

NFA/UNHCR REFUGEE FORESTATION PROJECT (“REFOREST 2020”)

Joint NFA/OPM/UNHCR Monitoring Mission



Joint Technical Mission Report

(14th – 24th June 2020)



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PROJECT SUMMARY TO DATE

Basic Information – Project Data:

According to the 2020 PPA, the following project information is key to monitoring:

Project Title:	Environment, Energy and forestry conservation and restoration in Uganda
Budget Year:	2020
Partner Code:	1271067
Partner Name:	National Forestry Authority (NFA)
Project Start Date:	01 January 2020
Project Planned End Date:	31 December 2020
Total Project Budget (UGX):	1,816,575,980 (following revision to include seedlings for Season II)
Operation/Country:	Uganda
Population Planning Group(s):	Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Uganda living in settlements (1UGAD)
Goal(s):	Protection and mixed solutions
Cost Centre(s):	12141 Kampala
Pillar(s):	Pillar 1 – Refugees
Situation(s):	South Sudan Situation (1126)

Summary of Mission Findings

Below is a summary of the mission findings;

1. Seedling production and distribution

Almost all nurseries either achieved or surpassed their production targets. Only one nursery (Mubende) was found to have fallen short of the seedling production target, but NFA was in the process of producing more to meet the shortfall, to be supplied for 2nd Season planting. The table below summarises the performance of the various nurseries in supplying assorted seedlings as per the 2019 commitments, and intended for 1st Season planting (March-May 2020 rainy season):

Nursery	Seedling Production Target	Actual Seedling Production	Seedlings Absorbed as at the Time of the Mission	Balance of Seedlings in Nursery
Namanve (Assorted Fruits) ¹	300,000	300,000	0	300,000
Namanve (Assorted Indigenous Species)	400,000	400,000	0	400,000
Namanve (Bamboo) ²	144,000	144,000	0	144,000
Arua	300,000	303,131	16,858	286,273
Koboko	300,000	300,376	4,990	295,386
Moyo	200,000	212,130	126,599	85,531
Adjumani	200,000	207,000	28,388	178,612
Lamwo	300,000	358,000	278,196	79,804
Kitgum	400,000	408,814	357,951	50,863

¹ (a) Namanve targets were intended as backup support to regional nurseries that would not meet their targets or facing unexpectedly high demand; (b) the joint mission did not visit Namanve nursery, but the PM visited the nursery in March 2020 and confirmed the figures reported.

² All the bamboo is already committed for planting in Moyo/Obongi and Lake Nakivale, but cannot be transported due to current drought.

Nursery	Seedling Production Target	Actual Seedling Production	Seedlings Absorbed as at the Time of the Mission	Balance of Seedlings in Nursery
Gulu (Fruits)	300,000	305,087	229,247	75,840
Kiryandongo	350,000	365,429	216,875	148,554
Masindi	300,000	300,000	150,000	150,000
Hoima	350,000	365,375	267,523	97,852
Mubende	350,000	164,364	0	164,364
Kyenjojo/Kagorra	400,000	410,000	210,570	199,430
Kabale	200,000	200,174	65,060	135,114
Mbarara	350,000	358,115	90,100	268,015
TOTAL	5,144,000	5,101,995	2,042,357	3,059,638
PERCENT PERFORMANCE		99.18%	39.70%	59.48%

In addition, the project planned to graft local 200,000 fruit seedlings with high-yielding varieties including mango, avocado and citrus. The activity is currently ongoing with the following achieved to date:

Nursery	Grafting Target 2020	Actual grafted at mission time	Remarks
Arua	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Koboko	20,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Moyo	10,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Adjumani	10,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Lamwo	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Gulu	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Masindi	30,000	16,300	In progress
Mubende	20,000	13,600	Remaining root stock require additional one month to be ready for budding/grafting
Kyenjojo/Kagorra	20,000	9,250	Remaining root stock require additional one month to be ready for budding/grafting
Kabale	10,000	2,900	In progress
Mbarara	20,000	15,255	In progress
TOTAL	200,000	57,305	
PERCENT PERFORMANCE		28.65%	

2. Maintenance of 2019 Planting

The following maintenance activities were planned for the forest areas restored in 2019, with the following targets and performance to date:

CFR	Maintenance Activity Planned	Targeted No. of Ha	Progress to Date (No. of Ha)	Performance % against Target	Remarks
ERA	Spot-weeding	103	103	100%	Completed in early April 2020
	Slash-weeding	18	18	100%	Completed in early April 2021
	Strip weeding	86	86	100%	Completed in early April 2020
	Fire management	149	149	100%	General protection against animal grazing and fires
	Survival monitoring	149	0	0%	Planned for Q3
	Replanting	46	35	76%	Pitting ongoing, awaiting rains
ERIA	Spot-weeding	73	67	92%	Ongoing
	Slash-weeding	73	67	92%	Ongoing
	Fire management	73	73	100%	General protection against animal grazing and fires
	Survival monitoring	73	0	0%	Planned for Q3
	Gap-filling	51	51	100%	Pitting ongoing, awaiting rains
BUGOMA	Spot-weeding	200	200	100%	Complete
	Strip weeding	200	154	77%	Ongoing
	Fire management	200	200	100%	General protection against animal grazing, vandalization and fires
	Survival monitoring	200	0	0%	Planned for Q3

3. Challenges to implementation

The monitoring team noted a number of challenges that have affected the achievement of planned activities. Some of the challenges were unexpected and therefore unavoidable, while others stem from poor planning and coordination among stakeholders. Nevertheless, the team held detailed discussions with key stakeholders and agreed on strategies to improve performance in Q3 and Q4 and during any other future implementation of UNHCR-supported tree-growing activities, as highlighted in (4) below. The key challenges noted are:

1. Low uptake of seedlings due to the Government-imposed restrictions on movement following the Covid-19 pandemic;
2. Delayed and depressed rains across all the project areas;
3. Lack of transportation for seedlings;
4. Poor coordination between NFA, DLGs, Implementing Partners and targeted beneficiaries;
5. The restrictions due to the Covid-29 did not allow NFA to conduct a pre-implementation training for all field staff as planned for Q1, leading some of them to repeat the mistakes noted in 2019;
6. Mismatch of available seedling species with the requirements of the targeted beneficiaries;
7. Inadequate awareness creation among the targeted beneficiaries regarding (a) availability of the seedlings and (b) the benefits of species available at the nursery;
8. While a significant improvement was noted in many stations on documentation for accountability purposes, some stations still do not have customised project accountability documents and there is still no standardised format due to the Covid-19 restrictions on movement which hampered the delivery of the documents and capacity-building for their proper use;

9. Timing of seedling production: due to the structure of the PPAs, all seedlings are raised at the same time of the year irrespective of the species or weather. This means that fast-growing species (e.g. pawpaw, passion fruit, *Sesbania sesban* and *Calliandra calothyrsus*) were already fully grown and ready for planting before the onset of the rains, and the delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic means that thousands of these seedlings are still in nurseries and some of them are no longer suitable for planting;
10. The slow uptake of seedlings that will now realistically only be planted in the September rains means additional funds are needed for their maintenance till then. However, these funds were not planned for and will have to be acquired from reprioritisation of other project activities;
11. High seedling mortality due to poor transport.

4. Strategies for Q3 and Q4

The UHNHCR has provided a significant amount of funding to support NFA in restoring degraded forest areas in refugee-hosting areas and increase tree cover in general. The long-term impacts of this investment could be compromised if the agreed targets are not met. With this in mind, the monitoring team discussed with all stakeholders and agreed on a number of strategies to address the challenges noted in (3) above.

1. *Maintenance of uncollected seedlings in the nurseries:* The following strategies were discussed:
 - a. NFA agreed to undertake necessary silvicultural operations like root pruning and lopping to slow down their growth and enable them to reach the September planting season.
 - b. NFA will identify budget lines that can be redirected for the maintenance of these seedlings till September.
2. *Species mismatch leading to low demand:*
 - a. In the short term, NFA, DLGs, IPs and UNHCR to urgently scale up awareness-creation activities to educate the target beneficiaries of the benefits of the species in the nursery.
 - b. In the long term, more consultation including with targeted beneficiaries to be done to properly identify the species on demand. In the meantime, NFA and IPs should undertake a trend analysis to identify the fast-moving species and prioritise their production in future.
3. *Lack of transport for seedlings:* IPs should coordinate with UNHCR logistics partner and present in advance the number of seedlings to be transported and the destination to facilitate their transportation.
4. *Improve uptake of seedlings:* IPs should utilize the current dry season to identify beneficiaries, undertake sensitization and ensure they prepare their planting sites in readiness for the next planting season.
5. *Lack of capacity among NFA technical staff:* NFA should urgently plan for regional training workshops for key technical staff at field level, in line with GoU Covid-19 restrictions, to ensure that the remainder of the project implementation is conducted as per the PPA.
6. *Reduce seedling mortality:* The following strategies are recommended:
 - a. Loading of seedlings at the nursery to be done or supervised by experienced NFA staff.
 - b. NFA to fast-track procurement of seedling trays to be used for transporting delicate fruit seedlings.
 - c. In future seedlings should be transported directly to the planting sites, or as close as possible.
 - d. IPs with facilities (e.g. Nsamizi in South West) should consider transporting some seedlings to their own nurseries and nurse them in preparation for planting in September. A small

trial is recommended to test the viability of this approach; if seedling deaths are noted, recommend retaining them in NFA nurseries till planting time.

