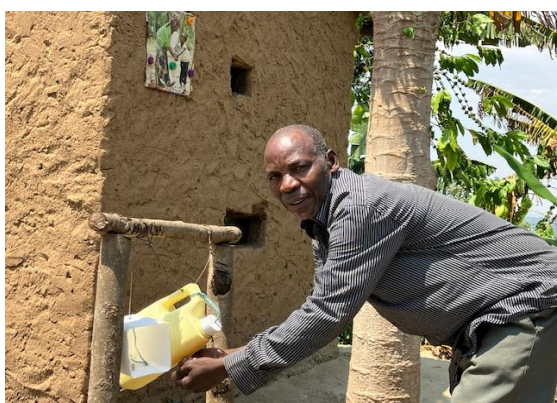


**USAID ICAN REPORT:
PERIOD REPORTED:**

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
JULY 2022**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: CARITAS KABALE DIOCESE- KIGEZI REGION

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A)



B)

Adoption of WASH Facilities in Kanungu Tippy Taps and Drying Rack

Introduction

The USAID'S Integrated Community Agriculture and Nutrition Activity (ICAN) is Uganda's flagship resilience activity that was awarded in 2018 to sustainably enhance the resilience of vulnerable households in the eight districts of Kanungu, Kisoro, Rukungiri (Kigezi sub-region), Gulu, Lamwo, Nwoya (Acholi sub-region), and Kaabong and Kotido (Karamoja sub-region). ICAN works with community groups to maximize economic opportunities for vulnerable households stabilize their access to and consumption of diverse and nutritious diets and increase social capital by reinforcing relationships among formal governance systems and communities. ICAN pays particular attention to gender, social inclusion, and youth/adolescents, and incorporates a strong social and behavior change (SBCC) component

This report covers the period of July 2022, with highlights on Achievements made, challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

Key achievements

- 734 Individuals from 247 community groups accessed individual credit worth Shs. 165,489,800 and 7 Community groups also accessed credit worth Shs. 8,300,000 from Banks, UWEP, SACCOs, and VSLAs totaling Shs. 173,789,800
- 3867 project beneficiaries adopted improved agronomic which included the planting of good quality seeds, proper crop spacing, digging trenches to control water runoff and increase water infiltration, use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, and integrated pest management, this will contribute to increased crop productivity and production.
- 491 households in Kigezi sub-region established WASH facilities that include drying racks, composite pits, and tippy taps, this will contribute to the reduction of sanitation-related diseases such as dysentery, diarrhoeal
- 1203 households established kitchen gardens of various vegetables mainly dodo, Sukuma Wiki, spinach, and eggplants to promote diversity among their household members.
- USAID-ICAN in partnership with the Red Cross supported the validation of the District Contingency Plans for Kisoro and Kanungu.
- The MEL department trained 3 district coordinators and a MEL intern on accessing data from the system, downloading, and analyzing the data to make decisions
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SUB-PURPOSE I: LIVELIHOODS

BSP Monthly review meeting with BSPs. Field teams collected and verified data as well as reviewed progress on implementation of livelihood activities with emphasis on fast-tracking adoptions from the beneficiaries, farmers' linkages to formal markets and financial institutions, and developing constitutions, among others. These review meetings have increased project familiarization with structures and, experience sharing and improved the quality of data.

- 119 BSPs (62 males, 57 females) in Kanungu, 110 BSPs (52 males and 58 females) in Kisoro, and 89 Business service providers (40 males, 49 females) in Rukungiri district attended the trainings.

BSPs strengthen community businesses. BSPs reached out to 15194 ICAN beneficiaries (5415 males, 9779 females) in Kanungu, 15417 (males were 4147 and 11270 females) in Kisoro, and 586 SWAP groups comprised of 8547 beneficiaries with members (2890 Males, 5657 Females) in Rukungiri in Kigezi region. These were 819 groups in Kanungu, 586 groups in Rukungiri, and 860 groups in Kisoro district. Our BSPs have continuously supported and strengthened community groups by providing trainings for the new groups and refresher training for the old groups depending on demand. The sessions delivered by BSPs included developing a constitution, crop Agronomy, Post-harvest handling, nutrition, and disaster management through working closely with Red Cross. Additionally, BSPs have also linked farmers to private actors like Centenary bank and Bukoola to access financial services and agro-inputs, respectively.

- Business opportunity meetings (BMOs) were conducted in Kanungu district between private actors (Bukoola chemical industries and centenary bank with 25 BSPs(9 females,16 males) to establish market linkages but also assist them in mobilizing farmers to access services where they earned a commission(10k to 20k per group mobilized)
- Bashir an artisan BSP from Kagunga village in Bukimbiri Sub County in Kisoro trained in the construction of tanks by the artisan, a fellow BSP in Muramba called Ahoyendeye Colleb who did not fully understand the concept of tank construction invited Bashir to support him in construction of the adopted tanks. So far, two tanks are about to be completed at the level of plastering. Beneficiaries paid Bashir 100,000= per tank.
- 57 community group members (37 females and 20 males) were linked to Bukoola agrochemicals limited and trained in the safe use and handling of agrochemicals including product knowledge management in

