achieved.
- Provide additional charts or graphics that help to illustrate the results that have been achieved.
- Consider how the results are or may be different for women and men.
- If more has been achieved than expected, why? How will project activities build on this success?

² Additional guidance on Agriculture and Livelihoods outcomes, including which outcomes need to be gathered semi-annually and which would only need to be gathered annually, is being developed.

³ Additional guidance and specific questions to be addressed as part of the narrative analysis can be found in Food Grains Bank's Agriculture and Livelihoods Guidance Note

- If less has been achieved, why? What were the challenges that prevented their achievement? How will project approaches be adapted to ensure that more can be achieved in the next project period?

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Intermediate Outcome #1 Reduced exposure to disaster risks	% reduction of Households who permanently abandoned their fields due to floods	51.6%	15%	Pending end of project survey to be done in September 2025
	% reduction of Households who temporarily abandoned their fields due to floods	53.3%	10%	

Description and analysis of results and variances:

Interventions towards reduced exposure to disasters were implemented in all the four villages through desilting of the water ways, gabion construction and opening of drainage channels in farmlands. These interventions reduced the risks of floods on both farm fields and homes. 104 (F=26 M=78) of the project participants whose land had been abandoned for a long time due to the flooding are now reclaiming it for agriculture. Also, because of various DRR activities, 104 homes (F 26, M 78) that were initially affected by floods are now safe even with the recent flooding. A case at hand is a testimony of Nyayenga Joyce from Kabaka village who had abandoned her land (and home) for over 3 years due to flooding but as a result of desilting work promoted by the project, she was able to reclaim both her home and land for farming. Even with the November flooding in the area, although the water affected part of her land, it did not reach her home.



Joyce in her now reclaimed land.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #1.1 Flood affected waterways Desilted	km of affected waterways desilted	0	4	3.151Kms
	% of HHs(M/F) with drainage channels constructed in gardens	MHH=17.4% FHH=28.3% THH = 46%	MHH=80% FHH=80% THH = 80%	To be established during 1 st quarter monitoring & support visit after mapping out all the HHs that were

				hit by the pre/post project floods
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Description and analysis of results and variances:

Over the reporting period, the project continued to engage participants as well as other community members in desilting activities by encouraging communal work. As such, a total of 3.151 kms of waterways was desilted in the 3 villages of Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka by 80 project participants. Participants were also encouraged to establish drainage channels in their gardens. As a result, 4 participants (3 females, 1 male) in Kabaka, 75 participants (74 females, 1 male) in Kivegenyi, and 125 participants (37 females, 88 males) in Kabuga constructed drainage channels on their farms. In Kabukero East, where the terrain is predominantly stony, farmers prefer using ridges instead of drainage channels. In the third year of the project, additional efforts will be made to encourage more participants to construct drainage channels in their gardens, ensuring the long-term sustainability of these benefits.

In order to boost desilting efforts, an ox-traction training was held with the field staff, CBFs, ox-traction promoters and operators and several community members from the four project villages, from 12th to 29th August 2024 at Mzee Zephaniah’s home in Kabaka village. The training program consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions. On the practical side, participants learned how to construct a training pen for the oxen, make yokes, walking and commanding oxen, in addition to plowing, making ridges, and desilting water ways using a dump scooper. The theoretical training covered essential topics such as how to select a healthy ox, signs of illness, and proper treatment for the animals. The successful completion of the training culminated in the launch of the oxen project on 29th August 2024, which was officiated by Bishop Joel Omara, the PAG-U Ministry Director, alongside Bishop Moses Okumu, and government officials. After the training, the ox-traction promoters signed agreements with PAG, committing to continued care and maintenance of the oxen and ensuring that the skills learned during the training are applied effectively for the benefit of the community in a sustainable way as an IGA. During follow-up visits by the CBFs and staff, it was observed that the community highly appreciated the work done by oxen. It was agreed in the launch that project participants would pay a lower fee for using oxen as compared to ordinary community members, while for desilting activities they would be availed by the ox-traction promoters at cost, without profit. The field team worked with each of the ox-traction promoters to prepare a business plan so as to intentionally grow the initiative as a business.



Ox-promoters and operators being trained on how to use oxen for desilting.

