



**RURAL INITIATIVE
FOR COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT
WEST NILE
(RICE-WN)**



ANNUAL REPORT



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ABBREVIATION

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BOD	Board of Directors
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CCO	Certificate of Customary Ownership
CDO	Community Development Officer
CPM	Community Peace Monitors
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DFID	Department for International Development
E.g.	For example
GAGs	Gender Advocacy Groups
GFC	Global Fund for Children
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
LC	Local Council
OD	Open Defecation
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
PLE	Primary Leaving Examination
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
RICE-WN	Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment
West Nile	
RWC	Refugee Welfare Council
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN BOD



Dralega Onesmus
Chairperson BoD

On behalf of the Board of Directors of RICE- WN, I thank the Secretariat for the hard work during the period January to December 2018.

All the RICE- WN Board of Directors do appreciate the tremendous work and impact that we have seen in the operations of the Organization.

We have all the confidence to say that it has been possible because of the competent team we have put in place.

Occasionally, I personally visited the office and found on ground a committed and hardworking team that knew their work.

We are proud that over time, we have a team of staff that is not only committed and competent but also willing and ready to learn. I appreciate the Executive Director for steering the team that worked tirelessly throughout the year. We in equal measure appreciate the Advisory Council for the oversight it has

provided to the Board of Directors.

In a very special way, I do thank our partners and or Donors who committed resources to further RICE-WN Projects. Our success as an Organization is your success too. Without the resources you committed, we would not have taken the strides that we have taken as an Organization. We believe that with continued partnership with you, we can do better.

Upon a closer look at the Annual Report, you will discover that we were able to do much notwithstanding our financial constraints. That only goes a long way to prove to you the competence of RICE-WN to handle bigger Projects and resources. With open hands, we look forward to a continued and lasting relationship with you.

In RICE –WN, we value friendships and believe that one friend leads us to another. As such, we are eagerly awaiting to make many other friends and partners through you.

I once again appreciate the entire RICE –WN family, friends and our partners for the work well done.

Yours,

ONESMUS DRALEGA

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

MESSAGE FROM THE ED



Pax Sakari
Executive Director

Dear esteem stakeholders, to mention, the governments of varied levels, development partners, our promoters, beneficiaries to mention but a few, we are greatly honored to account to you for what we did in the year 2018. I am humbled to mention that it was a year that has a 'mark stone' in the history of RICE WN. Needless to say the trust our government bestowed on us to operate without interruption, the confidence our development partners built in us over time, cooperation we faced from our beneficiaries, the purposefully oversight role accorded by governance body of RICE WN, the

tireless effort exhibited by my beloved staff to work day and night, Monday to Monday cannot be overemphasized to say are contributory to these achievements therein.

During the year 2018, RICE-WN continued with old and established new projects which contributed to her mission that is advanced and promote health community development.

RICE-WN areas of interventions are broad based including Environment and Natural Resources, Community Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Education Promotion, Governance Human Rights Peace and development.

In Governance, Human Rights and Peace, where we particularly implemented activities in promoting peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities with support from USAID SAFE and American Jewish world service, transforming lives of conflict affected girls in West Nile with a humble both financial and technical contribution from Global Fund for Children, we say "KUDOS" for your these supports that enabled us to reach the marginalized communities.

In Community health where enormous work was done in transforming lives, attitudes, behaviors of communities in the region. I draw your attention to the work we did in Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for all with support from SNV to embrace good Sanitation and Hygiene practice including latrine construction and hand washing with soap using the tippy tap. Receive my words of mention-in.

In Environment and Natural Resources, we implement two major projects. These included but not limited to Land rights and sustainable development projects with support from American Jewish World Service and Renewable energy promotion supported by World Wide Funds for Nature. If not you who else would have supported us to do all these? Thank you.

In sustainable agriculture we implemented a new project with 10 farmer groups in six Sub Counties covering Arua, Nebbi and Nwoya Districts. This was a new partnership establish with HORIZ-INTO3000 and Austria Development Agency. 'Asante sana' Horizont3000 and ADA to have made us to contribute to poverty alleviation in the Country through agriculture.

Finally, this page is merely a summation, meaning you have every reason to proceed and appreciate the great work done by opening and read critically the next pages. We shall count on your honest feedback which will make us be better in the subsequent years.

Pax Sakari

Executive Director

Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile

1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides information obtained from all RICE-WN 2018 activity reports, regarding the sustainability, achievements, lessons learnt and financial glance of all the engagement in the year 2018. The report will comment on the prospects of the organization. Achievements are organized under Program areas.

Partnership and Networking



2 BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC FOCUS OF RICE WN

Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment- West Nile (RICE-WN) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that was founded in 2004 as a community service provider for health, governance, environmental welfare and human rights. Its establishment was propelled by mounting local pressure for assistance in development and contribute towards the social and economic transformation of the local communities and Uganda as a whole.

