

**USAID ICAN REPORT:
PERIOD REPORTED:**

**Q4 PROGRESS REPORT
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: CARITAS KABALE DIOCESE- KIGEZI REGION

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Youth leadership skills graduation in Kisoro district.



Kitchen gardening in Kanungu district.



Adoption of WASH Technologies



Introductions.

USAID'S Integrated Community Aperformance 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. The Activity works through community structures (VHTs, BSPs, LCI chairpersons, CRCs, matrons and patrons, Bataka chairpersons, and local government leaders) for project ownership and sustainability.

This progress report covers the Q4 (July-September 2022) with highlights on activities achieved, in-kind grant implementation, challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

The highlight of achievements.

- BSPs trained 2435 community groups during the Q4 reporting period. These groups were comprised of 52717 farmers (17177 males and 35540 females) on VSLA and Agriprenuership sessions to both new and refresher trainings for old groups
- 24828 members (8031 males and 16797 females) across the region adopted various tools and technologies various tools and technologies mainly improved post-harvest handling, improved agronomic practices, and NRM that mitigate shocks and specific vulnerabilities across the region.
- BSPs linked 16622 project participants to formal agricultural markets (crop input markets= 8039 farmers, croup output markets=4702, livestock input market=1107, non-agriculture markets=988), this in turn will help them to be more resilient to shocks as they increase their incomes.
- 1523 households (678 in Kanungu, 543 in Rukungiri, and 302 h in Kisoro) established kitchen gardens with various nutritious vegetables and this already contributes to dietary diversity among these households.
- 1049 AGYW and 146 youth completed the training curriculums, and they were awarded certificates
- 1,670 Individuals from 481 community groups have accessed individual credit worth Shs. **480,885,901** and 9 Community groups have accessed credit worth Shs. **16,900,000** totaling to Shs. **497,785,901** from Banks, UWEP, SACCOs, microfinance institutions and VSLAs
- 5 In-kind grants are under implementation in the region, the groups managing these grants were offered technical support to continue managing them profitability and sustainably.

SUB-PURPOSE I: LIVELIHOODS

Strengthening Community Savings groups.

BSPs trained 2435 community groups during the Q4 reporting period. These groups comprised 52717 farmers (17177 males and 35540 females) on VSLA and Agriprenuership sessions to both new and refresher trainings for old groups depending on demand. These sessions included record keeping, saving with a purpose, and borrowing money, making money in agriculture, crop agronomy, disaster management, and agro-input awareness and safety due to previous training by Bukoola Chemical Industries, improved group management practices and nutrition.

District	Males	Females	Total
Kanungu	7341	13598	20939
Kisoro	5708	14111	19819
Rukungiri	4128	7831	11959
Total	17177	35540	52717

Groups applying improved organisation level management practices: As indicated in the table below, 1858 community groups adopted group management practices during the Q4 reporting period. Of these, 1598 groups adopted recording minutes during group meetings, 847 groups made production and sales records, 167 registered their groups with local government authorities, 40 groups opened accounts with financial institutions while 27 groups accessed credit and 186 groups made group constitutions. ICAN BSPs continue to support groups by linking them and guiding them through the path to graduation and maturity.

District	Groups-Mgt Practices	Constitution	Registration	Minutes	Records	Bank Ac	Credit Access
Kanungu	750	68	63	536	335	20	19
Kisoro	673	92	54	643	230	8	5
Rukungiri	435	26	50	419	282	12	3
Total	1858	186	167	1598	847	40	27

Households adopting various tools & technology that reduce or mitigate shocks for specific local vulnerabilities.

24828 members (8031 males and 16797 females) across the region adopted various tools and technologies that mitigate shocks and specific vulnerabilities across the region. Of these, 12311 project participants (4000 males and 8311 females) adopted improved group agronomic practices which

Technologies adopted by groups	Groups	Male	Female	Total
Improved Crop Agronomic Practices	1527	4000	8311	12311
Improved animal husbandry practices	545	942	1931	2873
NRM	574	1225	2443	3668
PHH	554	1034	2757	3791
Accounts opened Individuals	163	229	286	515
Credit accessed Individuals	481	601	1069	1670
Total	3844	8031	16797	24828

include right crop spacing and use of quality seeds, weeding, and use of trenches in gardens. 545 groups with 3418 project participants (942 males and 1931 females) applied improved animal husbandry practices, 4242 farmers (1225 males and 2443 females) adopted natural resources management practices while 4345 project participants (1034 males and 2757 females) adopted PHH practices. 515 project participants opened individual accounts and 2151 members accessed credit from financial institutions.

NRM and hill management activities.

Rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves. 74 households (42 in Kanungu, 27 in Kisoro, and 5 in Rukungiri) adopted rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves. These have continuously helped households reduce fuel (firewood) consumption, they also have numerous benefits of keeping food warm, cooking food faster and promoting a reduced smoke cooking environment and increasing household labor for other domestic activities. BSP artisans earned between 10,000 - 20,000/= per stove constructed as a commission which has helped them to improve their household income and well-being.

Water harvesting tarpaulin walled tanks. 4 tarpaulin water harvesting tanks were adopted (2 in Kanungu, 1 in Kisoro, and 1 in Rukungiri) tanks were adopted where BSP artisans earned a commission of 50,000-80,000 shillings. The tanks will help household tap water from rooftops for agricultural production and domestic use. The 14 artisans continued to mobilize community members through groups to adopt water harvesting technologies that are intended to promote the natural environment.

Bamboo seedlings and bamboo planted in Rukungiri district. 5000 bamboo seedlings in the nursery bed have been managed well and are ready to plant on the affected hill in Nyakishenyi. The community members have cared for this since they were taught about the benefits of bamboo in soil and water conservation, soil erosion control, and contributing to household incomes after selling its products. Similarly, we monitored the progress of 5000 bamboo seedlings that were planted in April 2022. The seedlings have fully rejuvenated, and we hope that the intended need will be realized and those that were planted in farmer gardens have also fully established as evidenced in the photo. ICAN team and structures encouraged farmers to adhere to NRM practices such as rehabilitation and opening of trenches, planting of trees, and establishment of terraces on hill slopes and buffer zones to control run-off and siltation of water bodies.



Financial linkages and credit access by ICAN-supported farmers. 1,670 Individuals from 481 community groups have accessed individual credit worth Shs. **480,885,901** and 9 Community groups have accessed credit worth Shs. **16,900,000** totaling to Shs. **497,785,901** from UWEP, SACCOs, microfinance institutions, VSLAs, Centenary Bank, Post Bank, BRAC, SACCOs, and EMYOOGA. The Activity continues to leverage GOU programs such as the Parish development model to extend affordable credit services to farmers. 515 farmers from 163 groups continued to open accounts in Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) to access government wealth creation programs. Because of this linkage and credit access, some farmers continually report improved access to agricultural inputs, improved productivity, and profits.

Credit Access			
District	Individual	Group	Total
Kisoro	48,924,000	9,800,000	58,724,000
Kanungu	383,931,901	4,800,000	388,731,901
Rukungiri	48,030,000	2,300,000	50,330,000
Total	480,885,901	16,900,000	497,785,901

Partnerships and access to agro-inputs for coffee, rice, and IRBs.

KCDA linking ICAN farmers to markets for coffee.

- 3529 coffee farmers have already been profiled by KCDA in the four sub-counties as indicated in the table below.
- KCDA also received boxes of Nordox Super, a red copper fungicide for the control of Coffee berry disease and coffee leaf rust from Kanungu district local government and UCDA. 220kgs of red cooper fungicide and 130 kgs of Nordox super fungicides were distributed to 134 farmers in Kihihi and Kirima sub-counties that will be used to spray coffee plants using a knapsack sprayer to control coffee berry diseases and coffee leaf rust hence improving coffee productivity. The partner is still capturing the GPS of coffee farmers in Kirima and Kihanda sub-counties; KCDA has captured the GPS of 970 farmers.

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

Yield Harvest Uganda for IRBs and Rice

- has been originally promoting iron-rich beans and has also ventured into rice growing where, it distributed 480kgs of rice seed to 20 farmers (8 males, 12 females) for seed multiplication. It also worked with BSPs, 150 Kgs of IRBs were accessed by 4 farmers for planting in Kihihi sub-county. More so, two more BSPs were trained on the safe use and handling of agrochemicals by feed the future in partnership with Yield Harvest Uganda and were able to get certificates after the training.
- Through close collaboration with the Kanungu District Local Government production office, it was able to distribute 7645kgs of rice seed to 48 project beneficiaries for planting in Kihihi Sub County.
- Business opportunity meeting between Bukoola Chemical Industries Agronomist, 4 groups with 182 members (143 females and 39 males) were trained on the safe use and handling of agrochemicals and other inputs. Several farmers were trained on how to safely use inputs to increase agricultural productivity.



Agriculture and non-agriculture linkages.

Collaborated and worked with partner private market actors and BSPs and linked 16622 project participants to formal agricultural markets (crop input markets= 8039 farmers, crop output markets=4702, livestock input market=1107, non-agriculture markets=988). Most of the private actors supported groups during planting,

harvesting, post-harvest handling, aggregation, and off-take to ensure that high-quality products are traded on the market. USAID ICAN will continue to work within the key value chains, including iron-rich beans (IRB), normal bush beans, and coffee. BSPs also support farmers in other value chains like potatoes in Kisoro, and rice in Kanungu, and Rukungiri districts.