Notwithstanding the above interventions, in November 2024, Karusandara experienced floods, the first of their kind since the project's inception. Whereas the impact of the floods was not as that of the previous floods, as there were no deaths reported, and water did not enter people's houses, owing to the interventions, they caused considerable damage to several community members' fields and exposed a number of gaps in the way the DRR response was taking shape in the affected communities, warranting urgent redress by the project to guarantee its sustainability. Altogether, 94 farmers lost their crops, in Kivengenyi village, 34 (29 M; 5F), Kabuga 36 (22M; 14) and Kabaka 24 (13M; 11F). The follow-up site visit by the Pastorate and Head Office project teams together with DRR committees and local leaders revealed general reluctance of the community in opening and maintaining proper drainage channels; outright farming in or very close to channels which weakens the banks; and weak voluntary collective action in implementing DRR activities. Consequently, the DRR committee meeting held on 3rd December together with the project staff resolved on several recommended actions to address the gaps, including:

- Conducting a systematic assessment of the flood damage done (affected households, % of farmland affected; causes of damage; anticipated consequences, recommended actions)
- Mapping out channels and affected households and gazetting main channels and branches (these should be given names e.g. according to linked households for easy identification and follow-up)
- Engaging communities in setting relevant byelaws on water channel management (i.e. distance for “riverbank reserve”, main channels and branches); planting of bamboo trees on the channel banks; communal engagement in water channel maintenance
- Conducting meeting with heads of households bordering riverbanks, channels and branches to demarcate “water reserves”
- Mobilizing community participation in *Omuhigo* (communal work) to carry out actual desilting in line with the set byelaws and engage in continuous community sensitization and mindset change to promote ownership of community problems and a self-help, collective work spirit as a sustainable measure of addressing them [explore the usage of community radio, drama, and use of slogans e.g. “*Tweffuge, tuffuge a mazzi. Bwetuteffuge, amazzi gajjatuffuga*”; identify DRR champions and make promotional visibility items; Conduct campaign to mobilize local resources to support *Omuhigo* e.g. Donation box to support routine desilting which could be placed at community office, religious spaces etc.
- Expediting the bamboo tree nursery IGA to ensure enough bamboo (big and small) is produced
- Determining the length of riverbank, water channels and branches to be planted and thereby establish the right number of mambo (big and small) to be planted (*spacing of big bamboo-2.5m; spacing of small bamboo: 2 feet*)
- Championing the use of oxen in desilting as a way of reducing drudgery in communal desilting
- Empowering SHGs and CLAs to be at the forefront of DRR activities

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #1.2				
Riverbanks Routine maintenance	Kms of riverbanks maintained	0	4 Km	3.151Kms
	# of bamboo trees planted and well taken care of to maturity	0	1000	1000

Description and analysis of results and variances:

In addition to desilting, in order to ensure rapid flow of water, and thereby reduce potential flooding of homes and farmlands, riverbank and channel stabilization is important. Further riverbank stabilization was done by planting 1000 bamboo seedlings along the riverbanks, in addition the local gabions constructed earlier in year one the project up-stream river in Kabukeero East. However, the recent November floods washed away the majority of the young bamboo.

In order to support more intense bamboo tree planting in addition to other tree species for riverbank and channel stabilization, as one of the key recommendations noted above, a 3-day training on tree nursery production and management was conducted in Kabuga village. Each village is expected to identify a nursery entrepreneur who will be supported to establish a profitable multi-purpose commercial nursery as another IGA promoted by the project.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #1.3 Strengthened community-driven disaster management	# of Villages with functional Community-Based Flood Early Warning System	1	4	4
	# of operational village disaster action plans	0	4	4

Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

As part of the community flood early warning system, two community radios were installed, one in Kabukero East village at Oyo Yofesi's premises as the radio promoter, and the other in Kabuga village at Okello Timothy's premises. The community radio in Kabaka village that was installed by Save the Children was also repaired to full functionality. As a key function, in case of imminent flooding, the radios are used to alert community members to be on watch and monitor the water volumes as well as mobilize the community members to participate DRR communal work, in addition to mobilization for other related project activities such as Gender dialogues, SHG and FFS activities. However, to ensure their sustainability, the operators were encouraged to use them to provide additional services to the community at a fee, such as making local announcements and adverts as another IGA. In this regard, like for the case of ox-traction promoters, community radio promoters signed agreements with PAG, committing to the ongoing maintenance and care of the radios and were also oriented in business planning. The radios have also enabled the preaching and

sharing of God's Word in the communities. Finally, to complete the community early flood early warning systems, a flood gauge device will be installed in Kabuga village during the 1st quarter of 2025.