- e. Raise delicate seedlings within the settlements to reduce the need to long-distance transportation.
7. *Slow uptake of seedlings by refugees and host communities/apathy towards tree planting:* The following strategies were agreed upon:
- a. NFA and UNHCR to immediately work on a Note-for-File during the MYR that expands the project scope to include host-community members in the immediate vicinity of the nurseries as beneficiaries and not restricted to the hosting districts only, provided that proper documentation for accountability and future follow-up is done.
 - b. Ensure NFA raises only the species in demand by conducting an initial needs assessment.
 - c. Enhance community sensitisation on unknown/unpopular but highly useful species.
8. NFA, IPs and OPM should coordinate and identify some land within settlements (Imvepi and Rhino Camp) or CFRs (elsewhere), where some of the uncollected seedlings can be planted as demonstration of their benefits.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CFR	Central Forest Reserve
NFA	National Forestry Authority
SO	Sub Office
DFS	District Forest Services
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
NTSC	National Tree Seed Centre
UNHCR	United NATIONS High Commissioner for Refugees
E&E	Environment and Energy
HADS	Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
DLG	District Local Government
WESRRP	Water and Environment Sector Response Plan
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CTP	Community Tree-planting Project
Ha	Hectare
PMT	Project Management Team
PPA	Project Partnership Agreement
nCOVID-19	(novel) Coronavirus Disease
GRN	Goods Received Note
IP	Implementing Partner
DCA	DanChurchAid
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
GoU	Government of Uganda
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
Q1,2,3	Quarter 1,2,3
RWC	Refugee Welfare Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations)
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (World Agroforestry Centre)
DFO	District Forestry Officer
FSSD	Forest Sector Support Department
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
SW	South West
GHG	Green House Gas(es)
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
AIRD	African Initiatives for Relief and Development
CFW	Cash For Work
GPS	Global Positioning System
LC	Local Council
POC	Persons of Concern
ToT	Training of Trainers

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Mission Team

Reporting Officer: Emmanuel E. Ekakoro, Energy Officer/Project Manager

Other Contributors: Miriam Natabo, Associate Environment and Energy Officer; Gordon Eneku, Assistant Environment Officer, Arua Akubar Chiriga, Programme Associate; James Semuyaba, Associate Programme Control Officer; Jimmy Oriba, Senior WASH Associate, Moyo/Obongi; Swaleh Gule, Assistant Environment Officer, SO Adjumani/Lamwo; Dedan Tugaine, Protection Associate, SO Kyangwali; George Gasana, NFA Coordinator of Plantations Development/Project Coordinator and John Bosco Acuti, Tree Improvement Specialist, NTSC Namanve/Assistant Project Coordinator.

Sector Responsible/ Division: Energy and Environment

Reporting date: 28th July 2020

Timelines: June 14th–25th with June 14th and 25th being the travel days from and back to Kampala, respectively.

Team members: Emmanuel Ekakoro and Miriam Natabo from Technical Unit, Gregory Acar from Programmes and from Project Control. NFA represented by George Gasana and John Bosco Acuti from Kampala, and respective NFA Range Managers, Sector Managers and Beat Supervisors/Nursery Managers in the field. Respective UNHCR focal persons mobilised partner staff to join the team including the DFS and the OPM. OPM was represented by John Paul Magezi and E&E Focal points at settlement level. The participants in the mission are shown in detail as per the Table 1 below.

Table 1: list of participants for the field mission

Name	Designation	Organisation/Duty Station
Emmanuel Ekakoro	Project Manager/Mission Leader	UNHCR Kampala/Technical Unit
James Semuyaba	Associate Project Control Officer	UNHCR Kampala/Project Control
Akubar Chiriga	Programme Associate	UNHCR Kampala/Programmes
Miriam Natabo	Associate Environment & Energy Officer	UNHCR Kampala/Technical Unit
George Gasana	Plantations Coordinator / Project Coordinator)	NFA Headquarters, Kampala
John Paul Magezi	Environment and Energy Focal Point	OPM Kampala
John Bosco Acuti	Tree Improvement Specialist/Assistant Project Coordinator	NFA/NTSC, Namanve
Julius Egamu	Manager, Accounts & Expenditure	NFA, Kampala
Gordon Eneku Adima	Assistant Environment Officer	UNHCR Arua
Andama Swaib Solo	District Natural Resources Officer	Yumbe
Asio William	Assistant Settlement Commandant	OPM Imvepi
Godfrey Toolit	Programme Associate	UNHCR Moyo
Owiny Robert Kasigwa	Range Manager – West Nile Range	NFA West Nile
Richard Kyalisima	Sector Manager – Arua	NFA Arua
Kidega Simon Peter	Sector Manager – Yumbe	NFA Koboko
Nicholas Rugadya	Forest Supervisor – Mt Kei/Koboko Nursery	NFA Koboko
Kupajo Charles	Environment Officer	Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS)
Isaac Kirya	Project Manager	DCA Yumbe
Emmanuel Tshibanda Tshisu	Field Associate	UNHCR Moyo
Frank Akampa	Assistant Commandant, Palorinya Settlement	OPM
Oguzu Byron	Sector Manager – Moyo/Adjumani	NFA Moyo
Daniel Comboni	Forest Supervisor - Moyo (Palorinya)	NFA Moyo

Felicitas Dojillo Nebril	Head of Sub Office (HOSO) – SO Adjumani	UNHCR Adjumani
Drama Patrick	District Forest Officer	Moyo DLG
Tairi Rongumu	District Forest Officer	Obongi DLG
Stephen Ojiambo	Forest Supervisor – Adjumani	NFA Adjumani
Ouna Jimmy	Range Manager – Achwa Range	NFA Gulu
Esther Nekesa	Sector Manager – Lamwo/Kitgum	NFA Gulu
Haruna Busobozi	Sector Manager – Gulu	NFA Gulu
Ruth Nambi	Accounts & Administration Assistant - Gulu	NFA Gulu
Florence Ajok	Forest Supervisor – Gulu	NFA Gulu
Patrick Kyomuhendo	Forest Supervisor – Kiryandongo Nursery	NFA Kiryandongo
Caroline Kansime	Sector Manager – Masindi	NFA Masindi
Scovia Bigirwenkya	Forest Supervisor – Masindi	NFA Masindi
Alex Obonyo	Sector Manager – Hoima	NFA Hoima
Masereka Simplisio	Forest Supervisor - Kyamugongo Nursery	NFA Hoima
Dedan Tugaine	Protection Associate	UNCHR Kyangwali
Wobusobozi Rogers	Environment and Energy Assistant	Nsamizi Kyangwali
Ninsiima Godlive	Field Extension Coordinator	Nsamizi Kyangwali
Robert Mubokisa	Sector Manager – Mubende	NFA Mubende
Lucy Kisakye	Forest Supervisor – Mubende	NFA Mubende
Walira Peter	Plantation Manager – Mwenge Plantations	NFA Kyenjojo
Bryan Namanya	Forest Supervisor - Kagora Nursery	NFA Kyenjojo
Sylvia Tushemeirwe	Forest Supervisor – Kabale	NFA Kabale
James Okwamio	Environment Assistant	Nsamizi (Isingiro)
Ghulam Nabi Seddiqi	Associate Field Officer	UNHCR Nakivale
Kamoga Abdu	Environment Officer	Nsamizi Nakivale
Emmanuel Bwengye	District Natural Resource Officer	Isingiro DLG
Katama Clement	Forest Officer	Isingiro DLG
Jerry Kiwanuka	Environment and Energy Officer	Nsamizi
Mahamadou Guindo	HOSO Mbarara	UNHCR Mbarara
Emmanuel Tibaire	Asst Environment Officer	UNHCR Mbarara
Herbert Kyaligonza	Plantation Manager – Mbarara	NFA Mbarara
Lusweti Florence	Forest Supervisor – Mbarara	NFA Mbarara
Joyce Kasemeire	Forest Supervisor – Mbarara	NFA Mbarara
Akwankasa Eunice Wafula	Environment Officer	Isingiro DLG
Ogwang Jimmy	Asst Field Officer	UNHCR Kisoro
Drabile Robert	Plantation Manager	NFA Mafuga

1.2 Background

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) in 2020 signed the second Project Partnership Agreement with UNHCR which is designed to ensure continuation of tree planting activities that commenced in 2019 (restoration of degraded Central Forest Reserves, woodlot establishment and production of planting material to Implementing Partners). Production of assorted seedlings for planting in the March-May 2020 rainy season commenced in November/December 2019 and targeted the production of 5,144,00 tree seedlings in NFA nurseries spread across refugee-hosting districts of Uganda.

The Refugee Forestation (ReForest) Project 2020 is anchored on Outcome 2 of the Water and Environment Sector Environment Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) 2019 which aims for a “Restored, conserved and protected environment and natural resources for existing and degraded situations.” The WESRRP (2019) is guided by Uganda’s Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which if implemented holistically, will lead to outcomes that contribute to improved utilization of water and environment resources for peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities.

The design of the ReForest 2020 project is therefore aimed at ensuring compatibility and continuity with existing forest frameworks in Uganda for the purpose of sustainability and complementarity of interventions. This will be achieved through continued management and monitoring of areas restored in 2019 (108ha of indigenous species and 92ha of bamboo in Bugoma, 51 ha of bamboo, 80ha of indigenous planting and 18ha of teak in Era, and 73ha of teak in Eria); supporting buffer planting of bamboo along Lake Nakivale in Isingiro; and continued supply of seedlings for CTP (including fruit, indigenous and commercial plantation species) in all the 12 refugee-hosting districts for both refugees and host communities through mixed systems (woodlots, agroforestry, boundary and homestead planting).

Two main activities were planned for 2020 implementation as follows:

Activity 1: Continued Management and Monitoring of 2019 Planting

As of 31st December 2019, NFA, through the ReForest 2019 Project had established 422 hectares distributed as follows (see Table 2):

Table 2: Summary of forest are restored by NFA in 2019

Performance Indicator(s)	Site/Location	Planted Area
Area planted	Era (Parolinya)	51ha Bamboo
		80ha Indigenous
		18ha Teak
Area planted	Eria (Parolinya)	73.2ha Teak
Area Planted	Bugoma (Kyangwali)	91.8ha Bamboo
		108ha Indigenous
Total Area Planted in 2019 (Bamboo, Teak and Indigenous Species)		422ha

These planted areas require periodic maintenance until the trees are well-established to survive without further intervention, monitoring of survival, gap-filling where needed, as well as general protection through regular patrols. The envisaged activities include:

- i. Spot-weeding
- ii. Slash-weeding
- iii. Strip weeding
- iv. Fire management
- v. Survival monitoring
- vi. Replanting area destroyed by wildfires
- vii. Beating up/Gap-filling

Protection and monitoring are continuous activities, while the maintenance operations are expected to go on for three to four years.

Activity 2: Supply of seeds and seedlings for Community Tree Planting

In the 2020 PPA, NFA committed to supply demand-driven supply of seeds and seedlings to UNHCR’s Implementing Partners for CTP (including fruit, indigenous and commercial plantation species) in all the 12 refugee-hosting districts for both refugees and host communities through mixed systems (woodlots, agroforestry, boundary and homestead planting). NFA is also supporting DLGs in the hosting districts in restoration of fragile ecosystems through provision of seedlings and technical support.