Agriculture markets	Groups	Male	Female	Total
Crop input market	1403	2477	5562	8039
Crop Output market	1055	1466	3236	4702
Livestock input market	616	704	1082	1786
Livestock Output market	502	462	645	1107
Non-Agric. output	58	345	643	988
Total	3634	5454	11168	16622

Non-Agricultural linkages. USAID ICAN reached 988 project participants (345 males and 643 females) with non-agricultural livelihood opportunities during Q4. Some of these members were adolescent girls and young women who are engaged in crafts, catering services, and saloons. Others are engaged in income-generating activities such as brickmaking and tailoring. As a result, their incomes and well-being have been improved thereby mitigating and responding to stresses and shocks. USAID ICAN will continue to support similar non-agriculture income sources to diversify beneficiary livelihoods.

BSP Monthly review meeting with BSPs. These review meetings have gradually improved the quality of data and increased project familiarization with structures. 114 BSPs (58 males, 56 females) in Kanungu, 80 Business service providers (43 males, 37 females) from Rukungiri district, and 117 BSPs (68 females and 49 males) in Kisoro attended review meetings facilitated by ICAN staff in the field. Field officers, verified reports, discussed challenges faced, and shared experiences and BSPs submitted reports on activities done at the group level.

In-kind grants implementation.

Nyanga Agriculture Enterprise group. The funds that were got from the sale of fish were saved in their group bank account, and the 500 catfish that were restocked in the fishpond are yet to be harvested in September as the group plans for restocking the pond fully in October. The group is closely working with the district and sub-county fisheries officers for technical support on fish production and management as well as training them on how to make fish feeds locally to reduce expenditures.

Rubimbwa AGYW group. From the capacity, building that was part of their grant, the girls were able to do value addition and made different designs for the baskets to attract and meet different customer preferences and higher prices. Additionally, the girls were further linked and trained in business management and marketing by Kihiihi Vocational Institution to ably know how to cost their baskets effectively and run their business profitably and sustainability. The group has so far sold 45 baskets worth 385,000 shillings, which it added to their savings.

Kyakatarangi Agro input shop. The Tuk Tuk/Tri-cyle that was given to Kyakatarangi Agro input shop has continued to support farmers to carry produce to the markets, the seed for planting as well as picking Agro inputs for the shop. During the month, it transported 7645 kgs of rice seed to farmers that were supplied by the district production office but also picked rice from Matanda millers, a bulking center for Kanungu district and it was entirely distributed in the whole sub-county at a subsidized fee to rice farmers. Additionally, the Tuk Tuk makes an average of 50,000- 60,000 UG shillings every Saturday (market day), part of this money, 20,000 shillings is saved on the group account every week, and the rest of the money supports servicing and pay the driver.

Bikongozo Beekeepers association. Bikongozo beekeepers that received in-kind grant items worth 23,768,000= . All 17 group members were trained in Apiary management techniques, post-harvest harvest handling, and value addition of their bee products by the entomologist and the supplier-Marc bee honey producers' Ltd. So far, 28 out of 108 beehives installed have been colonized with bees. The group has also prepared a nursery bed for calliandra seeds that will be planted at the apiary points.

L. Chahafi and L. Kayumbu mirror cap grants. Lake Chahafi and lake Kayumbu management committee have continued to strengthen security on the two lakes to prevent illegal fishing of the 100,000 mirror carp

fish restocked in the lakes and reports say that the mirror carp is growing steadily because it has started to attract tourists from different continents for angling.

Success story. The Kisoro Integrated Fisheries and Agriculture Cooperative Society (KIFACOS) - one of USAID's ICAN-supported livelihood groups, hosted their first Mirror carp sport fishing (angling) client at Lake Chahafi since the lake was restocked in June 2021 through a USAID ICAN in-kind grant. The Angler, who doubles up as an angling marketer, paid UGX 100,000 (USD 26.30) to KIFACOS in permit fees and caught 15 fish with an average weight of 2 kg. The minimum recommended weight for angling is 16 kg, so the fish were released back into the lake. Mr. Bilungi Dennis, Kisoro District Fisheries Officer, and Mr. Machari Charles, the KIFACOS Chairperson were excited to witness this sport fishing activity. Kisoro District local government, in collaboration with KIFACOS, anticipates that in 3-4 years, when the Mirror carp fish have fully grown to the sport fishing weight, Lake Chahafi will be an angling destination on top of its proximity to other tourist attractions like gorilla trekking in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Sport fishing in Lake Chahafi is set to be a source of income to enhance the livelihoods of the fisherfolk and therefore sustain USAID's investments in building the resilience of vulnerable communities around the lake.