The most recent DRR committee meeting held on 3rd December 2024 together with the project staff as a follow up on the November flooding recommended several actions to address the gaps identified in DRR implementation across the four villages as highlighted under **Immediate Outcome 1.1**. These, therefore, comprise the villages' collective action plan.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
<p>Intermediate Outcome #2 [Provide Outcome]</p> <p>Increased food production due to adoption of CA+GAPs by Farmers</p>	% Increase in crop yields (beans, maize, and vegetables)	<p>Beans= TBD Maize=TBD</p> <p>Egg Plants= TBD Tomatoes= TBD</p> <p>To be established in June-July using data from first season harvest. Baseline yield data will constitute data obtained from representative conventional farming households (non-project participants)</p>	To be established in June-July using data from first season harvest.	To be done in June-July using data from first season harvest. Yield data will be obtained from representative participants' fields (model households) doing CA+ and counterpart conventional farming houses (non-project participants) to enable comparison

Description and analysis of results and variances:

During routine field monitoring and follow-up exercises, several anecdotal accounts of comparatively higher yields from CA+ study plots versus conventional study plots were often encountered from FFS participants. For instance, Busingye Michael narrates:

*"I used to plant my crops under mono-cropping, frequent tillage of entire field and poor weed management. When PAG came to my community, it introduced us to new farming practices such intercropping, minimum tillage, mulching/soil cover which was experimented on 20m*20m plots of conventional and CA practices. It's from the high yield obtained from the CA+ plot that I decided to expand my one and half acres to intercropping (maize + beans), with proper spacing as CA+ practices."*

Similarly, Nakanjako Amina, a resident of Kabaka village reports:

"I practiced mulching on a 20m 20m (CA+) plot where I planted 2kg of beans and harvested 8kg; while on a similar sized but unmulched (conventional) plot planted with the same amount and quality of seed yielded a 4kg. This was attributed to the fact that the mulched plot was able to retain more water in the soil, hence improving the health of the crops compared to the un mulched one."*

In order to obtain quantitative data to verify the claims, the field team was equipped with weighing scales and measuring tapes, in addition to a summary datasheet to guide them to systematically capture the required data in a timely manner before farmers use up the harvested produce from the study plots, a challenge earlier reported. The team was also advised to come up with a harvesting calendar as per each FFS to allow capture of data in real time as we as sharing of lessons. This was to be effected through collective action by FFS members, facilitated by the Agriculture Officer and CBFs. The resulting data collected from 383 participants who grew beans in the last season of 2024 was submitted to the MEALO and subsequently analyzed. The summary statistics are presented in the table below:

Plot Size	Freq	%age	Average Harvest in Kgs
10*10	194	50.65%	5.84
20*20	139	36.29%	10.11
15*15	50	13.05%	5.61
Total	383		

From the table above, a total of 383 participants grew beans on their experimental plots. Of these, 50.65% (194) grew on plots of 10 sq meters and had average yields of 5.84 kgs. 36.29% grew their beans on 20 sq meter-sized plots and harvested an average of 10.11 kgs while a few (13.03%, 50) grew on 15 sq meter-sized plots and harvested an average of 5.61 kgs. While the average yields for each plot size have been documented, the absence of data from conventional plots which were the control group makes it difficult to assess whether these yields are above or below average as compared to those grown under CA+ farming practices. The data collection process was hindered by insufficient experience among the field team in capturing and managing agricultural yields data effectively evidenced by inconsistencies in how data were collected and recorded, as well as lack of comprehensiveness of the information gathered. This insufficient inexperience is largely attributed to the limited exposure to development projects as most of the previous projects by the field team were relief-based. More support is thus needed to ensure quality data capture by the field teams. To fill the gap, a representative group of participant households engaged in CA+ and counterpart group of non-project participants engaged in conventional farming practices will be identified from which data will be obtained and analyzed to enable yield comparison. The Head Office SDS project team will provide full on-ground support during this data collection to ensure quality.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #2.1 Increased uptake of CA+/GAPs	% of project participants (M/F) practicing <u>CA</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minimum/No tillage •Soil cover •Intercropping/Crop Rotation 	Minimum/No tillage: THH=2% (4)	Minimum/No tillage: THH=50%	Pending end of project survey to be done in September 2025
		Soil cover: THH=2% (5)	Soil cover: THH=50%	-do-
		Intercropping/Crop Rotation: THH=7% (18)	Intercropping/Crop Rotation: THH=50%	-do-
	% of project participants (M/F) practicing <u>GAPs</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Timely planting •Fertilizer Application •Pest & Disease Control 	Timely planting: THH=24%	Timely planting: THH=75%	-do-
		Fertilizer Application: THH=12%	Fertilizer Application: THH=60%	-do-
		Pest & Disease Control: THH=28%	Pest & Disease Control: THH=80%	-do-

Description and analysis of results and variances:

