

UPSIDE

Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative 2019 – 2022

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022 AND FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Abb.	Full Text
BOQ	Bill of Quantities
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CAR	Community Access Road
CF	Coordination Function
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
Danida	Danish International Development Assistance
DEC	District Executive Committee
DFA	District Farmers Association
DHO	District Health Officer
DKK	Danish Kroner
DLG	District Local Government
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
DTPC	District Technical Planning Committee
FPO	Focal Point Officer
GoU	Government of Uganda
IMC	Implementation Monitoring Committee
IP	Implementing Partner
KM	Kilometer
LC I, II, III, V	Local Council Chairpersons, Village, Parish, Sub-county, District respectively
LLG	Lower Local Government
MOH	Ministry of Health
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PDC	Parish Development Committee
PDP	Parish Development Plan
PICOT	Partnership in Community Transformation
PMC	Project Management Committee
RAU	Resilience Agricultural Unit
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RDE	Royal Danish Embassy
RI	Rural infrastructure
RWC	Refugee Welfare Council

Abb.	Full Text
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
Ugx/Ushs	Uganda Shillings
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WRM	Water Resource Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NURI project has improved access to farms, social services and markets in the targeted districts through construction of community access roads in both the host community and refugee settlements. The project also improved access to clean and safe water through construction of protected springs. Additionally, the project improved livelihoods at household level through income earned by cash for work participants.

Uganda was hit by Covid 19 in early 2020 and the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2021. In June 2021, the President announced new measures of lockdown for 42 days to combat the spread of the disease including, ban on inter-district movements, movement of private and public vehicles, public gatherings or functions of more than 20 persons, recommended reduction in physical presence of employees in offices to 10%. The above measures which were put in place negatively affected implementation of NURI project activities for instance revalidation of parish development plans in some districts was halted and delayed construction of infrastructure projects using community groups.

The 2021 elections ushered in new local leaders in most districts. To ensure newly elected leaders had full knowledge of the NURI programme, DRC along with Resilience Agricultural Units (RAU) and the NURI Coordination Function mobilized and held joint district and sub-county sensitization meetings with the stakeholders in Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Arua, Terego, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Nebbi and Pakwach districts. A total of 8,334 participants (4,978 male and 3,356 female) attended the meetings.

A total of 1,133 Site dialogue meetings were conducted during the reporting period across 13 districts and 5 refugee settlements, including Koboko, Zombo, Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Terego, Arua, Nebbi, Madi-Okollo, Pakwach and Palabek, Rhino camp, Palorinya, Imvepi and selected Adjumani settlements. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure that community members were fully aware of project activities and address any land conflicts.

Out of 1,504 projects approved in the investment plans since the commencement of the NURI programme, 1,486 (99%) have been fully completed by DRC, while 18 (1%) are ongoing projects.

760 out of 778 community access roads were completed, 12 grade C markets out of 12 were completed, 516 food forests were completed out of 516, 159 protected springs out of 159 were completed, 39 water ponds out of 39 were completed.

During the reporting period, 1,504 groups were formed in the 13 programme's districts. A total of 42,924 group members were identified, comprising of 22,632 (53%) male and 20,292(47%) female. Of the group members, 24,686 (58%) were youth.

Across the 13 districts, a total of 6,016 (3,003 Female and 3,013 Male) Project Management Committee (PMCs) members were formed and trained. The PMCs were elected and trained to

oversee group activities, including management of the group register, tools of work and preparation of detailed workplans for their projects.

In total, 864 Project User Committees (PUCs) were formed and trained. These comprised of 7,883 PUC members (4,528 M and 3,355 F). Each PUC committee of 9 members mainly; chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and five other members. During the formation, key local leaders (LC I & LCII members) were present.

Commissioning of completed projects was carried out in 13 districts and five refugee settlements. In total, 1,302 (86%) projects out of 1504 total projects were commissioned in collaboration with district local authorities, RDC and LCV Chairpersons.

In this reporting period, 99 Radio talk shows were conducted, with a wide range of topics discussed, including updates on the progress of projects, current activities, planned activities, community involvement, challenges encountered during implementation, land donation for projects, group dynamics, technical specifications, community conflict management, maintenance processes and handover processes for completed structures.

Stakeholder coordination meetings were conducted in Lamwo, Kitgum, Agago, Adjumani, Obongi, Moyo, Arua, Koboko, Terego, Madi-Okollo, Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo and the refugee settlements, Imvepi, Rhinocamp, Palorinya and Adjumani where the NURI projects are being implemented. The participation in these meetings enhanced effective collaboration with other stakeholders.

The Royal Danish Embassy and NURI-CF officials visited the districts and had interaction with the district leadership and technical teams. Field visits were conducted in various sites to understand how implementation is being accomplished by the implementing partners.

The NURI project was successful because of collaboration with the local governments and partners through supervision and monitoring of projects including providing technical expertise in checking and approving designs for structures was commendable. Relentless engagement with the district technical staff and leadership brought in the much needed commitment from the local government much as they had tight work schedules. Conducting meetings to discuss work progress, challenges and agreeing on way forward together was an excellent working method in order to achieve the results stated in this report.

Some of the notable challenges that affected project implementation included; DRC experienced challenges especially in the procurement of service providers for local materials, resistance from landlords to allow culvert outlets to discharge storm water towards their farms. Delayed access of district equipment- affected timely scarification and compaction of the CARs.

DRC addressed the challenges of getting vendors by putting in place Framework Agreements for all the required materials and equipment. The land challenges were handled through continuous sensitisation of communities to provide land for projects during site dialogue meetings. DRC and CF continuously engaged districts on their roles in the project implementation.

Furthermore; the best practice and lessons learnt in the implementation, was promoting good cooperation with the districts. The districts continued to lend DRC heavy earth moving equipment for the construction of rural infrastructure projects. This has enabled the NURI project to save funds on the hiring of equipment.

The total expenditure for NURI, RI from 2019 to December 2022 was 49,030,641,054.68 out of UGX 49,576,749,626 budget thus representing burn rate of 98.90%.

1. BACKGROUND

The Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) is one of the eight development engagements under the Denmark-Uganda Country Programme 2018 – 2022. The Country Programme contributes to poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promoting democracy, good governance and human rights, and support to Uganda’s stabilizing role in the region.

The NURI program is divided into two thematic objectives: UPSIDE (Uganda Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Development of the Economy) and UPGRADE (Uganda Program for Governance, Rights, Accountability and Democracy).

NURI is one of three development engagements under UPSIDE and contributes to the objective of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This objective is being achieved through three strategic interventions: Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Infrastructure (RI) and Water Resources Management (WRM). The program is being implemented in 13 districts in the West-Nile and Acholi sub regions: Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego, Koboko, Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach, Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi, Lamwo, Kitgum and Agago. Additionally, the project is benefiting both refugees and host communities in five refugee settlements: Rhino Camp, Imvepi and Palorinya settlements, as well as selected settlements in Adjumani and Palabek.

The implementation of the NURI Rural Infrastructure (RI) component of the programme commenced in May 2019 in Arua, Nebbi, Kitgum, Adjumani, Lamwo and Rhinocamp and Palabek refugee settlements and in 2020, implementation of the RI component was expanded to cover all 13 districts and three refugee settlements. This report covers RI activities, while a separate report is prepared for the integrated WRM component.

2. IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT

Refugee Arrivals – While 2022 has been characterized by a steady flow of new arrivals from both the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to Northern Uganda, this population has had minimal impact on the implementation of NURI projects to date. The continuous flow of new arrival across Northern Uganda is attributed to ongoing conflict and food insecurity in South Sudan as well as ongoing conflict and violence in Northern Kivu and Ituri provinces in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Access to Land – DRC continued to ensure landowners affected by the projects endorse and sign voluntary land donation forms acknowledging their acceptance of the project to be implemented on their land. This continued to reduce the number of complaints by landowners. Land donation for project implementation continued as per the standard process however, issues of contestation have continued to arise. One specific project was impacted by land conflict in Arua. The food forest project at Arivu church of Uganda was claimed by some community members. They mentioned that the land belongs to them and proceeded to destroy some of the planted seedlings. Upto date this project has not been commissioned.

Weather Conditions –

The weather forecasts relayed by the Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) had anticipated Northern Uganda to receive enhanced rainfall in 2022. The month of July was mostly dry and sunny with isolated rainfall. However, the dry spell experienced in the month of July delayed gap filling of seedlings. In Lamwo, the dry spell also destroyed most seedlings transplanted in Palabek Gem, Agoro, Madi Opei, Paloga & Padibe West. In Agago little rainfall was experienced in the month of July. This affected the process of gap filling in 24 food forests in all the sub counties. In Kitgum, the month of July to the middle of August was characterized with dry condition with isolated showers observed in the district. This impacted on the gap filling of earlier planted food forests and new establishment of 5 food forests in 3 sub counties: food forests at Lajok Ogaya primary school in Omiya Anyima, Alel primary school in Lagoro and Bola primary school in Namokora. It also delayed the planned maintenance activities of food forests such as weeding and soil conservation structures, led to additional death of more seedlings in established food forests. However, all the three districts in Acholi sub region received reliable rainfall in the months of August and September 2022. This enabled the maintenance aspects of food forests such as weeding, gap filling, and excavation of bio-swales. In Lamwo, most cash for work (CFW) participants abandoned public works activities as soon as they received stable rainfall in August for their farms. This had some negative impact on CAR activities. Across the West Nile sub regions, it was rainy in the months of July until September, the precipitation received was adequate for gap filling of food forests. The rains on the other hand delayed the light grading of the CARs because it is difficult for graders to work in wet conditions. In Nebbi; the heavy rains impacted negatively on the installation of Armco culverts. Floods caused destruction of culvert

points on two-road links of Alego to Angal and Payani market to Payera in Nyaravur and Erussi sub counties respectively. Marram supplied on culvert points was also washed away and this rendered the road links unusable by motorists hence need for additional materials to be supplied to rectify the damage. In Obongi, the rains negatively affected progress of ongoing CAR activities such as culvert installation, drift construction and cash for work activities.

