

## Introduction

**STRENPO** a four year climate resilience programme, implemented by **Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile (RICE-WN)** under the funding of **CARE International** in Uganda seeks to empower women and youth in vulnerable natural resource dependent communities to become resilient to the shocks and stresses arising from natural resources degradation and climate change.

**STRENPO** is being implemented in Arua District i.e. Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements and host communities with a population of **61,726** and **112,345** refugees respectively. The refugee hosting sub-counties include Omugo, Odupi, Uriama and Rigbo. In the current implementation period (2018 – 2021), priority is given to Uriama and Omugo sub counties that have experienced the highest levels of natural resource degradation due to massive deforestation leading to harsh weather, long dry spells and irregular rainfall that do not favor agriculture.

### A glance at the project area (uriama and Omugo)

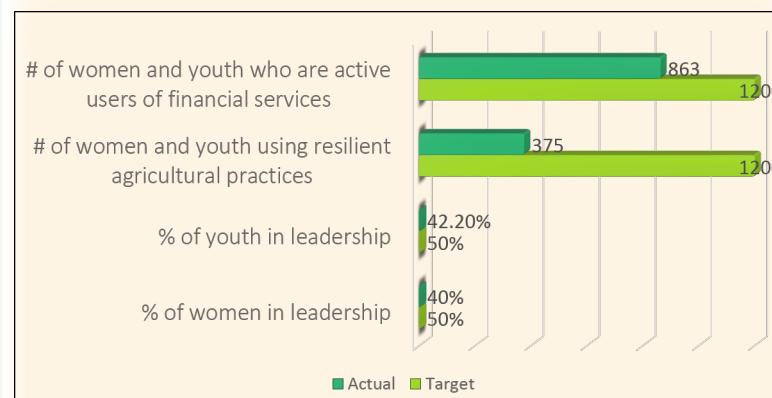
- The project areas have a population of **110,982** refugees and **30,286** host communities located in Arua District.
- Uriama sub county has a total population of **25,030** persons And Omugo sub county has **43,479** persons
- This area lies in the dry belt of the Albertine Graben characterized by erratic rainfall patterns, high temperatures and prolonged dry spell. With the influx of the refugees there is enormous pressure on the existing natural resources such as land for settlement and agriculture, trees for wood fuel and construction of shelter as well as timber. This massive degradation is done by both the refugees and host communities.
- The livelihood of these communities is dependent on land for rain fed agriculture and fuel.

## The Problem

- The presence of refugees alongside huge population of nationals in Odupi, Omugo, Uriama and Rigbo Sub-counties of Arua has placed enormous pressure on the existing natural resources. Trees have been cut down to create space for hosting refugees, to harvest poles for construction and by the host communities for firewood and charcoal.
- As a result, climate change effects such as prolonged dry spell and irregular rainfall patterns have been experienced. Agriculture, being the main source of livelihood, is no longer reliable. Hunger, starvation and low income levels have resulted as the core challenges faced by the people. There is need to build the capacities of the people to adapt to these shocks and stresses resulting from climate change.

## Challenge

- The refugees have a **30 by 30** ft. land which does not support large scale agriculture .



## Resilient Solutions



- CARE Int. in Uganda together with RICE-WN developed two CAAPs for the refugee and host communities of Uriama and Rhino camp refugee settlements to increase community participation in planning and budgeting for climate action. The CAAPs will also help communities to hold duty bearers accountable for their right to access services planned in the Sub county Development Plans and District Development Plans.



- RICE-WN has mobilized **30** community groups comprising **863** people (**202M, 661F**) are active users of financial services. They are saving and borrowing money through the village/youth saving and loans associations. This is done to boost their economic and social assets as well as contribute to achievement of their long and short term goals established as a guide for households and individuals. The savings also helps the host and refugees to have access to small loans to start-up income generating activities to support the livelihood of their family amidst the climate conditions.



- A total of .....refugees and .....host communities use Climate smart agricultural practices to enhance their livelihoods through kitchen gardens, cultivation of short term crops, agro-forestry practices. This helps them to take advantage of the seasoned rainfalls and dry spells. The groups cultivate short term and drought resistant crops such as onions, tomatoes, simsim, cassava, sorghum, hibiscus for income and food security. this was done through ERI approach.



- Some groups have established demo sites for high value crops such as onions, okra, simsim and hibiscus in the refugee and host communities for income. This has been done under the ERI approach



- Youth groups have been empowered to conduct plastic waste recycling into building materials for income. This has been done under the project slogan resilient livelihoods, resilient ecosystems. Youth groups have started generating money from plastic waste recycling. 3 groups comprising of 75 youth in Rhino Camp refugee settlement are working on an order of 1,000 pavers at a rate of UGX 700 per piece. The material are strong and durable.