MOUs and Procurement of in-kind grants. 34 Grant agreements have already been signed by groups and submitted for the procurement process to take place.

SUB PURPOSE 2: NUTRITION

MIYCAN mothers reached with nutrition interventions:

VHTs reached 20323 MIYCAN members (3022 pregnant, 11861 lactating mothers, and 5440 caregivers) during Q4. The mothers were trained on sessions in the MIYCAN curriculum, and the sessions delivered to mothers through their groups included, WASH, kitchen gardening for improved nutrition, nutrition of babies and young children, preventing anemia and malaria, breastfeeding especially during the breastfeeding week, food and water safety, clinical assessment of children, family planning and referrals.

District	Preg	Lac	Others	Total
Kanungu	977	3512	2049	6538
Kisoro	1418	5612	1587	8617
Rukungiri	627	2737	1804	5168
Total	3022	11861	5440	20323

Reach children with nutrition interventions: 38410 children under 5 years were reached with nutrition interventions. Of these, 15853 children were under 2 years. Children were moderately malnourished while 22 children were severely malnourished across the region. The severely malnourished children were referred to nearby health facilities for medical care and nutrition support while their mothers were given nutrition counseling and knowledge on how to feed their sick children on balanced diet and hygiene practices.

District	Children <5Yrs			Children <2Yrs		
	No. Children	Target	Achieved	No. Children	Target	Achieved
Kisoro	16286	46208	35	6721	27438	24
Kanungu	12357	39567	31	5100	23495	22
Rukungiri	9768	24902	39	4031	14787	27
Region	38411	110677	35	15852	65720	24

USAID ICAN-supported VHTs screened 17461 children under 5 for acute malnutrition using color-coded mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC). 133 children were found with Moderate Accurate Malnutrition (MAM) and 59 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition. (SAM). The malnourished children were referred to health facilities for medical care and nutrition support.

Mothers reached with messages on family planning and larger family size: 8617 mothers in Kanungu, 6538 mothers in Kisoro, and 5168 mothers in Rukungiri received a message on family sizes and family planning through VHTs. Mothers were encouraged to have manageable families while 476 mothers in need of family planning services were referred to health facilities.

Mothers are referred for health services. VHTs continuously ensure mothers and their children access health services by making referrals to nearby health facilities and following up to ascertain that the referred clients got services. 583 mothers were referred for ANC services, 476 mothers were referred for family planning, 477 mothers were referred for Vitamin A supplements and 40 mothers were referred for malnutrition support while 103 mothers were referred for other illnesses and health complications.

Improving WASH Practices: 1591 households in model villages were visited and supported to set up and rehabilitate WASH facilities such as tippy taps on their latrines, 368 households set up drying racks, and 3 washable latrine surfaces were installed and rehabilitated. 298 composite manure pits were dug by beneficiaries after realizing the importance and usefulness of boosting their crop yields and reducing diseases caused by poor hygiene around homes.



Promoting enterprises and practices that enhance minimum acceptable diet and diversity.

678 households in Kanungu, 543 in Rukungiri, and 302 households in Kisoro established kitchen gardens with various nutritious vegetables. These have been maintained and established in communities with great technical support field teams and VHTs. With the help of KEGRA, three (3) Parma gardens in Nyakishenyi-Rukungiri were established and planted with a variety of vegetables like Sukuma wiki, eggplants, carrots, and Spinach.

A case in point is Mpungu Sub County where two MIYCAN groups raised money and bought sachets of Amaranthus and Sukuma wiki seeds through a BSP, they managed and raised vegetable seedlings in nursery beds and members have raised kitchen gardens 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.

Community awareness creation on Ebola outbreak.

USAID ICAN through collaborating and partnering with other organizations has continued to work with Red Cross Uganda to conduct Barraza's in Kihhi sub-county on issues relating to the outbreak of Ebola, WASH, and hailstorms among others. 155 members (114 males, 41 females) from two parishes attended. The team sensitized members on how the disease is spread, and the signs and symptoms of the disease and they advised farmers through VHTs and LCI chairpersons to report to the nearest health facility in case they notice a community member with cough with blood, vomiting, nose bleeding, eye redness among others.

Action points,

- ✚ work hand in hand with their local leaders and VHTs to identify members of the community with Ebola-related signs and symptoms and refer them to the nearest health centers
- ✚ The church leaders who were present committed themselves to always sensitizing people about early warnings and early actions every Sunday during the service.
- ✚ Red Cross and ICAN field officers together with the health assistant pledged to do support supervision as a joint activity.
- ✚ Red Cross Uganda urged members present to guard themselves against excessive by adhering to weather forecast information realized by UNMA such as digging water conservation channels to protect their crops and soil from erosion

VHT monthly review meetings. 63 VHTs (45 females, 18 males) in Kanungu, 61 VHTs (23 males and 38 Females) in Rukungiri and 81 VHTs (60 females and 21 males) in Kisoro attended the monthly review meetings. VHTs submitted reports for the months and data sets on MIYCAN groups and children reached.