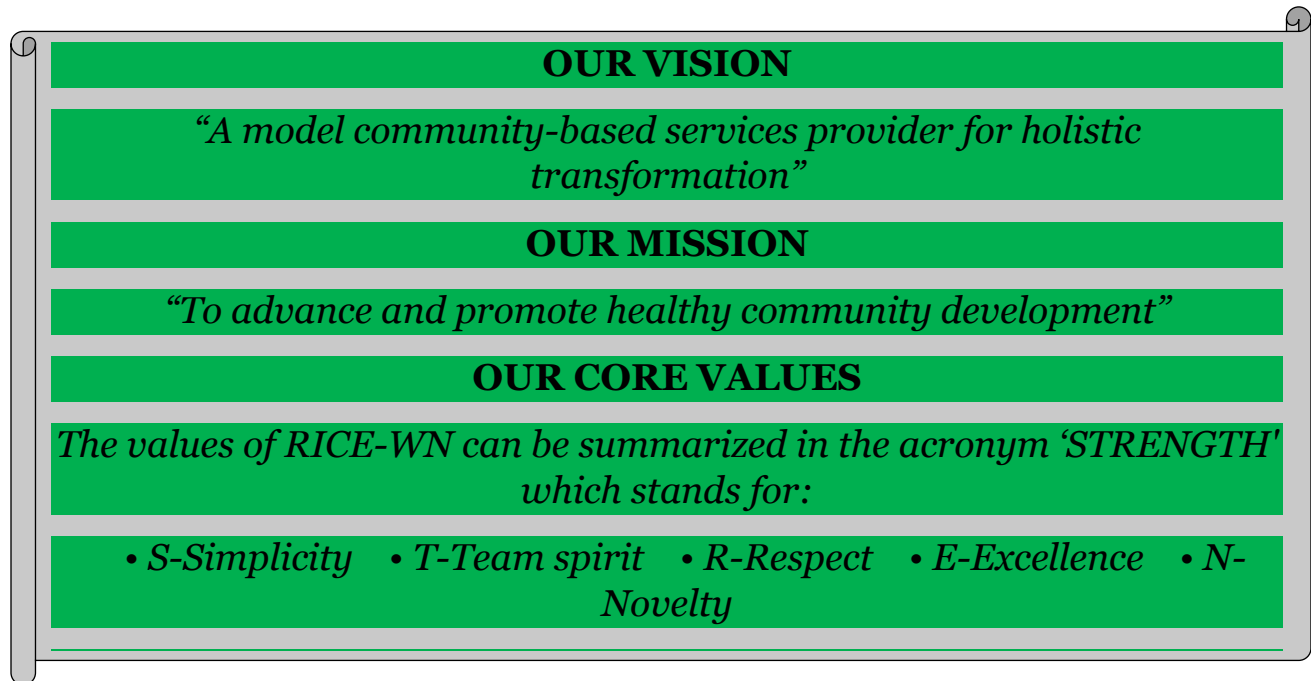
Headquartered in Arua district, RICE WN has branch offices in Arua and Nwoya districts. In the year under review, RICE-WN managed interventions in the core program areas of; Environment and Natural resources including components such as Renewable Energy promotion, Land rights and oil and gas governance; Community Health focusing on quality health service provision for hard to reach communities using Mobile Clinic approach; Sustainable Agriculture where RICE-WN worked with 33 Farmer groups; Integrated Humanitarian Response that had interventions focusing on environmental protection and renewable energy promotion, menstrual hygiene promotion, skills development for conflict affected girls and Peace Building; Skills development under which we had some OVC supported to access primary school in Moyo district.

2.1 Strategic Result Areas (SRA) of RICE WN (2015-2019)

RICE WN Strategic plan for 2015-2019 had seven (7) Strategic Result Areas (SRA) that still informed RICE WN interventions in 2018 aimed at achieving its mandate of working towards advancement and promotion of healthy community development.

- SRA 1: Improved Community Health.
- SRA 2: Informed Community Development Interventions designed.
- SRA 3: A more Sustainable environment and natural resource management mechanisms in place
- SRA 4: Sustainable agricultural practices promoted
- SRA 5: Well governed communities that are proactive for their development
- SRA 6: Increased access and improved quality of education in Primary, Secondary and Business Education by 2019.
- SRA 7: Crosscutting Themes (ICT, Gender, Human Rights-Based Approach, Conflict Sensitive Approach, Public-Private Partnerships) mainstreamed in RICE-WN Policies and Programmes

2.1 The vision, mission and core values of RICE WN



OUR VISION

“A model community-based services provider for holistic transformation”

OUR MISSION

“To advance and promote healthy community development”

OUR CORE VALUES

The values of RICE-WN can be summarized in the acronym ‘STRENGTH’ which stands for:

- *S-Simplicity*
- *T-Team spirit*
- *R-Respect*
- *E-Excellence*
- *N-Novelty*

2.3 RICE WN Governance and administration

RICE-WN is governed by a nine (9) member Board of Directors whose core business is to oversee and guide RICE-WN to operate in accordance to its overall objectives, responsibilities and overarching mandate of the organization. Additionally, RICE-WN has a three-member Advisory Council (AC) that forms the supreme governance organ of RICE-WN. The main responsibility of the AC is to advise both the Secretariat and the Board of Directors within a consultancy level complemented by fundraising for the implementation of the strategic plan. The Secretariat is composed of an Executive Director as the head and staff of the organization at different levels. RICE-WN has a head office in Arua district that is complemented by Branch offices in the districts of Nwoya and Arua as well. These offices (head office and branch offices) are supported by fifty-seven (57) staff for the implementation of activities in the different project districts and regions.

