

USAID ICAN REPORT: Annual REPORT

PERIOD REPORTED:

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: CARITAS KABALE DIOCESE- KIGEZI REGION

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Adoption of Rocket Lorena Energy Saving Stoves groups(soap making)

Income Generating Activities in AGYW



In-kind Grants(Bikongozo Bee Keepers Rukungiri)

Introductions.

USAID'S Integrated Community Performance 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 Annual progressive report covers the highlights of activities achieved, in-kind grant implementation, challenges encountered, and lessons learned.

The highlight of achievements.

- 40572 project participants (27283 females and 13289 males) were linked by BSPs to input and output markets, this enabled them to access quality inputs and markets for their agricultural activities which have contributed to improved livelihoods and resilience among these project participants
- 548 rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves were constructed across the region by artisan BSPs, these are helping households to use less fuel (firewood), this contributes to environmental protection and they earned a commission of Ugx10,960,000
- 48 AGYWs in Kanungu were fully certified by DIT in skills of saloon, basketry, weaving, and catering and they earned themselves certificates, which will enable them to be competitive in the job market.
- 4549 Individuals from 806 community groups accessed individual credit worth Shs.2,218,640,550 and 133 Community groups accessed credit worth Shs.115,025,000 from Banks, SACCOs, microfinance institutions, and VSLAs, this was invested in income-generating activities.
- 5497 households established kitchen gardens of various vegetables including Amaranthus (dodo), black nightshade, eggplants, sukuma wiki, carrots, and spinach, this is contributing to enhanced dietary diversity among these household members.

- 13148 households adopted improved WASH practices and technologies that include drying racks, and tippy taps for improved hygiene and sanitation.
- 4,809 Pupils (2262 boys & 2547 girls) from 124 CRCs were engaged in the UKU journeys curriculum and gained resilience skills

Activities for FY2022

#	Activities implemented In the FY 4	Progress (Green activity completed, red activity was not done)	status means was red
	Operations meetings		
1.	Organise quarterly project review meetings		
2.	Orient staff on MEAL concepts, CV writing, public speaking, and stress management.		
	Livelihoods		
3.	Hold business opportunity meetings with private partners and BSPs		
4.	Work with MSC to operationalise the Bakery project for AGYW in Murora-Kisoro district.		
5.	Work with the selected partners to continue with coffee activities in Kanungu and scale up in Rukungiri district - mainly around production and marketing		
6.	Work with Yield Harvest Uganda, Manyakabi Area Cooperative Enterprise (MACE), and Bugara Women Group on post-harvest handling practices.		
7.	BSPs train VSLA/Farmer groups (Old and new groups) on VSLA best practices and Agriprenuership		
8.	Work with skilled artisans to train additional BSPs to scale up the adoption of low-cost tarpaulin water harvesting tanks, and rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves.		
9.	BSPs link VSLA groups to financial service providers for financial products (Microfinance support centre, Post bank, Centenary, SACCOs, etc)		
10.	Follow up on the performance of already issued ICAN grants(Nyanga aquaculture and fish restocking, etc) across the three districts		
11.	Hold a half day meeting between FO and structures to assess progress towards goals and to report		
	Nutrition		
12.	Facilitate VHTs to orient all mothers on the Family MUAC Concept		
13.	Work with KEGRA to promote Perma-gardens in the region.		
14.	VHTs orient groups (MIYCAN or others) on the MIYCAN curriculum		
15.	Strengthen and Scale-up WASH interventions		
16.	Work with DHO's Office (District VHT focal person) and pilot a sub-county level VHT association. Select one or two sub-counties.		
	Governance		
17.	Support learners during Remedial Learning (P1, P2, P3, P6)		

18.	Support the community structure to participate in setting parish / sub-county development priorities that include disaster mitigation strategies and measures to implement them.	
19.	Hold quarterly 1-day district disaster management committee meetings	
20.	Support participation in Women's day celebrations	
	Gender, Youth and SBCC	
21.	Train AGYW in Rukungiri and Kanungu districts	
22.	Train 90 youth leaders on leadership curriculum.	
23.	Engage the 3 ICAN radio platforms	

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE AND COMMUNICATION

Scaling up of 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. Before attaining this number, the following were the statistics of the model villages; in the year 2020, the number increased from 28 to 56 in the year 2021. This number later increased to 112. Steadily, this grew to 124 model villages in the current year. This success is attributable to routine follow-ups by the regional and field teams, community structures, and village resilience committees. During their visits to the community, these players randomly select key beneficiaries to interact with them regarding their experiences with the project and their adoption of we can do 5 actions. The village resilience committees on the other hand presented their plans regarding shocks and stress management and sustainability of the We can do Agenda for their localities. In conclusion, the visitors gathered information on areas of growth and action points.

Scaling up of monuments of commitment. 1,273 fruit trees symbolizing monuments of commitment have been planted in the existing model villages i.e., 140 in Kisoro, 330 in Kanungu & 803 in Rukungiri. Establishing monuments of commitment shows accountability for successes achieved on We Can Do 5. This success is attributed to the support of village resilience committees who supervised MIYCAN and VSLA group members to realize their targets for SWAP, Education, Nutrition (Kitchen gardens), WASH especially the installation of tippy taps, drying racks, and PHH, adoption of improved farming practices including the planting of early maturing varieties of crops by SWAP groups and individuals. Fruits planted include oranges, tree tomato fruit trees, Jack fruits, Avocado, and pawpaws. This has resulted in an increased number of fruit trees grown by households; something that has boosted nutrition and encouraged natural resource management.

Behavioral surveillance tracking. The purpose of this exercise was to track the participation levels 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. 144 households from model and non-model villages partook in this exercise. They were engaged in KIs and 6 FGDs i.e. 2 per district. The findings were gathered and reported to the MEL and SBCC teams.

Scaling up of the reward program. 33 community structures including (VHTs, BSPs, AGYW mentors, and GCs.) have been rewarded in Kigezi region this year for their efforts in promoting we can do 5 among vulnerable households and communities at large. Some of the promoted behaviors include; SWAP for the education of their school-going children and starting up income-generating activities, WASH, kitchen gardens, adopt and ting appropriate nutrition and agronomic practices. Rewards ranged from items such as chicken, basins, plastic jugs, shopping baskets, and food items. The rewards are to motivate the community structures to reinforce desired campaigns/actions.

Workshop with MAADMCCANN in Kisoro district. MAADMCCANN is USAID-ICAN'S partner contracted to advertise the project's activities. Specifically, branding farmer service hubs in the region. 14 participants attended the workshop including members of the Kisoro District Production Department District Commercial Officer, Sub County agriculture, Bugara women representative, BSPs, and model farmers. Discussions were participatory in nature. They hinged on the challenges faced and reported by farmers and their consequent solutions. One of the major challenges reported was an inability to access quality inputs something that greatly affected the quantity and quality of output. In addition, the Agricultural Extension Advisory Services are scarce especially in hard-to-reach areas. This is aggravated by the fact that these services are based in Sub Counties only.

Efforts have been made by ICAN to bridge the above-mentioned gaps by placing a BSP in each village and entrusting him or her with six livelihood groups for proper guidance on how to reap big from their farming activities. A BSP teaches groups how to apply the recommended Agronomic practices and links them to agro-input dealers for quality seeds, and fertilizers. Those who heeded the advice realized increased yields and consequently better income from the sale of their crops. Therefore, in a bid to attain sustainability and address some of the barriers Business service hubs will work as a stepping stone for the BSPs once it adheres.

ICAN Radio programs. 104 magazine talk shows, 5,303 radio spots as we can do 5 and Vox pops-short stories (2,800 contractual and the balance of 2,503 as bonuses), 16 DJ Led discussions on we can do 5 agendas and 60 recorded community dialogues were conducted this year. Important to note is the fact that these activities complemented IPC interventions that aim at creating awareness of we can do 5 actions among members of the community. The goal of these exercises is to reach the masses with key health messages for an improved quality of life. Radio activities promoted campaigns such as breastfeeding 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”**, pre-planning, Back to school and food security, and PHH campaigns. 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 Nutritionist 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.