- Key activities completed in June in comparison with the work plan

Planned activity	Progress	Way forward (in case of variance)
Operations		
Management Bi-weekly meeting in Kabale	Done	
Livelihoods		
Work newly profiled groups and inactive groups- Attach BSPs to service them	Done	Continuous
BSPs visit newly profiled groups on enterprise selection, VSLA methodology, and Agriprenuership trainings	Done	Continuous
Facilitate BSPs to conduct weekly follow-ups and trainings to old and new community groups and provide monthly reports data.	Done	Continuous
Consolidation and scaling up of current successes with existing partners (KCD, YHU, MACE, Bugara, KEGRA)	Partially done	Continuous
Work with MSC to operationalize the Bakery project with AGYW in Murora-Kisoro district	Not done	ICAN has allocated money for the budget modifications, this activity will be done in the coming month of September
Work with a selected partner to continue with coffee activities in Kanungu and scale up in Rukungiri District-Mainly around production and marketing.	Partially done	Kigezi coffee academy has started initial activities
Work with Bugara Women Bean Seed Producers to scale up production, PHH, and marketing of IRBs in Kisoro district	Not done	Plans to renew Bugara's contract are underway.
Hold business opportunity meetings with Private actors and link to BSPs and Groups	Done	Held during BSP review meetings at the end of the months
BSPs link VSLA groups to financial service providers for financial products (Microfinance support center, Post bank, Centenary, SACCOs, etc)-ICAN shares a list of groups interested in financial service providers	Continuo us	
Work with selected BDS specialists across the regions to submit livelihood grants – at least 4 grants per month	Done	N/A
Follow up on the performance of already issued ICAN grants(Nyanga agriculture enterprise group(the group managing, the restocked lakes of Kayumbu and Chahafi fish restocking, Kyakatarangi, etc) across the three districts	Done	N/A
Field Officers hold a half-day meeting with BSPs to assess progress toward monthly set targets-BSPs submit data and reports to FOs for the month	Done	N/A
Nutrition		
Profile and train new MIYCAN groups-Attach to existing VHTs and train in MIYCAN Sessions	Ongoing	N/A
Support VHTs to reach MIYCAN group members and orient mothers on the Family MUAC concept	Done	N/A
Retention of mothers in MIYCAN groups- Introduce IGAs in the MIYCAN groups by	Ongoing	Request for quotations was sent. We plan to hire an artisan to skill the women.

Buhunga Sub County. They agreed that whenever the need arises, they will continue to contact Bukoola Chemicals limited for training and purchase of inputs as a group.

ICAN groups applying improved organization-level management practices

Identifying a local Artisan to teach mothers IGAs of choice		
Through the private sector/KIEGRA and community structures, support households to establish Perma gardens with nutrient-rich foods	Partially done	Continuous activity
Conduct routine screening and monitoring of the growth of all children under 5 belonging to ICAN beneficiaries	Done	Continuous
Facilitate VHTs to train MIYCAN groups in the promotion of appropriate WASH practices.	Ongoing	N/A
Work with leaders (LCI), and cultural leaders to conduct nutrition/health campaigns in the villages on FP, Child Health Days (CHD+), and promotion of WASH in the target communities.	Done	
Strengthening the referral system for FP services, including tracking of successful referrals, through engaging with health partners (RHITES and other partners)	Done	Continuous
FOs hold VHTs monthly review meetings for May	Done	N/A
Governance		
Support and facilitate the activities of CRC in enabling in-school adolescents to cope with growth and development challenges, covid-19 challenges, etc.	done	It is a continuous activity.
Facilitate and support back-to-school campaigns – to mobilize both parents and children to get back to school and continue with their studies.	Done	
Facilitate monthly review meetings between community structures and GCs.	Done	N/A
Facilitate and support Cultural leaders/ council of elders/ Miryangos/ Batakas to conduct community dialogues on emerging issues	Done	N/A
Gender, Youth and SBCC		
Support and follow up with AGYW graduates	Done	Continuous activity
Organize AGYW camps 3 in Rukungiri and Kanungu District		N/A
Train selected mentors and Youths in leadership skills curriculum in Kisoro and Kanungu district	Done	N/A
Regional tailored radio programming for the purpose areas (Back to school campaigns, farm aggregation,)	Done	N/A
Scale-up of model villages in three districts	Partially done	N/A
Rewards Program	Partially one	Continuous
Conduct quarterly internal Data Quality Audits	Done	N/A

245 groups adopted taking group meeting minutes for future reference, 199 made production and sales records which is a key practice to determine the profitability of their business, 5 registered at the district level and 11 groups opened accounts in centenary and post banks for easy access to loans and other financial services in Kanungu district.

In Rukungiri district, 291 Community group members adopted management practices where 101 groups adopted preparing meeting minutes, 30 groups made production records and sales records, 7 members opened bank accounts from Buhunga(1) and Nyakishenyi(4), and 2 from Nyakagyeme sub-county.

In Kisoro district, 511 groups applied improved organizational management practices whereby 2 groups made new constitutions, 6 registered at the sub-counties to access credits in banks or get support from government programs, 329 groups made minutes, 23 groups had records, 4 groups opened bank accounts with SACCOs and centenary bank. 1 group accessed credit to enable it to solve problems like paying school fees and other issues which could have prompted the person to access credit.

Improved animal husbandry, agronomic practices, Natural Resource management adoptions, post-harvest handling, and natural resource management.

Good Agronomy. 1521 Beneficiary individuals (926 females, 595 males) in Kanungu, 748 members (300 males and 448 females) in Rukungiri, and 1598 members 406 males and 1192 females in Kisoro applied agronomic practices including the planting of good quality seeds, proper crop spacing, digging trenches to control water runoff and increase water infiltration, use of organic and inorganic fertilizers, integrated pest, and disease management. This in turn will improve crop productivity for increased food and household income.

Post-harvest handling. 1029 farmers (338 males, 691 females) in Kanungu, 276 Members (64 males and 212 Female) in Rukungiri, and 1598 members (406 males and 1192 females) in Kisoro district adopted post-harvest handling technologies that include harvesting mature crops, drying their produce on tarpaulin, grading and sorting the produce before the sale, ensuring proper drying and proper storage on wood blocks to avoid molding. Farmers have appreciated the adoption of post-harvest handling practices because it has attracted better prices for goods but also reduced post-harvest losses.



Sorting mature tomatoes in Bwambara sub county

BSPs link farmers to agro-input markets. 843 farmers (274 females, 569 male) from Kanungu and 284 males and 855 females in Kisoro were linked to local Agro-input dealers and bought various Agro inputs but also learned safe application of Agrochemicals. These inputs included herbicides, pesticides, PICs bags, fertilizers, seeds, and tarpaulins. Farmers can now easily access genuine inputs because of the inputs that are delivered within their reach.