1.3 Key Project Stakeholders

Implementation of ReForest 2020 is vested in 6 key stakeholders as highlighted in “*Annex 1: Roles and Responsibilities of Key Project Stakeholders*”. The Day-to-Day management is coordinated by both NFA and UNHCR. NFA has constituted a Project Management Team (PMT), comprised of Projector Manager, Assistant Project Manager, and Project Accountant to lead the implementation of the project. The team dedicates maximum time and effort as required to the project to ensure delivery of the results envisaged. PMT is specifically responsible for coordination and completion of the project on time, within budget and within scope. Overall project oversight is coordinated from UNHCR Kampala while continuous monitoring is undertaken by the Environment focal persons in the various UNHCR field offices and units.

1.3.1 Objectives of the mission

The objective of this joint mission was “*to verify the status of tree planting in the 2020 Season 1 planting; familiarize NFA and UNHCR with project deliverables and compliance monitoring requirements; and understand challenges that may hinder achievement of the 2020 objectives with a view to mitigate them within the timelines.*”

The specific objectives of the joint field visit were to:

- i. Formally introduce the 2020 ReForest Project to key stakeholders at field level including the requirements for reporting, specifically, compliance with the PPA, Governing Clauses, Project Description, approved Project Budget, Work Plan and Partner Personnel List;
- ii. Evaluate whether the performance of the project is proceeding in accordance with the work plan and expected results (outputs) in light of the COVID-19 crisis and identify ways to compensate for lost time including rescheduling of milestones;
- iii. Evaluate whether adequate internal controls are in place and functioning, including internal controls for procurement, human resources and asset management;
- iv. Assess the seedling absorption from the nurseries from the nurseries in light of the GoU restriction on travel and meetings due to the COVID-19 crisis;
- v. Assess the nursery readiness for producing seedlings for season II planting;
- vi. Obtain inputs from field teams on the UNHCR’s proposed long-term tree planting programme that is delinked from the traditional UNHCR PPA approach and is responsive to the seasonality of activities and is insulated from unforeseen disasters like COVID-19;
- vii. Collect information for the upcoming Mid-Year Review of 2020 PPA targets;
- viii. Identify the mapping needs of project areas.

1.3.2 The Mission Approach

The monitoring mission utilized four main tools and approaches as illustrated in Figure 1 below:

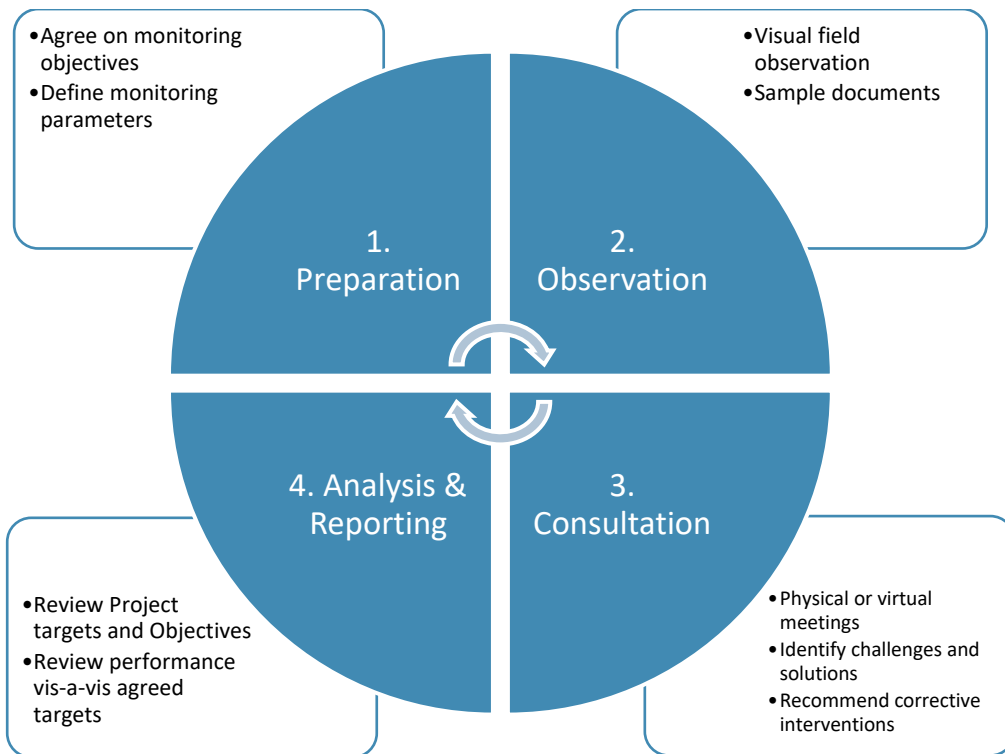


Figure 1: Summary of the Mission Approach

1.3.3 Areas Visited

A total of 15 sites were visited between 15th and 23rd June 2020 to nursery and planting sites in Arua, Koboko, Moyo/Obongi, Adjumani, Lamwo, Kitgum, Gulu, Kiryandongo, Masindi, Hoima, Kyangwali, Mubende, Kyenjojo (Kagora), Mabarara and Kabale. The map in Figure 2 summarises all the physical sites visited during the joint mission.

2 MISSION FINDINGS

2.1 Overview of Findings

Actual seedling production for 2020 planting is estimated at 99%, while the rate of distribution stands at 40%. The rate of absorption remains low; hopefully it will improve in the second season planting. Actual Production in some species (Mangoes, etc) was so low as compared to their target though production in some species surpassed their targets particularly in Mbarara. Seedling handling is a critical role which determines the fate of seedlings from the nursery to the planting location; hence loading of seedlings should be done by NFA nursery crew who are trained and asked NFA to urgently deliver the transportation trays to allow safe movement of seedlings. It was noted that some seedlings overgrew in the nursery and arrangements for their collection was not immediate especially *Leucaena*, *Senna*, *Mellia*, *Terminalia*, *Jacaranda* in Kitgum and Kiryandongo Nurseries. The team quickly suggested that; SO Adjumani/Lamwo/Implementing Partner and OPM coordinate the arrangement on how the overgrowing seedlings can be planted as demonstration wood lots and sensitize the refugee/host community on the benefits of such species which could help to solve the problems of firewood. Fencing of the Nursery in Masindi was ongoing. In Kiryadongo requirements for Teak was 100,000 seedlings; *Gmelina* 100,000 and Eucalyptus 100,000 seedlings were not fulfilled since the demand is high within the host community and the same case is in Isingiro.

Long spell of dry season in all the parts of the country and the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the first season planting as well as overgrowing of some seedlings. Another challenge is species identification; though NFA and District Forest Officers (DFO) in the Refugee hosting Districts agreed in a meeting in 2019 (Hoima) on the species identified by the DFOs, the community seems not to be aware of the usefulness of some species hence low demand. A possible reason for this is the change in Implementing Partners in November 2019; new partners likely did not have a shared vision with their predecessors, hence no effort in promoting the seedlings agreed with previous partners.

The team also noted that there was incomplete or selective use of the supporting documents(Delivery forms, Goods Received Note - GRN and requisition form) which plays a pivotal role in serving as accountability and tracking of the seedling which should be followed up by the leadership of NFA from Kampala.

In respect to partner coordination, NFA, IPs, OPM and District local Governments need more involvement in tree planting and growing project activities as well as wide coordination efforts through media and community sensitization. The right identification of tree species as aligned with the demands and the importance to the community is also necessary. There is need to improve the coordination mechanisms from top-down or otherwise to ensure increase in absorption. Finally, there is need to align seedling raising with the seasons; delay raising of fast-growing species to curb high maintenance costs in the seedlings, or outright loss when they mature before the onset of rains.

2.2 Seedling Production and Update for Field Planting

Table 3 summarises the seedling production and uptake for each nursery visited. Almost all nurseries either achieved or surpassed their production targets. Only one nursery (Mubende) was found to have fallen short of the seedling production target, but NFA was in the process of producing more to meet the shortfall, to be supplied for 2nd Season planting. Actual seedling production for 2020 planting is estimated at 99%, while the rate of distribution stands at 40%.

Table 3: Summary of seedling production and uptake by targeted beneficiaries

Nursery	Seedling Production Target	Actual Seedling Production	Seedlings Absorbed as at the Time of the Mission	Balance of Seedlings in Nursery
Namanve (Assorted Fruits) ³	300,000	300,000	0	300,000
Namanve (Assorted Indigenous Species)	400,000	400,000	0	400,000
Namanve (Bamboo) ⁴	144,000	144,000	0	144,000
Arua	300,000	303,131	16,858	286,273
Koboko	300,000	300,376	4,990	295,386
Moyo	200,000	212,130	126,599	85,531
Adjumani	200,000	207,000	28,388	178,612
Lamwo	300,000	358,000	278,196	79,804
Kitgum	400,000	408,814	357,951	50,863
Gulu (Fruits)	300,000	305,087	229,247	75,840
Kiryandongo	350,000	365,429	216,875	148,554
Masindi	300,000	300,000	150,000	150,000
Hoima	350,000	365,375	267,523	97,852
Mubende	350,000	164,364	0	164,364
Kyenjojo/Kagorra	400,000	410,000	210,570	199,430
Kabale	200,000	200,174	65,060	135,114
Mbarara	350,000	358,115	90,100	268,015
TOTAL	5,144,000	5,101,995	2,042,357	3,059,638
PERCENT PERFORMANCE		99.18%	39.70%	59.48%

The specific observations made for each site visited, and which should be noted by the respective NFA, UNHCR, OPM and Implementing Partner are summarised in the following sections as under:

2.2.1 Arua

The Arua Nursery serve Madi Okollo, Arua, Maracha and Koboko Districts. Although the nursery has met its seedling production target, the distribution for planting is dismally low. The DanChurchAid (DCA) is UNHCR's implementing partner for environment activities and is in charge of receiving and handling applications for seedlings. DCA has a detailed form where beneficiary details including the GPS location are captured for future monitoring.