Trade and Other Economic Activities – During the period under review the prices of merchandise and fuel remained high, and hence affecting procurement of vendors for implementation of project activities, however the price of cement slightly reduced in quarter three of 2022. The fuel prices ranged from 6,000 – 7000 UGX per litre. The high fuel prices affected budgets in all the districts.

COVID-19 Pandemic – DRC has continued to safely maintain operations without any disruptions while engaging community groups to participate in cash for work activities. No known cases of COVID-19 were reported within DRC's NURI staff or key stakeholders.

Security Situation – The general security situation across the 13 districts of NURI implementation as well as surrounding districts remained stable, with only a few isolated incidents of burglary and theft cases reported. Such cases were mostly reported in urban periphery areas, likely due to the economic hardships attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Kitgum, there were security concerns across the sub-counties of Orom East, Orom, Namokora and Kiteny bordering the greater Karamoja region. The insecurity is attributed to Karamojong cattle rustlers from the neighboring districts of Kotido, Kaabong and Karenga as well as wrong elements from South Sudan who cross to Uganda. However, the insecurity in the above mentioned sub counties did not affect program implementation. This has been attributed to more deployment of security personnel which was done to key entry points where these cattle raiders have been using.

In Agago; five sub counties of Agago; Omiya Pacwa, Paimol, Lapono and Adilang bordering the districts of Karamoja region have registered threats in loss of lives and properties caused by Karamojong Cattle Rustlers. The situation has become increasingly severe, affected communities are protesting governments lack of response and meetings between the central government and the district local leadership have been convened to chart way forward to resolving the conflict. The insecurity in the area affected gap filling of food forests in the affected sub counties bordering Karamoja.

Coordination with Stakeholders – DRC maintained close working relations with the key stakeholders and their offices at the district level, namely the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Local Council V (LCV Chairman), District Planner, NURI Focal Point Officer [FPO] and District Engineer, as well as sub-county authorities. These stakeholders continued to cooperate with DRC during the planning and implementation of activities ranging from

trainings, to joint monitoring and conflict management, to commissioning of projects.

Political situation: in 2022 no major political activities took place as elections were held in 2021 and the elected leaders were being engaged in following up of projects being implemented.

Rural Infrastructure Activities Carried out in 2019 - 2022

- Conducted district inception and sensitization meetings
- Conducted sub county sensitization meetings
- Formed Parish Development Committees
- Revalidated Parish development plans
- Screened and costed projects
- Presentation and approval of investment plans by the DTPC
- Site dialogue meetings and signing of voluntary land donation forms
- Formation of Community groups
- Selection and training of Project Management Committees (PMCs)
- Procurement and distribution of tools.
- Inter-agency coordination meetings with stakeholders
- The DEC/LLG and DTPC monitoring and supervision
- Rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure projects: community access roads (CARs), food forests, springs, water ponds and market improvements
- Donor missions and midterm review by the RDE
- Selection and training of Project User Committees (PUCs)
- Radio talk shows on NURI Programme
- Commissioning of completed project

3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

(a) IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

During 2022, the following key achievements were registered in the programme:

Project screening activities took place in the following 4 districts, Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo and Zombo. In total 128 projects were screened for implementation in 2022. These included 40 CAR, one Market, 59 food forests, 25 springs and 3 water ponds.

A total of 596 projects were completed in 2022. The breakdown was as follows, 296 community access roads, 5 grade C markets, 224 food forests, 66 protected springs and 5 water ponds.

During the reporting period, 193 community groups were formed within 6 districts and two refugee settlements. Kitgum, Koboko, Lamwo, Zombo, Obongi, Adjumani, Imvepi and Rhino camp refugee settlements. A total of 5,108 group members were identified, comprised of 2,904 (56.85%) male and 2,204 (43.15%) female. The youth were 2,953 (1,664 F and 1,289 M) representing 57.8% of the total participants.

A total of 820 (409 F and 411 M) Project Management Committees (PMCs) were formed and trained across the 6 districts of Kitgum, Koboko, Lamwo, Zombo, Obongi, Adjumani and two refugee settlements Imvepi and Rhino camp. The PMCs were elected and trained to oversee group activities, including management of the group register, tools of work, preparation of detailed workplans for their projects.

A total of 3,121 PUCs (1,752 M and 1,369 F) which consists of 9 members mainly; chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and five other members were formed and trained. During the formation, key local leaders (LC I & LCII members) were present.

In this reporting period, 117 Radio talk shows were conducted, with a wide range of topics discussed, including updates on the progress of projects, current activities, planned activities, community involvement, challenges encountered during implementation, land donation for projects, group dynamics, technical specifications, community conflict management, maintenance processes and handover processes for completed structures.

A total of 179 Site dialogue meetings were conducted during the reporting period across 7 districts: Adjumani, Agago, Kitgum, Lamwo, Zombo, Obongi and Koboko and two refugee settlements Imvepi and and Rhinocamp. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure that community members were fully aware of project activities.

A total of 1,005 projects, community access roads, water ponds, springs, food forests and markets were commissioned in 2022 across all the 13 districts and five refugee settlements implementing NURI project. The district staff, sub county, DRC, CF and communities actively participated in the commissioning of created assets.

DRC participated in the CF++ meeting that took place in Nebbi District and Kampala, also participated in hosting the DRC Demark Executive Committee members and the DRC Secretary General during their visit to Uganda in September 2022. The delegation visited the districts of Koboko, Terego, Imvepi and Rhino Camp refugee settlement.

The former RDE Ambassador in Uganda, visited projects in Arua and Kitgum for his farewell tour. In Arua he visited Imvepi point J Market and one protected spring in Odupi. In Kitgum he visited 1 CAR and water pond projects. He held meetings with DLGs of Arua and Kitgum. He was impressed with the quality of the projects implemented by DRC.

The Programme management Advisor of NURI CF conducted a number of monitoring field visits to DRC projects in the 13 project districts. She interacted with the community members, DLGs and DRC staff on project

In 2022, DRC Adjumani received and hosted the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Minister for Nordic Cooperation on 21/06/2022 where he met with the Adjumani district local government officials and visited community access road (Amelo – Fuda).

DRC participated in IMC meetings in both Kitgum and Arua. DRC presented achievements under RI in the power point presentations in both locations. Additionally, the IMC participants visited the projects implemented by DRC in Acholi sub region and the West Nile. A number observations and recommendations were made during the IMC meetings.

ICS carried out the technical audit for RI projects being implemented by DRC in six districts: Zombo, Madi-Okollo, Koboko, Adjumani, Obongi and Lamwo and three refugee settlements: Adjumani, Palorinya and Palabek. In total 43 projects were assessed by ICS technical team. Some of the findings were delayed commissioning of completed projects and some projects were found to be behind schedule in regard to implementation.

Financial data 2022

The total expenditure for NURI, RI in 2022 was 10,520,922,887 out of UGX 9,824,178,041 budget thus representing burn rate of 107%.

Challenges

- **Delayed submission of supervision and Inspection reports** by districts: The district Engineering and works departments of most districts delayed submitting inspection reports that in turn delayed payment for masons, vendors and commissioning of completed projects.

- **High fluctuating prices of most commodities and equipments in the country.** e.g., equipments, fuel, cement prices rose so high. The price for fuel was budgeted at 4,000 UGX however in 2022 the price increased between 7,000 and 8,000 per litre. Cement was being procured at 40,000 and yet it was budgeted at 33,000 UGX per bag. The drastic increase in prices negatively affected project implementation as items were bought above the budgeted rates.

Recommendations

- **District delay to submit inspection reports and inspection of completed projects-** There is need to continuously engage the district technical staff on timely submission of reports.
- **Price fluctuations** could be mitigated by increasing the contingency budget. The rate of 5% contingency is inadequate

Best Practices and Lessons Learnt

- Good cooperation and coordination with district authorities enabled DRC to access district equipment like wheel loaders, sit on Rollers, dumpers and graders, and this arrangement helped in that the cost of construction of RI projects reduced drastically compared to when equipment are hired.
- Information so far gathered indicates that the villages traversed by the rehabilitated roads are sending more surplus to market, and that farmers are earning higher incomes.

(b) END OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS 2019 TO 2022.

3.1 PREPARATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLANS FOR APPROVAL

District Inception Meetings

The district inception meetings were held in 13 districts implementing NURI project in 2019 and 2020. The total number of participants who attended the meetings is shown in the below table.

TABLE 1. Number of participants who attended District Inception Meetings.