- In Mpungu Sub County, farmers bought 77 kgs of mash were bought at 116,000=, 28 tarpaulins at 980,000 shillings; onion seeds at 393,000=, weed master 65,000, rapid grow 12000, mancozeb 12,000=, 473 Kgs bean seeds 473kgs at 945,800=, and 5 pics bags at 45,000=.
- 52 Farmers bought 66 bags of Irish seeds each at 280,000 for planting this season because it is a planting season for Irish. 5 farmers were linked to Bukora agrochemicals and bought 17 pics bags at 7,000=@ and 25 bags of Fertilizer in Kisoro district.
- 272 community livelihood groups in Rukungiri comprised 879 members (314 males, 565 females were linked to formal agricultural markets and bought inputs worth 22,865,000= and these included seeds worth 12,978,000=, Farm tools (pangas wheelbarrows, hoes, forked hoes) worth 7,324,000= and agrochemicals include Insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and liquid fertilizers) worth 2,563,000shs. This entails a process of negotiation and linkages and, in the process, BSPS earned its commission for the services offered.

Partnership with KCDA on coffee activity. Through working closely with Caritas teams and KCDA extension officers, coffee farmers were identified and profiled. 3529 farmers have already been profiled in the 3 sub-counties supported by KCDA.

KCDA also received 10 boxes of Nordox Super a red copper Fungicide for the control of Coffee berry disease and coffee leaf rust from UCDA equaling 220kgs and the distribution is still going on.

Natural Resources Management. 176 farmers (95 females, 81 males) in Kanungu, 198 members (83males, 115Females) in Rukungiri, and 949 members (262 males and 687 females) adopted practices included digging trenches in their banana and coffee plantations, planting of agroforestry trees like calliandra.

Sub-county	Coffee farmers profiled
Kirima	975
Kihanda	1067
Kihihi	661
Nyanga	826
Total	3529

Adoption of Rocket Lorena stoves and water harvesting tanks.

16 households in Kanungu adopted rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves through BSP artisans at a fee between 10,000=to 20,000=, depending on the distance moved. The beneficiaries attest to how these stoves have reduced the use of firewood but are also time efficient. These were adopted as indicated, (Kirima=8, Nyanga=4, Kihihi=3 and Mpungu=1).

- In Kisoro district, 5 Rocket Lorena stoves have been adopted by beneficiaries these rocket Lorena stoves prevent accidents, especially to children because they are closed with only outlets where firewood is put unlike cordial ones with three stones where children are the risk of fire burns because they are open.
- 2 water harvesting tanks were adopted in Kanungu district. This was out of BSPs trainings about Natural resource management where these technologies fall. So, these water harvesting tanks have helped households who have adopted to fetch clean water, reduce the workload for family members walking long distances to fetch water, and the money which would have been used for buying water is saved for other developmental work.

Linkages to formal financial services.

639 Individuals (186 males, 453 females) in Kanungu were linked to formal financial institutions (centenary and post banks) through BspS and attended the financial literacy and awareness trainings. More so, 142 beneficiaries (72 males, 70 females) went a step ahead to open individual bank accounts to ensure the safety of their monies especially after sharing out.

371 groups with 614 males and 1832 females) were reached in Kisoro district. BSPs disseminated messages about financial linkages like accessing loans from commercial banks, SACCOs, and government wealth creation programs like UWEP, YLP, Emyooga, etc. BSPs also encouraged group members to ensure that all their record keeping was documented such as minutand es, constitutions to benefit from financial inclusion. Therefore, after the information was passed, a group of 10 women Abagore bazirake kwifatanya group got UWEP loan worth 7m at 2% interest rate for buying and stocking beans. They preferred this because there is the market for beans locally, nationally, and internationally. In addition to 7,000,000= which were accessed by groups this month and 17,031,000= which was accessed by individuals

4 groups comprised of 146 members (60 males, 86 females) in Rukungiri district were linked to formal financial markets and accessed credit worth 9,636,000shs from SACCOs. The services accessed included financial awareness and financial literacy training during group meetings. The credit was used to pay fees for their children and purchase of farm inputs as well as developing their businesses.

ICAN in-kind Grants.

Rubimbwa AGYW groups. As part of their in-kind grant, Rubimbwa AGYW composed of 19 young girls and women had a learning visit to Lake Bunyonyi to learn, adopt and modify their crafts to cater for different demands of customers but also tap into market opportunities for the finished crafts. This learning informed the kind of capacity building in partnership with Kihihi vocational institution that has trained the girls in making different basket designs to attract more market but also built their capacity in marketing their baskets. The girls have greatly appreciated USAID ICAN for the efforts to make money as young women but also for enhancing their skills.



Rubimbwa AGYW group learning visit at L. Bunyonyi tourist craft center

Bikongozo Beekeepers association. Bikongozo beekeepers Association of 18 members (10 females,8 males) received bee keeping in kind grant of worth 23 768000shs. Items delivered by the MAC bee honey harvest company include 88 pcs of KTB, modern hives, 20 pcs of lungs troth brand modern hives, 18 protective gears while harvesting, 18pairs of gloves and gumboots, 2000pcs honey packing containers (500gms and 1kg) 18pcs honey containers packaging bottles (1kg), 36 airtight buckets, 2pcs honey extractors, 18pcs of smokers, 14pcs harvesting knives, 12pcs honey sieving nets, 5kgs of Calliandra. These items were delivered and verified,



Bikongozo beekeepers' association acknowledging receipt of in-kind grant items

inspected by SBCC, Regional lead, Field officers, sub county Chief, DISO, Agricultural officer, Veterinary officer, CDO, the field team led by the coordinator and field officers in the sub county. Other activities that were committed by the vendor was training of farmers in colonization, management of the apiary and installation of all equipment and beehives. The sub county LC3 and ICAN team commissioned the grant. The authorities at the sub county promised cooperation and joint support in terms of training monitoring and security for the hives as way of guaranteeing project sustainability.