SUB PURPOSE 3: GOVERNANCE

Supporting school enrolment and retention. Our Governance Champions and Structures are working with leaders, community groups, and MIYCAN groups to create awareness and campaigns on going back to

school in the 85 school communities across the region. 16405 girls and 17576 girls) have reported for the third term in the ICAN-supported primary schools. ICAN teams and Governance Champions also participated in school management committees and PTA meetings organised by school leadership. During the meeting, the Governance Champions were able to discuss on USAID – ICAN interventions, including regular updating school development plans and the members agreed to plant trees around the schools, send children to school and support teachers in school to increase the number of pupils passing with better grades. School Management Committees and PTAs provided messages on parent-led school feeding, provision of lunch to children while at school, supporting school development activities, and encouraging school retention

District	Boys	Girls	Total
Rukungiri	4311	4419	8730
Kisoro	7203	8127	15330
Kanungu	4891	5030	9921
Kigezi	16405	17576	33981

School development plans and PTA meetings.

- 74 members (33 males and 41 females) attended the Rushasha PTA meeting and where the Governance Champion and Field Officers took part and discussed academics and disciplines of children at schools, school learning environment, renovation of buildings, and school feeding for pupils while at school.
- 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 a result of the induction of SMC members and 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, 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.
- In Kihiihi Sub County, field teams also followed up on the school development plans activity implementation and it was realized that these are being followed. For example, Kibimbiri and Kororo primary schools did the fencing of the school, All the schools received trees(1050) from the diocese of Kinkizi for environmental conservation, Bushere primary had plans of starting boarding section; they now so far have 40 pupils in boarding section among others.

Child Rights Clubs trained. USAID ICAN activity through patrons and matrons has trained pupils in child rights clubs on the Journeys curriculum. In collaboration with Patrons and matron, 71 child rights clubs (1159 Boys and 1314 girls) were trained in the region. However, the teacher's strike that lasted for a month, 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 and Pupils were able to acquire positivity and have a mind shift such as greetings, thanking, and rewarding among others.

District	Boys	Girls	Total
Kanungu	593	671	1264
Kisoro	375	457	832
Rukungiri	191	186	377
Total	1159	1314	2473

Collaboration and networking. Collaboration with district and sub-county local governments. As part of strengthening systems, 112 Local government standard rules of procedure and LG act 243 were distributed to both district and sub-county leaders in Rukungiri district. 75 books are already with LC3 and sub-county speakers ready to be given out to councilors in Kanungu district and distribution is still ongoing in Kisoro and Kanungu districts. The district leadership called upon councilors to put the books to proper use to enable good business in the council. They also appreciated USAID ICAN for the capacity-building in form of trainings and tools but also thanked ICAN for the good collaboration.



USAID Visit to ICAN activity in Kigezi region. The region was privileged to host a team of visitors from USAID ICAN leadership(COR, COP, and ICAN Kampala staff) to check on the activity's overall collaboration and partnership with district leaderships, engage inclusion of Batwa community, and track of in-kind grant progress and their sustainability. The 4-days visit started with an engagement with district leaders chaired by LCV and then the visitors proceeded to the field and check on Batwa programs in Kisoro and Kanungu, AGYW groups and beekeepers in Rukungiri whose grants had been approved and plans to sustain planned business enterprises. The visit

ended successfully with the USAID team appreciating the good programming and the impact of ICAN activities, especially to young girls and women.

District meetings on project sustainability and inclusion. Held collaboration meetings with related district departments (education, production, community, health, and administration) on Batwa and other minority groups' inclusion in the project. District teams appreciated ICAN and promised to support the sustainability of ICAN's achievements.

Support sub-county/District Disaster response. Copies of 2 district disaster plans (Kanungu and Kisoro) were printed out and shared with leadership for onward approval processes. Efforts are underway to organize council meetings to approve the district contingency plans. CAN will continue to work with related stakeholders on modalities and mechanisms for supporting all the required approval processes and their implementation

Engagement with Government Officials in implementation and Planning. USAID ICAN actively engages related key government officials/leaders (CAOs, RDCs, DEOs, DCDOs, DHOs, LCV Chairpersons, and sub-county local council authorities) in Adolescent Girls and Young Women's camps, school monitoring, livelihood, and nutrition support groups and youth leadership trainings, and community dialogues. Government leaders commended ICAN's work and pledged to mobilize the community members towards resilience agenda.

Community Dialogues meetings on emerging issues.