S/No	District	Male	Female	Total
1	Kitgum	162	92	254
2	Lamwo	71	31	102
3	Agago	80	22	102
4	Arua	95	35	130
5	Adjumani	30	15	45
6	Nebbi	40	18	58
7	Zombo	52	13	65
8	Pakwach	27	12	39
9	Obongi	43	10	53
10	Madi Okollo	68	34	102
11	Moyo	48	20	68
12	Koboko	47	9	56
13	Terego	15	6	21
	Total	778	317	1,095

In total, 1,095 (778 male and 317 female) participants attended district inception meetings in the 13 districts: Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Arua, Adjumani, Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach, Obongi, Moyo, Koboko, Madi-Okollo and Terego. The participants included representatives from district technical teams and politicians, LCV Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), NURI Focal engineers, District Production Officers, District Forestry Officers and Environment Officers, District Water Officers, district planners, district engineering team, OPM staff, Councilors, Sub county staff i.e. , LC III Chairpersons, Sub county Chiefs and Community Development Officers from all the sub counties in the districts, WFP, UNHCR, PICOT, DRC staff, CARE, AFARD, ARUDIFA, NURI-CF staff, RAU staff and media houses. The main objective of this activity was to familiarize the key stakeholders at the district level with the program, create synergies and collaboration with organizations implementing similar projects.

3.1.1 Sub county and Settlement Sensitization Meetings

Over the course of the programme, District, Sub county and Settlement sensitization meetings were conducted. In total 8,334 (M= 4,978, F=3,356) participants attended the meetings. Participants in the sub-county-level meetings comprised of Sub-County Chiefs, Community Development Officers, Agricultural Officers, Parish Chiefs, District Councillors, LC II and Sub-County Councilors. To ensure

representation of age, gender and diversity, DRC promoted participation of elders, youths, women and persons with disabilities.

The sensitization was aimed at informing the districts and Lower Local Government (LLG) technocrats and politicians on what NURI program is all about and also enable key sub county stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in implementation of NURI program.

TABLE 2: Total Participants for District and Sub-County Sensitisation Meetings

District / Settlement	Sub-County	Male	Female	Total
Adjumani	9	334	128	462
Agago	13	587	279	866
Arua	14	369	363	732
Kitgum	9	539	438	977
Koboko	6	211	60	271
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	9	601	227	828
Madi-Okollo	6	195	106	301
Moyo	5	847	772	1619
Nebbi	N/A	11	3	14
Obongi	4	241	65	306
Pakwach	5	74	37	111
Rhino Camp Settlement	N/A	157	94	251
Terego	6	58	36	94
Zombo	11	754	748	1502
Total	97	4,978	3,356	8,334

3.1.2 Formation of Parish Development Committees (PDCs) and Revalidation of Parish Development Plans (PDPs)

To ensure effectiveness and consistency in the planning process, DRC established and/or reconstituted Parish Development Committees (PDCs) in NURI targeted districts using bottom up approach. In 2019 and 2020, PDCs were formed in 10 districts: Arua, Kitgum, Nebbi, Agago, Lamwo,

Koboko, Pakwach, Adjumani, Moyo and Obongi. However, Zombo district did not form PDCs because of COVID-19 lockdown and insecurity that the district experienced in mid-February 2020 hence disrupting planned activities.

The formed or reconstituted PDCs consist of **20 to 25** members, with nine executives as follows; Local Council (LCII) as the chairperson and the Parish chief as the secretary. It also has representatives from the following categories: Elders, Youths both male/female, veterans, retired civil servants, women representatives, persons with disability, councilors and Local Council (LC I) Chairpersons. This activity was conducted in coordination with the District Planning units. The PDCs were responsible for revalidation of the Parish development plans. They also participated in prioritization and selection of projects at sub county level.

After reconstitution of PDCs by DRC, the PDCs were inducted on local government planning process, selection, and prioritization of projects in line with NURI as regards Rural Infrastructure (RI) intervention, which focused on labour-based approaches. The District Planners conducted the induction of PDCs.

TABLE 3: Number of Parishes with formed or reconstituted PDCs

S/No	District	No of Parishes	PDC Members registered		Total
			Male	Female	
1	Adjumani	48	270	230	500
2	Arua	88	1100	1,100	2,200
3	Lamwo	30	354	123	477
4	Kitgum	45	563	562	1,125
5	Agago	78	1,155	219	1,374
6	Moyo	23	401	147	548
7	Pakwach	25	373	252	625
8	Koboko	41	721	304	1,025
9	Obongi	15	213	53	266
10	Nebbi	44	924	176	1,100
Total		437	6,074	3,166	9,240

Revalidation of Parish Development Plans

Revalidation of Parish Development Plans was carried out in 11 districts: Arua, Kitgum, Nebbi, Adjumani, Obongi, Moyo, Koboko, Pakwach, Zombo, Lamwo and Agago in 2019 and 2020. In some districts revalidation of PDPs happened during the time of partial lock down in 2020 and SOPs had to be observed. The ideal practice is for all the **25** members of the PDC to carry out revalidation of the

PDPs however due to COVID-19 pandemic the SOPs allowed gatherings of only 5 to 10 people. On that note, PDP revalidation was carried out with few members of the Parish Development Committees. Only 5 to 9 members of the PDCs were allowed to attend PDP revalidation meetings at the parishes. The Parish Chiefs, CDOs and DRC staff facilitated the process. The purpose of revalidating the PDPs was for inclusion of NURI scope of works activities in the plans.

During the period under review, 559 Parish development plans were revalidated in 104 Sub counties. This was a bottom-up planning process, where projects or needs were generated from village priorities. It is a planning process that Government has put in place through the National Planning Authority (NPA) with focus on community engagement and accountability. DRC provided support to review, update or develop the parish development plans. DRC supported with the provision of in-kind support in form of stationary, printing village proposal sheets for the Sub county Community Development Officers and Parish Chiefs to come up with Parish Development Plans for each Parish.

TABLE 4: Number of Parish Development Plans(PDPs) revalidated

SN	District	Number of subcounties	Number of parishes	Number PDPs revalidated
1	Adjumani	9	48	48
2	Agago	13	62	62
3	Arua	26	161	161
4	Kitgum	9	45	45
5	Koboko	6	41	41
6	Lamwo	9	39	39
7	Moyo	5	23	23
8	Nebbi	8	44	44
9	Obongi	3	15	15
10	Pakwach	5	25	25
11	Zombo	11	56	56
	Total	104	559	559

3.1.3. Selection and prioritization of projects at the sub-county level

DRC facilitated project prioritization process in 104 Sub counties in the programme supported districts. The Sub county Technical Planning Committees prioritized projects from the various Parish priorities using pairwise scoring sheets. The focus was agricultural related infrastructure projects, which can be done by labour-based approach, and these included community access roads (CARs), functional markets (Grade C), water ponds, spring protections and establishment of food forests in

institutions. The prioritization and selection of projects was done at Sub county Level. The Parish Chiefs and the Sub county Community Development Officers guided the selection and prioritization of projects within NURI scope of works.

3.1.4. Technical Screening of Projects

The prioritized projects for implementation were identified in line with the scope of the NURI programme and were subsequently screened for their technical viability. Screening and costing of prioritized projects was done with support from the District and sub county technical staff. The staff from the districts included, District engineers, Production officers, Forestry officers, Water Officers, Environment Officers and Commercial Officers. The screening of identified projects, was to ascertain technical viability of prioritised projects. DRC facilitated the Government officials with safari day allowances (SDA) and fuel. The projects were costed and BoQs prepared and investment plans presented for approval by the DTPCs and DEC members.

It should also be noted that the technical staff from the DLGs were dissatisfied with the 20,000 UGX SDA and to some extent discouraged their full time participation during screening of projects.

3.1.5 Preparation and approval of Investment Plans by the DTPC and blessing by the DEC

The project funds for implementation of activities were allocated to the districts according to the population and land size. After technical screening of projects and preparation of the BoQs, Investment plans capturing all prioritised and costed projects per sub county were presented to the DTPCs for review and approval. Each district was informed of their budget allocation during presentation of the Investment Plans. An investment plan is implemented in two seasons as follows. Season A projects are implemented from January to June and season B from July to December. All the 13 NURI districts prepared and approved Investment plans.

In NURI project, 1 Km of a community access road is considered as a project. While 2 acres of food forest is a project, a water pond and a market are considered as projects.

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

3.2.1 Community Site Dialogue Meetings and Signing of Project Implementation Agreements

Previously site dialogue meetings were conducted after formation of community groups and PMC selection and training. We realized that this approach was not working well and was causing financial losses on the project because of abandoned projects due to land conflicts. On that note, it was agreed that site dialogue meetings should be carried out for all projects as soon as the Investment Plans are approved by the DTPCs.

DRC and local authorities carried out community site dialogue meetings in the rural infrastructure projects, where the communities were proactively engaged in conflict mitigation on issues related to land access for project sites. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure that all stakeholders have full information about the details of the infrastructure works and that safe access to the project site was agreed upon. This process increased awareness on the project in the local communities and enabled them to participate in implementing the projects

DRC involved the local leaders for instance Parish chiefs, Local Council I, II and III chairpersons, opinion leaders & refugee welfare councils (RWCs) and the settlement commandants during site dialogue meetings. The meetings were conducted to address issues such as land disputes, demarcation of boundaries for project land, seek community approval of the projects and any other bottlenecks in the area before actual works could start. Other topics discussed include cash payment rate, workdays, type and nature of the public works and cash payment modalities. The site dialogue meeting minutes were prepared and signed by the local authorities and shared with stakeholders. For all the projects, voluntary land donation agreements were signed between the property owners and the sub county authorities.

A total of 1,133 Site dialogue meetings were conducted during the reporting period across all districts. Meeting minutes have been documented and signed by local authorities.