A total of 64 trainings sessions on CA+ were conducted by the Agriculture Officer and CBFs across the four villages over the reporting period. The Agriculture Officer and CBFs continued to follow-up both the 1st cohort farmers to scale up CA+ while encouraging the new cohort farmers to encourage them to experiment with CA+. During FGDs in the mid-term assessment, the project team observed that majority of farmers from the 1st cohort were scaling CA+ practices on their farms owing to the perceived benefits including improved drainage in case of excess rain (row planting), water conservation (mulching & intercropping); labor saving (minimum tillage); increased production (fertilizer use), among others. This was attested to by 26 (4M; 22F) out of the 31 (4M; 27F) FGD participants. For instance, Assiimwe had scales out to an acre of maize + minimum tillage, but without mulching because the size of land was bigger than usual; Angosal Jackilyn scaled out to half an acre of mulched maize; Kobusingye Hadija

scaled out to a quarter of groundnuts under row planting, and Basemera Margaret scaled out to half an acre of maize and bean intercrop under minimum tillage and mulch.

Several other participants have testified to the same to the project field team during routine monitoring and follow-up activities as highlighted below:

"It took me time to get used to the new methods, but after applying all three CA principles, I now see how much better it is for my farm. My crops are healthier, my garden is no longer affected by erosion, and I spend less on labor." Nakabuye Hanifa of Kabaka Work for Development SHG, Kabaka Village.

"Since I embraced conservation agriculture, my land has transformed. By rotating crops, disturbing the soil less and keeping it covered with cover crops, my farm now produces more with less effort. The soil stays healthy, and I no longer worry about it drying out so quickly." Tibikwiseho Venensio of Kabaka Tweyombeke SHG, Kabaka Village.

In addition, an end of season mentorship and sharing session (farmer field day) took place on November 27th and 28th, 2024 in Kivengenyi and Kabuga villages respectively. Attendees included project participants and community members, the District Agricultural Officer, the Agriculture officer for Caritas Uganda, the Sub County Agricultural Officer, the Community Development Officer and the local council 3 chairperson. The total number of community members who attended the session was 150 (62F; 88F) in Kivengenyi, and 185 (79M, 106F) in Kabuga. During these sessions, participants showcased crops harvested from their CA+ plots and kitchen gardens. The event fostered active discussions with participants asking questions and sharing testimonies, making it an engaging learning experience for all. Nyiraneza Topista from Kivengenyi Twetungure SHG shared a testimony on kitchen gardening:

"Before joining PAG, I used to purchase vegetables from the market and often I would miss eating them when I am financially down. But after attaining training on kitchen gardening by the Agriculture Officer and CBF, I established my kitchen garden where I planted vegetables. Currently, not only do I harvest fresh vegetables for home consumption but also sell some of them to my neighbors, which is an additional source of income. I have also encouraged my neighbors to set up their own kitchen garden."

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #2.2	# of CA+/GAP FFS established	0	32	19

CA+/GAPs FFS established and functional	# of (m/f) participants actively engaging in the FFSs	THH=0	M:320 F:320 T:640	M= 299 F=197 T=496
	# of farmers (M/F) with Kitchen Gardens	THH=0	M= F= T=	M=94 F=137 T=231

Description and analysis of results and variances:

Over the reporting period, the number of FFSs grew from 14 and to 19 and from 331 (126M; 205F) active participants to 496 (299M, 197F). As earlier noted, the number of active FFSs to date is significantly below the project target of 640. This is attributed to the fact that the community in one of the four target project villages, that is, Kabukero East, is largely pastoralist, although there are also participants who are more interested in saving activities than in farming activities.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Intermediate Outcome 3: Increased food security	Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP)	To be established during 1 st quarter monitoring & support visit to agree on local context-specific FS measure (in an FGD) since the MAHFP seemed unrealistic as evidenced by unrelatable results due to challenges of recalling and ambiguity of “adequate”	To be established during 1 st quarter monitoring & support visit	To be established during end of project FGD in September

	Reduced Coping Strategies Index (r-CSI)	MHH = 17.1 FHH = 18.4 THH = 17.6	10 and below	Pending end of project survey to be done in September 2025
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Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

From the kitchen gardens set up by many of the participants, a variety of vegetables are readily available to the households irrespective of the nature of the season which has served as a great move towards solving food shortages that are often a result of weather variations. Currently, of the 496 participants actively engaged in agriculture, 232 (137 female and 95 male) have set up kitchen gardens. In addition to the kitchen gardens, participants have continuously engaged in agriculture much more than they did before the project interventions were rolled out with the employment of CA+ practices. This has enhanced food production and thus less need to employ coping mechanisms.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #4.1. Enterprise associations/clubs established	# of SHGs established/empowered	0	32	24

Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

An additional 5 groups have been formed during the reporting period, bringing the total number of SHGs involved in the project activities to 24 currently with 602 participants. This is short of the target of 32 groups partly because the membership of each of these groups is beyond the anticipated 20 members per group which caused the number of participants to escalate which was out of the control of the project team since these were already existing groups.