The low seedling absorption was attributed to late rains, the restrictions due to nCOVID-19 restrictions imposed by government, lack of coordination between NFA, UNHCR, DCA and the DLG, and a mismatch between species of the available seedlings and what the beneficiaries would like to plant. However, DCA indicates that the applications received amount to a higher requirement than the seedlings available in the nursery.

³ (a) Namanve targets were intended as backup support to regional nurseries that would not meet their targets or facing unexpectedly high demand; (b) the joint mission did not visit Namanve nursery, but the PM visited the nursery in March 2020 and confirmed the figures reported.

⁴ All the bamboo is already committed for planting in Moyo/Obongi and Lake Nakivale, but cannot be transported due to current drought.



Photo 1: Section of Arua nursery showing some overgrown seedlings communities.

OPM and DCA have worked out a strategy for reducing the number of seedlings in the nursery once the rains come.

The strategy in part includes working with community structures in the settlements to plant trees on 123 hectares of land identified by OPM.

Other areas that could be planted under this arrangement include establishing woodlots along riverbanks. All partners – DCA, OPM, DFS and NFA are expected to work at mobilising the targeted

communities. Although there is a signpost identifying the nursery, it does not identify the role played by UNHCR in supporting the nursery. There is no signage inside the nursery to distinguish seedlings planted under the project and those planted by NFA as part of its general mandate. This is an important aspect of accountability which must be adhered to as required in the PPA.

2.2.2 Koboko Nursery

The Koboko Nursery has 17 species including timber and fruit species. Although the nursery has successfully met the seedling production target, the absorption for planting is even worse than that of Arua, with only 4,990 seedlings recorded as having been given out for planting. It was observed the citrus seedlings are under insect attack, hence it is recommended that the seedlings be sprayed as quickly as possible.



Photo 2: Koboko Nurseries (left) showing neat arrangement and (right) citrus seedlings attacked by insects

There is need to speed up seedling absorption. The seedlings are destined mostly for Rhino Camp. DCA and their implementing partner Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services-HADS are currently ongoing with the identification and registration of beneficiaries. Pitting is currently ongoing.

Koboko Nursery together with Arua will provide 400,000 seedlings for DCA planting requirements as per the PPA , while 200,000 will be given to other UNCHR partners with tree-planting activities in their PPAs. A few seedlings will be taken to Yumbe for gap-filling of 2019 planting.

It was observed that there is no signage either at the entrance or inside the nursery. Fencing, which was a planned activity under this PPA, has also not been done and the main reason given for this is the COVID-19 restrictions given by GoU. It is understood however that the necessary signage is ready and will be installed. This will be closely monitored in future visits to ensure compliance.

The Environment Officer of HADS observed positively that in his 25 years of managing donor-funded tree planting projects, this was the first time seedlings were ready in time.

2.2.3 Moyo Nursery

Like its peers in the West Nile Range, Moyo Nursery has performed well in meeting its production target. The seedlings absorption is also much better than Arua and Koboko, with 126,599 seedlings out of a total production of 212,130 having been given out. Additional absorption has been hampered by the absence of rains.



Photo 3: Palorinya Nursery in Moyo showing most seedlings beds empty due to higher absorption

It was similarly noted that adequate signage is still lacking at the nursery, even though two signposts from the 2019 PPA have been erected by the roadside.

It is recommended that innovative approaches be tried to improve the absorption, including supporting refugees to form CBOs that would undertake tree planting, with incentives given for those that surpass their targets. A target of 100% has been set for mid-July once there are sufficient rains. Majority of the remaining seedlings will be used in gap-filling of 2019 restoration planting. Additional seedlings including bamboo and Teak will be transported from Namanve to complete the targets set in the 2019 PPA.

2.2.4 Adjumani Nursery

Adjumani Nursery produced 207,000 seedlings against a target of 200,000, out of which only 28,388 have been given out for planting. Some 30,000 pawpaw seedlings were destroyed after overgrowing and becoming unsuitable for planting. The main reason given for this is delayed rainfall, lack of coordination among partners, and mismatch of species available with the requirements of the community.



Photo 4: Adjumani Nursery with most seedlings still on site and in danger of overgrowing

There is little signage at the nursery, and it is recommended that appropriate signs be erected as soon as possible.

2.2.5 Lamwo Nursery

The performance of Lamwo Nursery is relatively better than its peers, with 358,000 seedlings produced out of an original target of 300,000, out of which 278,196 have been given out. The nursery is in the process of produced an additional 52,2009 *Azelia africana* and 5,802 *Leucaena leucocephala* seedlings, which have proved popular with the community.

It was noted that the success in distribution is out of a strong partnership between NFA, LWF and the Lamwo DLG in mobilising the community.



Photo 5: Lamwo Nursery showing lush growing *Afzelia* ready for planting

The main challenge, like every other nursery, has been the nCOVID-19 restrictions on movement which hampered community sensitisation and delivery of seedlings. There is also a species mismatch and some seedlings have had to be transported form Gulu Nursery, which is costly. Furthermore, many beneficiaries would like to plant Teak, but this was not planned for under the current PPA.

2.2.6 Kitgum Nursery

The performance of Kitgum Nursery is also impressive considering the circumstances. A total of 408,814 seedlings were raised against a target of 400,000, and 357951 have already been given out for planting. The total distribution rises to 430,675 when additional seedlings raised to meet growing demand and given out are added. There is an unfulfilled demand for Teak, *Gmelina arborea* and Eucalyptus. To respond to this, NFA is raising an additional 160,000 *Gmelina* at own cost.



Photo 6: Uncollected *Sesbania* seedlings at Kitgum nursery

The main challenge in Kitgum is water supply during dry season, which results in seedling losses. Inadequate community sensitisation was also cited. As a result of low sensitisation, the uptake of *Sesbania sesban* is low, leading to overgrowing at the nursery. Continued management of these seedlings presents a cost challenge since it was not budgeted for.

2.2.7 Gulu Nursery

Gulu was mainly required produce fruit seedlings. A total of 305,087 seedlings against a target of 300,000 were produced out of which 229,247 have been given out. Seedling delivery was ongoing during the visit. Jack fruit and pawpaw are considered the most fast-moving seedlings. Other seedlings namely citrus, mango and avocado need to be grafted before distribution and this process has not started yet. It is expected to start form 23rd June. The nursery has supplied seedlings to Adjumani (62,700), Lamwo (4,800) and the local community (161,747). It is indicated that there is interest from the immediate community to pick some of the seedlings; however, the Gulu area is outside the project scope and consultations with UNHCR are necessary to determine if this could be allowed. It was agreed

that priority be given to refugee-hosting districts, but a **Note-for-File** be developed allowed the immediate community to receive some seedlings in case there is a balance in the nursery.

Signage is still inadequate.



Photo 7: UNHCR Logistics Partner's lorry on site at Gulu Nursery to pick seedlings

2.2.8 Kiryandongo Nursery

Kiryandongo Nursery had a target of 350,000 and managed to raise 365,429 out of which 216,875 have been given out. There is no signage at the nursery as expected.



Photo 8: Kiryandongo Nursery

The main challenges for this nursery are:

1. Seedling transport
2. Weather
3. Termites
4. Species mismatch
5. NCOVID-19 restrictions
6. NEMA has issued notice to relocate the nursery because it is in a wetland.
7. No sanitation facilities for nursery workers
8. Water supply during dry season
9. Flooding during rainy season
10. Space

A number of overgrown seedlings were observed due to reluctance of the beneficiaries to collect them. These include: *Terminallia superba*, *Mellia volkensii*, *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, *Senna seamea*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jackfruit, and *Vitex doniana*. This points to a lack of sensitisation as the seedlings are highly prized elsewhere.

The most popular seedlings are: *Eucalyptus* spp (especially the fast-growing clones), *Gmelina arborea*, *Pinus caribaea*, *Maesopsis eminii* and *Khaya* spp.

To improve seedling absorption, one strategy discussed was for NFA to work with OPM to identify land to plant uncollected seedlings as a demonstration to the community and for future firewood supply. In future, it is important also to undertake needs assessment to identify the species in demand. To address the challenge of space, NFA was advised to relocate to the UNHCR nursery within the settlement.

2.2.9 Masindi Nursery



Photo 9: Grafting of mango (left) and installation of gate and fence (right) ongoing at Masindi Nursery

Approximately 50% of the targeted 300,000 seedlings in Masindi are still on site. The main challenge is low seedling demand, transport for seedlings and the nCOVID-19 restrictions. The nursery also lacks shade for workers. Installation of a fence and gate was ongoing during the visit. Grafting of fruit seedlings was also ongoing. Overgrown pawpaw seedlings were observed.

2.2.10 Hoima (Kyamugongo) Nursery

Nsamizi, the UNHCR environment partner, has not picked any seedlings from Hoima Nursery. However, other partners have collected a total of 267,523 out of 365,375 seedlings, against a target of 350,000.

There is a total of 34,000 *Sesbania* seedlings uncollected. None of the *Tamarindus indica* seedlings at the nursery have also been collected. It is recommended that the project scope be broadened to include the host community in Hoima as beneficiaries to improve seedling uptake.



Photo 10: Overgrown *Sesbania* seedlings at Kyamugong Nursery

It is recommended that NFA immediately root-prune and cut the tops of uncollected seedlings to slow their growth. Nsamizi, having come into the area in June, are also asked to intensify sensitization, identify beneficiaries and prepare planting sites in readiness for the Season II planting.

The lack of UNCHR signage should also be addressed immediately.

2.2.11 Mubende Nursery

Mubende Nursery had a target of 350,000 seedlings which was reported as having been met. However, onsite verification showed only about 164,364 raised. It is likely that the balance of the seedlings died out before maturity, pointing at lack of proper supervision of the contractor by NFA. Grafting of mango and budding of citrus seedlings are ongoing.



Photo 11: Freshly-budded citrus seedlings at Mubende Nursery

None of the seedlings have been collected. NFA is in the process of raising additional seedlings to fill up the balance of the original targeted. It is understood that the contractor has only received 50% of the contract amount, and therefore it was agreed that the remaining amount be paid after the full 350,000 targeted is achieved. Nsamizi are also required to use the current dryspell to identify beneficiaries and prepare the planting sites. NFA and UNHCR are also required to engage the Kamwenge DLG who are some of the intended beneficiaries, to identify community beneficiaries and prepare for the collection of seedlings in the coming season.