3 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Legal Status

RICE WN is legally registered with the registrar of companies and the National NGO Bureau. The year 2018 saw RICE-WN renew her registration certificate with the NGO Bureau for that permits the Organization to operate in any part of the country for the next five years.

3. 2 Partnerships and Networking

RICE-WN works with a number of partners in the execution of its mission including political and technical district authorities from West Nile, Acholi and Bunyoro sub regions, various Development Partners, Members of Parliament (MPs), Traditional/Cultural leaders, Religious Leaders, Central Government Representatives, likeminded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NGOs, CBOs and faith-based Organizations among others.

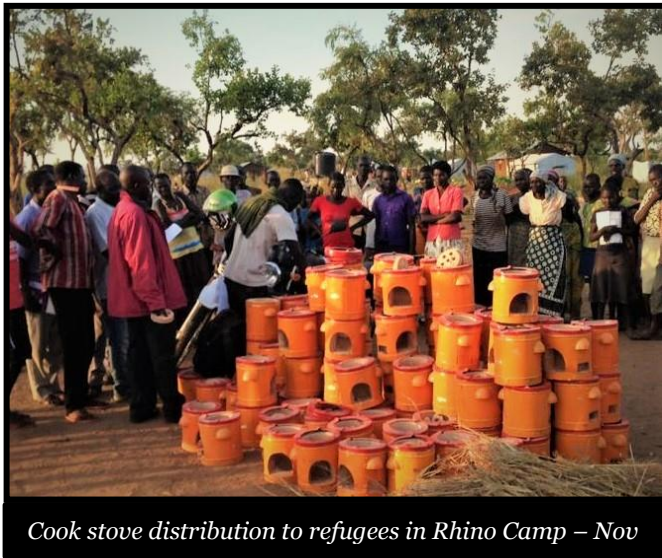
4 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This section of the report highlights RICE WN’s performance against the main program areas in the strategic plan of the organization. It is important to note that all the activities implemented by RICE WN in 2018 fell within one or more program areas and Strategic Result Areas in the strategic plan. All programs and activities implemented therefore were a response to key thematic areas in the RICE WN strategic plan of 2015-2019.

4.1 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4.1.1 Renewable Energy

Rural communities adopt Renewable Energy Alternatives



Cook stove distribution to refugees in Rhino Camp – Nov

About 26.7% of 41.49 million (2016) Uganda’s population has access to electricity! The situation is worse in rural communities with about 18% access to electricity¹. RICE-WN in partnership with 16 Community Based Organizations (CBOs), has been promoting use of sustainable and renewable energy alternatives across six districts of West Nile sub region under the Clean Energy project since 2017 with funding from World Wide Fund for Nature Uganda Country Office. In the year 2018 the team was able to distribute **566** Solar Home Systems and **756** energy saving cook stoves.

According to a 400 households reach out project impact assessment study that was conducted in November 2018 by RICE-WN across the 6 project districts indicate a 35% increase access to Clean and Renewable Energy (CRE) alternatives for cooking compared to 19.3% access to CRE baseline study by WWF Uganda in 2017.

Households enjoy increased savings from using RETs

The increased access to Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) has seen a decrease in household expenditure on cooking and lighting costs. E.g. Households that purchased the energy saving cook stoves and SHS have continued to report at least a 50% increase in household savings resulting from 50% reduction in household expenditure on firewood/charcoal for cooking and paraffin for lighting.

For example, Likico Santy one of the beneficiaries in Omugo sub county who purchased the dual energy saving cook stove from NICEN shared her experience as follows: *“I used to deplete 8 bundles of firewood in a month worth Ugx 16,000 but since I acquired the project supplied cook stove, I now use charcoal worth Ugx 4,000 per month and 1 bundle of firewood that costs Ugx*

¹ World Bank 2016

2,000 totaling to Ugx 6,000.” This implies Santy is able to save Ugx 10,000 on a monthly basis to meet other home needs.

Madam Betty Dravuru who purchased both a solar home system and energy saving stove from ACORD one of the partner CBOs in Arua district had this to say; *“I used to spend Ugx 2,000 on charcoal per day for cooking but now I spend Ugx 1,000 per day only whereas for lighting I used to spend Ugx 1,000 per day on paraffin for fueling a kerosene lamp that has to burn the whole night in my sick mother’s room. I would spend between Ugx 500-1,000 for charging my phone per week.”*

According to Betty, she now enjoys saving money on all the above cost centers and uses the extra money to meet other household needs. By the time of the visit, Betty had used the cook stove for about four months and SHS for close to five months. This implies she has saved at least **Ugx 60,000** off charcoal and paraffin and **Ugx 2,000** on phone charging. Majority of the households are using the savings productively to undertake various investments including; food vending horticulture, vocational work especially tailoring, weaving and brick laying.



Betty makes tea with ICS –

Local businesses boosted by use of RETs

Beneficiaries who purchased the solar systems for their business premises are now able to stay open for longer hours compared to the previous days before they acquired the solar system. Some of the businesses that beneficiaries are engaged in include retail shop, drug shop and selling fish. All the beneficiaries reported extending their business closure time by at least 2 hours thus earning an additional revenue ranging between **Ugx 5,000** to **Ugx 10,000** per day ever since they purchased the solar.