SUB PURPOSE 2. NUTRITION

MIYCAN mothers reached with nutrition interventions:

A total of 5299 mothers from 399 groups were supported by VHTs through trainings with 698 pregnant, 2978 lactating and 1623 caretakers in Kanungu, 4850 lactating mothers, and 1070 pregnant mothers and 1176 caretakers in Kisoro and 4468 mothers (Pregnant=417, Lactating=2512, caregivers=1539) in Rukungiri district. VHTs have continued to support mothers through delivering sessions in the MIYCAN curriculum. The sessions delivered in the month of July included, feeding of a sick child, preventing malaria, Anaemia, child spacing, family MUAC for nutrition screening, back yard gardening and food safety. They were also able to follow up on the adoption of better WASH best practices and tracking referrals for FP,ANC, malnutrition, and other illnesses.

Reach children with nutrition interventions: Our VHTs carried out nutrition screening of children above six months and below five years using a color-coded Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC).

- In Kanungu district, 4621 children (2227 boys and 2394 girls) under five years were assessed for malnutrition and were found in green except for two children that were moderately malnourished, and their mothers were given nutrition counselling by VHTs but were also referred for further nutrition care and support from nearby health facilities.
- 3751 children (1944 girls and 1807 boys) under the age of 5 years were assessed during MIYCAN trainings in Rukungiri district whereas, in Kisoro district, 4990 children were assessed by VHTs and out of these who were assessed males were (2209 boys and 2781 girls). Among these who were assessed, 1 child from Chahi, 1 in Murora, 6 from Muramba and 21 from Busanza were moderately malnourished. All these were referred to health centers for further management and VHTs were to continue following up on these children and their households.

Mothers reached with messages on family planning and referrals. Without coercion, VHTs have continued to deliver messages on having manageable family sizes through referring mothers to access family planning services to health facilities in their respective sub counties.

- 681 mothers received these messages in Kanungu district, 9 mothers were referred for ANC, 34 for family planning services, and 11 for Vitamin A.
- In Rukungiri, 4468 Mothers were reached with key messages on reducing the family size (Family planning and referrals) during 317 MIYCAN trainings, 36 mothers were referred for family planning, 16 mothers for Antenatal care and support services to near by health centers to access services and 11 children received Vitamin A supplement.
- 154 mothers were referred for antenatal care and 60 mothers were referred for family planning services to various health centers in Kisoro district.

Improving WASH Practices and access to Technologies. WASH is a key sensitive intervention as it plays a big role in reduction of malnutrition in the households. The continued support of VHTs in promoting WASH practices has increased the adoption of these practices and these reduced cases of sanitation related illnesses like diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery.

- 229 households adopted tippy taps for hand washing, 18 drying racks, 9 composite pits, and 7 washable latrine surfaces in Kanungu district,
- ICAN FOs and community structures (VHTs, LCs, Bataka, and BSPs) rehabilitated 137 Hand washing facilities during WASH campaigns and MIYCAN follow-ups. and practices amongst communities in sub-counties. Relatedly, 150 members constructed drying racks to maintain hygiene in their homes in Rukungiri district.
- 112 households in Kisoro adopted WASH facilities during monitoring of model villages by the VHTs together with field officers. Practices included tippy taps, composite pits, drying racks, latrines that are washable and personal hygiene.



A washable latrine surface adopted by households in Kisoro district

Promotion of enterprises and practices that enhance minimum acceptable diet and Diversity. VHTs have worked with mothers in groups to set up and maintain their kitchen gardens to increase not only consumption of vegetables but also incomes through selling some of the vegetables

- 162 gardens were established in Kanungu and more mothers have started setting up nursery beds to multiply vegetables to utilize the rains. A case in point is Mpungu Sub County where two MIYCAN groups raised money to buy sachets of Amaranthus and Sukuma wiki seeds through a Bsp that are now being managed and raised in nursery beds and will later be planted in their households in Kyogo and Kanyashogye villages. Still, in Mpungu sub-county, a VHT did a food demo (Kitobeero) with 22 mothers (3 pregnant, 15 lactating, and 4 caregivers) to promote dietary diversity as well as improve the nutrition of their babies and children.
- 115 Kitchen gardens established communities with great support field teams and VHTs scale up the knowledge and skills acquired from KEGRA agronomist to boost the nutrition status of the communities. These were planted with a diversity of vegetables like cabbages, Spinach, black night shed, oranges, tree tomatoes, Sukuma wiki, Nakati, carrots, and Beetroots, for boosting nutrition and food security in homes. 298 composite manure pits were dug by beneficiaries after realizing the importance and usefulness in boosting their crop yields and reducing diseases caused by poor hygiene around homes.



A MIYCAN mother showing resilient perma gardens promoted by ICAN

FOs conducted monthly review meetings with VHTs. A total of 63 VHTs (50 females, 18 males) in Kanungu, 93 VHTs (23 males and 70 females), and 68 VHTs (13 males and 55 Females) attended review meetings. VHTs review meetings were conducted across the 14 sub-counties across the 3 districts in the region. FOs fast-tracked project progress but also verified and collected data from VHTs, shared meeting schedules of groups for support monitoring and supervision, integrated of livelihood activities, and reorientation on data tools to ensure accuracy and data quality.

Training on nutrition-related activities. 12038 beneficiaries (3203 males and 8835 females) from community groups were reached with messages on Nutrition by VHTs that include WASH, the establishment of kitchen gardens, family planning and food preparation.

District	Male	Female	Total
Kanungu	907	2307	3214
Kisoro	1959	5727	7686
Rukungiri	337	801	1138
Total	3203	8835	12038

SUB-PURPOSE 3; GOVERNANCE

Child Rights Clubs trained. USAID ICAN activity through patrons and matrons has trained pupils in child rights clubs on the Journeys curriculum.

- In Kanungu district, 948 pupils (434 boys, 514 girls) from 29 CRCs were taught on the following topics including Seeking assistance, making a new friend, knowing my school including Teacher-Pupil relations, and responsible decision making, among others. Pupils were able to acquire positivity and have a mind shift such as greetings, thanking, and rewarding among others
- 3 CRCs in Rukungiri comprised of 71 pupils (44 girls and 27 boys) were trained on HIV/ AIDS prevention by 2 matron teachers and 2 patron teachers in Rushasha Primary school and Nyakinengo Primary School. Other schools did not train because of exams, and industrial action that had taken long time. However, pupils are expected to resume after school opens next term.
- In collaboration with Patrons and matrons, 16 child rights clubs (66 Boys and 102 girls) were trained in Kisoro district. However, the teacher's strike lasted for a month, this affected the curriculum because some of the topics were not tackled to the fullest. Clubs bring together learners to be able to become responsible children and avoid violence.