TABLE 5: Site Dialogue Meetings Conducted Per District

District / Settlement	Site Dialogue Meetings Conducted
Adjumani	87
Agago	51
Arua	103
Imvepi Settlement	21
Kitgum	87
Koboko	67
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	130
Madi-Okollo	23
Moyo	52
Nebbi	20
Obongi	40
Pakwach	21
Rhino Camp Settlement	278
Terego	14
Zombo	139
Total	1,133

3.2.2 Community Groups Formation

Across the 13 districts, DRC worked with local authorities to identify participants and form local community groups that were willing and able to participate in the construction of NURI projects. The process of selection of group members continued to be headed by Parish Chiefs and the LC I of the respective areas, and supported by DRC field staff. Local leaders played a key role in verifying members' residence status within the respective communities. During group selection, DRC continued to ensure that all group members were within walking distance to the project site, that at least 50% were female and that at least 60% were youth between the ages of 18 to 28. Over the course of NURI project implementation, a total of 1,504 groups comprised of 42,924 members, across all 13 districts and five refugee settlements, were formed as indicated in the table below. Members included 22,632 (53%) men, 20,292 (47%) women and 24,686 (58%) youth.

TABLE 6: Community Groups Formed

District / Settlement	Groups	Total Participants				Youth				Adults			
		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male	
		National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee	National	Refugee
Adjumani	143	2184	213	1768	20	1017	10	1099	5	1052	198	788	16
		Total: 2397		Total: 1788		Total: 1027		Total: 1104		Total: 1250		Total: 804	
		Sub Total: 4185				Sub Total: 2131				Sub Total: 2054			
Agago	123	1726	0	1739	0	1037	0	1035	0	689	0	704	0
		Total: 1,726		Total: 1,739		Total: 1037		Total: 1035		Total: 689		Total: 704	
		Sub Total: 3465				Sub Total: 2072				Sub Total: 1393			
Arua	151	2003	0	1972	0	1202	0	1182	0	801	0	790	0
		Total: 2003		Total: 1972		Total: 1202		Total: 1182		Total: 801		Total: 790	
		Sub Total: 3975				Sub Total: 2384				Sub Total: 1591			
Imvepi Settlement	81	982	219	944	210	529	118	519	116	453	101	425	94
		Total: 1201		Total: 1154		Total: 647		Total: 635		Total: 554		Total: 519	
		Sub Total: 2355				Sub Total: 1282				Sub Total: 1073			
Kitgum	82	1306	0	1139	0	747	0	730	0	559	0	409	0
		Total: 1306		Total: 1139		Total: 747		Total: 730		Total: 559		Total: 409	
		Sub Total: 2445				Sub Total: 1477				Sub Total: 968			
Koboko	93	1218	38	1171	35	623	25	611	27	595	13	560	8
		Total: 1256		Total: 1206		Total: 648		Total: 638		Total: 608		Total: 568	
		Sub Total: 2462				Sub Total: 1286				Sub Total: 1176			
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	129	1843	214	1633	165	931	96	998	84	912	118	635	81
		Total: 2057		Total: 1798		Total: 1027		Total: 1082		Total: 1030		Total: 716	
		Sub Total: 3855				Sub Total: 2109				Sub Total: 1746			
Madi-Okollo	86	1403	0	1102	0	766	0	602	0	637	0	500	0
		Total: 1403		Total: 1102		Total: 766		Total: 602		Total: 637		Total: 500	
		Sub Total: 2505				Sub Total: 1368				Sub Total: 1137			
Moyo	59	848	0	770	0	496	0	399	0	352	0	371	0
		Total: 848		Total: 770		Total: 496		Total: 399		Total: 352		Total: 371	
		Sub Total: 1618				Sub Total: 895				Sub Total: 723			
Nebbi	84	1244	0	1096	0	771	0	675	0	473	0	421	0
		Total: 1244		Total: 1096		Total: 771		Total: 675		Total: 473		Total: 421	
		Sub Total: 2340				Sub Total: 1446				Sub Total: 894			
Obongi	166	2009	907	1563	756	1220	652	934	536	789	255	629	220
		Total: 2916		Total: 2319		Total: 1872		Total: 1470		Total: 1044		Total: 849	
		Sub Total: 5235				Sub Total: 3342				Sub Total: 1893			
		740	0	709	0	438	0	431	0	302	0	278	0

Pakwach	48	Total: 740		Total: 709		Total: 438		Total: 431		Total: 302		Total: 278	
		Sub Total: 1449				Sub Total: 869				Sub Total: 580			
Rhino Camp Settlement	134	1618	440	1620	402	897	246	900	226	721	194	720	176
		Total:2058		Total: 2022		Total: 1143		Total: 1126		Total: 915		Total: 896	
		Sub Total: 4080				Sub Total: 2269				Sub Total: 1811			
Terego	33	424	0	476	0	255	0	286	0	169	0	190	0
		Total:424		Total: 476		Total: 255		Total:286		Total:169		Total:190	
		Sub Total: 900				Sub Total: 541				Sub Total: 359			
Zombo	92	1053	0	1002	0	632	0	583	0	421	0	419	0
		Total: 1053		Total: 1002		Total: 632		Total: 583		Total: 421		Total: 419	
		Sub Total: 2055				Sub Total: 1215				Sub Total: 840			
Grand Total	1504	2060	203	1870	158	1156	114	1098	994	892	879	783	595
		1	1	4	8	1	7	4		5		9	
		Grand Total: 42,924				Grand Total: 24,686				Grand Total: 18,238			

3.2.3 The Project Management Committees (PMCs) Members Formed and Trained

Over the course of the NURI Programme, DRC continued to support the formation of PMCs comprised of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and one committee member, for every community group formed. The PMCs were elected and trained to oversee group activities, including management of the group register, management of tools, preparation of detailed workplans for their projects, organization and supervision of work, maintenance of attendance registers, support in issuing payments to members, and handing over tools to PUCs. Across the 13 districts, a total of 6,016 (3,005 women and 3,011 men) PMCs were formed and trained during the reporting period.

TABLE 7: Project Management Committees Formed and Trained

District	Number of Groups	Male	Female	Total
Adjumani	143	293	279	572
Agago	124	248	248	496
Arua	151	310	294	604
Imvepi Settlement	81	162	162	324
Kitgum	82	164	164	328
Koboko	93	186	186	372
Lamwo /	129	258	258	516
Madi-Okollo	86	166	178	344
Moyo	59	114	122	236
Nebbi	84	168	168	336
Obongi	164	328	328	656
Pakwach	48	96	96	192
Rhino Camp Settlement	134	268	268	536
Terego	33	66	66	132
Zombo	93	186	186	372
Total	1504	3013	3003	6016

3.2.4 Procurement and Distribution of Tools / seedlings

Tools and materials were procured and distributed to 1,504 community groups for implementation of infrastructure projects. The tools were distributed after successful completion of site dialogue meetings and PMC trainings. The tools comprised of hoes, spades, wheel barrows, bonding rods, measuring tapes, strings, buckets, crow bars, hammers, first aid kits etc. The seedlings for food forests included different varieties of seedlings for instance: Teak, Afzelia, Mvule, and Neem (canopy), Tamarind, Tangerine, Pawpaw, Bananas, and Guava (Fruit seedlings) and Sesbania, sesban, Aloe vera, Hibiscus, and Ginger (Shrubs).

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS

Out of **1,504** projects approved in the investment plans since the commencement of the NURI programme, 1,486 (**99%**) have been fully completed by DRC, while 18 (**1%**) are ongoing. The table below provides a comprehensive overview of project status:

TABLE 8: Status of Approved Projects

District	CAR		Market		Food Forest		Springs		Water Ponds		Total		
	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Planned	Completed	Total Planned	Total Completed	
Adjumani	86	77	0	0	50	50	4	4	3	3	143	134	94%
Agago	82	82	1	1	24	24	8	8	7	7	122	122	100%
Arua	65	65	4	4	45	45	37	37	0	0	151	151	100%
Imvepi	46	46	1	1	29	29	2	2	3	3	81	81	100%
Kitgum	47	38	1	1	31	31	0	0	3	3	82	73	89%
Koboko	43	43	2	2	26	26	15	15	7	7	93	93	100%
Lamwo	56	56	2	2	25	25	1	1	4	4	88	88	100%
Madi Okollo	35	35	0	0	46	46	5	5	0	0	86	86	100%
Moyo	37	37	0	0	13	13	6	6	3	3	59	59	100%
Nebbi	31	31	1	1	37	37	12	12	3	3	84	84	100%
Obongi	102	102	0	0	60	60	1	1	1	1	164	164	100%
Pakwach	30	30	0	0	14	14	0	0	4	4	48	48	100%
Palabek	18	18	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	41	41	100%
Rhino Camp	61	61	0	0	64	64	10	10	1	1	136	136	100%
Terego	15	15	0	0	12	12	6	6	0	0	33	33	100%
Zombo	24	24	0	0	17	17	52	52	0	0	93	93	100%
Total	778	760	12	12	516	516	159	159	39	39	1504	1486	99%

3.3.1 Justification for Project Completion Rates Below 100% and Deviations from Original Implementation Plans

TABLE 9: Percentage Completion Rates of Projects as of December 2022

Project Type	Percentage of Completed Planned Projects	Completion Rate Details
Community Access Roads	97.7%	Of the 18 CAR projects which are ongoing, the overall completion rate is estimated at 85%. The most common reasons for delay in Adjumani was the breakdown of the district wheel loader which needs replacement of two tyres. In Kitgum the vendor had financial challenges and therefore halted works for about one month. However, DRC accepted to pay the vendor some money to enable him proceed with the works.
Market	100%	All construction completed. The markets which were under defects liability period are being inspected by the district technical team for payment of retentions and commissioning.
Food Forests	100%	All the target food forests during the period were established, maintenance and gap filling completed. The district forest officers are carrying final inspection for commissioning.
Springs	100%	All springs have been completed. A majority have been commissioned with a few being inspected by the district officials for final commissioning.
Dams	100%	All activities completed

3.4 DISTRICT/SETTLEMENT-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

3.4.1 ADJUMANI – ADJUMANI DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	143	
Projects Completed:	134	94%
Projects Ongoing:	9	6%
Projects Delayed:	9	6%

Adjumani District planned to implement a total of 143 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 134 (94%) projects have been fully completed. Of these projects, 111 projects (78%) have been fully handed over to district or sub-country authorities.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Community Access Roads	9	9	0	0%
Food Forests	9	0	9	100%
Protected Springs	2	0	2	100%

Overall, 9 (6%) ongoing projects were unable to be completed as planned during the reporting period. The below table provides a summary of the key reasons for these delays as well as the corrective actions which have been put in place to mitigate against further delays:

Project Type	Primary Reason for Delays	Corrective Actions
Community Access Roads	The backfilling of culverts using district equipment was halted because the wheel loader tyre burst and needed to be replaced.	DRC has launched the procurement for two tyres for the district wheel loader. The works will resume in February 2023.