PHH campaigns focused on encouraging farmers to conduct quality post-harvest handling processes among groups to enhance the quality of crop produce to gain good profits. Furthermore, those at the forefront of this campaign urged them to build good storage facilities or buy pic bags to store their produce to be able to compete with other traders. The back-to-school campaign on the other hand was centered on identifying key issues affecting school attendance and retention. This campaign reached 85 schools in Kigezi region and hosted the DEOs, CDOs, PTA Chairpersons, councilors, Members of SMCs, school head teachers, teachers, members of village resilience and school management committees, religious leaders, and Bataka groups in the model villages. These members highlighted the major causes of low school attendance and retention citing parents', these included the failure of parents to provide school requirements, and a packed lunch among other factors. Some of the show's guest speakers include; Governance Champions, Villages resilience committees, BSPs, VHTs, DEOs, teachers, Headteachers, Agricultural extension officers and ICAN field Officers

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 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 where the foot soldiers/VHTs conducted home visits, one to one discussions on the subject. Mothers and caregivers of children received information on breastfeeding like breast positioning, hygiene. In the end, the campaign reached 352 mothers with breastfeeding messages.

International youth day campaign. The campaign's theme was **“Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages”**. ICAN used adolescent girls, young women, and men to champion this campaign. They thus mobilized fellow youth and community members to participate in ICAN-fronted interventions such as environmental conservation by planting trees and participating in community dialogues 198 (102 females and 96 males) participants participated to enable them to adopt we can do 5 actions. AGYW and youth leaders encouraged peers to form 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 and PDM.

Pre-season planning campaign. Participants in this campaign pointed out the key factors that farmers should consider before planting e.g. seed selection, application of manure (organic and inorganic), weeding in the first month & 3 weeks after planting, at mid-growth, and a few weeks before harvesting, spraying before and after planting. 248 participated in the dialogues, 150 females & 98 males

Food Security and PHH campaigns. In promotion of the above, ICAN community structures together with Sub County agricultural extension workers educated masses on the precautions to be taken before and after the planting season. Communication messages involved promoting post-harvest handling techniques among farmers growing beans, coffee, and Irish potatoes in all the districts of operation. Outcomes of these activities included community groups and resilience committees pledging to adopt PHH techniques like use of PICs bags, planting hunger crops and planting fruit trees.

16 days of GBV Activism. USAID-ICAN joined the rest of the world in the fight against Gender-based violence by organizing a campaign in the districts of Kisoro, Rukungiri and Kanungu. Adolescent girls, young women and MIYCAN group members were at the forefront of this campaign as they engaged in GBV awareness raising programs like community dialogues and radio talk shows. These undertakings hosted guests like Probation and Police officers and CDOs. As a result, 287 adolescent girls, young women, and 295 MIYCAN members developed action plans that included the improving and creating income activities, working with the churches to fight this vice in their communities.

Back to school campaign. The Back-to-school campaign aims at identifying key issues affecting school attendance and retention. It is mostly concerned with increasing enrollment of school-going children, routine attendance and timely reporting of learners. Efforts of the Governance Champions, ICAN field officers and interns resulted into 85 schools being reached with messages promoting this campaign. During the dialogues, some parents reported financial constraints, early child marriages, as some of the reasons for low school attendance. 67 community dialogues were conducted with 1,771 (750 males & 1,021 females) participants across the 3 districts. Notably, the school Head Teachers, community village resilience committees, school management committees, religious leaders and Bataka groups in the model villages were the key participants.

NB: The before and after results data is tracked in MEL system.

Actions agreed upon during the dialogues from all the 6 campaigns

1. Model farmers together with BSPs committed to continue sensitizing farmers about the need to adopt appropriate farming practices e.g. planting in lines/ proper crop spacing 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 mainly cassava, yams and sweet potatoes to mitigate shocks and stresses.
4. MIYCAN group members pledged to strengthen campaigns promoting kitchen gardens and SWAP for IGAs among households.
5. Husbands to accompany their wives during ANC visits and support them deliver from the health facilities. In addition, they agreed to help with domestic chores and caring for the children.
6. Mothers to breastfeed exclusively as taught by their VHTs.
7. Young mothers and girls to save with a purpose through joining saving groups but also have income generating activities to become self-reliant.
8. Planting fast maturing and hunger crops that include yams, cassava and sweet potatoes that withstand shocks and stresses.
9. Councilors, SMCs & village resilience committees to monitor learners' performance and attendance at the beginning and end of the term in schools within their jurisdiction for followed action.
10. School administration and management to create a health-promoting environment for learners to curb the issue of school dropouts. In addition, the school administration pledged to improve student-teacher relationship.
11. CDOs to continue sensitizing parents on the importance of educating their children through community dialogues.
12. Seeking advice from Agricultural extension workers & BSPs on where to access quality seeds.
13. AGYW & Youth to mentor their peers in adopting the ICAN do 5 in their homes and communities. They also promised to encourage them to participate in community meetings.

GENDER, YOUTHS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Training of Mentors on AGYW curriculums. Our master trainers trained 36 AGYW mentors (20 in Kanungu, 16 in Rukungiri) on "your voice, making choices and taking control" of AGYW curriculums cohort 2. This activity focused on equipping mentors with the knowledge to comprehend the content in the guide and acquire facilitation skills to ably build the capacity of adolescent girls and young women in this curriculum

Linking AGYW skills for business opportunities. Caritas Kabale contracted three vocational training institutions namely; Kisoro Vocational institute from Kisoro district, Kihiki vocational training center from Kanungu, and The Purple Ray from Rukungiri to skill the girls in bakery and cookery, hairdressing and saloon, bar soap making in Rukungiri and weaving of craft baskets. As a way forward, the AGYW trainees agreed to start saving groups to accumulate capital and acquire loans but also keep having group meetings to perfect their acquired skills with the support of mentors.

- About 620 AGYW applied for DIT certification through Kihiki Vocational training institute, 48 were certified and the rest were given certificates by the institute.
- Our staff mentors from Rukungiri further linked 85 AGYW from Bwambara and Nyakishenyi Sub County to Transform Abafrica that later skilled them in liquid soap making, craft shopping bags-“ obusero”).
- The partnership with vocational institutions and BSPs in AGYW activity will also link the girls to market opportunities for their products.

Support to AGYW and youth graduates.

- 56 AGYW groups (19 in Kisoro, 32 in Kanungu, and 5 in Rukungiri) with 1073 girls have been profiled and are involved in various enterprises across the districts. For instance, 15 girls in Kihiki started a saloon business as a group where they are able to earn 15,000-20,000 shillings per day and their customers are growing steadily. Most of these AGYW and youths groups were supported to register with local government authorities at the sub-county and district levels. Group registration will help them tap into available government programs such as UWEP, youth livelihood, Emyooga, and the upcoming parish development model.
- Rubimbwa AGYW girls in Kirima won an in-kind grant from ICAN to invest in the making of craft bags. The group is comprised of 19 young girls and women, doing basketry, and is already registered at the district with the BSP already attached taking them through VSLA and strengthening linkages to markets and financial services. The group has also received the in-kind grant items, which include 103 weaving rolls worth 10,675,000= and its capacity is being built in managing their business, the group had exposure visit regarding the craft-making business at Lake Bunyonyi
- In Kisoro district, 30 AGYW have diversified to bar soap making after realizing business opportunities and markets from neighboring Rwanda and DR Congo and the local market created by an increase in prices of soap in the country. This will help to increase their group's saving and household income to meet basic needs like medical care, school fees for their children, and food.