School development planning because of SMCs training.

Seven (7) schools (4 in Kihiihi, 1 in Mpungu and 2 in Kirima sub-counties) supported by ICAN updated their school development plans to support them in executing their planned activities. This is an s result of the induction of SMC members, head teachers that were recently trained on their roles and responsibilities.

After the training of school management committees across 5 sub-counties in Kisoro district, which was conducted on 20th June 2022, school management committees developed development plans for their schools. These plans were for 30 schools that ICAN work with and they embedded response issues like installing lightning arresters, construction of latrines, and fencing school premises.

Community dialogues on emerging issues trained.

In Kanungu, 13 community dialogues on emerging issues like disaster management especially early warnings and actions, Gender-based violence, WASH, and ICAN do five were conducted and facilitated by Governance Champions. A total of 432 participants (144 males, 288 females)

In Mpungu Sub County, through meeting Bataka groups, 2 dialogues were conducted in Ishasha Bataka and Kyogo Bataka groups by GC, and 32 participants (21 males, 11 females participants attended. Key concerns were WASH, Nutrition and Education.

Resolutions.

- Monitoring of school-going children to be done when schools resume, and this should be done by chairperson Bataka and followed up by GC.
- Government VHTs who are members of Bataka groups to do their role by supporting group members on WASH and Nutrition in collaboration with VHTs trained by ICAN.
- Members who do not adopt as trained to be reported in Bataka and GC to keep finding reports about the progress of the above activities.

In Katete sub-county, 4 community dialogues on ICAN to do 5 specifically keeping children in school, fighting GBV in the community, and Disaster management with the guidance of Governance Champion as a representative to ICAN, dialogues rotated on the above topics, and all the members accepted that, when the above are in place, the development will not take place. 92 members attended the dialogues of which (63 females, 29 males)

Action points

- Men and women agreed to always respect one another to avoid GBV.
- Both men and women to have income generating activities to make them busy to avoid drinking and rumormongering.
- Members agreed to store their crop produce to ensure food security than selling them at a cheaper price and later go hunting for food. The farmers are already anticipating famine in the few days to come.
- Members agreed to grow fast maturing crops such as pumpkins as well as must grow hunger crops like cassava and sweet potatoes.

- Men and women agreed to always seek counseling and guidance from family friends and elders in case of misunderstandings.
- Members agreed to grow perennial crops such as coffee where they can get income continuously.
- Members agreed to always attend community dialogues where new ideas and decisions may be made and adopt them.

5 dialogues were conducted in Kihiihi Sub County on Education, WASH, and disaster management by Red Cross and with the village resilience committees. A total number of 192 (135 females and 57 males) attended the dialogues. Key issues discussed wund disaster management, saving with a purpose, Education an,d gegender-basediolence.

Action points

- Through resilience committees, community members to always meet monthly and discuss shocks and stress affecting their communities and ways of reducing their effects.
- Seek family planning services to avoid unwanted pregnancies especially the AGYW
- Sensitize community members especially parents to reduce alcohol drinking or stop completely to save more for school fees but also take on their responsibilities as parents to provide for children at home.
- The sub county Agricultural officer also participated in the dialogues and offered to support by supplying rice seed and give other extension to farmers in case he is called upon
- Planting enough crops for food security purposes but also generate some income after selling crop produce.

3 dialogues were held in Kamahe Parish in Yerusalemu, Bweramaana and Bukorwe parish and a total of 116 members (37 males, 78 females) participated in the dialogues. Key issues discussed include Parents who subject their children to casual labour and end up dropping of school, Early Child marriages especially the girl child, domestic Violence, Ignorance of the climate cr,isis and failure to adopt NRM to combat climate change, among others

Action points were taken and agreed to

- All parents are to ensure child protection against child labour.
- Embracing girl child education and being vigilant as regards domestic violence which is on the increase but alto closely engaging Local Councils and sub county officials and increasing the dialogues for sensitisation and awareness creation.

12 community dialogue meetings (100 females, 61 males) on NRM, Gender, and education and in Kisoro district were conducted. Governance champions to ensure that issues affecting the community are dealt with spearheaded these.

- protection of available water sources to ensure that they are not destroyed by community members or animals, community involvement in household sanitation and hygiene because poor sanitation and hygiene makes water from protected sources dirty, like use of dirty jerry cans while fetching water, construction of water harvesting tanks. 12 females and 15 males. Another topic, which was discussed, was theft and stealing, action points under were identifying suspects with the help of police at the sub county, reporting cases of theft and stealing to police or LCI and then prosecution in the courts of law. 5 males and 28 females attended the dialogue.
- Gender based violence was another topic which was discussed members agreed that there should be community policing to ensure that cases of gender violence are identified and dealt with accordingly, awareness about gender equality and gender equity(18 females and 10 males).
- On education, members agreed to that there should be village to village campaign to enable parents to chi support school children while at home, and parent to participate in PTA meetings, these were attended by 9 males and 42 females
- Prolonged drought was another topic, and the action areas were to enhance environmental protection through agroforestry tree planting , through protecting water sources mainly lakes 22 males attended the dialogue.

Validation of the disaster response plan was completed in Kanungu and Kisoro- this was done in collaboration with Red Cross , USAID ICAN and other partners that included UWA, UNHCR, Save the Children, CAFOMI, Office of Prime minster, Bwindi Maghinga Conservation Trust and Medical Teams International, they are now at the level of approval by district councils and implementation.

GENDER AND YOUTHS

Follow up on AGYW graduates.

A group of 11 girls in Katete Sub County that was trained in basketry through their own savings has bought five weaving rolls worth 180,000 shillings and have so far made 15 baskets worth 105000 shillings. They have linked to a few outlet shops in Katete town where they sell their baskets.