3.4.2 AGAGO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	122	
Projects Completed:	122	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Agago District planned to implement a total of 122 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 122 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 119 (97.5%) projects have been fully handed over to Agago district and sub country authorities through commissioning ceremonies.

3.4.3 ARUA DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	151	
Projects Completed:	151	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Arua District planned to implement a total of 151 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2019, 100% (151) projects have been completed by DRC in Arua. Of these projects, 149 (98.6%) have been fully handed over to the Arua district or sub-country authorities. 1 community access road project was completed but not commissioned because the murrum was washed away by flood waters. 1 Food forest established was destroyed over land conflict between the community and the church.

3.4.4 IMVEPI SETTLEMENT – TEREGO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	81	
Projects Completed:	81	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:		

Imvepi Settlement - Terego District planned to implement a total of 81 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 81 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 55 (68%) have been fully handed over to Terego district or sub-county authorities.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Community Access Roads	7	0	7	100%
Food Forests	14	0	14	100%

3.4.5 KITGUM DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	82	
Projects Completed:	73	89%
Projects Ongoing:	9	11%
Projects Delayed:	0	

Kitgum District planned to implement a total of 82 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 73 projects have been completed by DRC in Kitgum. Of these projects, 73 (89%) have been fully handed over to the Kitgum districts or sub-county authorities. Of the total projects planned, 9 CAR projects were not completed and rolled over to 2023.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Community Access Roads	9		0	0%
Food Forests	3	0	3	100%

Overall, 09 (11%) ongoing projects were unable to be completed as planned during the reporting period. The below table provides a summary of the key reasons for these delays as well as the corrective actions which have been put in place to mitigate against further delays:

Project Type	Primary Reason for Delays	Corrective Actions
Community Access Roads	In Kitgum the vendor had financial challenges and therefore halted works for about one month.	However, DRC accepted to pay the vendor some money to enable him proceed with the works.

3.4.6 KOBOKO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	93	
Projects Completed:	93	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Koboko District planned to implement a total of 93 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 93 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 93 (100%) have been fully handed over to the districts or sub-country authorities.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Protected Springs	5	0	5	100%

All projects have been completed and commissioned as of September 2022.

3.4.7 LAMWO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	88	
Projects Completed:	88	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Lamwo District planned to implement a total of 88 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 88 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 66 (75%) have been fully handed over to the respective Lamwo district and sub-country authorities.

3.4.8 MADI OKOLLO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	86	
Projects Completed:	86	100%

Madi Okollo District planned to implement a total of 86 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2019, 100% (86) projects have been completed by DRC in Madi Okollo. Of these projects, 86 (100%) have been fully handed over to the Madi Okollo district or sub-country authorities.

Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

3.4.9 MOYO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	59	
Projects Completed:	59	100%
Projects Ongoing:		
Projects Delayed:		

Moyo District planned to implement a total of 59 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 59 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 59 projects (100%) have been fully handed over to district or sub-country authorities.

3.4.10 NEBBI DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	84	
Projects Completed:	84	100%
Projects Ongoing:		
Projects Delayed:		

Nebbi District planned to implement a total of 84 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 84 projects have been completed by DRC in Nebbi. Of these projects, 84 (100%) have been fully handed over to the Nebbi district or sub-county authorities.

3.4.11 PALORINYA SETTLEMENT – OBONGI DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	164	
Projects Completed:	164	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Palorinya Settlement - Obongi District planned to implement a total of 164 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 164 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 109 (66%) have been fully handed over to the district or sub-country authorities. Of the total projects planned, 46 were scheduled for implementation in 2022.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans					
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed		Comments
Food Forests	38	0	38	100%	Commissioning was done in October 2022
Community Access Roads	8	8	8	100%	Completed in December 2022

3.4.12 PAKWACH DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	48	
Projects Completed:	48	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	0
Projects Delayed:	0	

Pakwach District planned to implement a total of 48 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 48 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 48 (100%) projects have been fully handed over to the Pakwach districts or sub-county authorities.

3.4.13 PALABEK SETTLEMENT – LAMWO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	41	
Projects Completed:	41	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Palabek Settlement - Lamwo District planned to implement a total of 41 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 41 projects have been completed by DRC in Palabek Settlement - Lamwo District. Of these projects, 41 (100%) have been fully handed over to the Lamwo districts or sub-country authorities. Of the total projects planned, 9 are scheduled for implementation in 2022.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Food Forests	9	0	09	100%

3.4.14 RHINO CAMP SETTLEMENT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	136	
Projects Completed:	136	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	0%
Projects Delayed:	0	0%

Rhino Camp Settlement - Terego District planned to implement a total of 136 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 136 projects have been completed. Of these projects, 104 (78%) have been fully handed over to the Terego districts or sub-country authorities.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans				
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed	
Community Access Roads	3	0	3	100%
Food Forests	26	0	26	100%

3.4.15 ZOMBO DISTRICT

CUMULATIVE SUMMARY		
Projects Planned:	93	
Projects Completed:	93	100%
Projects Ongoing:	0	
Projects Delayed:	0	

Zombo District planned to implement a total of 93 projects as part of the NURI program. From the commencement of implementation in 2020, 93 projects have been completed, out of these projects, 93 (100%) have been fully handed over to the districts or sub-county authorities. 38 projects were planned for implementation in 2022.

Projects Under 2022 Implementation Plans			
Project Type	Target	Ongoing	Completed

Community Access Roads	4	0	4	100%
Food Forests	3	0	3	100%
Protected Springs	32	6	32	100%

3.5 DLG/LLG Monitoring and Supervision by DTPC, DEC, LLGs, OPM/RWCs

Monitoring and supervisory visits by DTPC, DEC, LLGs, OPM and RWCs were conducted with technical supervision on a monthly basis, while monitoring by DEC was undertaken on a quarterly basis. The technical supervisory visits were conducted for the purpose of inspection and technical backstopping, and were led by the district Engineering Department for Roads and Water Infrastructure. The objective was mainly to supervise construction, the establishment of structures and installation of culverts along community access roads. The monitoring and supervising teams ensured that all technical designs were followed in accordance with the agreed standards. A total of 3,037, supervision visits were conducted across all 13.

TABLE 10: Monitoring and Supervision Visits Conducted Per District

Districts	Type of Projects Visited	Number of Visits
Adjumani	CARs, Food Forests and Ponds	128
Agago	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	229
Arua	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	267
Imvepi Settlement	CARs and Food Forests	80
Kitgum	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	164
Koboko	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	372
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	171
Madi-Okollo	CARs	310
Moyo	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	64
Nebbi	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	355
Obongi	CARs and Food Forests	254
Pakwach	All Rural Infrastructure Project Types	152
Rhino Camp Settlement	CARs, Food Forests and Springs	178
Terego	CARs and Springs	132
Zombo	CARs, Food Forests and Springs	181
Total		3,037

3.6 Formation of Project User Committees(PUCs)

As part of NURI sustainability plan, PUCs continued to be formed for each completed project . The PUC members were all comprised of nominated members of the user's groups and assumed responsibility for:

- Leading the process of formulating and submitting by-laws for approval by local councils.
- Preparing maintenance work plans
- Mobilising resources for the maintenance of created assets.
- Mobilising community members to carry out periodic maintenance.
- Reporting any problems in regard to infrastructure delivered through NURI to the local authorities.

During the reporting period, a total of 7,883 individuals (4,528 men and 3,355 women) formed 864 PUCs. Each PUC averaged 9 members, including a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer and five other members, all of whom were provided with training by DRC and District Technical staff on their roles and were supported to develop maintenance plans and by-laws. LC I and LC II members continued to be encouraged to join formation processes. DRC ensured that PUCs are followed up and supported for 6 months after the commissioning of projects.

It should be noted that PUCs were not formed for food forest or market projects as these types of projects are fully handed over respectively to institutions and sub-counties for ongoing management and maintenance. In the case of markets, sub-counties subsequently outsource management and maintenance to individuals or firms.