Youth leadership skills curriculum training. 150 youth leaders (30 in Chahi, 30 in Muramba, 30 in Bukimbiri 30 in Kirima, and 30 in Kihiki) that completed the leadership curriculum and are engaged in saving and small income-generating projects such as piggery, jelly making, and petty businesses. These have been attached to BSPs for sessions on VSLAs, non-formal agriculture, nosiness opportunities, family planning and nutrition services, and government wealth creation programs. We plan to scale up the training to 7 more sub-counties targeting 210 youths leaders (90 in Kanungu and 120 in Rukungiri district)

- *For instance, 30 youth specifically in Chahi who graduated are saving to buy livestock (piglets) for each member. So far, 26 out of 30 members have been supported with piglets each bought at 70,000=. The remaining 4 youths will be given in another round of the saving cycle. youth leaders from Kihiki Sub-county-Kanungu district formed groups and ventured into Poultry keeping and piggery after being trained by BSPs on saving with a purpose. The youths ended their saving cycle, now started another cycle, and are looking forwards to investing in other income-generating activities as well as tapping into government programs such as Emyooga and the parish development model.*
- *Also, 8 youth trainees got jobs with Kabiriti Food and Beverages factory in Kihiki and are earning income worth 150,000-200,000= per month. Note that all the youth groups were profiled by field officers and attached to existing BSPs to take them through the VSLA methodology, linkages financial service providers for credit access and awareness, in-kind grants, and output markets for their products.*

AGYW graduation. 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 after they had successfully completed the AGYW curriculum (Finding your voice, making choices, and taking control). 691 AGYW (Busanza=137, Bukimbiri=134, Murora=137, Chahi=142, Muramba= 141) also graduated. Various stakeholders including LC3s, sub-county chiefs, CDOs, and youth councillors 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 leaders' graduation- 150 youth leaders (60 from Kanungu and 90 from Kisoro) and 10 mentors graduated after completing the youth leadership curriculum. The youths and AGYW have taken a step to start saving groups to enable them to accumulate money and expand their businesses. The mentors 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 done. These have been linked to ICAN BSPs and VHTs for trainings on VSLA sessions, nutrition, and family planning and linked to financial institutions.



SUB-PURPOSE I. LIVELIHOODS

Linking BSPs to Business opportunities.

- In Kisoro district, 27 BSPs were linked to Nile Breweries Company where the agronomist trained BSPs on Barley production for beer. This linkage resulted in 3 BSPs being given smartphones to use and track farmers who are engaged in Barley production. The company also gave 60kgs of Barley seeds free to 6 BSPs for planting and promised a ready market with a commission of 500/ per kilo after harvest. More barley seeds were promised to be supplied to interested farmers in the next quarter. The business opportunity meeting broadened the capacities of BSPs in terms of making money and their relevancy in the community as Business service providers.
- 28 BSPs (old and new) were trained in rocket Lorena energy-saving stoves and tarpaulin water harvesting tanks construction in the region. ICAN encourages the artisan BSPs to work with group leaders to mobilize the members to adopt these technologies. The 548 stoves were constructed by artisan BSPs for 20000= per stove and they earned Ugx10, 960, 000= (\$2962.1).
- 45 BSPs were oriented on financial products by Centenary bank in Kanungu district. They agreed to mobilize groups to fulfill requirements such as opening bank accounts and group leadership to be able to access credit from the bank. They are also mobilizing farmers to be reached by centenary bank staff on financial awareness.
- the business opportunity meetings were organized by Bukoola Agrochemical Industries agronomists, Jubail Agrotech and Financial institutions engaged 130 BSPs (74M, 56F) to enhance Agro input linkages. Bukoola further trained them on the safe use of agrochemicals; pest and disease management in crops and this knowledge is being replicated and extended to farmers in their respective groups.

BSPs work with community savings groups. BSPs reached out to 71491 farmers (24316 males, 47175 females) farmers in the region. The focus was on building their capacity through refresher trainings on VSLA best practices (saving with a purpose, developing a constitution, forming a successful VSLA), Agripreneurship, crop agronomy, and linkages to formal Agriculture markets, and formal financial institutions. In the same vein, BSPs were able to track adoptions by farmers on management practices and technology adoptions to improve productivity and farmers that have been linked to financial inclusion.

District	Males	Females	Total
Kanungu	9518	17008	26526
Kisoro	8385	19048	27433
Rukungiri	6413	11119	17532
Total	24316	47175	71491

ICAN groups applying improved organization-level management practices. In FY22, 2284 groups adopted management practices. Out of these, 657 developed and updated their constitutions, 557 registered their groups with local government authorities, 206 groups opened accounts with financial institutions, 133 groups accessed credit, and 1260 attained group records (production and sales). ICAN BSPs continue to support groups by linking them and guiding them through the path to graduation and maturity.

Households adopting various tools & technology that reduce or mitigate shocks for specific local vulnerabilities. 78107 members (22601 males and 47778 females) across the region adopted various tools and technologies that mitigate shocks and specific vulnerabilities across the region. Of these, 25510 project participants (7898 males and 17612 females) adopted improved group agronomic practices, which include right crop spacing and use of quality seeds, weeding, and use of water conservation trenches in their crop gardens. 9040 project participants (3061 males and 5979 females) applied improved animal husbandry practices, 11653 farmers (3693 males and 7960 females) adopted natural resources management practices while 17438 project participants (5441 males and 11997 females) adopted PHH practices. Relatedly, 2179 project participants (854 males and 1325 females) opened individual accounts and 4559 members (1654 males and 2905 females) accessed credit from financial institutions.



Natural resources management activities. 1336 community groups with 11653 members (3693 males, 7960 females) adopted natural resources management practices in Kigezi region, these include the planting of agroforestry trees like calliandra that help in nitrogen fixation in the soil, mulching, excavation of soil and water conservation structures/ trenches to reduce soil and water runoff, bamboo planting and adopted energy-efficient technologies.

- **Artisan BSPs scale up of rocket Lorena stoves.** 548 Rocket Lorena energy stoves were adopted in the region. The stoves were constructed by artisan BSPs for 20000= per stove amounting to Ugx10,960,000=(\$2962.1). The 28 BSP artisans attest to it as a source of their income, which has improved their household well-being at the community level. The community members and beneficiaries also testify to a reduction in the workload among family members especially the women and children while looking for firewood and an increase in the time allocated to other household activities.

- **Artisan BSPs scale up water harvesting tanks.** 90 water-harvesting tanks have been demonstrated and scaled up in 14 sub-counties. Each sub-county is hosting demonstrations where the beneficiary households contributed some materials like sand, labor, and pit excavation while the project contributed some materials like iron sheets, cement, nails, pipe filter, gutters, and artisan trainers. These Tarpaulin water harvesting tanks were constructed at a labor cost of 60,000 to 80,000= depending on the bargaining power which amounts to Ugx7,200,000(\$1945.9). The tanks have reduced water scarcity at the household level, availed water for agricultural productivity and domestic use, and increased the time for household members to do domestic work.



- **Hill and lake management and conservation practices.** Field teams trained farmers on hillslopes (Mpungu, Busanza, Bukimbiri, Nyakishenyi, and Murora, Nyakishenyi) and BSPs to practice proper land use management practices for improved agriculture productivity. The practices included excavating water catchment trenches to control soil runoff, planting of shrubs on hills such as Napia grass, bamboo, agroforestry trees such as Calliandra, and other fodder trees. In Kisoro district, ICAN supported Kisoro Integrated Fisheries and Agriculture Cooperative Society (KIFACOS) to raise Calliandra and sesbania seedlings in a nursery be, and were planted planting on the buffer zones of lakes of Kayumbu and Chahafi

- **Planting of bamboo in Nyakishenyi.** ICAN through a local tree nursery bed operator; Clear and General stores have trained farmers on Mihevu hill on excavating hill conservation structures, 5000 ready-to-plant bamboo seedlings were planted on the eroded hill slopes, 5000 bamboo seedlings are being raised and multiplied in a nursery bed and 300 Hass avocado tree seedlings were planted by the affected community members to generate income and improve nutrition.
- **Agro forestry tree planting.** ICAN staff in Bwabwara Sub County linked 14 households from 6 groups to NFA and the district forestry officer to access agroforestry trees. ICAN beneficiaries planted 850 agroforestry trees. More trees have been promised to the farmers and primary schools for woodlot establishment.