“I used to close my shop between 7:00pm and 8:00pm because I was using a small lantern that could hardly light the room well and could hardly be seen from a distance by my customers. With my Panda Extra installed, the earliest time I now close my shop is 10:00pm and customers are able to see the shop open from a distance” – Dravuru Betty of Yole Village – Abindi Parish in Bileafe Sub-county within Arua district.



Mrs. Jumanyal serves clients in her drug shop at night with ease using solar

“I can now see syringes easily at night to treat customers who come to our drug shop at night, besides they can see the drug shop open from a distance since the light is very bright.” – Mrs. Jumanywal of Aliodrozu VSLA group from Rhino Camp Sub-county who purchased a one bulb system that serves both at the business premises and the home.

According to her they now work up to 9:00pm unlike previously when they used to close the drug shop by 7:00pm

due to lighting challenges because they were using a small lantern. Her husband is the Community Based Trainer (CBT) for the VSLA group under CREAM.

4.1.2 Water source protection in Arua District

Steps are taken to protect the source of River Enyau in Arua District

For long, the glory of the river has gone down the drains. The both upstream and downstream areas of the river has been faced with human invasion in form of cultivation, cattle drinking spots, car washing bays among others. These activities have contributed to a reduction in the water level and poor quality of water which does not favor aquatic life.

RICE-WN in partnership with National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and World Wide Fund for nature Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO) implemented source protection measures at River Enyau that included among others building the capacity of leaders and local communities, awareness creation on the need to protect the water source through different activities including tree planting and designating specific spots for other uses of the river such as water for animals and alternative livelihood options. Through the trainings and awareness activities, communities and their leaders have owned the project initiatives and have pledged to continue with the best practices aimed at improving the quality and quantity of water from river Enyau.

For example, communities are willing to provide land for construction of engineering structures and tree planting among others; in Vurra Sub County, the communities of Orivu village



The source of R. Enyau reduced to a well by unregulated human activity

have offered land for borehole construction and cleared a path way as road for vehicles to pass. In addition, they have also offered land for building the cattle troughs without any conflicts. *“Our cattle have been drinking water from Congo side because we do not have any water source for the cattle, this has always caused us conflicts with Congolese and as a result we lost a lot of cattle. This initiative will help us protect our cattle and also the water source”*, said the Vice LCI of the village said during training of communities on catchment management in 2018.

The project has made the car washing groups to embrace other livelihood ventures for survival thus protecting the river from pollution and siltation. Besides, the initiative to engage communities in planning and implementation of source protection measures has not only improved relationship between communities and their leaders but also enhanced positive attitudes towards protection of the river. For instance, the LCIII Chairpersons of Pajulu and Vura sub counties have continued to create more awareness in other forums to promote protection of river Enyau.

4.1.3 Land rights protection

Community Action Groups (CAGs) take up leadership positions to change the status quo of marginalized groups.

In most of our communities especially in the rural areas, majority of the marginalized groups especially the women and People With Disabilities (PWDs) are excluded from owning natural resources since not much value is attached to these categories of people.

Accordingly, many of them lack confidence and are faced with stigma when it comes to issues of leadership positions since they do not see themselves as potential leaders because of their “marginalized” status. During the advocacy trainings convened by SaferWorld and RICE WN under the project titled; *‘Fostering Inclusive Development and Equal access to resources for marginalized citizens in Uganda’* in Nwoya and Adjumani districts, the community action



L.C.I elect (standing) Fuda Central Village in Pakele, Adjumani sensitizes on land rights of disabled persons

groups comprising the marginalized persons’ representatives were equipped with confidence building skills which empowered them to overcome the obstacles preventing them from taking up leadership positions.

Cultural leaders challenge cultural norms that have been escalating land conflict in Acholi sub-region

Bride-price is used to validate customary marriages and is a common practice in many Ugandan cultures, including the Acholi culture. It usually consists of an agreement in which material items

(including cattle or money) are paid by the groom's father to the bride's family in exchange for the bride.

During a previous talking circle with the Paramount chief, Community Action Groups raised growing concerns over the issue of high bride price in Nwoya district. They reported that societal expectations of real men i.e. paying high bride price to get married are having negative effects on the community such as; Driving the youth-who are unable to afford the bride price into selling land and family property illegally and; Causing impoverishment for young couples and families as all their resources are put into raising bride-price; making future income generation and sustainability difficult.



His Highness Rwot David Onen Achana II (standing with blue shirt) decampaigns unfair cultural norms at a community gathering in Purongo Sub-county, Nwoya

During the community engagement meeting, the Paramount Chief of Acholi – Rwot David Onen Achana II – made the following responses; Committed himself to leading a campaign to reduce bride price from twelve (12) to four (04) cows; Committed himself to taking on the responsibility of being a father to any man intending to marry in the event that the bride's family demanded for bride price he couldn't afford; Recommended that a tax be levied on any family charging a

high bride-price because it is supposed to be a token of appreciation, not a price attached to a woman. The hope is that this outcome will act as deterrent measure against using payment of bride-price to promote inequality and exploitation of the local communities.