There is no signage at the nursery, and this should be addressed immediately. NFA are also required to check the progress towards meeting the target by the end of July.

The main challenge is water supply and low demand of seedlings. It is recommended that in future NFA undertake detailed species demand before raising seedlings.

2.2.12 Kagorra (Kyenjojo) Nursery

Kagorra Nursery managed to raise 410,000 seedlings out of a target of 400,000, and 210,570 have already been given out for planting. Out of the 199,430 seedlings still in the nursery, 30,000 include mango for grafting. Grafting was ongoing at the time of the visit. The signage within the nursery is not adequate as per the terms of the PPA, and should be addressed immediately.



Photo 12: Mango grafting ongoing at Kagorra Nursery

The main challenge for nursery is lack of adequate water during the dry season. The 200,000 uncollected seedlings also mean additional cost for maintenance.

A strategy for seedling collection was agreed with Nsamizi, who indicated that there is enough seedling demand, but they cannot be planted due to the current dryspell. Nsamizi therefore undertook to use the interim period to identify beneficiaries and prepare the sites ahead of the planting season in September. A complete list of beneficiaries and their location will be provided by end of July 2020.

Nsamizi also proposed to carry along some seedlings to their nursery to see if they can be nursed near the settlements to reduce damage during transportation. If this strategy is successful, Nsamizi will collect delicate seedlings at the nursery and nurse them onsite. However, in the future, delicate

seedlings such as pawpaw will be raised within the settlements to reduce transport costs, and damage during transportation. NFA will therefore provide seed instead of seedlings.

Nsamizi is also asked to prioritise the procurement of seedling transportation trays to be used in the next planting season.

2.2.13 Kabale Nursery

Kabale managed to raise 200,174 out of a target of 200,000, but only 65,060 have been given out. There is a marked improvement in the nursery from the last monitoring visit in December 2019, and this is commendable. However, Pine seedlings are not yet ready, reportedly due to low germination.



Photo 13: Kabale Nursery with recently germinated pine seedlings in the lower left

In spite of the low absorption of seedlings, it was noted that the seedlings in the nursery are generally still young due to the cold environment hence there is little danger of overgrowing in the nursery. Nevertheless, passion fruit seedlings are still overgrown.

The main challenge is delayed rains. Other challenges are the delayed grafting of fruits, the nCOVID-19 pandemic which interfered with tree-planting activities. There is also an additional cost for maintenance of seedlings up to September.

About 8,000 seedlings were used by NFA for beating up. UNHCR Mbarara is planning to absorb some bamboo and indigenous seedlings for wetland restoration consisting of 10ha in Rwamwanja under Direct Implementation consisting of 10ha in Rwamwanja, 25ha in Kyaka II, 25ha in Nakivale and 5ha in Oruchinga.

Eucalyptus is the species most in demand and the Isingiro DLG requires more than 1million seedlings. To improve seedling uptake, UNHCR field office has undertaken to conduct detailed consultation with the DLG to agree on strategies for planting all the available the seedlings in September.

2.2.14 Mbarara Nursery

Mbarara Nursery had a target of 350,000 and managed to raise 358,115 seedlings but only 90,100 have been given out. The main challenge is poor weather compounded by the nCOVID-19 restrictions. Grafting of fruit seedlings is currently ongoing. It was noted that Eucalyptus, Pine and Calliandra seedlings are overgrown. In addition, the Eucalyptus seedlings appear to be under some fungal attack and chemical spraying is urgently recommended. As a management strategy to maintain the seedling still September, root pruning is ongoing. NFA, UNHCR, Isingiro DLG and Nsamizi undertook to work together to develop a strategy for improving seedling uptake.



Photo 14: Eucalyptus seedlings showing signs of fungal dieback in Mbarara Nursery

2.3 Progress on Fruit Grafting

The 2020 PPA has a target to graft local 200,000 fruit seedlings with high-yielding varieties including mango, avocado and citrus. As indicated in the nursery updates, the activity is currently ongoing in the with the following achieved to date:

Table 4: Progress of fruit seedling grafting as at the time of the monitoring visit

Nursery	Grafting Target 2020	Actual grafted at mission time	Remarks
Arua	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Koboko	20,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Moyo	10,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Adjumani	10,000	0	Grafting not started, root stock not yet ready
Lamwo	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Gulu	20,000	0	Grafting had not commenced during the mission
Masindi	30,000	16,300	In progress
Mubende	20,000	13,600	Remaining root stock require additional one month to be ready for budding/grafting
Kyenjojo/Kagorra	20,000	9,250	Remaining root stock require additional one month to be ready for budding/grafting
Kabale	10,000	2,900	In progress
Mbarara	20,000	15,255	In progress
TOTAL	200,000	57,305	
PERCENT PERFORMANCE		28.65%	

The grafting process started in the South-West and Mid-West of the Uganda Refugee Operation but is expected to progress into all the nurseries by the end of July.

2.4 Maintenance of 2019 Planting

The following maintenance activities were planned for the forest areas restored in 2019, with the following targets and performance to date:

Table 5: Progress in maintenance of 2019 restoration planting across the project areas

CFR	Maintenance Activity Planned	Targeted No. of Ha	Progress to Date (No. of Ha)	Performance % against Target	Remarks
ERA	Spot-weeding	103	103	100%	Completed in early April 2020
	Slash-weeding	18	18	100%	Completed in early April 2021
	Strip weeding	86	86	100%	Completed in early April 2020
	Fire management	149	149	100%	General protection against animal grazing and fires
	Survival monitoring	149	0	0%	Planned for Q3
	Replanting	46	35	76%	Pitting ongoing, awaiting rains
ERIA	Spot-weeding	73	67	92%	Ongoing
	Slash-weeding	73	67	92%	Ongoing
	Fire management	73	73	100%	General protection against animal grazing and fires
	Survival monitoring	73	0	0%	Planned for Q3
	Gap-filling	51	51	100%	Pitting ongoing, awaiting rains
BUGOMA	Spot-weeding	200	200	100%	Complete

CFR	Maintenance Activity Planned	Targeted No. of Ha	Progress to Date (No. of Ha)	Performance % against Target	Remarks
	Strip weeding	200	154	77%	Ongoing
	Fire management	200	200	100%	General protection against animal grazing, vandalization and fires
	Survival monitoring	200	0	0%	Planned for Q3

These activities are illustrated pictorially below:



Photo 15: Some of the seedlings planted in 2019 restoration planting showing indigenous species (left) and bamboo (right) in Eria CFR near Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Obongi



Photo 16: Newly-slash-weeded Teak Plantations in Era CFR



Photo 17: Spot- and Strip Weeding of bamboo and indigenous species restoration planting in Bugoma CFR, Kyangwali

3 CONSULTATIONS WITH UNCHR FIELD OFFICES

In line with Specific Objective (vi) of the mission, namely, “To obtain inputs from field teams on the UNHCR’s proposed long-term tree planting programme” the joint team held detailed consultation with stakeholders in all the places visited. The outcome of these discussion is summarised in Table 6.

Table 6: Summary of consultations with staff at UNHCR and NFA field offices

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
1. Meeting at UNHCR Office with HOSO Arua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of project activities is very important to achieving long-term impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure field staff are well-versed in project activities to enable constant monitoring and reporting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 is no reason to halt environment activities. Seasons do not pay attention to ongoing crises, but neglecting activities could lead to long term negative impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In future, partners should seek exemptions to ensure continuation of activities, while observing necessary precautions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and awareness-raising for both refugee- and host-communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and awareness-raising should be continuous as it contributes to project success.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ownership issues: Many refugees are reluctant to plant trees because of the perception that their presence in Uganda is temporary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through education, partners should make it clear that refugees will benefit from the trees planted. Focus on fast-growing species with multiple uses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of intervention areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should be done for all interventions and should be built into the design.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities should be educated to cut only dead trees to meet their requirements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching activities and zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species should be matched with intended planting sites. Consult FAO and ICRAF.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewarding good practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with RWCs and Environment Committees to develop incentive schemes to encourage successful tree growing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survival monitoring should be conducted in time to measure success.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with local governance structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These should be incorporated into awareness- raising and education activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multifaceted solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to address in particular cooking energy access in order to encourage conservation and tree planting. 	
2. NFA Range Office, Arua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with community structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community structures to plant trees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration plots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage communities to plant unpopular but useful species through demonstration.

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
3. Meeting at UNHCR Office with HOSO Moyo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of seedlings should be with the end goal of growing them to maturity. There is limited community engagement through RWCs in tree growing activities. In design of PPAs, Project Control and Programmes' should incorporate aspects of ensuring trees reach maturity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate activities necessary for tree growing to maturity in design of tree growing projects e.g. watering, weeding, pruning, thinning, community engagement. RWC Environment focal persons should be empowered to ensure all trees planted grow for sustainability and long-term impact. Sensitisation fo communities on watering activities to ensure trees survive, etc. should be done.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must pay attention to how we use project finances for accountability even to the cause. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must ensure funds are used effectively without wastage to ensure value for money but also ensure they overall goal of the project is met fo sustained impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-seedling inspection of farmers to check the sites on which to grow the trees and GPS coordinates for the sites taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This should be built in project design and should be standard practice by IPs to filter out genuine tree growers for tracking and monitoring.
4. Meeting at Palorinya Basecamp with OPM, NFA and Moyo and Obongi DLGs and LWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delayed onset of rains delayed transplanting activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bduget for maintenance of seedlings should always be planned for incase of challenges of timely distribution of seedlings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening coordination among different stakeholders in tree growing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local coordination meetings in Moyo/Obongi should be held regularly with participation of NFA, LWF, DLG and OPM. The roles of different stakeholders should be circulated among all key stakeholders and the NFA PPA should be shared with DFO.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community involvement in forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative Forest Management should be deployed allowing refugee and host communities to be involved in restoration activities e.g. slashing in the CFR as a means of income to the communities to enable them appreciate forest restoration and have a stake in management of CFRs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires affected part of the 51 ha of bamboo planted for ERA restoration in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire lines must be established. During the dry season, fire campaigns should be carried out among communities as a fire management measure.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of local governance structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RWCs should be engaged in seedling distributions to help vet farmers and their requests for tree seedlings and assist in monitoring.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obongi doesn't have naturally growing bamboo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make ecological considerations when identifying the source of bamboo seedlings for planting.