Agricultural linkages and non-agriculture linkages. Collaborated and worked with partner private market actors and BSPs and linked 40572 project participants to formal agricultural markets (crop input markets= 16326 farmers, crop output markets=11616, livestock input market=5823, livestock output markets= 3300, non-agriculture markets=3507). ICAN patterned with private actors(KCDA, Bugara women, MACE, YHU, and Bukoola chemicals industries Ltd) to avail farm inputs for planting, harvesting, post-harvest handling, aggregation, and off-takes 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 to meet farmers's input and output needs. BSPs also continue to support farmers in other value chains like Irish potatoes in Kisoro, and rice and tea in Kanungu, and Rukungiri districts.

Agriculture markets	Groups	Male	Female	Total
Crop input market	1891	5166	11160	16326
Crop Output market	1649	3717	7899	11616
Livestock input market	1191	2165	3658	5823
Livestock Output market	962	1205	2095	3300
Non-Agric. output	148	1036	2471	3507
Total	5841	13289	27283	40572

Non-Agricultural linkages.

USAID ICAN also reached 148 groups composed of 3507 project participants (1036 males and 2471 females) with non-agricultural livelihood opportunities during the FY22 reporting period. A big section of these beneficiaries included adolescent girls and young women who are engaged in crafts, catering services, and saloons. Others are community members who are engaged in income-generating activities such as tailoring and retail trade businesses. 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.

Beneficiaries linked to formal financial markets. ICAN BSP linked groups and individuals to Centenary, and Post bank and were trained on financial literacy and awareness through business opportunity meetings. They were able to open individual accounts with KIDEFISE SACCO, Centenary, and Post banks. In Kigezi region, BSPs, Field officers majorly created greater connections with SACCOs, Centenary, Post bank,s and government wealth creation programs providing financial services to the ready and mature groups. *One group in Katete Sub County with 30 members (28 females, 2 males) was linked to UWEP and acquired credit worth 7,960,000 shillings to invest in Agriculture.*

The ICAN partnership and engagement with financial service providers such as Centenary Bank and SACCOs and government pprogrammeshas increased awareness and knowledge on financial product,s especially on account opening, access to loa,ns and loan repaying modalities to our beneficiaries. From the table, **2,333,665,550(2,218,640,550 accessed by individuals and 115,025,000= accessed community groups across the region)**, this money was invested in income-generating activities to boost their livelihoods.

District	Individual	Group	Total
Kisoro	121,232,000	37,480,000	158,712,000
Kanungu	1,873,714,500	60,845,000	1,934,559,500
Rukungiri	223,694,050	16,700,000	240,394,050
Total	2,218,640,550	115,025,000	2,333,665,550

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 October as the group plans for restocking the pond fully at end of 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 are selling their products at competitive 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-cycle 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 in the group account every week, and the rest of the money supports servicing and paying 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 carp grants. Lake Chahafi and lake Kayumbu management committee 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.

- 34 Grant agreements have already been signed by groups and submitted. Procurement and delivery of in-kind items to the groups are ongoing.

Partnership in coffee work, rice, and Iron Rich beans.

KCDA supports farmers to accessing coffee markets in Kanungu district. For the last one and a half years, USAID ICAN has worked tirelessly to reach more than 6000 coffee farmers in Kanungu with training on improved coffee management to improve production and productivity. Through this effort, over 5800 farmers were able to renovate and rehabilitate their abandoned coffee trees to realize good yields. Building on the above efforts, ICAN has chosen to partner with Kigezi Coffee Development Academy (KCDA) to lead the implementation of a 12 monthly project that aims to reach and support 6000 ICAN Supported Coffee Farmers in Kanungu to graduate into a coffee traceability and certification scheme to benefit from global premium coffee prices. **Activities Implemented with farmers include;**

- Sub County inception meetings were conducted for all the 4 target sub-counties i.e. Kirima, Nyanga, Kihiihi, and Kihanda-
- KCDA identified and established a contextual Internal Management System. All project staff was trained on data collection and entry by the MEL team.
- KCDA managed to collaborate with UCDA and Kanungu District Leadership especially the Office of the District Production Officer. This collaboration has attracted support for coffee farmers with Coffee Fertilizer (**Fat-Plus**) and Fungicides (**Nordox**); 134 farmers in Kihiihi and Kirima sub-benefited from this support
- 3529 coffee farmers have already been profiled by KCDA in the four sub-counties.



Yield Harvest Uganda for IRBs and Rice

- Has originally been promoting iron-rich beans and has 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 Kihiihi 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 Kihiihi 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.

KEGRA supporting Perma gardens for nutrition and income

- 244 Perma gardens set up by KEGRA, BSPs, and VHTs working with farmers to provide learning for the farmers on best practices.
- 20 BSPs identified to keep selling /providing quality and genuine agro-inputs (including post-harvest handling materials) to farmers and communities.
- 55 Local leaders and 49 structure and field staff sensitized on resilient Perma gardens and the importance of Perma gardens for nutrition and income generation

SUB PURPOSE 2. NUTRITION

Family MUAC Training. USAID ICAN conducted a two-day training of 219 VHTs on the Family MUAC concept. 69 VHTs (25males, 44 females) from Kanungu, 65VHTs (12 males and 53 females) from Rukungiri, and 85 VHTs (53 females and 32 males) from Kisoro were trained by health TOTs. VHTs were equipped with skills and knowledge of how to support the mothers screening their children for malnutrition. As an action point from the training, ICAN facilitated VHTs and distributed MUAC tapes, trained mothers on how to use MUAC tapes to take accurate recordings, and continuously support mothers on the Family MUAC concept.

We also received 2,700 MUAC tapes from UNICEF through Kabale Regional Referral hospital as part of ongoing collaborative efforts to enhance and roll out a family-led MUAC approach across the three districts in Kigezi sub-region. These are already helping us in intensifying children's assessment by the mothers and VHTs at the family level.

Support to VHT Associations. ICAN field officers profiled 8 VHT associations across the region (1 in Rukungiri, 2 in Kanungu, and 5 in Kisoro). Most of these associations are engaged in health promotion with the support of district health offices and health development partners. In the next quarter, ICAN plans to explore opportunities to work with the district local governments especially health offices to support the scale-up of VHT association activities in communities. For instance, ICAN field officers have worked with 2 VHT associations (Nyanga and Mpungu VHT associations) to apply for ICAN In-kind grants for the making of reusable Sanitary pads and liquid soap respectively.

Number of MIYCAN mothers reached with nutrition interventions. ICAN facilitated VHTs and trained 23653 members (4292 pregnant, 12256 lactating, and 7105 caregivers/others). VHTs continued to reach out to pregnant, lactating, and caregivers with MIYCAN sessions and trainings on the use of family MUAC, assessment for Malnutrition, WASH, backyard gardening for improved nutrition, nutrition of babies and young children, breastfeeding and HIV, clinical assessment of children using MUAC tapes, family planning, and referrals.

District	Preg	Lac	Others	Total
Kanungu	1399	3882	2538	7819
Kisoro	1909	5289	2150	9348
Rukungiri	984	3085	2417	6486
Total	4292	12256	7105	23653

Number of children reached children with nutrition interventions: 44704 children under 5 years were reached with nutrition interventions. Of these, 18449 children were below the age of 2 years. Our VHTs also screened 23009 children (10940 boys and 12069 girls) for malnutrition. Of these children, 498 children (233 males and 265 females) were found with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) while 90 children (51 males and 39 females) were with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The children who were severely malnourished were referred to the nearest health facilities for medical support. The mothers were also encouraged to feed them on a balanced diet and adhere to better hygiene practices in their homes.