TABLE 11: Project User Committee Members Trained Per District

District	PUCs formed	Male	Female	Total
Adjumani	85	442	325	767
Agago	59	298	233	531
Arua	69	425	457	882
Imvepi Settlement	43	235	152	387
Kitgum	64	315	262	577
Koboko	65	291	294	585
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	81	473	257	730
Madi-Okollo	41	246	123	369
Moyo	29	149	110	259
Nebbi	28	134	109	243
Obongi	98	419	272	691
Pakwach	34	182	124	306
Rhino Camp Settlement	72	322	326	648
Terego	21	115	74	189
Zombo	75	482	237	719
Total	864	4528	3,355	7,883

3.7 Field Coordination Meetings

Over the course of Programme implementation a total of 173 field coordination meetings were conducted across all districts. These meetings enhanced effective collaboration with other stakeholders. DRC also participated in monthly coordination meetings organized by the DTPC. Other coordination meetings, included the monthly coordination meeting organized and chaired by the Regional Coordinator for the NURI Coordination Function, RAU partner and the NURI Focal Point Officer. The meetings were conducted to share issues of coordination and harmonization of activities, to build synergies between DRC and RAU, and share lessons and challenges.

TABLE 12: Field Coordination Meetings Conducted Per District

District / Settlement	Coordination Meetings Conducted
Adjumani	14
Agago	14
Arua	23
Imvepi Settlement	8
Kitgum	22
Koboko	25
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	5
Madi-Okollo	6
Moyo	8
Nebbi	5
Obongi	8
Pakwach	3
Rhino Camp Settlement	7
Terego	6
Zombo	19
Total	173

3.8 Donor Field Monitoring Visits

Over the course of the programme, 87 donor visits were carried out across the 13 districts. The donor visits included both RDE and NURI Coordinator Function representatives.

At the beginning of the project in 2019, Royal Danish Embassy (RDE) monitoring team was hosted in Arua and Kitgum offices for a debrief on NURI progress. The RDE team expressed concern over delay by DRC in submitting work plans, budgets and procurement plans. They also noted that future monitoring visits and audits will place emphasis on partner procurement processes and that procurement for equipment were already under way, and procurements may take up to six months.

The Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC) meetings were carried out in Arua and Kitgum districts. The meetings were attended by the Royal Danish Embassy (RDE) officials, NURI-CF, Line Ministry Officials, LC V Chairpersons, CAOs, FPOs, District Engineers and Production Officers from NURI implementing districts. Field visits were carried out by IMC participants on rural infrastructure projects. A number observations and recommendations were made during the IMC meetings.

The Ambassador, Deputy Ambassador of Denmark and NURI Coordination Function (CF) Program Management Advisor and their team conducted monitoring visits to various districts implementing NURI rural infrastructure activities. They had meetings with the District Local

Government including the LC V Chairperson, RDC, CAO and Departmental Heads. The Deputy Ambassador engaged with the stakeholders to understand how DANIDA support has contributed towards economic and sustainable development of the districts.

In 2022, DRC Adjumani received and hosted the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Minister for Nordic Cooperation on 21/06/2022 where he met with the Adjumani district local government officials and visited community access road (Amelo – Fuda).

TABLE 13: Donor Field Monitoring Visits Conducted Per District

District / Settlement	Donor Field Monitoring Visits Conducted
Adjumani	4
Agago	3
Arua	11
Imvepi Settlement	7
Kitgum	6
Koboko	10
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	3
Madi-Okollo	9
Moyo	3
Nebbi	4
Obongi	3
Pakwach	2
Rhino Camp Settlement	3
Terego	11
Zombo	8
Total	87

3.9 Radio Talk Shows on NURI Project

Over the course of the programme, 298 radio talk shows were aired as a means to create awareness about NURI and the programmes' associated projects. Talk show content included a wide range of topics including updates on the progress of projects, planned activities, community involvement, land donation processes, conflict management, challenges encountered during implementation, maintenance and handover processes for completed structures. When possible, district leadership joined DRC staff on air.

TABLE 14: Radio Talk Shows Aired Per District

District / Settlement	Number of Radio Talk Shows Aired
Adjumani	27
Agago	11
Arua	42
Imvepi Settlement	7
Kitgum	18
Koboko	20
Lamwo / Palabek Settlement	14
Madi-Okollo	23
Moyo	40
Nebbi and Pakwach	33
Obongi	17
Terego	23
Zombo	23
Total	298

3.10 Community Sensitization Meetings

Community sensitisation meetings were conducted on project activities in the districts of Kitgum, Adjumani, Nebbi, Koboko, Lamwo, Pakwach, Madi-Okollo, Arua, Terego, Moyo, Obongi, Agago and Zombo. The purpose of the meetings was to create awareness on safety of the water ponds, the importance of resilience design structures constructed along the newly opened and rehabilitated CARs, food forest projects. Besides, issues of maintenance of established structures or projects were also discussed. Attendances included community members, district focal person, CDO, SAS and local council (I, II and III). The sensitization was conducted in such a way that beneficiary communities were mobilized in one central point.

3.11 Commissioning of Completed Projects

Over the course of the programme, commissioning of completed projects was carried out in 13 districts and five refugee settlements. In total, 1,302 (87%) projects were commissioned in collaboration with district and sub county local authorities, RDC and LCV Chairpersons. However, 18 CAR projects have not been commissioned because the works are still ongoing. These projects will be completed, inspected and commissioned in quarter one of 2023.

3.12. Financial overview

The total expenditure for NURI, RI from 2019 to December 2022 was 49,030,641,054.68 out of UGX 49,576,749,626 budget thus representing burn rate of 98.90%.

TABLE 15: Total number of projects commissioned.

District	CAR		Market		Food Forest		Springs		Water Ponds		Total		
	Target	Commissioned	Target	Commissioned	Target	Commissioned	Target	Commissioned	Target	Commissioned	Total Target	Total Commissioned	
Adjumani	86	56	0	0	50	50	4	2	3	3	143	111	78%
Agago	82	82	1	1	24	24	8	5	7	7	122	119	98%
Arua	65	64	4	4	45	44	37	37	0	0	151	149	99%
Imvepi	46	18	1	1	29	29	2	2	3	3	81	53	65%
Kitgum	47	38	1	1	31	31	0	0	3	3	82	73	89%
Koboko	43	43	2	2	26	26	15	15	7	7	93	93	100%
Lamwo	56	34	2	2	25	25	1	1	4	4	88	66	75%
Madi Okollo	35	35	0	0	46	46	5	5	0	0	86	86	100%
Moyo	37	37	0	0	13	13	6	6	3	3	59	59	100%
Nebbi	31	31	1	1	37	37	12	12	3	3	84	84	100%
Obongi	102	50	0	0	60	57	1	1	1	1	164	109	66%
Pakwach	30	30	0	0	14	14	0	0	4	4	48	48	100%
Palabek	18	18	0	0	23	23	0	0	0	0	41	41	100%
Rhino Camp	61	36	0	0	64	64	10	5	1	1	136	106	78%
Terego	15	0	0	0	12	12	6	0	0	0	33	12	36%
Zombo	24	24	0	0	17	17	52	52	0	0	93	93	100%
Total	778	596	12	12	516	512	159	143	39	39	1504	1302	87%

4. SUCCESS FACTORS

- **Capacity Building Activities ;** DRC country office and Regional office organized training on Resilience design for Rural Infrastructure and Water Resource Management in Nebbi district in February, November and December 2020. The training was aimed at building the capacity of DRC- NURI project staff and the district local governments implementing NURI project. The training on Rural Infrastructure was attended by 50 participants and WRM training in November and December was attended by **40** participants. The training was carried out by Warren Brush an international consultant on Resilience design approach and DRC Regional staff, Natalie Topa the Resilience and Livelihoods Coordinator based in Nairobi DRC office. The training covered; theoretical knowledge on resilience design, application of the concept to rural infrastructure projects and Water Resource Management, to protect the roads and develop roadside agroecosystems utilizing the surface water and nutrient resources flowing to and from the roads.
- DRC and district engineers trained the local masons on technical aspects of culvert installation. The training was organized and undertaken by DRC and facilitated by the district engineers. This was aimed at preparing DRC staff and the masons to do quality work, improve their knowledge and skills.
- Collaboration with the local government and partners through supervision and monitoring of projects including providing technical expertise in checking and approving designs for structures was commendable. Relentless engagement with the district technical staff and leadership brought in the much needed commitment from the local government much as they had tight work schedules. Conducting meetings to discuss work progress, challenges and agreeing on way forward together was an excellent working method in order to achieve the results stated in this report.
- Site dialogue meetings have lead to a high success rate of project implementation. It is ideal to engage communities right from the start whereby they are sensitized on the project requirements, their roles and responsibilities as community stakeholders. Signing voluntary land agreement forms by land donors during site dialogue meetings has been very instrumental in reducing land related conflicts during project implementation.
- Labour based approach on installation of structures has been the most suitable low cost approach. Implementation costs have been significantly reduced especially on structures installations through the labour based approach compared to issuing contracts to vendors. DRC trained masons and hired their labour for installation of structures.
- The practice of combining manual labour and machines to implement water ponds, dams projects has proved to be more efficient in cost and time saving. Bigger water ponds were constructed by this method at shorter time and cheaper costs. DRC was able to construct

mega structures at lower cost than commonly experienced with Government and other implementing partners in the region/country; these implementing partners usually hire established construction firms to do these kind of jobs. This was confirmed by New plan during their audit visit to West Nile and Acholi in February 2021