In Rukungiri district, 79 AGYW (Bwambara=6, Nyakagyeme=59, Buhunga=13) were followed and visited by the gender specialist. These AGYW were able to show case the learnt skills and how they are affecting their lives. The technical lead and field teams were able to share with them how they should develop plans such as savings, registration at district to tap on other relevant opportunities like UWEP, Budgeting and saving for the purpose. AGYW will be graduated in the months of august.

Follow up of youth groups.

As a way of improving livelihoods, the youth group in Kirima Sub County with 25 members (18F, 7M) ventured into growing cabbages and poultry keeping and they sold hens and cabbages worth 180 000shillings that was added to their savings. The youth are saving but also working on income generating activities together to improve their income and become self-reliant.

In Kisoro district, 150 completed youth curriculum among these, 90 youths haven't graduated. These youths took four months being trained by the mentors who were trained by gender focal person. After completion, all were/are engaged in saving because they formed groups. However, some youth used the knowledge acquired from the training to contest for the leadership post.

Nambajimana Alice who was among the youth trained , she was able to contest in the women elections in Gakware Village and won the rest . In her words she attributes her victory to the training she received that gave her the courage to contest .



Nambajimana Alice on the right after being declared a winner as a woman councilor at the Muramba sub county Kisoro

Social Behavior Change and Communication

Model villages and follow up visits. Kigezi region consists of 124 model villages i.e. 41 in Kisoro, 46 in Kanungu and 37 in Rukungiri districts. The regional team made up of ICAN's regional team lead, regional SBCC Coordinator, District coordinators and field officers of each sub county over saw the SBCC activities in July, 2022. While in the field, the team randomly selected and interacted with community structures and household members namely; Village resilience committees, MIYCAN members, VHTs, BSPs, local leaders etc. Their discussions were hinged on understanding the lived experiences, level of adoption of the we can do 5 among the mentioned categories of people. Important to note is the fact that Village resilience committee members presented their plans regarding managing the shocks and stresses existing in their community. They also shared their sustainability plans for the adoption of we can do five. In conclusion, the visiting team held feedback meetings with all the field teams to establish observations, strength, areas of growth and action points.

Scaling up of monuments (fruit trees) of commitment. Fruit trees of commitment is a behavioral nudge for Kigezi region that shows accountability for the achievements pertaining uptake of the we can do 5 behaviors by households and communities. Since the inception of this strategy, findings reveal that the level of adoption of the we can do 5 increased exponentially. The achievements include households embracing the SWAP concept to afford post-harvest handling equipment like PICs bags, tarpaulin, adoption of climate smart technologies, wash, improve agronomic practices, and enrolling most school-going children in schools by parents. These successes were because of the efforts of the Village Resilience Committees, Bataka & MIYCAN groups. The fruits trees planted included tree tomatoes, mangoes, Jackfruit, Oranges, pawpaw, and Lemon,. So far, 167 fruit trees of commitment have been planted across the three districts i.e. 6 in Kisoro, 39 in Kanungu & Rukungiri in 122.

Scaling up of the reward program. 3 community structures have been rewarded in Kigezi region this month for their efforts in promoting we can do 5 among vulnerable households. Their work includes supporting households in the model villages in adopting SWAP for the education of their school age going children, WASH, kitchen gardens, post-harvest handling, nutrition for U5s and proper agronomic practices. Some of the rewards included food items & Chicken each. These rewards are to motivate the community structures to keep campaigning for and promoting the desired actions within their communities for a better quality of life and health.

Radio support programs. The radio platform is used by ICAN to compliment the ongoing IPC interventions (one to one and group discussions, home visits) which also focus on disseminating messages about the desired we can do 5 actions. Specifically, this platform was employed to promote the post-harvest handling campaign. The radio talk shows engage people that are regarded as influential/valued others in the community as the guest speakers. While on the shows, the guests share their experiences or success stories regarding their adoption of the we can do 5 actions. These experiences are to influence positive behavior among listeners/community members.

Aggregation campaigns focused on encouraging farmers to sell their produce in groups to maximize profits rather than selling as individuals. Furthermore, those at the forefront of this campaign urged them to build good storage facilities or alternatively buy PICs bags to store their produce to be able to compete with other sellers in the market. The participants promoting this campaign were BSPs, agricultural extension workers, livelihoods group representatives, village resilience committees, Governance Champions, and field officers.

In conclusion, 12 magazine talk shows, 6 community-recorded dialogues, and 514 radio spots (300 contractual and balance awarded as a bonus) radio spots focused on vox pops & were conducted in the three districts of Kigezi. The community-recorded dialogues had 32 participants (12 females and 20 males).

Action points resulting from the radio discussions

- Advising farmers to plant good quality seeds and use genuine agro-inputs in addition to observing proper agronomic practices e.g proper spacing, and making of water conservation channels(Fanya Chini and Fanya Juu)
- Seeking advice from Agricultural extension workers & BSPs on where to access quality seeds.
- The BSPs committed themselves to continue sensitizing farmers on the importance of food security, post-harvest handling, and crop produce aggregation.
- The rest of the participants vowed to work hand in hand with the resilience committees to support other households to minimize post-harvest losses.
- The LCIs pledged to work with resilience committees to ensure that communities grow hunger crops like cassava, yams, and sweet potatoes for both commercial and home consumption purposes as well as mitigating shocks and stresses.

Monitoring and evaluation:

The project’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) thematic area has remained an integral platform for USAID ICAN activity in the month of July 2022, especially through collecting and analyzing data to make informed decisions for example, payment of structures based on data submitted in the system (evidence or and result based payment approach). The table below shows July contributions to USAID ICAN annual standard and custom indicators and targets.

