Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative 2019 - 2022

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LRSWG Partners Meeting – 22nd June, 2021

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Presentation overview

- Objectives, interventions and guiding principles
- Outline of the 3 interventions
- Where, when, who and how?
- What's different about NURI
- CSA Intervention
- A few photographs from the field

NURI Objective

- **'Enhanced resilience and equitable economic development in supported areas of Northern Uganda, including for refugees and host communities'**

- Biggest programme in the Denmark-Uganda Country Programme, building on many years of Danish engagement in Northern Uganda and agriculture.
- Aims at increasing resilience and improve the livelihoods of small farmers including refugees.
- Focus on agricultural extension and improving agric. related infrastructures, water in the landscape as well as access to savings and financial services.
- Within the focus areas we think about addressing youth and gender issues.

NURI Interventions

- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).
- Rural Infrastructure (RI).
- Water Resource Management (WRM).
- Support to District Capacity Building (*Not core*).

Target group:

- Northern Ugandan small-scale farming households
- Refugees and hosting communities.

Relating principles to programme activities

- CSA activities are all about making farmers more **resilient** through extension and training on climate-smart, good agricultural practices, building capacity and trust in groups, encouraging farmers to save and making marketing more efficient.

- RI activities are all about giving farmers better access to markets and services through better agricultural related infrastructure.

- The WRM activities are all about improving water management within catchment areas for better yields and less crop failure.

…principles and activities

- The focus on Youth and SRHR is all helping the community be more efficient and resilient within their capacity as women, men and youth.

- At the end it should all contribute to more equal and resilient growth in Northern Uganda – with higher incomes and stable livelihoods.

Districts and Settlements

- 13 Districts

West Nile – Arua, Madi Okollo, Moyo, Obongi, Adjumani, Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Koboko and Terego.

Acholi – Kitgum, Lamwo and Agago.

- Settlements

Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Palabek, Palorinya and Maji, Mungla, Ayilo, Olua and Elema settlements in Adjumani.

Micro-catchments – 8 across the districts selected by MWE.

Who are NURI target groups?

- 4375 farmer groups – 131,250 households (about 28% refugees).
- 755 Old groups - about 30% of RDNUC groups, for 2 years.
- 2,190 New national groups – for 2 to 3 years .
- 1,430 groups in settlements, split between mixed refugee/host groups and women refugee groups – for 2 years.

Who are NURI target groups?

- NURI farmer groups are offered training in VSLA and financial literacy training – an estimated 3,300 groups.
- 1,500 groups will be mobilized for implementation of Rural Infrastructure activities across the participating.
- Communities around 8 micro-catchment areas are mobilized for planning and implementing WRM.
- Through collaboration with WAY programme NURI farmer groups should experience improved access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

What's different about NURI?

- NURI is not an NGO or an organization, but a project.
- NURI builds human capital in Northern Uganda: staff, DLGs and farmers.
- Long-term extension support and relationship building between extension team and farmer groups – at peak 300 extension staff.
- Strong engagement and involvement of districts in planning and monitoring of all outputs.
- Work in all sub-counties in the target districts.
- Bringing youth into traditional farming groups, encourage in-group mentoring.
- All agriculture groups are offered VSLA and financial literacy training

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Climate Smart Agriculture Activities
1) National Farmer Groups – old & new

- Identify and select or form farmer groups.
- Select strategic crops through participatory progresses at district.
- Groups select among strategic crops, and prepare production plans.
- Training in CSA and good agricultural practice.
- Provide extension support for 2 to 3 years to each group.
- Support marketing and post-harvest handling.
- Groups trained in VSLA and financial literacy (3,300 groups)
- Build capacity of implementing partners and District Local Governments production department.