4.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH

4.2.1 The unmet need! Mobile Day Clinics an opportunity for rural communities to access FP



Masses gather at Anyvivu Vocational School in Maracha District to receive health care services at a Mobile Day Clinic Outreach – Mar 18

The ability to decide freely the number, spacing and timing of children is a fundamental human right. Access to safe and voluntary family planning is central to women's empowerment and is a key driver of all the 17 sustainable development goals. With support from CHASE Africa, RICE-WN has implemented dedicated programs to promote rural empowerment to foster poverty reduction. The Uganda National Development Plan (NDP) II recognizes family planning as a key and integral factor in poverty reduction, by supporting

realization of a Demographic Dividend. The unmet need for family planning is still very high at 28% (UDHS 2016) this is an average estimate against Uganda's ambitious target of reducing the unmet need of family planning to 10% by 2020.

Mrs. Ocokoru Molly of Kijomoro East in Maracha district is 32 years old with 5 children. She had never used family planning and all her children were spaced between one and two years. The mobile day clinics provided an opportunity for her to learn about methods of family planning and she opted to start with Depo for three months so as to reduce on her rate of production.

Mrs. Orodriyo Hellen, married at 17 years in Olayi village in Terego, crossed over to Anyvivu to receive Jadelle family planning method where the mobile day clinic service by RICE-WN was ongoing. Ms. Hellen said the mobile day clinic provided her an opportunity to have access to the service for the first time since their health facility was always lacking her preferred family planning method (Jadelle).

Both Molly and Hellen's cases are not isolated. It is a common occurrence that the established government health facilities that are mandated to offer the family planning services lack more than 80% of the FP methods even for over a year hence the biggest causes of the unmet need in our hard to reach areas in West Nile. RICE-WN has continued to partner with the Ministry of Health in the provision Mobile Day Clinic services through the district and sub county health facilities to help the rural communities to have access to family planning and other health care services. In 2018, RICE WN organized 6 Mobile Clinics reaching over 3000 hard to reach communities in Arua and Pakwach districts.

4.3 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

4.3.1 Farmers adopt best agronomic practices.



Wataga Taga Group members in Nebbi District perform River Code Play, a group strengthening skit under ERI – Mar 18

Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) approach is a sustainable training that RICE-WN use to empower farmers to adopt good agronomic practices and embrace commercial farming while ensuring household food security. As a result of this approach, Mic Parwoth farmers group has bought one acre of land. This was done as part of sustainability that was emphasized during trainings. The group thought it is wise to have their own land although they were given 5 acres by their fellow group

member; they bought the land using money from their savings and incomes realized through sale of art and craft materials made by the group. The group is planning to buy another piece of land in future for planting group trees (forest) because they want to have a group forest in the future.

Some of the key achievements within the groups include;

- Increased household incomes
- Improved household food security
- Improved family cooperation in farming together
- Exposure to better markets for their produce
- Improved pest and disease management
- Increased social cohesion among farmer groups

4.3.1 Farmer's voices and group experiences

Olanya Charles and Ajok Scovia of Waryem Can group and Okello Denish of Rwot Lakica group successfully identified markets for cassava chips in Arua.

Later, Okello Denish sold 4 bags and got UGX 500,000, Olanya Charles sold 10 bags and got UGX 800,000= while Ajok Scovia sold 5 bags and got 600,000=. In the past, they would hardly raise 200,000= from their sales.

While ululating, one Mrs. Opira confessed, **“The coming of RICE-WN has helped us a lot, my husband Opira Justo used not to weed and harvest but now he is helping me.”**

Opira Justo confirmed, **“The training touches me a lot that’s why I am now helping my wife. I promise to continue helping her and spread it to neighbors to help their women where**

Angey Fatumah of Mic Parwoth group, Pakwach District earns UGX 16,000 per week due to new skills acquired on making papyrus mats.

Santina Akech ended the nightmare of chicken mites in her home by smearing her house walls with organic pesticide made by her group.

Mr. Karawachi Zawadi from Pii-Kwo women group said **“I am grateful for the training on germination test as it has acted as an eye opener for me never to plant any seed before conducting the test,”**

He added, **“I once planted the maize seeds provided by the government and none of them germinated which was a loss to me.”**

Mrs. Drabe Harriet from Wataga-taga said the training on vegetable gardening (kitchen garden) helped her a lot.

“Before I used to plant anyhow but from this date I will prepare a well-designed garden that is easy to manage and will help my family overcome food insecurity,” she stated.

Okech Emmanuel of Nen Anyim Farmers’ Group during cost benefit analysis confessed, **“We used not to know how to calculate profits and now we are going to begin doing it so as to select profitable enterprises for us.”**

4.3.2 Living conditions of farmers improve

With the knowledge acquired in the ERI approach, all the 33 groups set short and long-term goals to achieve within a period of five years or more. In Obawu farmers group, two farmers have constructed *mabati* houses in fulfilment of their goal for each household to construct a permanent building by end of five years.

“Last year (2017), each member planted cassava to buy mabati (iron roofs). I decided to lay bricks with help of my group members in dry season and started construction in April 2018. Now am left with fixing door. I will get money from selling ground nits to fix my door” – Mr. Apollo, farmer member of Obawu Farmers’ Group, Arua District (Feb 2018)

In the same group, six farmers bought iron sheets (8-12 pieces each) to achieve the same group goal. Meanwhile in Mungu Econi farmers group of Logiri in Arua, five members have bought iron sheets and 29 members bought goats for multiplication between the month of May 2018 and June 2018. 30 farmers of Mic Par Rwoth of Wadelai in Pakwach district also bought goats for multiplication and increased their weekly savings from 1000UGX to 3000UGX. Additionally, 22% of farmers have purchased solar to improve their lighting at home, 6% have purchased improved cook stoves to reduce on money spent on firewood as well as reduce risks of health hazards as such as respiratory disorders, fire accidents among others at household level. These initiatives have increased the participation of farmers in working towards improving their lives without asking for handouts.