A total of 48 trainings were conducted on SHG concepts, saving, credits and fund management, rules and regulations and members have registered a great number of benefits of being a part of the groups that are part of the project, and some have recorded testimonies such as the one shared by Kobusingye Alice, the chairperson of Yellow Power Group in Kabukero East.

'We have learnt a lot through our weekly SHG training which usually happens on Fridays. These trainings have helped my group and I to realize the importance of teamwork as we are encouraged to share freely, and it has also helped to break the cultural barrier of not allowing women to share in a community gathering even though one has a pressing point. Now as a woman I am able to moderate a meeting and bring forth discussions on the table unlike before, where it was men who were allowed to speak'.

38 new participants are expected to be recruited within the first quarter of the third year of the project so as to hit the target of 640 participants (HHs) and these will receive trainings and be encouraged to conduct benchmarking visits to established model Self-Help Groups (SHGs), with support from Community-Based Facilitators (CBFs).

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Intermediate Outcome #4.2 Enhanced Livelihood diversification and production/productivity & profitability	% Farmers with alternative sources of livelihood apart from Farming % households registering increased incomes/profitability	30% TBD	60% 25%	Pending end of project survey to be done in September 2025

Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

A capacity building workshop on Financial Literacy, Alternative Income Generating Activities, Business Mindset and Farming as a Business was conducted at the Missions Training Center in Migadde, in November 2024. This workshop was attended by Project Staff, CBFs as well as the National Office staff. Contextualization and planning of trainings of the SHGs has been finalized by the project team and CBFs to roll out the trainings on IGAs in the first quarter of the third year of the project. 19 SHGs have already selected their preferred IGAs including piggery, poultry, weaving, goat rearing, among others. The 5 new SHGs are still undertaking training in SHG concepts and have not yet selected any IGA.

Seven of the mature SHGs have made investment in their selected IGAs using their savings. For instance, from 1 sow each, Kivengenyi Tukwatanise and Kivengenyi Twetungure now have 5 and 6 piglets respectively and three members of Tukwatanise Group received a group each. Kabaka South Tweyombeke Group distributed a total of seven piglets to seven of their members. Kabukeero Yellow Power Group has so far purchased 50 plastic chairs for hire. Kivengenyi Tukwanise has purchased 27 chicks while Kabaka Twetungure has purchased 6 chicks for six members.

Kivengenyi Tukurakurane group with 24 members (M=12, F=12) upon receiving one knapsack sprayer from the project, purchased 2 additional sprayers since one knapsack would not serve all of them. During the planting seasons, the group hires out the knapsack sprayers to community members at a cost of UGX2000 per day and the money is added to the group's savings. The Karusandara HIV/AIDS SHG is engaged in weaving local baskets which are sold and the profits made are distributed among the members who made them. The baskets range from 10,000 UGX to 50,000 UGX depending on the size. The group has since secured a contract to supply 300 baskets to Rwenzori Sustainable Traders.



Kivengenyi Tukurakurane group with the staff after they had purchased two knapsack sprayers.

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Intermediate Outcome #5. Improved relations among men and women at household level.	% of men involved in at least three reproductive roles	Fetching water: 43.7% Cleaning the house: 11.4% Cooking food: 13.3%	Fetching water: 60% Cleaning the house: 25% Cooking food: 30%	Pending end of project survey to be done in September 2025

Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

Home visits and community sensitization on role sharing at household level (most especially reproductive roles) were routinely done by the gender champions and CBF. As a result, CBFs and GCs have registered several reports of improved relations among the households including joint involvement of men and women in reproductive roles as well as the productive roles. Basaliza Adolf of KEDA SHG in Kabukeero East village shared his experience of being supportive in reproductive roles to his household,

"I never used to participate in reproductive roles at home. Culturally, we were made to believe that all the reproductive roles were ascribed to women. My wife would be the first to wake up and start the day's activities. She would also be the last to go to bed after serving me with supper. I would not mind her struggles. The training I attended in the Self-Help Group from the gender Community Based Facilitators and the dialogue sessions in my community on role sharing transformed me. I now carry firewood on my shoulder from the garden to home, carry our baby and my wife's hoe while leaving the garden and returning home. I also learnt that household roles are meant to be shared so that none of us would be overburdened. My wife is relieved and appreciates me every day, we are both happy."