Number of children assessed for Aedema and Vitamin A Supplements. 13072 children (1085 males and 11987 females) were also screened for Aedema. Of these, 347 children (98 males and 249 females) were found with Odema+, 60 children (28 males and 32 females) were found with Aedema++, and 40 children (31 males and 9 females) were found with Odema+++. These were further referred for nutrition care, support, and their mothers and caregivers were encouraged to feed the sick child and ensure proper sanitation. Relatedly, 11506 children (369 males, 7809 females) received Vitamin A supplements.

Mothers reached with messages on family planning and larger family size: 83653 mothers (9348 in Kanungu, 67819 mothers in Kisoro, and 6486 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. We have also embarked on the mobilization of AGYW and men to also receive sessions on Family planning and antenatal care.

Mothers and children 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. 643 mothers were referred for ANC services, 921 mothers were referred for family planning, 168 mothers were referred for malnutrition and other illnesses, and 1633 children were referred for Vitamin A supplements. In addition, the children also received polio immunization, deworming tablets, and growth monitoring during child health days.

VHT refresher training on appropriate WASH Practices. 214 VHTs (50 males, 164 females) were trained in appropriate WASH practices across the region (Kanungu=66, Kisoro=84, Rukungiri=64). The trainings were facilitated by Health Assistants from health center IIIs and equipped VHTs with knowledge and skills on WASH practices, and key nutrition-sensitive interventions in the community. The training content was on the safe disposal of waste materials, safe water handling, transportation and storage, hand-washing practices at critical points, and personal hygiene. VHTs have started reaching out to community group members and mothers on the same.

Promotion of WASH technologies. VHTs continued to work with the LCI chairpersons, Bataka, and group leaders to enhance the WASH best practices in households and communities with a focus on the establishment of tippy taps, having well and standard latrines, drying racks, composite pits, and safe water for domestic use. 13148 households (Q1=1588, Q2=2348, Q3=1591, Q4=7621) were supported by VHTs to establish and improve household were supported to establish WASH facilities in the region as shown in the table below

No. households					Technology promoted
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	

1586	2348	1996	1591	13148	WASH facilities like tippy taps, Drying racks, a composite pit, drink boiled water, clean compounds and other WASH-related facilities, and washable latrine surfaces.
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Promotion of enterprises and practices that enhance minimum acceptable diet and Diversity.

Number of kitchen gardens established. VHTs facilitated 5497 households (1091 in Q1, 1232 in Q2, 1651 in Q3, and 1523 in Q4) to set up and maintain different types of backyard gardens to enhance dietary diversity as follows. Through KEGRA, 244 Perma gardens were established in households. VHTs and farmers were encouraged to always replicate the gardens to increase food security in homes. The MIYCAN groups have started pooling resources together (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. VHTs and farmers were encouraged to always replicate the gardens to increase food security in homes.



Table showing the number of kitchen gardens established and rehabilitated

Total	# of Beneficiaries				Nutrition-sensitive foods under production
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
5497	1091	1232	1651	1523	Sack mounds and kitchen gardens planted with Sukuma wiki, carrots, tomatoes, black nightshade, eggplants, Amaranthus(Dodo), pumpkins, Onions, eggplants, and Nakati

Cooking demonstrations. In Mpungu Sub County in Kanungu district, VHTs and Health Assistant demonstrated to mothers the cooking methods of nutritious porridge (Ekitobero) and food for babies using locally available foods in their homes. The Health Assistant appreciated the work of VHTs and emphasized the promotion of WASH best practices and adherence to immunization schedules for infants. 22 mothers (3 pregnant, 15 lactating, and 4 caregivers) participated.



VHTs monthly review meetings. A total of 71 VHTs (45 females and 26 males) from Kanungu, 85 VHTs (53 females and 32 males) in Kisoro, and 52 VHTs (14 males and 38 Females) from Rukungiri participated in monthly review meetings. VHTs submitted data sets on MIYCAN groups reached for entry into the system by ICAN staff. The VHTs were further guided on the proper use of data collection tools to ensure data quality.

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 Kihhihi 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 immediately in case they notice a community member with cough with blood, vomiting, nose bleeding, eye redness among others are observed.

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 from soil erosion

SUB-PURPOSE 3. GOVERNANCE

Child Rights Club activities. USAID ICAN child rights activities reached out to 4809 pupils (2262 boys and 2547 girls) on the journeys curriculum. ICAN team worked with patrons, and matrons in these schools to resume journeys curriculum on topics like the blindfold walk, finding friends, relationship skiland responsible decision-making, and psychosocial support and counseling. We noted that both matrons and patrons needed refresher training on journeys in the sense that some are new, and others were transferred. ICAN has provided additional CRC registers and tools to capture information as well as curriculum guides on where to train other patrons and patrons. ICAN will also engage with school leaders and teachers in reviews to fill capacity gaps amongst CRC teachers.

From the trainings I obtained from USAID ICAN on psychosocial support, I have applied the same knowledge to the pupils whose behavior had deteriorated due to the Covid lockdown, the pupils are now better and have developed a positive mind and a different outlook on things at school, they are now managed and ready to study, says Sarah Arineitwe, a teacher at Nkunda p/s-Kanungu district

Distributed learning/revision materials to schools in Kanungu District. 1384 books were distributed to 30 primary schools through head teachers and school leaders. The activity was flagged off by the LCV and CAO Kanungu district appreciated USAID ICAN for the support offered to schools and for other developmental activities in the district and warned head teachers to put the books to the right use otherwise they would be traced and brought to order if they sold off those books.



Follow up on number of learning/revision materials to schools and centers. Government-aided schools that were supported with revision books to improve pupils' performance were monitored to assess the educational outcomes. The 480 books that were distributed to 12 learning centers in Rukungiri district have tremendously increased the performance of pupils.

For instance, school leadership of Karyamacumu and Rusheshe primary schools reported that their schools emerged among the best in the whole sub-county in P6 promotional exams. This was attributed to remedial learning during lockdown and revision books given to the school. In Kanungu district, the 5 schools visited, we examined the impact of remedial learning, and we realized the ICAN supported schools emerged the best in the district during district evaluation exams of p6 and the teachers reported the performance because of USAID ICAN Interventions like remedial learning. In total, 1384 pupils are using the books.

Training of 85 school Management committees. ICAN trained 884(321 females, 563 males) SMC members and head teachers from 85 primary schools were trained on their roles and responsibilities, school development and planning, and parent-led feeding (Kanungu=327, Kisoro=335, Rukungiri=222). We worked with school head teachers and district education officers to formalize the appointment of members of school management committees by the district. The participants greatly appreciate USAID ICAN for this training that "" opened their eyes"" and were now ready to work closely with the school stakeholders to improve the performances of their schools through school development planning and resource mobilization. The 3 district education offices commended USAID-ICAN for the great intervention and they worked with ICAN and trained SMCS and PTAs. In Kisoro district, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) visited some training sites like Chahi and Murora where he thanked USAID-ICAN for supporting the Government in various interventions like education, Livelihoods, Governance, and Nutrition. He added that the training of School management committees on their roles and responsibilities will strengthen the collaboration between the school community and the school and he also urged participants to work as a team that is SMCs, PTA, pupils, and the Government that is when academic standards of Schools in Kisoro shall improve. This showed a strong collaboration between USAID-ICAN and the District Officials which also shows sustainability.



CAO addressing SMC members during the training in Murora.

Termly go-back to-school Campaigns. These focused on improving school enrolment and retention of pupils in schools following school reopening after the covid-19 Epidemic. Governance Champions, resilience committees, local leaders, SMCs, PTAs, Bataka groups, AGYW, MIYCAN mothers, and VSLA members in the respective communities facilitated the campaigns. 34430 pupils have been enrolled back to primary school because of the go back to school campaigns.