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
5. Virtual Meeting at UNHCR Office with HOSO Adjumani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uptake of seedlings was slow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community mobilization on availability of tree seedlings in the nursery and sensitization should be carried out continuously to ensure uptake of all the seedlings raised for the first planting season.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matching species raised in the nursery with requests from communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seedlings raised in the nurseries must be of the species and amounts demanded for by the community to encourage uptake. Consultations with DFO should be made on which species to be grown before start of sowing. For fast-growing species, communities should be sensitized of their benefits including soil fertility improvement and firewood production.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement in tree growing initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPM and DLG can help on this to ensure refugees and host communities are engaged in tree growing activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination among key stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFA should engage OPM and DLGs to farmer mobilization and regularly update them on the work being done under this project. All stakeholder should be aware of the implementation arrangement of under this project.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree survival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure tree survive beyond transplanting by planning for activities such as weeding, beating-up, slashing, etc. An environmental audit should be carried out.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistical challenge of transporting seedlings from Gulu and Kitgum nurseries to Adjumani 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFA should consider establishment of a nursery at the site offered by Adjumani district to NFA. The capacity of the LWF nursery at Pagrinya refugee settlement can be expanded to supply the whole of Adjumani.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are private nursery owners that had been trained in 2017/2018 on raising tree seedlings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These should be engaged in raising seedlings locally within the district.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unreliable rains during the first planting season affecting seedling uptake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shift from rain-fed and/or season tree growing. The Sub Office has mobilized communities creating a growing demand for tree seedlings in the district.
6. Meeting at UNHCR Office with HOSO Kiryandongo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus is on institutional woodlots mainly, but institutions have been closed during the lockdown affecting seedling uptake especially 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash-for-Work (CfW) modality should be deployed.

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
	<p>by these institutions because the pupils/students are not there to provide labour for tree planting.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking seedling distribution during lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Field Office developed a system of coupons to track seedling distribution during lockdown
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCA lacks a pick-up to collect seedlings especially fruit seedlings from Masindi and Nakasongola. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIRD – UNHCR’s logistical partner should provide a track for seedling transportation. A request for transportation by DCA should be made to AIRD early enough for proper planning.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints from District Environment Officers that nursery activities at current site are draining the land and discharging chemical pollutants to the soil. Landowners also seek rent for the land used for the nursery and there is lack of modern nursery infrastructure (shelter, latrines). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considerations should be made to relocate the nursery to a new site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low seedling uptake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCA to discuss with OPM to open up the agreed 5ha for establishing a demo plantation. Use some of the seedlings for restoration planting in Kibeka CFR.
<p>7. Meeting at UNHCR Office with Kyangwali Field Staff, Nsamizi and OPM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees are uprooting the planted trees having been chased from CFR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven (7) forest guards deployed to patrol the woodlots established by Nsamizi to protect them from encroachment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistical challenges in transportation of seedlings from Hoima to the settlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider reviewing the PPAs to have seedlings raised within or close to the settlements. Nsamizi should make their transportation requests officially to ARID – the UNHCR logistical partner to allow proper arrangement for seedling transportation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening coordination between stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFA to continuously work and share information with OPM desk officers, Settlement Commandants and other stakeholders.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bugoma CFR encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen enforcement efforts making use of environmental structures at the district.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of tree farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All farmers who’ve made requests for tree seedlings for planting and have received tree seedlings should be properly documented with their name, telephone contact, location and georeferenced for ease of monitoring.

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of the UNHCR Environment Partner from LWF to Nsamizi during April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in Partners should be done early enough before planting activities commence to allow the new partner to make necessary arrangements for seedling distribution.
8. Meeting with NFA and Kagorra Plantation Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have one 10,000 litre tank to support seedling production which is insufficient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) additional water tanks are needed to support seedling production
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper record of seedling requests, number of seedlings requested for location of farmers and their georeferenced should be documented and must be standard practice.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading of seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different seedlings are loaded in different ways. Pawpaw seedlings should be loaded in a standing posture while woodlot tree seedlings should be loaded horizontally to avoid damage/loss during transportation. Trays for transporting fruit trees are being procured for use in the next planting season.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading charges are on NFA not on the partner.
9. Meeting with Isingiro DLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delays in seedling production – by mid-March, seedlings were not ready for distribution at the Mbarara nursery and the subsequent COVID-19 lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper planning of the seedling production activities to match the rainy season and enable seedling uptake.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation of seedlings was difficult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nsamizi should make their transportation requests officially to ARID – the UNHCR logistical partner to allow proper arrangement for seedling transportation. DLG has made requests for transportation of seedlings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest management plans for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for forest management plans should be sent to FSSD/MWE.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical backstopping and monitoring of farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For quality plantations, the NFA, DLG, Nsamizi and UNHCR Environment focal person should carry out technical backstopping for tree farmers for quality plantations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer verification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before distributing seedlings, Nsamizi and DFO should verify the farmers request and the availability of land for planting the seedlings requested for. This should be backed up by georeferencing of their location.

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herdsmen grazing cattle in established woodlots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities should create awareness on the project and its benefits to the community to create an appreciation of this. • Integration of agroforestry practices in tree growing initiatives such as taungya system could help promote peaceful co-existence in the community.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss due to loading and/or transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFA shall supervise loading of seedlings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loading fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFA shall bear the cost of loading the seedlings from the nursery.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen coordination among the key stakeholders in the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFA, DLG, OPM, UNHCR and Nsamizi should re-acquaint themselves with their respective roles for the successful implementation of this ReForest Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFA shall re-align the budget to cater for maintenance of seedlings till the next planting season without requesting for additional funding.
10. Meeting at UNHCR Office with HOSO Mbarara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Mid-March seedlings to Mbarara nursery were not ready for planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low seedling uptake 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project indicators are only on production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project should also be assessed in terms of long-term tree survival.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFA shall re-align the budget to cater for maintenance of seedlings till the next planting season without requesting for additional funding.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedling requests for second planting season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLG advised to make their requests for seedlings formally through the Environment Focal Person UNHCR Mbarara SO to NFA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedling transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR through AIRD – the logistics partner to handle seedling transportation as per requests made by Nsamizi and DLG. • NFA to liaise with UNHCR Project Manager to see how to establish nurseries close to the settlements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiling of tree farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nsamizi and DLG to profile their farmers by 1st of July 2020.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of small community nurseries by NFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not possible because it would mean hiring additional staff hence increasing the NFA budget significantly which is not acceptable to the HR department of NFA. Only temporary staff can be allocated to

Office/Person	Key issues raised and findings	Recommendations/Actions
		assist in seedling production and management once a while.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFA shall bear the cost of loading the seedlings from the nursery.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overgrown seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFA shall re-align the budget to cater for maintenance of seedlings till the next planting season without requesting for additional funding.

4 CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following observations were made, and should be noted in the continued implementation, and future activities:

- I. **Field Staff Awareness of the ReForest Project:** It was noted that some field staff are still not adequately aware of the implementation arrangements of the PPA.
NFA should undertake to ensure all staff involved in the implementation are adequately capacitated and receive clear instructions about the technical requirements for implementation.
- II. **Poor Record-Keeping/No records:** It was noted that record-keeping is still deficient of all activities and receipts relating to the project. Where such records exist, they are often incorrectly done, based on the wrong documents.
NFA should immediately correct this by ensuring the correct documents are made available at all the implementation field offices, and all field staff are adequately trained on the correct record-keeping.
- III. **Signage:** Although provided for in the PPA, the appropriate signage to clearly designate UNHCR seedlings and material is still largely lacking. NFA should immediately correct this by ensuring dedicated stationery clearly visible UNHCR symbols and the project name is delivered to all the field offices involved in the project. Similar measures should be taken the physical nursery sites.
- IV. **Mapping of intervention areas:** Accountability is an important aspect of UNCHR interventions, first as a demonstration of transparency to donors, and second, for monitoring impact. Mapping provides a physical link to the monitoring of tree-growing impacts even long after the activities have ceased. It is therefore important that the need to capture geospatial data of all seedling beneficiaries be enforced without exception. After planting, all woodlots need to be mapped. All the mapped data, whether of households receiving less than 10 seedlings, or institutions establishing woodlots and plantations, be sent to the UNHCR database for proper processing and archiving. The use of KOBO forms to capture this information is recommended, and should be overseen by UNHCR Environment Focal Points across the operation.

Additional recommendations from the visit are summarised as follows:

1. *Maintenance of uncollected seedlings in the nurseries:* The following strategies were discussed:

- a. NFA agreed to undertake necessary silvicultural operations like root pruning and lopping to slow down their growth and enable them to reach the September planting season.
 - b. NFA will identify budget lines that can be redirected for the maintenance of these seedlings till September.
2. *Species mismatch leading to low demand:*
 - a. In the short term, NFA, DLGs, IPs and UNHCR to urgently scale up awareness-creation activities to educate the target beneficiaries of the benefits of the species in the nursery.
 - b. In the long term, more consultation including with targeted beneficiaries to be done to properly identify the species on demand. In the meantime, NFA and IPs should undertake a trend analysis to identify the fast-moving species and prioritise their production in future.
 3. *Lack of transport for seedlings:* IPs should coordinate with UNHCR logistics partner and present in advance the number of seedlings to be transported and the destination to facilitate their transportation.
 4. *Improve uptake of seedlings:* IPs should utilize the current dry season to identify beneficiaries, undertake sensitization and ensure they prepare their planting sites in readiness for the next planting season.
 5. *Lack of capacity among NFA technical staff:* NFA should urgently plan for regional training workshops for key technical staff at field level, in line with GoU Covid-19 restrictions, to ensure that the remainder of the project implementation is conducted as per the PPA.
 6. *Reduce seedling mortality:* The following strategies are recommended:
 - a. Loading of seedlings at the nursery to be done or supervised by experienced NFA staff.
 - b. NFA to fast-track procurement of seedling trays to be used for transporting delicate fruit seedlings.
 - c. In future seedlings should be transported directly to the planting sites, or as close as possible.
 - d. IPs with facilities (e.g. Nsamizi in South West) should consider transporting some seedlings to their own nurseries and nurse them in preparation for planting in September. A small trial is recommended to test the viability of this approach; if seedling deaths are noted, recommend retaining them in NFA nurseries till planting time.
 - e. Raise delicate seedlings within the settlements to reduce the need to long-distance transportation.
 7. *Slow uptake of seedlings by refugees and host communities/apathy towards tree planting:* The following strategies were agreed upon:
 - a. NFA and UNHCR to immediately work on a Note-for-File during the MYR that expands the project scope to include host-community members in the immediate vicinity of the nurseries as beneficiaries and not restricted to the hosting districts only, provided that proper documentation for accountability and future follow-up is done.
 - b. Ensure NFA raises only the species in demand by conducting an initial needs assessment.
 - c. Enhance community sensitisation on unknown/unpopular but highly useful species.
 - d. NFA, IPs and OPM should coordinate and identify some land within settlements (Imvepi and Rhino Camp) or CFRs (elsewhere), where some of the uncollected seedlings can be planted as demonstration of their benefits.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Roles and Responsibilities of Key Project Stakeholders