61 (34 in Kisoro, 27 in Kanungu) community dialogues were conducted by Governance Champions and leaders in the 3 districts. 1650 members (787 males and 861 females) participated in the dialogue meetings. The dialogues were on issues such as disaster management especially early warnings and actions, Gender-based violence, WASH, and Ebola outbreak in the country.

Actions agreed upon during the dialogue meetings conducted

1. Leaders committed to keeping sensitizing communities to adopt appropriate farming practices like planting in lines to enjoy bumper harvests.
2. Youth and AGYWs to serve as role models to their peers by motivating them to adopt the ICAN to do 5 in their homes and communities.
3. The LCIs pledged to work with resilience committees to ensure that communities grow hunger crops like cassava, yams, and sweet potatoes to mitigate shocks and stresses mainly famine
4. MIYCAN group members committed themselves to strengthen campaigns promoting kitchen gardens for improved nutrition and SWAP for IGAs among households.
5. Husbands support their wives to attend antenatal care and delivery from the health facility but also help with household chores to create time for adequate breastfeeding.
6. Young mothers and girls save with a purpose through joining saving groups but also have income-generating activities to become self-reliant.
7. On Ebola, the communities have been sensitized about Ebola spread in the country and encouraged adherence to health guidelines such as WASH, social distancing, and surveillance.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Graduation of Adolescent girls and young women:

1049 AGYW cohort 2 with 674 in Kanungu (Kirima =188, Kihiihi= 105, Katete= 144, Mpungu=129, Nyanga =108) and 375 AGYW in Rukungiri (Buhunga=95, Bwambara=60, Nyakagyeme=84, Nyakishenyi=136) participated in Graduation and received certificates (Finding your voice, making choices, and taking control). Issuing certificates to the girls who missed some girls had gone away for other opportunities. Various stakeholders including LC3s, sub-county chiefs, CDOs, and youth councilors among others officiated the awarding of certificates to the girls and graced the occasion. The stakeholders especially CDOs appreciated the work done by USAID ICAN in empowering the young women and girls but also committed to continuing following them up and ensuring they tap into available government opportunities).



Youth leadership trainings. Relatedly. 150 youth leaders (60 from Kanungu and 90 from Kisoro) were certified after completing the youth leadership curriculum, which was facilitated by 10 mentors. The youths and AGYW have taken a step to start saving groups to enable them to accumulate money and expand their businesses. They are committed to keeping supporting and mentoring these young women even outside camps to secure their future. From follow-ups by field teams, 10 groups of youth have been formed and profiling is ongoing. These will be attached to BSPs and VHTs for trainings on VSLA sessions, nutrition, and family planning.

Follow up on AGYW groups. The 56 mentors continue to check on the progress of AGYW groups in the region. All the AGYW enterprise groups are involved in saving with a purpose and have been attached to BSPs to service them on VSLA sessions and saving with a purpose. The AGYW graduates have also been linked to VHTs to train them on family planning and nutrition-related interventions such as proper feeding and WASH.

SBCC activities.

Scaling up of monuments of commitment. 237 fruit trees symbolizing monuments of commitment have been planted in the existing model villages i.e. 15 in Kisoro, 99 in Kanungu & 123 in Rukungiri. This success is attributed to the support of village resilience committees who supervised MIYCAN and VSLA group members to do so having achieved targets for PHH, WASH & SWAP. Some of the fruits planted include oranges, Avocadoes tomato fruit trees, Jackfruit, Pawpaw, etc.

District	No. youth	Mentors
Kanungu	60	4
Kisoro	90	6
Total	150	10

Scaling up of the reward program. 13 community structures have been rewarded in Kigezi region this quarter for their efforts in promoting we can do 5 among vulnerable households. Their work includes supporting households and groups in the model villages to adopt hands-on skills, SWAP for the education of their school-going children and starting up income-generating activities, WASH, kitchen gardens, and adopting appropriate nutrition and agronomic practices. Some of the community structures rewarded were AGYW/Youth leader’s mentors, BSPs and VHTs. Rewards ranged from items such as basins, plastic jugs, shopping baskets, food items & poultry birds among others. These rewards are given out to motivate the community structures to reinforce campaigns that promote the adoption of the desired actions within their communities for a better quality of life and health in the community.

Model villages and follow-up visits. Community structures together with members of village resilience committees across three districts made follow-up visits to 124 model villages i.e. 41 in Kisoro, 46 in Kanungu and 37 in Rukungiri districts to establish the progress of the adoption of we can do 5 at the household level. In addition, the team pointed out areas for improvement especially scaling up kitchen gardens, SWAP for PHH equipment and education of all school-going children and rehabilitating or establishing WASH facilities.