4.3.4 Local government extends more support to farmer groups

The farmer groups are getting more support from the local government in their farming activities. For instance, in Logiri sub county, the sub county under Community Driven Development program awarded seven million Ugx to Mungu Econi farmers group to increase their farming activities and engage in produce buying and selling. In addition, the Production Officer of Wadelai sub county, Erusi, and Purongo sub counties have continued to mentor the groups of last year and participate in trainings with the new groups. This comes as a result of good collaboration and relationship with the sub county officials.

4.4 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

“It takes a village to raise a child,” so says an African proverb. Imagine a Uganda where there are no cases of child abuse, neglect and humiliation by their own parents, guardians and the society around them. Such a pillar of a country it would be! Children need to experience peace, comfort and joy in any public and private environment without worrying about their rights violations. But, as we know, the children are groomed, denied, coerced, deceived and face all kinds of abuse, neglect and humiliation in homes, schools and the community.

Aware of this, RICE WN designed the Pupils Rights Programme that has increasingly abled the children report cases of child abuse, neglect and humiliation by their fellow children, parents, guardians and teachers to the area Local Councils (LCs) and the school administration.

On the freedom of speech days, children were able to communicate with their parents, teachers and local government leaders through drama, poems and songs. The children clearly brought out the challenges they face in their education as perpetrated by various stakeholders. These were centred around lack of support from their parents inform of inadequate provision of school uniforms and other scholastic materials, poor feeding and poor accommodation which does not avail them space for reading their books while at home. According the LCIII Vurra Sub County, he has decided to use the messages from the children themselves to educate the parents during PTA meetings which has pushed parental support in the primary schools and got parents commitments towards their children’s education.



7,323 children
reached in the
programme



1,350
women



978 men
reached

“Maliko Zubeda, a P.5 pupil of this primary school, was able to report her mother to us the school authorities after she took away her money (10,000) which she raised for buying a school uniform. I called our LC and summoned Maliko’s mother. After our discussions, we resolved that she returns her daughter’s money which she agreed and adhered to that very day. She also agreed to always prioritise her daughter’s school needs so that she remains in school. I must confess that what Zubeda did was commendable and we thank you (RICE-WN) for empowering our children to take such bold actions to protect and demand their rights” – Head Teacher Kaligo Primary, Rigbo Sub County, Arua.

4.5 INTEGRATED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

4.5.1 My pad my health

School absenteeism for adolescent girls reduces in Rhino Camp Settlement

Many girls in vulnerable communities of West Nile like the refugee and host populations miss school and some eventually drop out because they cannot afford sanitary pads that would



Girls at Eden Primary School, Rhino Camp making RUMPS

save them from the embarrassing leaks during their menstruation periods. The pads would also help them maintain a good standard of hygiene while they are in their periods. Cognizant of this, RICE WN with support from Jewish Coalition for Relief and Disaster engaged the refugee and host communities of Rhino Camp settlement in making Reusable Menstrual Pads (RUMPS) using local materials.

This was a 6 months' pilot project called ***Step-up sustainable solutions for the girl child to reduce school dropout due to lack of sanitary***

pads in Rhino Camp refugee settlement. The project supported girls in and out of school to build self-esteem and confidence during menstrual periods as well as establish making reusable pads for business. A total of 185 (143 girls and 42) boys in and out of school were trained in making reusable pads that are more affordable and long lasting. The project was implemented in Ofua and Eden zones of Rhino camp refugee settlement. The key achievement was reduction in school absenteeism during menstruation periods from 49% to 21% per month after the trainings and sensitizations in school on menstrual hygiene and use of RUMPs. The 125 in school pupils trained appreciated that making their own pads will help them stay in school because they will not worry about looking for money to buy pads.

Ms. Mary, a 16-year-old school girl in P.5 Vura cope primary school in Rhino camp refugee settlement started her periods at the age of 13 years and her mother could not afford menstrual pads for her. *"I would go to work for people to get money for buying a piece of pads at the shop and miss school on my menstrual days. Each piece of pad costed 1000UGX and I would only wear one pad for the whole day to reduce on costs. After the trainings on hygiene and sanitation and making reusable pads, I can now make my pads and even sell others. I don't have to wait for distribution days. I change three reusable menstrual pads a day and attend school daily. I appreciate the knowledge and the training I received."* Mary said

Tabu Scovia, a 25 years old mother of one living in Ofua 2, is a household head of 8 people. She said that the training has helped her from the burden of selling part of her food ration to buy pads every month. *"Being the first born and as the household head, I had to ensure that my two*

sisters have what to use when in their periods yet I do not have any income source but with the training I taught my two sisters and 6 other girls at the neighborhood on how to make reusable sanitary pads. This is a cheaper option for me and we no longer sell our food ratio. I thank RICE-WN for this knowledge," Scovia mentioned.