Expected Result	Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Actual Result
Immediate Outcome #5.1. Increased participation of women in agricultural decision-making points	% of men and women in leadership roles (FFS groups and savings groups)	SHG/FFS Men: NA Women: NA	SHG/FFS Men: 50% Women: 50%	SHG/FFS Men: 34.6% Women: 65.3%

Description and analysis of results and variances, using the questions above as guidance.

The leadership of the groups is comprised of 78 members; 51 females (65.3%) and 27 males (34.6%). This rather high female representation in leadership is attributed to the willingness of the women to participate in saving groups as these savings have proven to be developmental, for instance, in helping members to open up small businesses like retail shops and market vending, paying school fess, and dealing with emergencies like sickness, and funerals, as compared to men who think these weekly meetings are time consuming.

9. Accountability: Community Complaints Response Mechanism

d. *Complaints and feedback received: How many and what kind of complaints and feedback were received during the reporting period?*⁴

- The flash floods which occurred in November 2024 destroyed most of the crops that the participants had grown for the second season most especially in Kivengenyi, Kabuga and Kabaka Villages. The crops destroyed include beans, maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, banana plantations and yams as well as vegetables most especially egg plants, cabbage, tomatoes. The bamboo that had just been planted was also swept away by the floods. This has had a negative effect on the food security of the participants in this season.

⁴ Please note that if a complaint involving sexual exploitation and/or abuse is received in projects delivered with Food grains funding, the supporting member must be notified within forty-eight (48) hours (including the weekends).

- Participants also complained of attacks by the Fall Army Worms in the early stages of maize. In the fields visited, the crops had leaf defoliation and reduced plant vigor. If left unchecked, this would potentially lower the maize harvests substantially. Farmers were advised to regularly monitor their fields for signs of fall armyworm infestation. In areas where pest numbers were manageable, farmers used manual control methods, such as handpicking and destroying affected plants, to limit the spread. Aside from FAW, farmers also observed crickets which were cutting vegetables and maize.

e. *Follow-up provided: What follow-up was provided (or still needs to be provided) to the complaints and feedback that have been received?*⁵

- The field staff held a meeting with the DRR committees from all four our villages to discuss flood mitigation strategies. Together with the four Local Council 1 Chairpersons, the committees agreed to pass a by-law to deter individuals from encroaching on the buffer zones of the riverbanks. Communal work was also emphasized specially to encourage desilting and bamboo planting. The committee agreed to call for a meeting with the Sub County leadership to sensitize the communities and thereafter pass the by-law. This will be done in January 2025.
- Farmers were advised to use manual control methods, such as handpicking and destroying affected plants, to limit the spread of FAW. Facilitators conducted follow-up visits to monitor the effectiveness of pest control interventions, and this enabled them to provide farmers with real-time feedback and recommendations to improve crop health.

f. *Learnings and improvements: How well is the community complaints response mechanism working? What can be done to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of the CCRM?*

- The project has installed a suggestion box at the field office in Kabuga village to enable the community members to drop their complaints and feedback. However, they prefer channeling their complaints and feedback through the community structures. The Project participants have been encouraged to give comments, complaints and feedback during weekly meetings through the Community Based

⁵ The partner, together with the member, must ensure that appropriate supports are put in place, and an appropriate investigation is initiated.

Facilitators, staff, project management committee and other structures available in the community. Posters of the different complaints' channels will be put in strategic places to facilitate their awareness among the community members.

- A Complaint and Feedback register book is in place. A complaints register was put in place to ensure that all complaints and feedback from the different sources are promptly recorded and relayed in the appropriate forum for redress. Information recorded includes date, feedback or issue received, source (where applicable) and finally, the action taken to address the issue.
- Staff complaints and feedback are being channeled using the laid-out procedure. Project staff, including CBFs have been encouraged to report to their line supervisors, Programs Managers or the Project Management Committee. A complaints and feedback committee has also been established to fast-track follow-up and resolution of the complaints. The committee is made up of project committee members and project staff. The committee members are experienced and exposed members of the community, and thus give oversight to the project team. The committee emphasizes confidentiality of the information received from the community.

10. Accountability: Collaboration and Coordination

Collaboration: Describe how the project is collaborating with local government and other actors and any steps that will done to improve this collaboration in the future.