Behavioral surveillance tracking. The purpose of this activity was to track the progress of the level of participation and exposure to the disseminated key messages, identify the current level of adoption of **We Can Do 5**, and explore the factors hindering the adoption of these behaviors. The target population that participated in this exercise was 144 households in both model and non-model villages across three districts and 6 focus group discussions, 2 per district for both men and women groups. Findings were shared with MEL and SBCC teams.

Radio programs. 24 magazine talk shows hosting positive deviants have been conducted, 1,314 radio spots (600 contractual and the balance as bonuses) as vox pops, and 12 recorded community dialogues were conducted. The radio programs complemented the IPC interventions that aim at creating awareness of we can do 5 actions among members of the community. These programs reach masses of people with key health messages thus providing an added advantage to ICAN’s messaging strategy. Some of the radio activities conducted include; magazine talk shows, radio spots, and recorded community dialogues. These promoted campaigns such as breast-feeding week with the theme: **“Step up for breastfeeding: Educate and support.** International youth day with the theme **“Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages”,** a pre-planning campaign. Influential people or role models in the community were selected to appear as guest speakers for each of these programs. These were the likes of CDOs, District nutritionists, AGYW and Youth leaders, BSPs, Agricultural officers, model farmers Governance champions, ICAN Field officers, members of livelihood groups, head teachers, pupils, and MIYCAN members. These shared their lived experiences and stories of change having adopted we can do 5. This aimed at motivating listeners to adopt the same behaviors

for a better quality of life. In summary, 12 magazine talk shows, 450 radio spots (300 contractual and the balance as bonuses), and 6 recorded community dialogues were conducted.

Breastfeeding campaign. In a bid to register the success on this campaign, **ICAN employed the ask your service provider for instant reply** approach to convey messages on we can do 5 among members of the community. This strategy involved subject matter experts who were invited to partake in trainings and other group activities to provide first-hand information to participants. Categories of the said individuals were District nutritionists, mid wives, LCI chairpersons, ICAN-trained VHTs, MIYCAN group representatives, Governance champions, and ICAN field Officers. These were asked direct questions to which they responded. Other channels of communication used to promote this campaign included; IPC were the foot soldiers conducted home visits, one to one discussion on the subject. Mothers and caregivers of children received information on breastfeeding like positioning, hygiene, etc. In the end, 102 mothers were reached with breastfeeding messages.

International youth day campaign. The campaign's theme was **"Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages"**. While promoting the campaign, ICAN placed adolescent girls, young women, and the youth were placed at the forefront. They assumed leadership roles in training and mobilizing other youth peers and community members to participate in ICAN-fronted interventions like environmental conservation by planting trees and participating in community dialogues to enable them to adopt we can do 5 agendas. AGYW and youth leaders encouraged peers to form educational groups and have them registered with the Sub County and district to garner support from the Local Government to implement their activities. These targeted government-funded activities like Emyooga, UWEP, etc. 168 people participated in the dialogues, 101 females & 67 males.

Pre-season planning campaign. Speakers of this campaign pointed out the key factors that farmers should consider before planting. These are; purchasing seeds from the recommended sources, applying manure (organic and inorganic), weeding in the first month & 3 weeks after planting, at mid-growth and a few weeks before harvesting and spraying of beans before and at the beginning of the flowering phase to reduce flower abortion. 74 participated in the dialogues, 41 females & 33males

Actions agreed upon during the dialogues

1. Model farmers together with BSPs committed to keep sensitising farmers to adopt appropriate farming practices like planting in lines to enjoy bumper harvests.
2. Youth and AGYWs to serve as role models to their peers by motivating them to adopt the ICAN to do 5 in their homes and communities.
3. The LCIs pledged to work with resilience committees to ensure that communities grow hunger crops like cassava, yams, and sweet potatoes to mitigate shocks and stresses.
4. MIYCAN group members committed themselves to strengthening campaigns promoting kitchen gardens and SWAP for IGAs among households.
5. Husbands support their wives to attend antenatal care and delivery from the health facility but also help with household chores to create time for adequate breastfeeding.
6. VHTs to teach and provide information to mothers about the value of breastfeeding infants and young children.
7. Mothers to ensure they breastfeed their babies exclusively for the first six months
8. Young mothers and girls to save with a purpose by joining saving groups but also have income-generating activities to become self-reliant.