Environmental protection

Major landmarks made towards restoration of tree cover and sustainability of existing trees in Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee Settlements and Host Communities

During the year 2018, RICE WN produced 387,500 tree seedlings that were planted in Rhino camp and Imvepi refugee settlements and hosting communities. By the end of the year the trees were all planted with a survival rate of 57% determined at the dry spell. Additionally, there were 2,000 improved cook stoves (ICS) distributed in Rhino camp and 1,000 ICS distributed in Imvepi to Persons with Special Needs.

Beneficiaries included both refugees and host communities totaling to 3,411 refugees and 2,278 host communities in Rhino camp and Imvepi settlements. A total of 47 local stove artisans (community groups) were reached as TOTs (17 in Imvepi and 30 in Rhino camp) and these were taught to train communities on stove making. By the close of the year they had made 67 stoves in samples and trained 88 community members.



Environment Club of African Child Care Primary School, Imvepi plant trees

4.5.2 Vocational training

Conflict affected girls personal development skills and earn income



Viola Jokudu (a beneficiary) plaits a client in her saloon in Koboko Town

The year 2018 saw RICE-WN enroll 10 beneficiary girls from Rhino Camp refugee settlement in vocational school while 10 other beneficiary girls completed both Vocational and Secondary school education (5 in secondary and 5 in vocational school). The secondary school girls were able to successfully complete Ordinary level and obtain O-Level certificates.

The vocational school girls were trained in three different trades of their choice that included Tailoring, Saloon and Hair dressing, Driving and Mechanics. These five girls have been supported with

startup kit to help them start their own businesses that RICE-WN will be mentoring them to grow.

4.5.3 Peaceful coexistence

Refugees and host communities embrace peace

With funding from American Jewish World Service (AJWS), RICE-WN implemented a peaceful coexistence project in Rhino camp refugee settlement. Key achievements under this project included the following; ***Four peace clubs established in three primary schools and one secondary school in Eden and Ofua zones.*** A total of 30 pupils were selected per school, trained on issues of peace building, children's rights and conflict mitigation and management with their club patrons in these schools. During these trainings, the head teachers of the schools were impressed by the idea of establishing school clubs. Mr. Adriko Asedri Richard of Ofua Secondary School said, *"This initiative will boost discipline among students and teachers. When this idea came in play, the students were all willing to join but the number limitation was important to get few people for easy management. I am sure this will boost our performance and the group will be supported by the school to undertake different peace activities."*

This initiative was well received by OPM who said in most cases conflicts among children start from school and end up in homes. *"The fights that start among children end up as a communal fight and later becomes a tribal issue. RICE-WN needs to train more peace club in schools since only 5 of 43 schools at the settlement have benefited from this program."* Mr. Abilli David the settlement commandant Rhino Camp stated.

The outcomes of the peace initiatives have also been seen within the communities. The number of criminal cases such as theft, assault, fights among others reduced from 2-3 cases a day to 2 cases in a week as reported by the zone chairperson of Ofua. The refugees are accepting each other

as brothers and leaving in peace. The threats reported by refugees inform of flying letters from the host community are no more because in the activity implementation, emphasis on the peace slogan “*We are one people*” was preached all through the period.

4.5.4 Improved relations among refugees, host communities and the local leaders

The local leaders of the refugee hosting sub-counties and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) recognized the fact that the peaceful coexistence program implemented by RICE-WN has created respect among the refugees and host communities and their leaders. This is seen in the way they interact among themselves and with the leaders and partners.

Mr. Abili David said “The refugees at Rhino camp settlement are more organized than any other settlement in West Nile, the peaceful coexistence plays a major role here. When I visited Adjumani, the refugees were making a lot of noise as they were being addressed by leaders which is not the case in Rhino camp. Fights and assaults reported are no more. I thank RICE-WN for this approach and our hope is that they can extend services to other settlements such as Imvepi.”

5 LESSONS LEARNT

Group approach is the best strategy for marketing products.

For example under the Clean Energy Project, group marketing accounted for 72.18% of 2018 sales of the Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) i.e. improved cook stoves and solar home systems. Focusing on well-organized existing groups that have been in existence for over two years is far more rewarding and less risky in undertaking community interventions compared to dealing with individual community members who in most cases end up doing nothing about the information/knowledge and skills acquired. This is based on the numerous advantages of belonging to a group such as pooling money, high level of trust and cohesion given the common goal that has brought the members together, frequency of meetings (e.g. weekly for VSLA groups), thorough knowledge of each other's and location among others.

Boy equally needs to be trained in making RUMPS

Engaging the boy child to learn about the hygiene and sanitation practices as well as making reusable sanitary pads increases their support to the girls. The boys that were trained amongst the peace clubs under the RUMPs project in Rhino Camp refugee settlement were very supportive and ready to learn how to make reusable sanitary pads.


Many girls at the refugee settlement miss school during their menstrual days and this impacts on their school performance. For partners implementing education programmes, if they need to increase school attendance for the adolescent girls, there is need to design special interventions to support them overcome the nightmares that come along with menstruation. A good example of such interventions is the training on how to make Reusable Menstrual Pads (RUMPS).