Kigezi School enrolment for term III 2022			
District	Boys	Girls	Total
Rukungiri	4518	4661	9179
Kisoro	7203	8127	15330
Kanungu	4891	5030	9921
Total	16612	17818	34430

- Actions were (a) A call on school stakeholders, parents, and children to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines for a better school environment, b) Routine collection of data on attendance before and after the campaign, c) Increased counseling efforts towa child mothers to encourage them to go back to school,d) mobilize and encourage parents to participate in planning meetings and PTA meetings, (e) parent led school feeding whereaby parents pack food for pupils and/or contribute funds for school feeding programs, f) Parents of school-age going children be encouraged to engage in income-generating activities and save to educate their children.
- In the three model villages of Kisoro (Rubona, Kabaya & Murehe) village resilience committees agreed to charge a fine of 50,000= to a parent who will not send his/her children to school. This is to be spearheaded by the LCI together with Governance Champion.

PTA and school planning meetings. ICAN field staff in Katete, Kirima, and Mpungu (Buremba p/s, St.Kaggwa, Rubimbwa, and Nyarurambi primary schools) attended the meetings. The meetinwasre also attended by various stakeholders like Parish Chiefs, Councilors, LC3 chairpersons, and 220 Parents (115 males, 105 females) who discussed issues around school dues paying modalities, school feeding, enhancing the performance of pupils, fencing school compound for safety and tree planting. ICAN staff also presented on the progress of the activity citing the need to revamp school activities such as child rights clubs and encouraging parents to keep children in school. In Rukungiri district, 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.

School development planning. 85Primary schools 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. 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. The response activities embedded in response issues include installing lightning arresters, construction of latrines, and fencing school premises.

- Parents to were encouraged support girl pupils with sanitary towels to avoid school dropouts, especially during menstruation periods
- Teachers- Pupils relationship while at school and homemes. This came in because parents talk ill about teachers while at home hence reducing pupils' respect for teachers
- Parents to let their pupils eat/ have lunch at school (1kg of beans agreed upon per pupil)

- Add more fruit trees in the school compound by pupils for more shade but also act as windbreakers.
- Parents to work closely with teachers to track the well-being of their children at school as some pupils leave home for school and do not attend classes.

Community dialogues on emerging issues and joint actions. Our governance champions and local leaders conducted 263 community dialogue meetings (93 in Q1, 30 in Q2, 79 in Q3, 61 in Q4) on emerging issues like school dropout and absenteeism, gender-based violence, and Early marriages. 8051 participants (3631 males and 4420 females) attended these across the region. Governance champions and local leaders with technical support from field officers facilitated the dialogue meetings. The actions were, a) Bataka leaders and chairperson LCs to work with other government authorities and enforce the law against parents who have not taken their children to schools, b) Sensitize community members especially parents to reduce alcohol drinking or stop completely to save more for school fees, c) Women to respect their husbands as heads of the family regardless of their capabilities.

Achievements. The dialogues that were previously done by the sub-county stakeholders have led to joint monitoring of NGO activities which has enabled community members to put in place some of the WASH facilities. 100 beehives for apiary were installed along Queen Elizabeth national park border by Rwerere C Bataka group to protect their crops from being attacked and destroyed by wild animals especially Elephants and other primates.

I want to appreciate USAID ICAN because my school enrolment has increased due to dialogues conducted around the school community and going back-to-school campaigns. The enrolment had always been around 860 in 2019 but when ICAN started campaigns, the enrolment increased and has never been below one thousand pupils, putting in mind that the school is near the park, this is a great achievement for the school, says Medard, the head teacher Kibimbiri Primary school Kihiki Subcounty Kanungu district.

Supporting governments on Parish development model. Through community structures (BSPs, VHTs, Governance champions, and mentors), ICAN participated in the mobilization of beneficiaries to participate in the launch of parish development model across all parishes in Kisoro, Rukungiri and Kanungu districts. This was around the enterprise selection to venture in when the government release the parish model money, the selection of the parish development committee, the formation of enterprise groups. Various key stakeholders like sub-county chiefs and the entire technical sub-county level facilitated these meetings. USAID ICAN field officers used the same platform to create financial awareness with support from the centenary bank-Kanungu branch and messages on “ICAN to do 5”. The team also encouraged beneficiaries to be part of the groups that will benefit from parish development funding, selection of enterprises, and selection of parish development committees and groups based on the selected enterprises. 1621 members (719 males, 902 females) took part in these community engagements in Kanungu district.



Disaster/Sub-county disaster response. ICAN organized meetings with the 3 District disaster management committees to discuss their functionality and progress on the District contingency plan development and approvals. In attendance were 15 stakeholders (3 males, 12 females) in Kanungu, 19 members in Kisoro (7 females and 12 males), and 15 members (4 Females, 11 Males) in Rukungiri district. Stakeholders are the district leadership and technical heads and partners like Red Cross, OPM, and UNHCR.

- DDMCs for Kanungu and Kisoro districts include a) a committee to have regular meetings to review their progress and prepare for shocks, b) to start conducting sensitization meetings and this will be done mostly through radio programs organized by USAID ICAN, c) ICAN to take part in making an assessment report in areas that are hit by disasters and d) Kanungu and Kisoro district contingency plan to be validated and approved by July 2022.
- It was noted that Rukungiri district had only a district disaster profile strategy and agreed to work with ICAN and develop the district disaster plan. Actions included- a) Formed a small group of 5 members

chaired by the planner and included ICAN AND Red cross as development partners in the district, b) ICAN will be part of the committee to draft the district disaster management plan and share with the council for approval, c) during the meeting Red-Cross also pledged its support to the district until the draft and final plan is approved, d) monthly meetings for purposes of speeding up the draft plan to be

- Copies of district contingency plans (Kanungu and Kisoro) were printed out and shared with leadership for onward approval processes. Kanungu DCP has so been approved by the district council, and the one for Kisoro is to be approved at end of this month(October) by the council. We will continue to work with related stakeholders on modalities and mechanisms for supporting all the required approval processes and their implementation.

Progress of commitments made by district and sub-county leadership during induction.

- In Kisoro district, Murora Sub County recognized ICAN for restocking Lake Kayumbu and Lake Chahafi with Mirror cap fingerings and proving bamboo, Calliandra, and sesbania for controlling soil erosion. Also after the training of councilors, they were able to capture different shocks and stresses in their sub-county work plan and budgets in the financial year budget 2022/2023. All LC3 chairpersons of the 5 sub-counties are actively involved in ICAN work like dialogues and radio programs such as radio talk shows on we can do 5.

- In Rukungiri- Bwambara Sub County, the sub-county leadership has already formed the disaster management committee and councilors are now aware of their roles and responsibilities in the council. The sub-county also used the vast knowledge and skills during their induction acquired to lobby for 190 million shillings as revenue sharing from Uganda wildlife authority to support community livelihood projects.

- In Kanungu district, the sub-county leadership reconstituted disaster management committees for Kirima, Kihanda, and Kateete. The council has already approved disaster committees for Katete and Kihanda. The council committee for Kirima will be approved in the next council seating. ICAN teams are in touch with sub-county leadership to schedule dates to have the disaster plans completed. *“The district speaker, Mr. Byaruhanga Frank intimated that the council meetings have never been the same after induction because councilors know what to do and the council business now runs smoothly with output unlike in the past meetings with lots of disharmony and time consuming”*

Supporting youth in leadership opportunities.

150 youth were trained in leadership roles to support their communities. As a result, 32 youths who graduated in the youth leadership curriculum have started saving schemes as they are already attached to a BSP taking them through the VSLA methodology. Some youths are also engaged in leadership positions at village and sub-county level.