MEL Progress activities

The project's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) thematic area has remained an integral platform for USAID ICAN activity in the months of July, August, and September 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	Annual Target	Qtr IV FY2022 Actual	%ge	Variance (Explain reason for under or over achievement)
Number of individuals [directly] participating in USG food security programs	147,340	77,571	53	(52,717 Livelihood participants +20,323 MIYCAN participants+1,049 AGYW +146 Youth+ 2,473 pupils in CRCs +399 BSPs+230 VHTs +56 mentors +150 CRC Teachers (Patrons & matrons) 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 connection to markets and financial services (including income	61,480	43,228	70	More households to be reached out from the newly profiled and activated groups especially AGYW 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	2,435	102	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	52,717	111	Increased enrollment at group level on an average of 22members and activating new groups led to a tune of 111% achievement.
# of households adopting various tools & technology that reduce or mitigate shocks for specific local vulnerabilities	36,968	14,062	38	2,018 groups composed of 14,062 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. More project participants will be reached through linkages and working with private actors.
Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] Agricultural markets	22,873	11,301	49	49% achievement is attributed to linkages made during Business opportunity meeting and collaboration with local private partners. More project participants will be reached through more business opportunity meetings and creating linkages with private actors

Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (per person/year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,670 Individuals from 481 community groups have accessed individual credit worth Shs. 480,885,901 and 9 Community groups have accessed credit worth Shs. 16,900,000 from Banks, UWEP, SACCOs and VSLAs totaling to Shs. 497,785,901
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	2,124	4	2124 Individuals from 603 groups have either opened bank accounts or accessed credit. More linkages and business opportunity meetings to financial sectors to be conducted
Number of female participants of the nutrition sensitive agriculture activity	29,998	35,540	118	Active community group female members from 2,435 community groups enabled this achievement.
Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] financial markets and have opened accounts.	22,500	515	2	515 individuals from 163 community groups have opened bank accounts. More financial awareness and literacy in progress for a better performance.
Nutrition and Food Security				
Number of MCGs that are operational	1,560	1,239	79	More 321 MIYCAN groups identification and profiling in progress.
Number of women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs	92,231	21,837	24	20,188 MIYCAN members and 1,649 Community group members were reached out on nutrition-related trainings. More mothers to be reached using the surge approach
Number of pregnant and lactating women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs (that year)	46,115	14,883	32	Target is unrealistic however more women are being profiled for better performance. More mothers to be reached using the surge approach
Number of children under 5 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	110,677	38,410	35	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	15,852	24	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	20,323	27	More people to be reached out with messages in the next quarter.
Number of children 6-59 months that received nutritional assessment	88,541	17,461	20	Target unrealistic, however, more children to be reached in the next quarter.
Governance				
Number of ICAN beneficiaries participating in community and local dialogue/governance forums (New each year)	58,300	21,468	37	More ICAN participants to be reached out to 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.11-6)	21,465	16,325	76	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	16,325	53	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 agripreneurship programming under ICAN	3,000	1,195	40	1,049 AGYW and 146 Youth graduates contributed to this achievement
Number of in-school adolescents reached with ICAN life-skills/Governance/Resilience messages	81,620	2,473	3	2,473 Children from 71 CRCs were engaged in UKU journeys. Significantly, 33981 from 73 schools have enrolled for third term.

Success story

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 and 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, that they were unable to look after. Most of the people in this community are peasant farmers whose income levels are low. This predisposes them to grave poverty meaning they are unable to afford basic needs to sustain themselves. With continued education on the benefits of ANC, family planning, and proper feeding practices the levels of adoption improved and malnutrition cases were 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



MEL aspects.

Data quality aspects have been keenly observed in the region during the quarter. From the DQA conducted in Rukungiri in June, a gap of 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.

Specifically, The MEL department trained 3 district coordinators and 1 MEL intern this quarter on accessing data from the MEL system, downloading, and analyzing the data to make decisions. 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).

In the same period, the team have continuously embraced technology (Axiom collect) to report (Pictorials) on daily activities done in time. This has enabled monitoring of staff's daily performance.

Also, to inform learning, the team conducted behavioral surveillance study (quantitative and qualitative) in both model and non-model villages. This will inform the graduation agenda of model villages.

To this end, the region has reached out to 1817 activity participants in the annual Participants survey using a closed open digitalized tool anchored on Ona. This was backed by quantitative survey where 6 FGDs were conducted (3 for male and 3 for female only) to give an in-depth understanding of lagging indicator. USAID MEL team trained 29 research assistants and 5 USAID ICAN interns to conduct this activity.



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

1. Turn up for group sittings has reduced because of the rainy and planting seasons. This has mostly affected the turn up of mothers for group meetings.
2. 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.
3. It is always hard to engage the government stakeholders due to a lack of facilitation hence a threat to sustainability.
4. Delayed payment of structures 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 not only stop at report sharing but also involve joint monitoring and supervision.
2. Linking of BSPs to different private players makes them appreciate the BSP curriculum but also enables 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. Building resilience of project participants is done best through collaboration and in partnership, partners like KCDA and YHU that we work with have enabled farmers to access technologies such as improved seed, and other agricultural inputs that have helped them to increase agricultural productivity.