1. UNHCR

- Ensuring funding for the project
- Project Control monitoring for accountability
- Mainstreaming project activities into Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan, and Water and Environment sector response plan
- Coordination of all institutions operating under the project
- Logistical support through logistics partner
- Supporting DLGs and IPs to implement their roles in the project

2. MWE/FSSD/CENTRE

- Providing strategic guidance on national and sector aspirations, including NDPII, Bonn Challenge, etc.
- Harmonizing project activities with on-going project support, including FIEFOC2, REDD+ Strategy implementation coordination, etc.
- Mobilizing technical support
- Stakeholder coordination
- Technical support to Districts

3. FSSD/REGIONAL OFFICE

- Determining areas for implementation of project activities
- Coordinating forestry activities of the district local governments
- Conducting Monitoring and Evaluation of the project activities
- Conduct technical backstopping of the DFS

4. NFA

- Managing financial obligations (including reporting) of the project
- Production and issue of quality tree seedlings to beneficiaries
- Provision of quality seed and planting materials
- Coordination with UNHCR Logistics partner
- Management of Central Forest Reserves (planning and afforestation/ reforestation/ restoration of CFRs)
- Forest monitoring, data management and reporting
 - Coordination of GIS activities
 - Monitoring and reporting on impact
 - GHG monitoring and reporting
- Technical support to Districts
- Plantation development
- Project visibility – publications and events

5. DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (DLG)

- Community mobilization and sensitization
- Identification of beneficiaries
- Training of farmers on tree planting and management

- Conducting forestry extension services in the areas of project operation
- Management planning and afforestation/reforestation/restoration of LFRs
- Receive seedlings on behalf of the beneficiaries and distribute accordingly
- Local Forest Reserves protection
- Wildfire management
- Extension services
- Community development / mobilisation
- Formulation of bylaw

6. IPS WORKING IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

- Community mobilization and sensitization
- Assist in delivery of seedlings to beneficiaries
- Stakeholder mobilization and engagement
- CSA extension and activities
- Community agroforestry extension and activities
- Participatory forestry management
- Livestock management
- Policy implementation (watch dog) and reporting

Annex 2: The Mission Itinerary

The mission itinerary is summarised in Table 7 and Figure 2 below:

Table 7: Itinerary for the joint mission

Day	Date	Activity
1.	Day 1 (Sunday 14 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Travel from Kampala to Arua. ☞ Spend night in Arua.
2.	Day 2 (Monday 15 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Brief meeting with Arua & Yumbe Field Team + Partners; Brief HOSO Arua. ☞ Courtesy call to Refugees Desk Officer, Arua ☞ Visit Arua and Koboko nurseries, meetings and discussions. ☞ Spend night in Moyo.
3.	Day 3 (Tuesday 16 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Brief meeting with Moyo Field Team + Partners; Brief HOSO Moyo. ☞ Courtesy call to Refugees Desk Officer, Adjumani. ☞ Visit Moyo and Adjumani nurseries, meetings and discussions. ☞ Spend night in Adjumani.
4.	Day 4 (Wednesday 17 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Brief meeting with Adjumani Field Team + Partners. ☞ Travel to Lamwo. ☞ Visit Lamwo and Kitgum Nurseries. ☞ Spend night in Gulu.
5.	Day 5 (Thursday 18 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Visit Gulu Nursery. ☞ Travel to Kiryandongo. ☞ Brief meeting with Kiryandongo Field Team + Partners; Brief HOSO Kiryandongo. ☞ Visit Masindi Nursery. ☞ Spend night in Hoima.
6.	Day 6 (Friday 19 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Travel to Kyangwali. ☞ Brief meeting with Kyangwali Field Team + Partners (Nsamizi) ☞ Spend night in Hoima.
7.	Day 7 (Saturday 20 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Travel to Mubende.

Day	Date	Activity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Mubende Nursery; hold discussions with field team. Spend night in Mubende.
8.	Day 8 (Sunday 21 st June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rest in Mubende
9.	Day 9 (Monday 22 nd June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Kyenjojo, visit Kyenjojo Nursery, meetings and discussions. Travel to Mbarara. Spend night in Mbarara.
10.	Day 10 (Tuesday 23 rd June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Kabale in the morning. Visit Kabale Nursery, meetings and discussions. Visit Isingiro for brief meeting with Isingiro DLG, Field Team & Partners. Travel back to Mbarara, spend night in Mbarara
11.	Day 11 (Wednesday 24 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief meeting with Mbarara field Team + Partners, Brief HOSO Mbarara. Visit Mbarara Nursery, meetings and discussions. Spend night in Mbarara.
12.	Day 12 (Thursday 25 th June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel back to Kampala

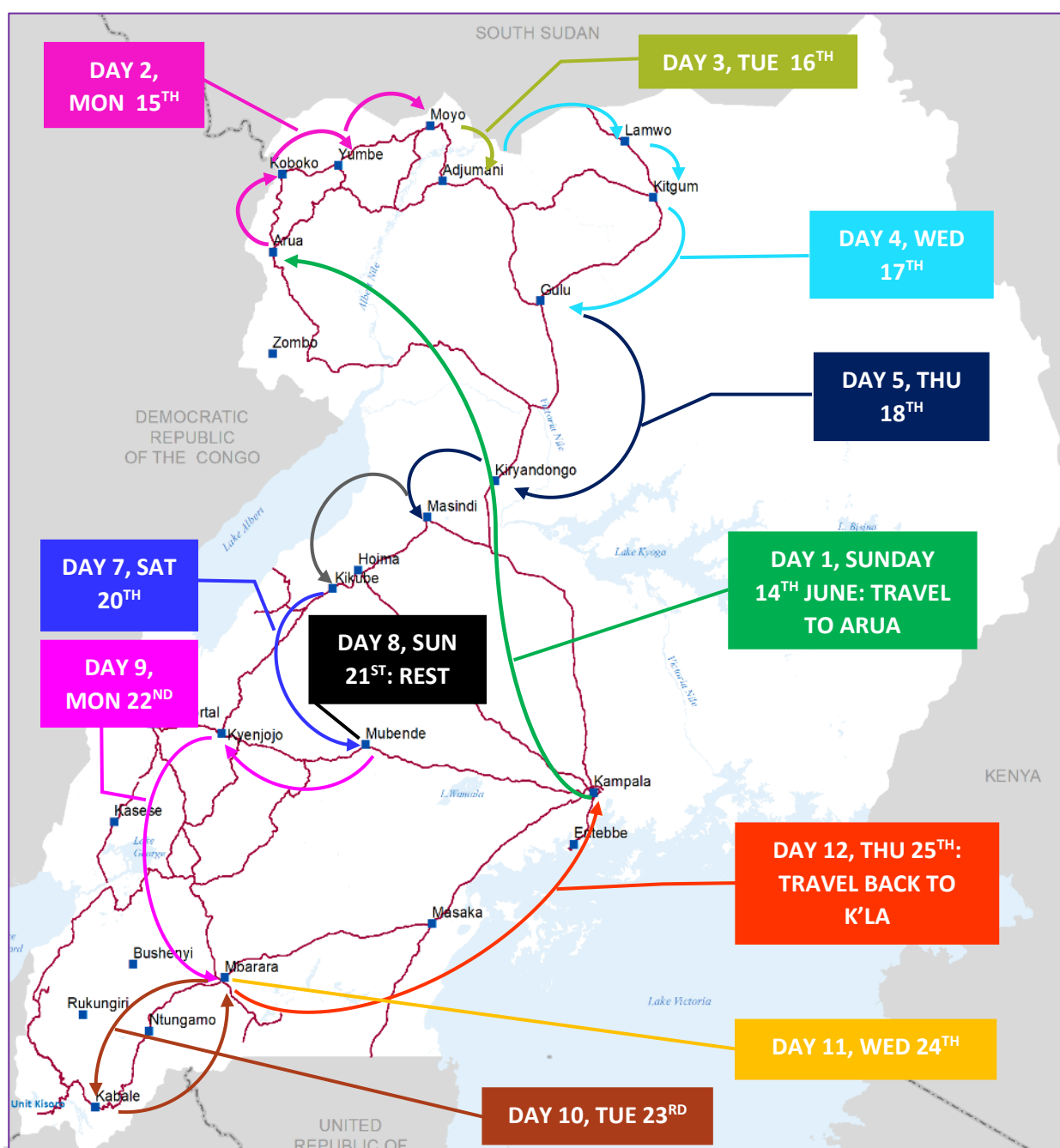


Figure 2: Itinerary for the Joint Monitoring Mission (June 14th - 25th 2020)

Annex 3: Minutes of meeting between Joint Team and HOSO Arua

Introduction

A joint mission of UNHCR and NFA was received in Arua on 15th June 2020. The purpose of the mission was to verify the status of tree planting in the 2020 Season 1 and to familiarize NFA and UNHCR with project deliverables and compliance monitoring requirements. In addition, the mission sought to understand challenges that could and /or are already hindering the achievement of 2020 objectives with a view to mitigate them within the timelines.