Indicator	Target	Actual	%ge	Variance (Explain reason for under or over achievement)
Number of individuals [directly] participating in USG food security programs	147,340	56678	38	(39,158 Livelihood participants +16,863 MIYCAN participants +399 BSPs+230 VHTs +56 mentors and 28 GCs were reached out by structures.
Number of households reached with support for increasing economic opportunities through agriculture, non-agriculture-based livelihoods, and improved	61,480	32,110	52	More households are to be reached out from the newly

connection to markets and financial services (including income				profiled and activated groups, to satisfy the target.
Economic Strengthening				
Number of VSLAs established (people reached with training, grants, loans, or linkages to markets and programs for non-agriculture-based livelihood options)	2,385	2,265	95	Only AGYW and Youth will be profiled after completing their graduation/curriculum, as part of enhancing integration and cohesion of the members through saving with a purpose practice.
Number of individuals participating in group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs with USG assistance	47,700	39,158	82	Increased enrollment at group level on an average of 19 members and activating new groups led to a tune of 82% achievement.
# of households adopting various tools & technology that reduce or mitigate shocks for specific local vulnerabilities	36,968	7524	20	1497 groups composed of 7,524 households have adopted improved crop agronomy and animal husbandry practices, good NRM practices, good PHH practices, account opening, and credit access. Local private partners have indirectly contributed to this achievement.
Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] Agricultural markets	22,873	5370	23	23% achievement is attributed to linkages made during Business opportunity meetings and collaboration with local private partners.
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (per person/year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	734 Individuals from 247 community groups have accessed individual credit worth Shs. 165,489,800 and 7 Community groups have accessed credit worth Shs. 8,300,000 from Banks, UWEP, SACCOs, and VSLAs totaling Shs. 173,789,800.
Number of people who have used financial services (disaggregated by type, new, and sex) in the last 12 months as a result of USG assistance	55,120	1029	2	1,029 Individuals from 337 groups have either opened bank accounts or accessed credit. More linkages and business opportunity meetings to the financial sector
Number of female participants of the nutrition sensitive agriculture activity	29,998	26,706	89	Active community group female members from 2,265 community groups enabled this achievement.

Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] financial markets and have opened accounts.	22,500	309	1	309 individuals from 100 community groups have opened bank accounts. More financial awareness and literacy trainings are in progress for better performance.
Nutrition and Food Security				
Number of MCGs that are operational	1,560	1142	73	More 418 MIYCAN groups identification and profiling are in progress.
Number of women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs	92,231	24,791	27	16,863 MIYCAN members and 7,928 Community group members were reached out on nutrition-related trainings.
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, and Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs (that year)	46,115	12,525	27	More women are being profiled for better performance under the surge campaign.
Number of children under 5 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	110,677	31,871	29	Fair performance, more children to be reached out in the next quarter.
Number of children under 2 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	65,720	13,153	20	Fair performance, more children to be reached out in the next quarter.
Number of people reached with messages addressing norms and attitudes that lead to larger family size	75,260	16863	22	More people to be reached out with messages in the next month.
Number of children 6-59 months that received nutritional assessment	88,541	13,452	15	Target unrealistic, however, more children to be reached out in the next month
Governance				
Number of ICAN beneficiaries participating in community and local dialogue/governance forums (New each year)	58,300	12,610	22	More ICAN beneficiaries to be reached out in the next months through dialogues.
Cross-cutting				
Number of people using climate information or implementing risk-reducing actions to improve resilience [to climate change] as a result of USG assistance (EG.II-6)	21,465	8356	39	BSPS and private partners induced increased adoption of NRM, Post-harvest handling, Improved crop agronomy practices, and improved animal practices.
Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change.	30,740	8356	27	BSPS and private partners induced increased adoption of NRM, Post-harvest handling, Improved crop agronomy

				practices, and improved animal practices.
Number of adolescents participants in non-farm income generation, income diversification, skills training, or agriprenurship programming under ICAN	3,000	1183	39	1033 (658 from Kanungu and 375 from Rukungiri) AGYW attended camp III (Taking Control) and 150 youth (trained on leadership curriculum awaiting graduation in August
Number of in-school adolescents reached with ICAN life skills/Governance/Resilience messages	81,620	1235	2	1,235 Children from 87 CRCs were engaged in UKU journeys.

Data quality challenges:

Data quality aspects have been keenly observed in the region during the month of July. From the DQA conducted in Rukungiri in June, a gap in accessing data from the system by project leaders especially district coordinators at their time of convenience (without waiting for the regional MEL to share) was observed.

The MEL department trained 3 district coordinators and 1 MEL intern on accessing data from the system, and downloading and analyzing the data to make the decision. The downloaded data can be further summarized to make presentations during monthly review meetings or internal Data Quality Assessments (DQAs). This thus will lead to efficiency and effectiveness of project coordination and timely corrections at the district level (decentralization).



Project staff training on data analysis

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

1. Teachers' Industrial action. Teachers in ICAN-supported schools did not give full attention to CRC activities as they were trying to catch up with the lost time during the strike.
2. It is always hard to engage the government stakeholders due to lack of facilitation hence a threat to sustainability.
3. Delayed payment of structure and staff salaries is greatly hindering successful project implementation.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Involvement of the government stakeholders in the community is key in implementing a resilience project. It should only stop report sharing but also involved joint monitoring and supervision.
2. linking of BSPs to different private players to make them appreciate the BSP curriculum but also enable them to earn commission hence sustainability.
3. There is a need for exchange visits for ICAN-trained community structures to be taken to different model villages for learning purposes such that they adopt some new techniques on we can do 5 actions that ICAN advocates for.
4. To activate all CRCs in schools, there should be refresher training for all teachers since some patrons and matrons were transferred to other schools.
5. There should be a need to motivate best-performing structures with exchange visits to other areas of implementation as a motivation to do much better.