- Knowledge of resilience design involving planting of overgrown tree seedlings as opposed to the theory that younger tree seedlings establish faster than the overgrown has proved to be of more success in Food forest projects. It has improved on the survival rates of trees and reduced gap filling costs.
- Cash for work increased temporary employment among the youth and women hence increase in incomes and social support. This improves self-esteem and self-actualization and harmony at household level and reduced incidences of gender based violence.
- Continuous engagement with local government and partners at project design and throughout the project implementation was very crucial. It is at this time that the different stakeholders are able to identify and commit themselves on their roles. It has also reduced on duplication of activities and projects in the areas of implementation.
- Testing of construction materials as a means of assuring quality has greatly reduced on losses resulting from premature failure of structures in previous instances. This has improved on the image of NURI Program as well as working relationship between DRC and the local governments.
- The bottom top NURI Implementation approach applied by the program as a whole fits very well with community development modalities used in local government system.
- One best practice notable in this reporting period is the inclusion of social safe guards in the process of screening a project for implementation and how it enables communities to feel ownership of the project. DRC continuously held community meetings to create awareness on safety issues on risky projects like water ponds and also, fencing of water ponds with barbed wires andh Kei apples and installing warning signs in local languages.
- Creation of water resilient facilities for livestock consumption and production during the dry season proved very beneficial in addressing challenges of water stressed communities. The 4,000 cubic meter water pond in Opoki in Nebbi constructed during the resilience design training in 2020, did not dry out and keeps recharging the nearby borehole.
- With good cooperation, districts have been lending heavy earth moving equipments to DRC for the construction of rural infrastructure projects in all the districts of operation, this has enabled the project to save funds on hiring of heavy earth moving equipment from vendors.
- Stakeholder Involvement both at the district and lower local government structures during selection,site dialogue meetings,approval processes, quarterly Subcounty and District

Executive Committee monitorings enhances ownership and sustainability of created assets.

- Technical Support from the district technical staff like District Engineer, District Water Officer, District Natural Resource Officer, District Forest Officer, DTPC and the Planning Unit enhances ownership, sustainability and harmonisation of sector norms during project implementation.
- Involvement of communities and stakeholders in needs identification, appraisal, approval, implementation and monitoring and supervision made the project gain acceptance among the stakeholders. Continuous collaboration and use of local government structures created a very strong bonding between the community and implementers.
- The NURI program under RI focuses on the selection of projects from the Parish Development Plans (PDPs). This has been one of the best success factors, because the projects selected reflect the needs of the communities. The community needs are consolidated into Parish development plans and Sub County development plans.
- Involvement of Sub- County officials during group formation and also in planning process was of great influence, it made mobilisation of the community so laid-back. People turned up in big numbers.

5. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were a number of factors that negatively impacted the implementation of projects namely:

- Delayed procurements due to understaffing in supply chain departments of the organisation as a result of staff turn over. This delayed provision of works, goods and services for timely project implementation.
- Changes in design of structures being recommended by the district technical staff leading to higher costs of structures. The changes in design came along with delays in approval of the designs. The delays led to delayed completion of projects coupled with higher costs of implementation requiring additional funds that were not budgeted for.
- Delayed supervision by district technical staff due to under staffing coupled with absence from duty due to academic program engagements have also led to delays in supervision consequently delaying certification of works and payment of vendors in some districts.
- Delays by contractors in meeting activity timelines thus delays in supply of materials including provision of equipment for works.
- Community groups complaining about the CFW rate of UGX 6,000 being a low rate compared to rates paid by other INGO's implementing the same projects. Communities use other INGO rates to despise NURI labour rates and discourage other community members from participating.
- Reluctance by the community to offer their land for project implementation, which was most evidenced in semi-urban areas. This halted or delayed commencement of public works for some projects. Restrictions on land access for projects in peri-urban sub counties by land owners.
- The unfavorable weather conditions during the month of July and August 2022, when it was hot, hardened the soils for establishment and maintenance of food forests. The activities affected included excavation of bio swales, gap filling and pitting. 187 food forests were affected during the period in the districts of Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego, Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Koboko, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Adjumani, Moyo and Obongi. While in Koboko district there was too much rains, which also negatively effected the seedling survival rate.
- In Zombo, community attitudes towards the food forests concept delayed and reduced the acreage of food forests. The District Focal Point Officer for Zombo suggested the gradual introduction of the food forest concept and further asserted that it will take time for the

communities to adapt the new approach unless they see benefit from early adopters. It was subsequently agreed that 80% of the seedlings should be for timber and 20% should be the food forest species.

- The lock down due to Covid 19 also greatly affected work patterns which delayed the completion of activities. As a business continuity strategy reducing the community group participants from 30 to 10 people per workday. The PMC trainings were affected where trainings were restricted to 20 participants and yet some PMC trainings had more participant thus breaking them in small groups. Additionally, community meetings were equally affected because only 20 participants could attend the site dialogue meetings
- Destruction of food forests by termites and pests including grasshoppers and roaming animals. This was experienced in Nebbi and Kitgum districts. The mostly affected tree species for food forests in Nebbi was Lemon.
- Rains affected the excavation of water ponds making equipment not to perform as planned and as per construction period.
- District technical staff were disgruntled with the SDA of UGX 20,000 as compared to rates paid by other partner organizations engaging them for similar activities. This to some extent has resulted to non-response by some District technical staff to participate in NURI activities.
- Unseasonably hot and dry weather conditions during the months of January, February and March 2022 hardened the soils and affected maintenance activities, while killing many of the established seedlings in food forests across all regions. Fruit trees, such as jackfruit, mangos and bananas, were especially affected. .
- Delays in acquiring district equipment impacted completion and commissioning of CARs in Moyo, Agago, Arua, Koboko, Lamwo and Moyo.
- Delayed supervision by district technical staff due to understaffing coupled with other priorities for the districts also led to delays in supervision, consequently delaying certification of works and payment of vendors. Terego and Madi Okollo districts were most affected.
- Localized insecurity caused by Karamojong cattle rustlers has affected program activities in the Agago sub-counties bordering Karamoja – namely, Omiya Pacwa, Paimol, Lapono and Adilang sub-counties. An estimated 25 projects were affected with community groups being reluctant to participate in activities.
- Fuel shortages in January and February 2022 halted receipt and use of district equipment to support projects in Koboko and Zombo. This particularly affected levelling activities for CARs.
- Laxity among some institutions to take up the mantle of maintenance of food forests delayed food forest maintenance activities. This was majorly registered in Obongi District where 6 food forests were affected.

- Fluctuating prices; Due to increased prices of commodities in the market, purchase orders issued for procurement of construction materials like cement, Armco culverts have been turned down by vendors hence delaying completion of work.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional staff were recruited in supply chain across the NURI field offices to expedite procurement and boost human resource capacity in supply chain departments. This was mostly done in 2021. The Regional Supply Chain Manager based in Nairobi also supported NURI with reviewing of the procurement documents and streamlining of NURI procurement processes.
- Full participation of District technical staff during screening of projects such that appropriate budget costs are provided for before approval of the Investment Plans. It has not been easy to get the district technical teams to participate in technical screening of projects because they are few and overstretched. The donor could consider increasing the allowances paid to government officials in order to encourage them to actively participate in technical screening of the projects and hence avoiding rampant variations being created on the structures and negatively affecting the budgets.
- There is need to continue observing SOP for covid 19 and continue with sensitization and awareness of the masses every time we interface with them. With the breaking of the PMC training in small groups of 20 participants to match with the government measures of 20 participants in a community gathering. Additionally, public works are split in smaller groups of 10 participants per workday. Social distancing was observed whereby each group member is allocated some metres of work per participant. NURI has provided soap and hand washing stations and temperatures are being taken regularly during community implementation of public works
- Destruction of food forests by termites and pests can be controlled by use of organic pesticides and continuous mulching, fencing of food forests with barbed wires and live fencing with sprouting poles and Kei apples will protect the food forests from roaming animals: goats and cows.
- Supply Chain to engage many supply service providers for framework agreements for procurement of goods and services. This is done to ease and reduce lead time for procurement of goods and services.
- There is need for continuous mobilization and sensitization of communities regarding land donation for the implementation of NURI projects. Continuous sensitization among the communities in the areas of implementation to reduce disagreements and conflicts. Also further engagement of political leaders in community mobilization and sensitization yielded the success of the projects.

- To address the unfavourable weather conditions, gap filling for seedling which did not survive in the first planting period, especially avocado seedlings was done. Gap filling should be done and maintenance period for food forests with low survival rate be extended for more 6 months. Early transplanting in the food forest is recommended for better survival rate of the seedlings
- There is need to harmonize cash for work rates in the settlement and district. This can be done when Cash working group is established to coordinate activities for all partners implementing cash for work activities..
- DRC together with communities developed weekly working schedules to ensure there is balanced time allocation for household engagement and participation in RI activities.
- The District Focal Point Officer for Zombo suggested the gradual introduction of the food forest concept and further asserted that it will take time for the communities to adapt the new approach unless they see benefit from early adopters. It was subsequently agreed that 80% of the seedlings should be for timber and 20% should be the food forest species.
- For support supervision by District technical staff, a higher rate of SDA needs to be considered in consultation with the local government particularly for distances travelled beyond SDA limits during support supervision.