Collaboration and networking. Collaboration with district and sub-county local governments. As part of strengthening systems, 112 Local government standard rules of procedure and 243 LG act booklets were distributed to both district and sub-county leaders in Rukungiri district. 75 government standard rules of procedure and LG act booklets LC3 given out to councillors in Kanungu district. The district leadership called upon councillors 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 programing and the impact of ICAN activities, especially on young girls and women.

Engagement with Government Officials in implementation and Planning. USAID ICAN actively engages related key government officials/leaders (CAOs, RDCs, DEOs, DCDOs, DHOs, L.CV 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.

Collaboration Matrix

Name of Partner	Activities
Private partners (Bugara women seed producers, Yield Harvest Uganda, KEGRA).	- Linked farmers to market opportunities and inputs for Iron rich beans, trained BSPs on good agronomic practices for selected value chain and kitchen gardens
District and sub-county local government departments(health, education,	- Strategic direction in implementation and monitoring, project appraisal, group registration, and certification, linking and recommending groups to upcoming government and development partner opportunities. Actively engaged in AGYW, Nutrition and livelihoods, and governance activities.
Financial institutions (SACCOs Centenary bank, Post bank)	- This created financial awareness, financial literacy among groups, provided credit, and other financial products such as individual and groups accounts opening.
Structures (local councils, VHTs, BSPs, mentors, and Governance champions)	- They have continued to identify project beneficiaries, weekly training of beneficiaries, and mobilization of communities for resilience planning, data collection and follow-up of activities.
BDS consultants	- They assisted groups in coming up with business plans for in-kind grant and business ideation.

CHALLENGES FACED

Challenge(s)	Strategies taken to address the challenges
1. Heavy rains which make implementation of field activities hard especially and floods in some communities	Encouraged field teams to put on ridding gears, Helmet and rain clothes while in the field. Communities were also advised to have household resilience plans to respond flood and soil erosion on hill slopes
2. Still facing the challenge of handouts expected by the community and government stakeholders- allowances.	More awareness creation on ICAN facilitative approach is on course by Field Staff to community structures and government stakeholders
3. The War in democratic republic of Congo created threats and fears staff in Kisoro, beneficiaries. Some members were stressed, as they could not concentrate on farm and school activities.	Encouraged our teams to adhere to security guidelines in district.
4. Ongoing industrial action for teachers has affected implementation of school activities especially CRCs journeys curriculum	Continue to advocate for harmonized salary remuneration for teachers
5. Covid-19 new surge at the start of the FY 22 creating fears among the beneficiaries- Leading to low turn-ups during meetings.	We encouraged beneficiaries and staff to observe government guidelines on COVID-19.

6. Turn up for group sittings has reduced because of the monotony of the training sessions.	We Introduced saving scheme and other IGAs to the mothers to attract their participation and attendance. We have encouraged VHTs to use door to door and home visits.
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LESSONS LEARNED

- Having joint monitoring visits with stakeholders is one way of strengthening collaboration with government stakeholders and sustainability of project achievements.
- Business opportunity meetings should be considered greatly as a way of increasing linkages to Agricultural markets and financial services as well as creating business for BSPs to earn commissions.
- MIYCAN groups that have a saving culture tend to have more consistent attendance than this without. We therefore need to gradually encourage integration SWAP and facilitate BSPs to cross work with VHTs to deliver sessions on Agriprenuership and VSLA curriculums.
- Capacity building of staff should be strengthened especially on report writing to ably fast track project outcomes and impact success stories.
- Introduce the component of introducing vocational skilling to all youths and leadership curriculum to support the boys also acquire skills and generate income hence becoming more resilient.
- Building resilience among communities is a gradual process because it involves mind set change and mind set change doesn't happen immediately you give it time for people to realize that something is good when have practiced it f repeatedly and have noticed its beneficial, they really adopt.

OPERATIONS

- Kanungu and Rukungiri hosted the MEL team that conducted DQA for 2 days targeting few of the structures across the five sub counties implementing the ICAN activity. The findings were shared with the field teams to cascade them to the rest of the structures to enable good quality data and successful project implementation.
- Held a project review meeting involving project management team and ICAN field teams. We reviewed quarterly and annual data in the system and monitored model villages in districts. Catch-ups on related activities and indicator that are behind implementation schedule such as district disaster plans and remaining activities were agreed upon.
- Submitted quarterly narrative and financial reports for FY 2022.
- Participated in quarterly review meetings organized by Kampala- project progress, successes and achievements were presented. We also reviewed work plan performance for the 4 quarters.
- Hosted USAID and Abt home office field learning visits. Caritas was privileged to host the Abt home office team to check on ICAN activity interventions and stakeholder engagement. The visits were majorly on progress of the project, collaboration efforts with stakeholders and sustainability analysis and minority groups inclusion in the project. All the visitors appreciated the great impact by ICAN in the community.
- USAID mission visits to ICAN Kigezi region. Caritas Kabale hosted USAID monitoring team in Kigezi region. The visit was about introducing the new team to ICAN intervention areas in the region, impact of resilience activities in communities and collaboration efforts with related district stakeholders in Kisoro, Kanungu and Rukungiri.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

The project's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) thematic area has remained an integral platform for USAID ICAN activity in the FY22, especially through collecting and analyzing data to make informed decisions and planning that has enabled the indicator-target performance shown below.

Indicator	Annual Target	FY2022 Actual	%ge	Variance (Explain the reason for under or over-achievement)
Number of individuals [directly] participating in USG food security programs	147,340	101,867	69	(71,491 Livelihood participants +23,653 MIYCAN participants+4809 CRC pupils + 146 Youth +1049 AGYW +392 BSPs+229 VHTs +56 AGYW & 14 Youth mentors and

				28 GCs have been engaged in food security programs.
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	58,623	95	58,623 households from 2,511 community groups have been supported to increase their economic opportunities.
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	2,511	105	The targeted groups have been reached out to. The extra 5% is from AGYW and Youth groups engaged after their graduation to enhance sustainability and integration.
Number of individuals participating in group-based savings, micro-finance or lending programs with USG assistance	47,700	71,491	150	Increased enrollment and activeness of members at group level on an average of 28 members per group than the anticipated 21 and activating new groups of AGYW and Youth led to a marginal tune of 50% achievement.
# of households adopting various tools & technology that reduce or mitigate shocks for specific local vulnerabilities	36,968	28,361	77	15,393 groups composed of 28,361 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	22,278	97	97% achievement is from 1396 groups composed of 2725 members reached out through BSPs during Business opportunity meeting(s) and collaboration with local private partners.
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (per person/year)	N/A			4549 Individuals from 806 community groups accessed individual credit worth Shs.2,218,640,550 and 133 Community groups have accessed credit worth Shs.115,025,000 from Banks, SACCOs, microfinance institutions, and VSLAs; totaling Shs. 2,333,665,550
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	5,949	11	5,949 Individuals from 1,065 groups have either opened bank accounts or accessed credit. More linkages and business opportunity meetings with financial institutions will be continuing to enhance the adoption
Number of female participants in the nutrition sensitive agriculture activity	29,998	28,812	96	28,812 active community group female members from 1,869 community group members enabled this excellent achievement.
Number of ICAN beneficiary Members linked to [formal] financial markets and have opened accounts.	22,500	2,179	10	2,179 individuals from 556 community groups have opened bank accounts. More financial awareness and literacy are in progress for better performance.
Nutrition and Food Security				
Number of MCGs that are operational	1,560	1,257	81	1,257 groups were reached out by VHTs in this financial year through VHTs.