Planned Activities for August 2022

	Activity
	Program Operations
1	Management Bi-weekly meeting in Kabale
2	Hold monthly meetings with Field teams
	Livelihoods
1	Consolidation and scaling up of current successes with existing partners(YHU, MACE, Bugara, KEGRA,KCDA, MSC)
2	Work with Bugara Women Bean Seed Producers to scale up production, PHH and marketing of IRBs
3	Work with MSC to operationalize Bakery project with AGYW in Murora-Kisoro district
4	Work with KCDA to continue with coffee activities in Kanungu- Mainly around production and marketing
5	Hold half- day Seasonal review meetings between staff and business partners on ICAN activities(IRBs, Coffee, Perma gardens, etc)
6	BSPs visit newly reprofiled groups on enterprise selection, VSLA methodology and Agripreneuership trainings
7	Work with skilled artisans to train additional BSPs and scale up adoption of NRM(low-cost tarpaulin water harvesting tanks and Rocket lorena stoves and bamboo scale up)
8	Follow up on performance of issued ICAN grants under implementation (Nyanga, L. Kayumbu and chahafi, Kirima AGYW, Kakatarangi, Bikongozo, etc).
9	Monthly Review meeting with BSPs
	Nutrition
1	Facilitate VHTs to orient all mothers on Family MUAC Concept and nutritional assessment and MIYCAN sessions
2	VHTs train MIYCAN mothers in IGAs and business skills of their choice.
3	Facilitate VHTs train MIYCAN groups in promotion of appropriate WASH practices.
4	Promote rearing of other small ruminants like rabbits and chicken at household level across the region
5	Organize community health outreach events and campaigns
6	Strengthen access to FP services by ICAN beneficiaries
7	Work with organised groups of VHTs them to receive small grants

	Governance
1	Organize termly review meetings for CRC teachers and headteachers on the progress of implementing Journeys' and psycho social support
2	Facilitate and support termly go back to school campaign
3	Scale up the parent-led school feeding
4	Facilitate and support Governance Champions / Miryangos/ Batakas to conduct community dialogues / Barazas.
5	Facilitate monthly review meetings between community structures and GCs.
6	Support and facilitate DDMC / SDMC quarterly review meetings to monitor progress in the implementation of contingency plan and re-assess new shocks and stress for incorporation in to the plan.
7	Support the districts to validate disaster management plan/ contingency plans
8	Continue supporting district and sub-counties to monitor and review progress implementation of the disaster management/ response plans
9	Support participation in international days (Food, Women, Breastfeeding, + I)
10	Deliberate plan to support Rukungiri come up with Disaster / contingency plan, approved it and implement
	Gender and social inclusion
1	AGYW Graduation
2	FOs hold termly meetings with AGYW mentors to plan and review progress (MEL to provide framework of data to be brought to the meetings)
3	Monitoring of graduated AGYW and youth groups to document lessons learnt and success stories.
4	Scale up Youth Leadership Skills(90 youths in Kanungu and 150 in Rukungiri)
5	Refresher training for all IP staff and interns on GBV prevention and response
6	TOT for local leaders and Governance Champions on GBV prevention and response- CDOs and Gender focal persons as trainers
	SBCC
1	Regional tailored radio programming for the purpose areas(Back to school campaigns, farm aggregation,Nutrition etc)
2	Magazine talk shows(4 per week per district)
3	Community recorded dialogues(2 per month per district)

4	Radio spot messages/Adverts(5 adverts per day per radio station for 20 days per month)
5	Monitor and document cyclical or tactical thematic campaigns-I per month
6	Scale up of reward program in all model villages-I per field officer per month
	MEAL Activities
1	Conduct quarterly internal Data Quality Audits

Success stories

ICAN facilitative approach enables a VHT to adopt major healthy behaviors promoted by ICAN in Kyogo model village, Kanungu district.

Ahimbisibwe Usitini is a 36-year-old mother of 5 children with the youngest being 4 years old while the oldest 16 years. She is married to Turyatunga Matia. She had served as VHT in her community for quite some time but lacked knowledge regarding nutrition assessment (MUAC) for children below the age of 5. With ICAN's intervention, she attained more knowledge on the subject matter especially the preparation of Kitobero for babies and learned about how to SWAP. With this information, Ahimbisibwe has helped many mothers by assessing the nutritional status of their children as well as encouraging them to adopt family planning methods and enjoy related benefits.

She was quoted saying, "I now know the signs of oedema and can assess and later refer victims to health centers for treatment. Can you imagine that I and my other members in this village used to attribute malnutrition cases to witchcraft? We have now learnt kitobero preparation and we are practicing it. Our children no longer suffer from malnutrition; mothers attend ANC, and embrace family planning unlike before.

Ahimbisibwe shared that many of the women in this village shunned the use of contraceptive methods due to the many myths and misconceptions surrounding it. As a result, many women were getting so many unwanted pregnancies, which they were unable to look after. Most of the people in this community are peasant farmers whose income levels is low. This predisposes them to grave poverty meaning they are unable to afford basic needs to sustain them. With continued education on the benefits of ANC, family planning, proper feeding practices the levels of adoption improved and malnutrition cases reduced. Ahimbisibwe thanks ICAN for training her in these aspects and making her a role model in her community.

Photos of Ahimbisibwe Ustini and that of the ICAN team visiting her household



SWAP mechanism changes the life of a household in Nyanga Sub County

Namuhabwe Gloria is a mother of 5 children hailing from Nyarutembe A village. She appreciated ICAN for granting her the opportunity to participate in their programs. She reported that initially, she was a victim of domestic violence at the hands of her husband. This was because she depended on him for everything a factor that pressured him and eventually put all his frustrations on her. However, when an ICAN-affiliated VHT came to my community to offer trainings on kitchen gardens; I picked interest and started some of my own. I grew vegetables for both home and commercial purposes. As a result, my children had a change in diet because their meals were always accompanied with greens. Their nutritional status changed since then and the visits to hospitals over malnutrition reduced.

Eventually, I adopted the taught WASH practices and SWAP for poultry and goat projects.

“I now have chicken and goats that cost me UGX. 150,000 to start with. I am a MIYCAN member, and I belong to a savings group. All these achievements made me convince my husband to a savings group too. As a result, we have been able to buy a plot of land worth 1M. This is a milestone for me because I never imagined that I could own such an asset. My home is now a model home, and we work together as one unit. Our children are healthier than before and are all going to school. This is all thanks to USAID-ICAN, “said Namuhabwe Gloria.

A photo of Namuhabwe Gloria

