

# RICE West Nile

## Environmental Conservation



**RICE**  
**WEST NILE**  
Striving for Self Reliance

# About us

Starting from humble beginnings, RICE West Nile has grown to acquire the status of a national NGO with a mandate to operate in any part of Uganda. Currently, RICE West Nile operates in 11 districts of West Nile region, Acholi and Bunyoro sub regions with staff capacity of 56 staff (Male 31 Female 25) who come from different parts of Uganda and beyond. Majority of these staff are youth who get empowered through capacity building and experience to build their careers. RICE West Nile also hosts volunteers both local and international from around the world every year and this builds on the networks and capacity building abilities of RICE West Nile as well as building the capacities of the young people.

RICE West Nile has three branch offices with headquarters and Arua branch located in Arua city, Moy branch office in Moyo town and Nwoya branch office in Nwoya town.

## Vision

A self-reliant, sustainable and holistically transformed society.

## Mission

To kindle and facilitate a people led and sustained protection of nature and well being of humanity.

## Core Values

Simplicity

Team spirit

Equity

Novelty

Transparency and accountability

Safeguarding



# Introduction

Overtime, the world has witnessed changes in environment, but not for better. There are many issues that are associated with environmental degradation all of which point towards endangerment of human life. At least 15 percent of greenhouse gas emissions don't come from cars or factories but they come from deforestation.

By 2030, we may only have 10% of the rain forests left the rest have been cut down for wood, wood pulp products or cleared for agricultural uses. According to an article released by [theworldcounts.com](http://theworldcounts.com) in 2018, more than 70% of the planet's plant and animal species live in forests and because of deforestation, these species have lost their habitat, ecosystems die out, climate change continues, there are fewer trees to produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.

Based on the above harsh realities being experienced in RICE West Nile's areas of operation coupled with the influx of refugees in the West Nile sub region of Uganda, RICE West Nile partnered with the district local governments, CSOs and CBOs with funding from benevolent donors to promote Environmental Conservation across 9 districts of West Nile Region of Uganda namely; Arua, Nebbi, Maracha, Koboko, Moyo, Adjumani, Obongi, Madi-Okollo and Terego aiming at increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives for communities in the West Nile sub region to reduce overdependence on biomass for their energy needs.





# 2020-2024 Strategic Aim 1

## Protection and preservation of nature



### Objective

To conserve the ecosystem and promote sustainable use of natural resources among 250,000 highly vulnerable refugees, the host community and non-refugee communities in the operational areas.

### Strategic out puts

- Integrated natural resources management and sustainable incomes promoted and harnessed among 75,000 households and institutions.
- 25,000 Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) distributed and consumption of these technologies increased at households and institutions.
- 7,500 Communities and stakeholders educated on existing legal and policy documents on natural resources.
- All districts in operational areas lobbied to increase budget allocation on conservation and natural resource.



## Summary of achievements

- In 2021, 3 community managed tree nurseries were established in Omugo and Uriama sub counties. 3 groups were supported to establish and manage tree nurseries with variety of seedlings i.e., Teak, Mahogany, Pawpaw, Eucalyptus, Moringa, Sesbania and Jackfruit. These activities were to address the increase in deforestation and conflicts over wood fuel among refugees and host communities during the Community Adaptive Action Plans (CAAPs) in 2019. Each nursery had a total of 25000-35000 seedlings raised by 2 host groups (Aliodroti in Uriama and Abirizenduku in Omugo) and 1 refugee group (God is the Answer Youth Group in Omugo Refugee Settlement). The groups have also been oriented on farmer managed natural regeneration approach to reduce on tree cutting.
- 15 Solar technicians were trained in solar installation and maintenance in beneficiary communities to provide solar installation and maintenance services in these communities of West Nile sub region.
- Since 2019 RICE West Nile has distributed more than 634 Solar Home Systems (SHS) and 4037 Improved cook stoves (ICS) to communities in West Nile region. 2,000 of the total distributed ICS were distributed to Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) (1000 in Rhino Camp and 1000 in Imvepi).
- In the last two years, RICE West Nile raised more than 1,302,321 tree seedlings (500,171 in Imvepi and 802,150 in Rhino Camp). These seedlings were distributed and planted in institutional and community level woodlots with a 94% survival rates.
- In 2019, RICE West Nile supported three districts of Nebbi, Arua and Koboko to develop Renewable Energy (RE) strategies for the districts to guide RE planning, interventions and resource mobilization strategies aimed at increasing access to RETs in the beneficiary districts.
- In 2020 the three District Local Governments of Koboko, Arua and Nebbi Renewable Energy Access Strategies were approved, printed and disseminated to a wider stakeholder base for implementation.