Number of women reached with nutrition interventions to improve diet diversification, IYCF, WASH, and Child Spacing, through USG-supported programs	92,231	52,067	56	23,255 MIYCAN members and 28,812 Community group members reached out to register 56% performance. More project participants will be reached using the surge approach.
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	16,548	36	16,548 pregnant and lactating mothers have been reached out to through VHTS. The target achievement will be enhanced through intensifying surge activity.
Number of children under 5 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	110,677	44,704	40	more children to be reached out in the next financial year.
Number of children under 2 years of age reached with nutrition interventions (that year-NEW)	65,720	18,449	28	more children to be reached out in the next financial year.
Number of people reached with messages addressing norms and attitudes that lead to larger family size	75,260	23,653	31	More mothers are to be reached out with messages in the next financial year.
Number of children 6-59 months that received nutritional assessment	88,541	23,009	26	Target unrealistic, more children to be reached in the next year.
Governance				
Number of ICAN beneficiaries participating in community and local dialogue/governance forums.	58,300	37,743	65	37,743 beneficiaries from 1,690 community groups were reached out through community dialogues.
Cross-cutting				
Number of people supported by the USG to adapt to the effects of climate change.	30,740	33,514	109	BSPS and private partners have reached out to 236 community groups thus increasing the adoption of NRM, Post-harvest handling, Improved crop agronomy practices, and improved animal husbandry practices.
Number of adolescents participants in non-farm income generation, income diversification, skills training, or agripreneurship programming under ICAN	3,000	1,195	40	1049 AGYW and 146 youth graduated
Number of in-school adolescents reached with ICAN life-skills/Governance/Resilience messages	81,620	4,809	6	4,809 Pupils (2262 boys & 2547 girls) from 124 CRCs were engaged in UKU journeys. Also, 34430 pupils (16,612 boys and 17,817 girls) have enrolled for the third term with the help of dialogues.
Number of parent teacher associations (PTAs) or community governance structures engaged in primary or secondary education supported with USG assistance (ES I-13)	212	85	40	85 SMC/PTA members were oriented on their roles and responsibilities in addition to updating school development plans

Data quality aspects:

Data quality aspects have been keenly observed in the region this 4th year of the activity. This has been evidenced by Data Quality Assessments, data quality awareness to foot soldiers (community structures), updating of registers in the electronic system, capacity building to staff, and regular orientation during monthly reviews. In addition;

- More techniques especially on proper documentation (Counting) have been adopted to improve data quality.
- Payment of structures based on data submitted has not only created transparency, and proper accountability (Value for money) but also acted as a check to boost performance. Subsequently, all structures are more active than before.
- The region has embraced technology to boost its performance. A case in point is the use of Axiom collect as a site-monitoring tool, which is used to capture onsite photographs and coordinates while reporting. This technology helps the management team in monitoring daily staff performance.

- Re-profiling of beneficiaries into the MEL system and assigning individual IDs has been a significant activity in the year ideal for minimizing double counting and easy reporting.
- During the BSPS, and VHTS reviews meetings, the field staff always endeavor to explain the tools used in data reporting and ascertain that the data collected is verified before submission by checking for accuracy, completeness, validity, and consistency, this ensures that it complies with procedures.
- The intern students have continued to support the field teams in data verification, data collection, entry, and field-level activity implementation.

To this end, lessons learned during joint monitoring visits, Qualitative and quantitative data collected during behavioral surveillance study, and annual participant survey has provided a learning platform for the previous, current, and future

Success stories

The photos below are for Katusime Prima during AGYW graduation in Mpungu S/C headquarter



Tunazerwe Sylvia is a young woman from Kyogo village, Mpungu Sub County in Kanungu District. She is a mother to 3 children with the oldest one being 9 years old while the youngest 4 years. She did not complete her Primary education as she dropped out in Primary 4 due to lack of tuition fees. This state subjected her to poor living conditions as she could hardly afford any basics. A turn of events happened when she joined a MIYCAN group and participated in the 3 training camps organized by ICAN. While here, she was taught about the importance of having kitchen gardens (to grow vegetables), benefits of saving with a purpose, record keeping in business among other aspects. With this knowledge, Sylvia began growing vegetables, beans and cassava for sell and home consumption. In addition to this, she used her knowledge on using her voice to convince customers to buy her products. As a result, Sylvia made enough savings from her cassava-selling business and diverted them to tomato and cabbage growing business. Presently, Sylvia sells vegetables and beans every week in Butogota market from which she earns 20,000 to 40,000/= weekly. She used the money from this venture to start-up a grocery shop for beans, cassava and millet flour.

“I mastered the art of record keeping in business despite my low education level. I also save 5000/= per week with our savings groups. With this money, I have managed to buy 5 chicken each costing 7000/=, 2 goats and a plot of land at 550,000/=. Because of these achievements, my husband is happy with me due to the extra help I render to him in terms of finances. My plan is to buy 10 more goats because it is a lucrative business in my community. I thank ICAN for making me an independent woman and my love with my husband has increased”, said Tunazerwe Sylvia

success story 2

How the Youth Leadership Curriculum training shaped a leadership career of 2 youths

Nambajimana Alice is a 30-year-old mother of 2 young children from Gakware village, Sooko parish in Muramba Sub County. Before undertaking the AGYW & youth leadership curriculum, Alice had low self-esteem and was not recognized as a role model in her community. Even in her own home, her husband disrespected her and barely looked at her. However, having completed the AGYW training, she was selected to be a mentor for fellow youth. This gave her the courage to speak before groups of people and address them. This position elevated her status in the community, something that motivated her to contest in the recently concluded national elections. She thus stood for the post of Woman local council chairperson under the National Resistance Movement ticket. Alice looks forward to contesting for a better position at sub-county level (LC5 women representative).

“Being an ICAN mentor has earned me the respect of my peers and my husband. My tenure with ICAN has enabled me to obtain knowledge on SWAP that saw me purchase a pig and 4 chickens to start small businesses in this area. I thus look forward to owning a big poultry farm and piggery project. Thanks to ICAN for opening my eye”, said Nambajimana Alice

The photos below are for Nambajimana Alice during Youth leadership graduation ceremony



“I cannot believe that I can stand before a crowd and address it. Previously, this was a nightmare for me. However, ever since I undertook the Youth leadership curriculum, my public speaking skills have improved greatly. As a result, I joined local politics and contested for the NRM women LCI a leadership role in my community and attained it. With the knowledge I obtained about SWAP, I ventured into tomato growing from which I harvest tomatoes worth 10,000/= per week. I attribute all this success to ICAN”, said Nyirabwiringiro Allene of Muhiga village-Chahafi town council –North ward-Murora S/C-Kisoro district.

The photo below is for Nyirabwiringiro Allen during youth leadership graduation



Success story 3

ICAN dialogues of trench excavation in banana plantation and teachings on good agronomic practices have elevated Mrs Rosert Masiko socio-economic status in Buhunga sub-county, Rukungiri district.

Mrs Rosert Masiko is a 44-year-old resident of Kakamba model village found in Rukungiri district. She is a member of a MIYCAN group and a resilience committee member that oversees we can do 5 actions in her village. Mrs Rosette, picked up a lot of interest in NRM and proper agronomic practices that ICAN advocates for because of the poor harvests she has been getting from her banana plantation and yet it is the only source of income that she has. However, she one day attended a dialogue conducted by ICAN on **ask your service provider for instant reply** that was on NRM and good agronomic practices where her story changed for the better. During this event, she learnt about the importance of digging trenches in that they help in maintaining water in the soils and also hold the soils together and prevent nutrient loss.

Rosette narrated her story of how she learnt to mulch, the required spacing for her bananas, things he didn't think were important previously. After the lessons, she went back home and gave them a try under the supervision of a resilience committee together with ICAN community structures monthly. To her surprise, the current seasons have yielded a lot of bananas of which she sells some and consumes the rest. This is an experience she had not lived for the 6 years that she begun growing **matooke**. Currently, she harvests 2 bunches of Matooke weekly and sales them to a hotel owner in a nearby trading center. She collects a minnum of 15000/= per week amounting to 60000 per month. Because of these prevailing

conditions, she and her husband are living in harmony and no longer fight because there is some money in the house. She attributes all this transformation to ICAN.



photo showing Rosette Matsiko in her banana plantation.

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