7 FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

- It will be good to consider increasing the cash for work (CFW) labour rate to at least Ushs 10,000 like other INGOs are doing to minimize complaints from the cash for work participants and abandoning of work by the community members. Some community members rejected working at Ushs 6,000 daily rate and preferred working for other NGOs. Additionally, provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for CfW participants for example gumboots etc.
- Working with site specific BOQs for structures should be encouraged other than using standard BOQ that is in the RI manual. Many structures have had cost variations on BOQs due to varying site conditions that is not catered for in the standard BOQs.
- For the project to create deeper and lasting impact in the local governments and among the community, the donor should not restrict herself to number of projects as a target to be achieved by the program. Big number of screened local government priorities were left out because they were expensive to implement. DRC went for cheaper projects that scored less during projects scoring and ranking. This was on the basis of achieving required number of projects.
- For support supervision by District technical staff, a higher rate of SDA needs to be considered in consultation with the local government particularly for distances travelled beyond SDA limits during support supervision.
- Improving the quality of Community Access Roads (CARs) and lifespan by gravelling the entire road length especially areas with black cotton soils and sandy soils. The black cotton soils make the roads slippery during rain season and also vegetation grows very fast during rain season hence increasing demand for maintenance which is challenge for communities because of competing demand for household labour. Road formation of sandy soils can't be sustained because of the nature of the soils and also movement of vehicles in sandy soils affects riding quality. The solution for these type of soils is gravelling entire road length. Additionally it will reduce the frequency for maintenance of CARs by communities and DLGs/LLGs.
- Addressing Project Management Committee demands for appreciation since they claim that they do extra work during project implementation. The PMC could be given a higher daily rate because of additional work that they do.
- Improve design of markets to include shades and selling platforms to improve hygiene, protection from rain and direct sun heat. Inclusion of store within the market design for storage. This will save women from carrying goods to and from markets daily. Another request from women is for women private space where they can change clothes and possibly bathe at the market.

- Improving water quality from ponds for domestic uses using community purification (filtration) systems especially in water stressed communities where borehole drilling and springs availabilities are uncommon or impractical.
- Including piped water extensions and Gravity flow schemes in water stressed communities
- Under District Capacity Building component of NURI, upgrading water laboratories at regional level in Arua, Adjumani and Kitgum. Only Arua water lab is functional and has been used to test all NURI Springs while the Lamwo soil testing kits were used to test soils in Acholi districts (Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago), however, with limited capacities.
- Food forests to be maintained twice. At the moment only one maintenance is done after establishment.
- There is rampant theft of fruit tree seedlings in the food forests by communities. The next phase could in addition, consider providing the cash for work participants and nearby communities fruit tree seedlings.
- The infrastructure in the refugee settlements especially community access roads are in a bad state and therefore need rehabilitation.
- The DLG/LLGs don't have resources for carrying out regular planning activities at parish, Sub county and District. In 2019/2020 NURI supported the DLG/LLGs in updating the Parish Development Plans. The LLGs said that NURI's intervention was so timely because their five year development plans had just expired and they didn't have resources for making new Five year development plans. Because of NURI's support the DLGs/LLGs mentioned that the planning process was transparent, inclusive and participatory. On that note NURI 2 could consider supporting DLGs/LLGs with resources for preparation of development plans at Parish, Sub county and District levels.

8. SUCCESS STORIES

Area Member of Parliament, Madi Okollo district, cherishes the value of community access roads to his constituency



Etuka Isaac Joakino, Member of Parliament for upper Madi County, Madi Okollo District

Etuka Isaac Joakino, Member of Parliament for upper Madi County, Madi Okollo District is a strong advocate of socio-economic development in his area. He has been following the activities of NURI infrastructure project in his district since project inception. Upper Madi County's basic economic activity is farming and crops such as cassava, millet, simsim groundnuts and maize are grown in large quantities. Before the roads were opened, it was hard to access markets. The middle men could not access the farms, farmers

used to sell their goods cheaply for example a cup of simsim would be sold at UGX 1000 compared to UGX 5000 with the coming of the roads. The farmers are no longer selling in cups but rather in kilograms.

Isaac believes that the community access roads in his County have brought access to the Arua – Kampala highway. In Offaka Sub County for example, roads have caused economic empowerment. Access to health services also improved; the villages of Ezebu and Eyii were opened up to access health centre that resulted into low infant mortality rate. The MP reveals that the Iriri to Patu community access road, is well maintained because of the active participation of the local leaders right from establishment.



Offaka to Anyiribu CAR joining Kampala Highway at Ofaka Trading Centre

Isaac is also conversant with Oyabo to Odubu community access road, and Offaka to Anyiribu community access roads as they open to the highway. The MP recommends that NURI should expand scope and open more roads to the highway. Because the problem of poor roads is bad, Isaac recommends NURI in the next phase of implementation to leverage rehabilitation of critical bad spots and slippery surfaces, where NURI can install culverts. The community can open the roads and DRC install culverts. A certain condition of the road especially in the swamps need more culverts, increase the scope also to do more drifts.

I have many roads in mind, where I would recommend DRC to undertake in the next phase for example Golomi town council via Ndabu to Eyii (15km) would need culverts because it has three seasonal rivers. The community would easily access Offaka Health Centre closer to them instead of Ulepi Health Centre which is far, this is because they do not have a community access road to Ofaka health Centre which is the closest.

Other benefits Isaac mentions include movement of children to various schools, compared to previous experience of parents clearing dew in the morning taking their children to school, rampant snake bites to children due to bushy roads. The road fund is so meagre, Madi- Okollo district alone received a total budget of UGX 30 Million to cater for the entire district of more than 2000 KMs of road network. There is no road unit, no equipment as well as the migre release of funds allocated to roads in Madi Okolla district. The parish development model has challenges.. Many parishes were allocated half of the funds that were expected to receive and many of them up to now do not have a single release to that effect. Looking at the revolving fund is more challenging; the expectations people have on the revolving fund - the parish model may not help on the roads. The life span of marram roads can be increased by creating the off shoots. "I recommend NURI to do more off shoots through sensitizing communities; this is because communities have resisted them. I would recommend NURI to increase activities and expand scope".

Vendor Upholds Imvepi Point J Market for Security and Improved Hygiene

Vendors in Imvepi Point J market uphold the newly constructed market by DRC under the NURI Rural Infrastructure project for providing adequate security and improved hygiene in the market.

Adriko Vincent, is a Ugandan 31-year-old born of Olevu village, Owai parish, Omugo sub county left his village for Imvepi Point J in 2017 following the influx of refugees. He said: ***"I came here because business was doing well with the arrival of refugees"***. Vincent is married with three children, his main source of livelihood is his business, he



Adriko Vincent - a Vendor in Imvepi Point J market displaying his merchandise for sale in Point J market - Imvepi Refugee Settlement

also practices farming to supplement his business to provide for the family. Vincent sales household items that include utensils, cooking stoves, metallic box, among others. He gets most of his stocks from Arua, Koboko, Yumbe, and Kampala when he has enough money.

Vincent says: ***“Before the construction of this market, security was a very big problem for us vendors because, thieves used to cut our carpets to steal our goods and properties but now, we don’t worry about security because the market is fenced with a gate which is always locked by the watch man at off market hours. Some of us also sleep in the market since the security is good.”***

“Business has reduced at the moment because children have gone back to school. In this market if you have capital, you can make a lot of money. On a good day, one can be able to make between UGX 600,000 to UGX 1 million”. Business is usually at the peak when children are going back to school, during harvest seasons, and festive seasons.



Alemiga Jackson - Sandal and shoe vendor in Point J Market

According to Vincent, some vendors are still selling outside the market because

there are people who booked space in the market but haven’t occupied. He said: ***“Given the good security in the market now, my only wish is for all the vendors out there to come in so that we have more customers in the market.”***

Another 24-year-old Ugandan, sandal and shoe vendor called Alemiga Jackson also said: ***“security is guaranteed in this new market because it is well fenced with a gate and there are security lights. We can also sleep here without any worries”.***

“The toilets and shelters constructed by DRC-NURI have also improved hygiene and sanitation. We also have access to clean water within the market”. “With the biogas, food is being prepared within the market and we no longer have to move far to get food”.

Jackson finally expressed gratitude by saying: ***“we are grateful for all these services which were not there before the construction of this new market”.***

Annex 1. NURI DRC District Implementation Progress per Activity

Activity		Indicator name	Target	Achieved	Comments
No.	Name				
Output 2: Agriculturally related rural infrastructure rehabilitated using labour based intensive approach					
2.1	Prepare infrastructure investment plans for approval	No. of parishes with updated development plans	560	559	The parish development plans where updated, printed and distributed to the districts and sub-counties. The actual number of parishes is 559. The target was higher than actual
		No. of districts with approved infrastructure investment plans	13	13	
2.2	Implement approved infrastructure projects	No. of work days paid for in implementation of infrastructure projects	1,048,000	1,146,120	Workdays paid have been achieved beyond the target by 9% due to additional 12 days of public works; 10 days for maintenance of food forests, and 2 days on resilience design approach. So far 1,463 projects out of 1504 (97%) have been completed. 41 CAR projects are still ongoing to be completed and commissioned in quarter one 2023.
		% of infrastructure projects in approved investment plans that have been completed	100%	97%	
		% of completed infrastructure projects	95%	81%	

		constructed in accordance to agreed standards			to date. Upto date 1217 (81%) projects have been commissioned out of 1504. More projects are yet to be commissioned.
		% of infrastructure participants who are youth (18-28 years)	60%	58%	

9. PHOTOS



A community group in Nebbi district working on CAR



A community group using A-Frame for plotting contours in a food forest site in Nebbi



Member of DEC and DTPC commissioning a water pond in Amida West and Food forest in Lagor sub county, Kitgum district





Members of DEC during 2nd quarter monitoring visit at Oget market in Akwang sub county ,Kitgum District while still under construction



Cash payments in Rhino Camp



Completed spring in Pajulu sub county – Arua district