- The project has a good working relationship with the Kasese District, Karusandara Sub County Local Government and other development actors within and outside the Sub County. The project staff consult the Local Government technical staff on several project aspects including FFS, DRR, among others. The Sub-county and District Agriculture Officer have been in close contact with the project participants during trainings, community dialogues and radio talk shows to provide the necessary technical support as required. This cordial relationship has made it possible for the District Disaster Management Committee to always reach out to PAG Rwenzori Pastorate in case of emergencies as was the case for the mudslide occurrence that happened in Mapata village in May 2024.
- The project worked with the gender department of the Kasese District Local Government to commemorate the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence against women and girls from 25th November to 10th December 2024. The project participants from all four villages gathered in Kabuga village. The items presented included drama skits on the danger of domestic violence and testimonies from the participants who had reformed. Remarks were made by several speakers, including, the sub county CDO, remarks from Bp. Okumu Moses, the Kasese PAG Pastorate Bishop, and the invited guest speaker, Pastor James Owori.

- The project collaborated with other development partners like Caritas Uganda, by sharing knowledge and best practices for Self-Help Group establishment and management to foster livelihood diversification to a people that have been largely surviving on one line of income. The project was also able to renovate a community radio that was set up by Save the Children in Kabaka village to ease the communication in the community. Brac Uganda has been also one of the actors PAG has collaborated with in trainings and capacity building most especially on savings and investment.

g. *Coordination:* Describe how the project is coordinating with the local government and other actors and what will be done to improve this collaboration in the future.

To coordinate with local government and other actors in the district, the project team regularly shared updates on project implementation during district events where PAG is invited and during engagements with government officials. In addition, project work plans and reports for the reporting period were shared with the Sub County and District. The project field team was also keen to ensure that government officials and officials from other relevant organizations were participated in key project activities including the ox-traction training and launch in August, the tree seedling production and nursery and management in November training in and the mid-term project assessment carried out in September. During ox-traction training, the District Veterinary Officer supported the team in sourcing good and affordable bulls as well as in training the staff together with the CBFs, ox-traction proprietors and operators in proper management of the oxen. During the mid-term assessment, the project team was joined by the Senior District Agricultural Officer, the sub-county Community Development Officer and the Subcounty Agricultural Officer in addition to the LC 1 & 3 Chairpersons and the Sub-County Chief who provided helpful insights and feedback to the project team.

The project also very instrumental, especially in co-coordinating efforts DRR activities in the project area with the relevant district officials, and other actors like red-cross to mitigate flood risks within the villages along the riverbanks and help them adapt their farming to their current land. During the period, with the support of Red Cross two new community radio facilities were installed in Kabuga and Kabukeero East villages and an old one was repaired in Kabaka village.

11. Risk Management

a. *Project Implementation Risks:* Using the table below, identify the project implementation risks that occurred and how they were managed.

Project Implementation Risks	How was the risk managed?
1. Heavy Rainfall Damage and Waterlogging due to floods: During the field visit, the team observed gardens that had experienced waterlogging due to flooding and heavy rainfall, which caused significant damage crops such as maize, beans, yams, vegetables, sweet potatoes and cassava gardens. Signs of root rot and stunted growth were observed, indicating the adverse effects of excessive moisture as most gardens were covered with sand and water.	The Agricultural officer and the field team advised farmers on effective drainage channel techniques, helping them design proper water channels to manage waterlogging in their fields. They also provided advice on soil management practices to prevent future waterlogging.
2. Pest Infestation in Crops: Besides maize, beans and vegetables, there were reports of FAW, crickets and aphid infestations in other crops, causing leaf curling and stunted growth. If not addressed promptly, this pest could spread further, worsening crop health and productivity.	The field team conducted regular follow-up visits to monitor the effectiveness of pest control interventions and drainage channel improvements. They provided farmers with real-time feedback and recommendations to improve crop health.

Add additional rows as necessary

b. *Safety and Security Risks:* Using the table below, identify the safety or security risks that occurred and how they were managed.

Safety and Security Risks	How was the risk managed
1.	
2.	

No safety nor security risk was identified during the reporting period.

Add additional rows as necessary

12. Exit or Transition Strategy

Reporting is not required for this section at the Annual Report stage. End of Project reports will require reporting.

6. Participant Stories

Please provide two or three stories about project participants using the guidance document for supporting questions.

Participant story 1

Name: Basemera Margret

Location: Kabuga village, Karusandara Sub County, Karusandara parish in Kasese District.

There are six members in Basemera's household, that is, Basemera, her 2 children, 2 grandchildren and a female relative who calls her aunt.