## Summary of achievements



- 10 community sensitization sessions conducted in Imvepi and 12 in Rhino camp on environmental protection and renewable energy technologies.
- 12 farmer groups were trained and provided with bee hives and accessories to promote Income Generating Activities among the community
- 26 shops were identified to display Renewable Energy technologies (RETs) at community level to increase the access to RETs in the community.
- 6 community groups trained on construction and maintenance of Lorena - energy saving cook stoves.
- The 50 women planted more than 12,200 seedlings (9350 timber trees and 2850 fruits) in Uleppi Sub county with a current survival rate of 84%.
- 2 Women's Environmental Clubs (WEC) (25 members each) were mobilized to participate in tree planting to mitigate the impact of deforestation in Uleppi sub county who were also trained to make briquettes and energy efficient Lorena cook.
- RICE West Nile provided 2 start-up kits (A pack of 3 sets of moulds for energy saving cook stoves, a wheel barrow, a spirit level, a spade, a shrew, a tape measure and 2 pairs of briquette moulds) to each WEC group.
- Using the start-up kits, a total of 101 Lorena cookstoves were constructed and 13,865 briquettes made by the WEC members during and after their training on cookstove construction and making of briquettes.



## Challenges and recommendations

Demand for tree seedlings exceeded supply for the same. Although RICE WN raised over 1.3 million tree seedlings in two nurseries established in Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements with funding from UNHCR, the number of seedlings raised was not enough to meet the refugee and host community demand for seedlings. There is need for RICE West Nile to increase the number of tree seedlings raised if more community members are to freely access tree seedlings and establish woodlots to contribute towards conserving the degraded environment

## Lessons learnt

Demand for tree seedlings exceeded supply for the same. Although RICE WN raised over 1.3 million tree seedlings in two nurseries established in Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements with funding from UNHCR, the number of seedlings raised was not enough to meet the refugee and host community demand for seedlings. There is need for RICE West Nile to increase the number of tree seedlings raised if more community members are to freely access tree seedlings and establish woodlots to contribute towards conserving the degraded environment





## Change story

### Supporting Rural Communities Acquire Renewable Energy Technologies (Rets) With Ease!

Tadooba has been a basic requirement for every household in Anivu Village, Katrini Sub county Arua District. For decades, the entire village was living in a gloom. Alionana VSLA group member Ms. Yikiru Prudence a 24-year-old divorced mother of one child and a guardian angel to her two nephews witnessed and lived through the horrors of darkness in this village. In a night for a maximum of one and half hour, Ms. Yikiru Prudence spends at least UGX 500 for paraffin on a murky tadooba that could not survive on windy days. On bad days with no any other source of light or money for paraffin, her family would stay in darkness. The local lump also produced a lot of flame, harmful gases and smoke which was a prone cause to the rampant respiratory diseases in Yikiru's home.

Prudence in her house lighted by the solar home system.

***“One day the tadooba started a fire that almost burnt my house but the it was rescued by the neighbours and the well-wishers who helped to put the fire out...”*** she narrated.

On phone charging alone Yikiru spend almost UGX 1,000 every week. Most of the times due to the low household income, she forwent charging her phone to provide for her family. With less hours to have a glimmer light her two (2) nephews had difficult time to study and this resulted to substandard performances in school. ***“....Children under my support performed poorly because of lack of light for reading at night”*** – she continued.

Awareness campaign on CEP by CREAM under Clean Energy Project drew Yikiru's attention and she pursued to acquire a solar lamp at an affordable price and a flexible mode of payment.

She acquired a solar home system with a single bulb (SP1) at UGX 220,000, where she paid UGX22,000 upfront. Currently, she only pays UGX 10,000 per month to complete her payment. The 500shs spent per day on paraffin and the 1000shs per week on charging has been cut down to zero costs which improved the standard of living of the household through the changes in feeding diet and improved savings in their VSLA groups.

The reading time for the children increased from one and half hour to 3 hours after the acquisition of the solar hence improving the performance of the children in school.

## Change story

She acquired a solar home system with a single bulb (SP1) at UGX 220,000, where she paid UGX22,000 upfront. Currently, she only pays UGX 10,000 per month to complete her payment. The 500shs spent per day on paraffin and the 1000shs per week on charging has been cut down to zero costs which improved the standard of living of the household through the changes in feeding diet and improved savings in their VSLA groups.

The reading time for the children increased from one and half hour to 3 hours after the acquisition of the solar hence improving the performance of the children in school.

She can now charge her phone for free and stay connected throughout the week unlike before. 4-5 hours of clear lighting is her new normal every night even when she lacks money for an entire week. As much as the solar home system cannot provide light for longer hours during rainy days, she finds it safer and harmless.

***“I have no worries even if I leave my child alone playing in the room, I am not scared of fire causing harm to my child”*** - she says with a smile on her face.

Yikiru is confident and happy that the respiratory disease cases have decreased in her family and she is now encouraging every other member in her group and village to acquire the clean energy product.

She has not only cut down on her daily costs but also, improved her savings at the VSLA group from UGX 3,000 per week to UGX 5,000 and later UGX 10,000. She is grateful to CREAM West Nile, RICE-West Nile and other partners for improving the lighting in her home and most importantly improving the wellbeing of her family.





**RICE**  
**WEST NILE**  
Striving for Self Reliance

*P.O Box 481 Arua,  
Plot 3B Mvara-Oluko Road  
Front Desk: +256393238163  
Mobile: +256773472234  
Email: [jambo@ricewestnile.org](mailto:jambo@ricewestnile.org) / [ricewn@gmail.com](mailto:ricewn@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ricewestnile.org](http://www.ricewestnile.org)*