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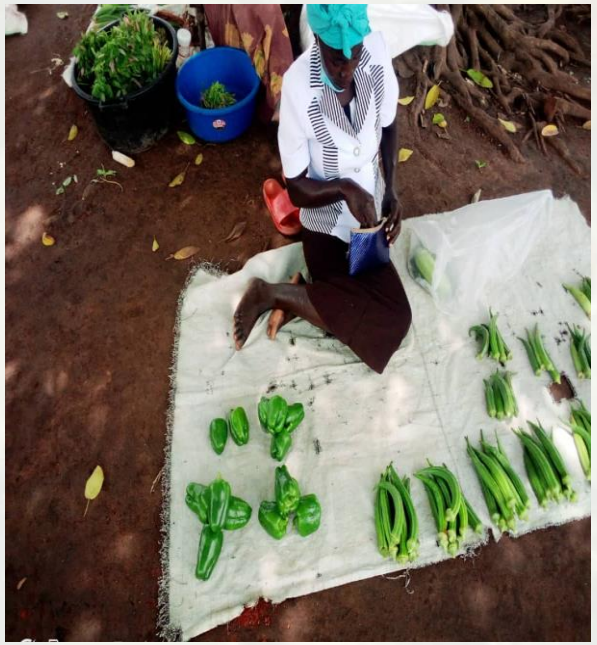
2) CSA – Women refugee and Mixed Groups

- For women refugees, groups focus on household gardening in the space available – a choice of vegetables, including cassava, sweet potatoes fruit trees as well as farm tools.

- For mixed groups focus includes access to land for refugee households and building relationships between refugees and hosts.

- Trained in VSLA & financial literacy if interested and not trained before.



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How are the groups supported?

- Old groups are supported on market based activities (1 AEO/20gps).
- New National farmers groups are supported with training and extension activities focusing on production and marketing of strategic crops (1 AEO/15gps).
- Mixed refugee host farmer groups are supported with training and extension with focus on access to land and food crops (1 AEO/12gps).
- Women refugee groups will be supported with some inputs and training focusing on food security on limited land (1 AEO/12gps).

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Who are NURI implementors?

- For CSA, NURI has three implementing partners;

AFARD - Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo.

Arua DFA - Arua, Madi Okollo, Terego, Rhino and Imvepi. settlements

PICOT – Koboko.

and 4 Resilience Agriculture Units (RAUs);

Kitgum/Lamwo RAU, with a sub office in Lamwo, also Palabek.

Agago RAU.

Moyo/Obongi RAU also covering Palorinya.

Adjumani RAU also covering the settlements.

Lessons Learnt

- Recent external assessment confirms NURI CSA programme is achieving expected outcomes at a cost slightly lower than average for similar programmes, despite high level of staffing.

- Well-trained and equip extension officers, building long term relationships with Farmer groups has multiple benefits; building technical and social strength of groups.

- Flexible, decentralized decision making ensure a resilient programme e.g. managing the COVID lock-down and restrictions with minimal impact on implementation.

- Staff motivation through competitive and transparent recruitment, internal promotion where feasible, regular quality training and staff participation in up-dating of job descriptions strengthens implementation.

Lessons Learnt

- Introduction of resilience design – bringing climate smart technologies to CSA and Rural and Water infrastructure and finding synergies/overlaps is creating new opportunities for farmers.
- Integrating VSLA and CSA extension, including household planning, savings plans and production and marketing plans builds resilience, as well as financial and business literacy.
- Mature groups are willing and able to cost-share on investment activities that they consider important.
- Mixed refugee/national farmer groups lead to relationship building between the communities, including improving refugee access to agricultural land.

Lessons Learnt

- Access to quality inputs and competitive markets continues to be a serious challenge in Northern Uganda and put a dampener on agricultural activities.
- Close and continuous collaboration and relationship building with DLGs and LLGs is essential to successful programme implementation.
- Animal Traction offers opportunities for small farmers to expand production, but support models are weak – NURI is working with a finance institution to pilot a loan model.
- NARO has useful training resources which if accessed strategically, can add value to extension activities.

Thank You

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