In her own words Margret narrates her experience and benefits of trying out conservation agriculture and kitchen gardening:

*"I was a primary school teacher years before I retired, but now I'm now a farmer. Before this project came, we faced a lot of flooding especially in Kabuga village where I live. During the needs assessment and project activities I picked interest to learn about conservation agriculture. Prior to this, I used to plant crops locally through broadcasting and tilling the land thoroughly before planting. After attending the training on CA+ and with the experimental maize and bean seeds from the project, I planted a CA+ plot of 20m*20 where I did mulching, intercropping and proper spacing and a conventional plot where I did as usual without these practices. The CA+ plot gave me much more yields compared to the ones from the conventional plot. From this experience, I have expanded the CA practices to one acre and will be harvesting the maize very soon. In the past, I used to experience the challenge of drought, but since I started using CA principles, especially mulching and soil cover, my garden is always moist, and my crops survive even when the rains are late. It's like the farm is more self-sufficient now. I was also able to do kitchen gardening with vegetables like tomatoes, onions, cabbages, sukuma wiki and spinach. This has improved nutrition and reduced home expenses."*



Basemera Margrete in her maize field intercropped with beans that she had recently harvested and the maize to be harvested soon.

Participant story 2

Name: Katusabe Mary

Location: Kabaka village, Karusandara Sub County

Katusabe Mary a thirty-three-years-old, is married to Jumba Augustine, aged thirty-nine with six children (aged 15, 12, 10, 8, 5 and 3) of which three are boys and three are girls.

Mary's painful marriage experience is completely turned around as she surprisingly encounters gender training which was the last thing on her mind in her search for freedom. In her own words, she narrates:

"I have been married for 16 years, but I have never enjoyed my marriage like other couples. Only one song rang in my household as the children kept saying 'dad is killing mum' because of his addiction to alcohol which would influence him to beat me up whenever he came back drunk at night.

This left me alone to struggle to avail food, clothing, fees and other basic household needs. Sometimes they would miss school due to lack of school fees because I had to raise the money alone. Marriage was like hell on earth and I could never advise anybody to get into such a mess.

However, my view of my marriage started changing when I attended a SHG meeting with Kabaka North Tweyombeke group where I had gone to borrow some money from a friend to cater for my transport back to my maternal home as I had made up my mind to leave the marriage. The training by the gender CBF in the meeting happened to be on working together as a family, that is, role sharing among couples, planning, budgeting and making decisions as family. Through this training I was able to learn a lot and at once realized that my going back home to my parents was not the answer to my marriage challenges.” “When the gender CBF invited group members for counselling and mentoring sessions if needed, I was prompted to persuade my husband to attend one of these sessions not knowing that this would be the turning point for my family. On accepting the invitation, he got the opportunity to attend the continuation of the training on decision making, budgeting and role sharing, domestic violence and alcoholism, after which, my husband and I invited the gender CBF to our home for a counselling and mentoring sessions. The CBF did several follow-ups on home visits and since then, my husband has reduced his alcohol consumption, and we are now better than we used to be. I believe that he will quit drinking completely since he does not beat me up now. Our children’s fees are now being paid on time and my husband has proposed a church wedding soon. All appreciation goes to God through PAG work of mentoring and counselling to couples.”



Mary Katusabe with her husband Jumba Augustine and some of their children telling her story.

Participant story 3

Name: Kyalikunda Midius

Location: Kivengenyi Village, Karusandara Sub County, Karusandara parish in Kasese District.

Midius has eight members in her household, including her husband and her seven children aged (38, 35, 33, 30, 29, 25 and 20).

Midius, 59 years old, married to Kyalimpa Fred Amooti, narrates how she discovers a bonafide investment vehicle on joining Kivengenyi Tukurakurane Self-help group:

“Before the AGL project came to my village, I used to do farming to support my family and sometimes I would sale part of the yields to get cash to cater for my family. This was being done on an individual basis. This was okay until one day I hired an acre of land to cultivate beans. Unfortunately, I was all alone without any support and as a result the crop did not do well due to poor farm management. However, later in 2023 I joined a Self-Help Group at the invitation of the SHG CBF and from the trainings, I learnt that unlike the village saving and loan association where the money is divided at the end of each cycle while the SHG approach aimed at long-term saving and investment, I saw this as an opportunity to join. As a group

we agreed to be saving one thousand shillings every week to buy each member 2 chicks. Upon receiving mine, I raised them in a period of 3 months and sold them off at sixty thousand shillings which I used to buy inputs to plant half acre of cabbage. I sold the harvest and used the money to buy 3 goats and I'm now vending cabbage in my local market. I am so grateful for the training I received in my group and would like to appreciate PAG for equipping us with the knowledge."



Kyalikunda Midius holding the cabbages, she vends in her local market.

5. Financial Report

Attach a separate MS Excel file as per the Financial Report Guidelines described in Foodgrains Bank's *Agriculture and Livelihoods Programming Guide*