6 SIGNIFICANT CHANGE/CASE STORIES

Rekindled hope to remain in school for an adolescent girl

Mary Kiden a 17-year-old refugee living in Rhino Camp Settlement was one of the beneficiaries of the project step-up sustainable solutions for girls to reduce school dropouts due to lack of sanitary pads. She got her period when she was 14years old while in South Sudan. “It was hard for me to access sanitary pads because my mother was unable to afford as a single mother to 3 children. Being the only girl child in my family, I could ask my mother for pads but she could not give me, I decided to leave school during days of my periods to work for people who could pay me some little money to buy pads and other necessities such as fetching water for money, washing clothes for people etc. I saved money to buy pads in pieces and each piece in one pack costed Ugx.1000”, Mary narrated.

With the training on Re-usable pads conducted by RICE-WN in February 2018, Mary now makes her own pads and does not miss school during her days of menstruation periods. “I am in primary




“I used to be afraid of pupils seeing me with blood. I always told my friends whenever I got my periods and they would advise me to go back home just as they did themselves whenever they had periods. I could feel bad staying at home when lessons were going on at school for three or four days every month but with time this became a normal routine so I resorted to working to earn money to buy pads. This made me to start performing badly in class and even lost interest in school and wanted to remain at home before you people (RICE WN) taught me to make pads for myself”, said Mary.

four and my performance every term has improved in class since I stopped working for people to buy pads for myself since I now have the skill of making my own pads”, she said. World Bank statistics reveal that a girl misses four days of school every month due to her menstruation period. In total, she misses about 20% of her school days and eventually lags behind boys. Many drop out of school after suffering the embarrassment of blood trickling down their legs or staining their uniforms and jibes from boys. In total, 143 girls benefitted from the action.

From Goal keepers to self-planners – Ocogoa women group share lessons

Ocogoa women group based in Ayivu village, Ombokoro Parish Odupi Sub



County was established in January 2017 as a saving group with a minimum saving of 2,000sh weekly. The group is comprised of 35 members all women formed within Ayivu village. At the beginning, the group members agreed to save for celebrating end of year festive seasons (Christmas and New Year) and all the savings would be spent to zero shilling in the month of December. This money was got from brewing alcohol, selling food items and begging from their husbands.

“We were being called goal keepers because we were dependent on our husbands for everything even the savings.” the Chairperson lamented. As a result, the members were not engaged in any other profitable enterprises that generated more income to save such as agricultural activities for income and food security, art and craft etc. and this resulted to domestic violence since the bread winner would not have enough to contribute for the whole family. The women expected more than

what they were receiving from their families, looked up to NGOs for relief, utilized the opportunities from the refugee influx to receive food items from life-saving emergencies etc.



Ocogoa women group visioning and drawing a group work plan after a training in Nov 2018

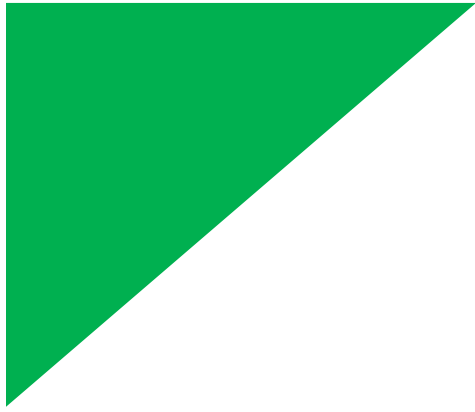
In October 2018, the group was enrolled as a potential learning group to participate in the STRENPO project funded by CARE. Through the project trainings i.e. River code play, visioning, resource identification, planning sessions under the ERI model and Participatory Diagnosis (PD); the group members drew their visions, identified resources and planned individual for their families. The members agreed to increase their savings to 5000 a week and each member opened-up 2 quarters of land for planting both cash and food

crops such as simsim, groundnuts, and onions, five members of the group who had simsim in stock identified market and sold it. They used the money to purchase sewing machines to create a daily cash flow for running the family as well as generate the savings by the end of the week. These members had earlier attended tailoring training after school and sponsored by some NGOs at the camp but never utilized the knowledge. The training opened their mind further to put the knowledge to use.

As a result of the financial empowerment the women are seen as role model in the village of Ayivu Odupi sub county. This empowerment is not only improving standards of living of the family members but also promoting peaceful living between the husbands and their wives because the women have become more supportive to the families “...we are no longer goal keepers...” one of the exited women revealed (name withheld) during support visit by the Project Officer RICE WN.

7 THE FINANCIAL ABSTRACT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018	
INCOME	
Donor	Amount
CARE INTERNATIONAL UG.	146,488,500
DGF	249,979,437
WWF	338,003,000
UNHCR	864,253,999
AJWS	100,000,000
SAFERWORLD	77,571,225
CIVORIDE	10,487,926
GFC	50,400,000
FGHR	16,500,000
CHASE	<u>50,045,000</u>
TOTAL	1,903,729,087
EXPENDITURES	
Donor	Amount
CARE INTERNATIONAL UG.	128,370,350
DGF	136,268,041
WWF	338,005,405
UNHCR	854,803,860
AJWS	75,000,000
SAFERWORLD	77,517,514
CIVORIDE	10,487,500
GFC	35,000,000
FGHR	16,223,500
CHASE	<u>50,000,000</u>
Total expenditures	1,721,676,170
Balance c/d	<u>182,052,917</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,903,729,087</u>



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