Progress of the mission activities

1. The mission activities commenced with a courtesy call to HOSO's office and a brief meeting to understand some of the issues surrounding the implementation of the Re-Forest Project which is being implemented by NFA with funding from UNHCR. The following issues came out;
 - NFA has a PPA with UNHCR to raise up to 05million assorted tree seedlings for afforestation programme across the Ugandan operation
 - Of the 0 5 million seedlings, the west Nile range had a target of 01 million seedlings. Of the 01 million seedlings Arua and Yumbe sub-offices which fall under lot 1 were apportioned 600,000 seedlings of assorted varieties
 - Of the 600,000 seedlings, 300,000 were to be raised in NFA Arua tree nursery and the remaining 300,000 in NFA Koboko Tree Nursery
 - UNHCR's role in this was to provide NFA with the requisite funding and facilitation to deliver the targets in a timely manner
 - At the time of the mission NFA had already raised 633,356 seedlings in both the Arua and Koboko NFA tree nurseries
 - These seedlings are ready, and some are getting overgrown due to low absorption rates by partners
 - The partner indicated that the major challenge they have faced with the distribution is the delayed rains which made it difficult to commence planting. However, preparations have been done with farmers for distribution of the seedlings
 - The HOSO emphasized the need for growing trees rather than planting. Reiterating the need to put a lot of efforts to maintain the established woodlots to enable them grow
 - She said there is need to do analysis of the interventions and the impact of the interventions rather than just planting trees year in and year out. There is needed to establish what this intervention has done
 - The HOSO further emphasized the need to protect the natural trees through marking and sensitization of the community both refugees and host community
 - According to the HOSO, access to energy for cooking is a critical need and it is very much linked to tree cutting. Therefore, to achieve environmental protection, there is need to provide sustainable energy solutions for the refugees. She highlighted the need for alternative cooking energy options such as briquets and LPG but was quick to notice that LPG was expensive in Uganda. Promotion of use of low-cost efficient energy saving stoves was another alternative to promote environmental protection
 - The programme colleagues on their part emphasized the need for ensuring value for money by the partners and also highlighted the roles of different stakeholders to ensure proper and effective delivery of the project objectives
2. The second activity of the day was a visit to the NFA nurseries with the purpose to verify the deliverables on the targeted number of seedlings and at the same time check on the project documents as well as verify progress on site in regards distribution of seedlings by the partner. The visit to sites was also intended to interact with field staff on the best modalities to expedite

the distribution of seedlings to mitigate on wastage envisaged due to overgrowing of seedlings. The following are the findings in the Arua and Koboko Nurseries

- The tree nursery for UNHCR project was separated from the other nurseries within the NFA nursery site
- There were attempts to label the beds with the name of tree species, the sowing dates and the provenance of the seeds. However, the logo of UNHCR or Project visibility was missing on the labels
- The project visibility in form of the signpost was installed and well visible in Arua nursery but for Koboko Nursery the Signpost had been blown off by wind and plans were underway to re-install it back
- The exact number of seedlings could not be established as the arrangement of seedlings was not standardized. However, from the look of the seedling population the estimates could go up to the reported numbers on the nursery statements
- There was an observation of overgrowing of seedlings in the nursery. The most affected species are *Persea americana* (Avocado), *Mangifera indica* (Mango), *Carica papaya* (Pawpaw), *Gmelina arborea* (White teak), *Sesbania sesban*, *Moringa oleifera* and *Sena spectabilis*
- The overgrown seedlings are being managed and prioritized for distribution in the field by the partners
- The highest demand for seedlings was for *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Gmelina arborea* (White teak) and *Eucalyptus* due to the economic value attached to the species. However, these seedlings were few in the nursery and may not meet the demands of the community. The other species are mainly for environmental restoration purposes (which is key in the UNHCR project objective) but they are not so attractive to the people in the local (host) communities
- In terms of accountability, there was a clear system in place to track the seedlings leaving the tree nurseries. A form designed jointly by NFA, UNHCR and DCA is being used for requesting for seedlings and after approval the copies are retained by NFA and DCA. NFA has a serialized delivery record book which is used to track the seedlings leaving the tree nursery (species and quantity are all tracked)
- On the delayed uptake of seedlings, the partner (DCA) expressed the challenge of lack of appropriate means of transport as the partner only has Hardtop Landcruiser vehicles for use under right of use. UNHCR noted this challenge and notified the partner of the progress being made to resolve that challenge
- The IP also acknowledge the strategy which was jointly agreed in a prior meeting engage other partners to participate in the distribution as positive and said some partners like OXFAM and PalmCorps have already take advantage of these arrangements.
- The DLGs seem to have lost interest in mobilizing farmers after the introduction of the tracking/request forms and need to verify farmers before seedling request could be approved. The reason for this is still not clear

3. Strategies and recommendations for improvement

- NFA to re-label the seedling beds to include the project title and UNHCR logo in the label
- The UNHCR section of the nursery should be clearly delineated with a visibility. Otherwise from the outside signpost, everyone would think that the seedlings in the entire yard are for UNHCT Re-forest project which is not true
- NFA, UNHCR and DCA to work jointly to ensure that the seedlings are all out of the nursery by Mid – July (i.e. by 15th July 2020). This shall be fast tracked through regular updates
- As a strategy to increase the distribution, the use of AIRD trucks were proposed, however this was technically discouraged by the UNHCR Assistant Environment Officer with reason that the

trucks are very big to take only few seedlings. On the bad road, the seedlings will be damaged as such there was need to consider smaller trucks or use of pick – up vehicles

- UNHCR was then tasked to fast track availability of transport for the partner to transport the seedlings to the farmers for planting
- Need to further engage the DLGs to take interest in the afforestation project and mobilize farmers in the host community for that purpose. There is need to explain to them the rationale for the accountability measures and need to ensure the trees are not wasted when issued out.
- DCA to populate the number and species that are required but currently missing in the Arua and Koboko nurseries for NFA to deliver from other NFA nurseries in the region
- In order to rekindle the interest in the community, there is need for the IP to go on radio and explain the processes involved in accessing these seedlings. Additionally, the partner should also explain the choice of the species being raised which targets both livelihood and restoration efforts
- DCA, UNHCR and NFA to work with other interested partners to expedite the distribution process to reduce on chances of wasting away the seedlings
- Despite the urgency to let seedlings out of the nursery, a due process needs to be followed. The need for accountability is dire and the checks and control processes should not be compromised just to expedite a process, but the right channels should be used to accomplish the distribution of seedlings

Annex 4: Summary of DCA Activities in Kiryandongo

Project Title: Protection and Restoration of the Environment & Promotion of safe access to Sustainable Energy and Green Livelihoods in Refugee and Host Communities

Project Funder: UNHCR

Project Duration: JAN 2020 TO DEC 2020

Partner: DCA implementing through HADS

Target Population: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Uganda living in settlements and the surrounding host community

Project Goal: The overall goal of the project is to protect, restore the environment & natural resources and promote green livelihoods.

Project objectives

- Promotion of energy saving technology focussing on briquette production and construction of rocket Lorena stoves both in the settlement and host-community.
- Promotion of tree planting within the settlement and host community

SUMMARY OF TARGETS AGAINST ACHIEVEMENT-JANUARY 2020 TO JUNE

Activities	Target 2020	Achievements	Comments
FOREST PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT (Total Project Target is 121,658 seedlings) Planted 81,500 seedlings			
Maintenance of existing woodlots (weeding, gap filling slashing)	39 hectares 13,000 seedlings	4.23 hectares (Old woodlots) 7.35 hectares (new woodlot) 3,859 seedlings	Maintenance through CFW is still ongoing and we expect it finalised by end of July 2020.

Establishment of new woodlots	78 Hectares 86,658 seedlings	51.6 hectares (26.4 ha bal) 57,342 Seedlings planted Refugees (11527 seedlings) Host Com (45815 seedlings)	Had irregular rain at the begging of the season. Planting is still on going. Expect to meet the target by Mid July 2020.
Household tree planting	3,400 individuals 17,000 seedlings	574 HHs Reached (2826 bal) Refugee 303(M=115, F=188) Host com 271(M=228, F=43) 16,773 seedlings Planted Refugee (5570 seedlings) Host community (11203 seedlings)	Mobilisation and support for more farmers is ongoing.
Avenue tree planting	25 KM 5,000 seedlings	3,528 seedlings planted	Landowners have been engaged with support from cfw youths, pitting and planting ongoing on Gasper road, Cluster H-Magamaga road
GPS mapping of woodlots both old and new	56 Hectares		Training on kobo data collection technique has been done to DCA/HADS staff, plans are under way to get a GPS machine/tablet from UNHCR to collect data

BREAKDOWN OF SEEDLINGS PICKED FROM NFA KIRYANDONGO AND MASINDI

S/N	MONTH	QUANTITY
1	APRIL	37,862
2	MAY	45,210
3	JUNE	6150
4	MASINDI SEEDLINGS	74,500
	TOTAL	163,722

STRATEGIES FOR THE REMAINING SEEDLINGS

- Beating up (Gap filling) of 35.34 hectares consuming 11,778 seedlings
- Roll out planting in 26 institutions (schools, churches) in the host community-mainly woodlots.
- Promote household tree planting in the settlement

KEY STAKEHOLDERS WE HAVE ENGAGED

- Local governments (town council e.g. Kiryandongo T.C, Bweyale T.C., Mutundi S/C etc.)
- Development and Implementing Partners in the field of environment e.g. Refugee law Project, AFI (Andrea Foods International), ACF, Save the children, Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative, Brac etc)
- OPM
- Local leader e.g. LCs, RWCs
- Police
- Church Leaders

Key Challenges

- Un favourable weather (Rainfall is unreliable, leaving some of the planted trees wilting).

- Some of the trees were partially covered or fully covered by farmers in the process of weeding crops (Taunja System).
- COVID-19 Pandemic affected community sensitisation and mobilisation
- Termites eating planted seedlings most especially grevillea Robusta, Eucalyptus
- Shortage of most preferred seedling at NFA Kiryandongo (grevillea Robusta, Pinus caribea, Maesopsis eminii are all out of stock and yet there is high demand for them. This has also affected gap filling.
- Some farmers have sprayed gardens where tree seedlings have been planted with Non selective – (weed master) chemical thus killing some of the trees.
- Luck of efficient means of transport for seedlings (currently using tricycle that can't do much work)
- Some seedlings received from NFA were overgrown affecting the survival of some species e.g. Eucalyptus gradis, Maesopsis eminii. this has been coupled by the insufficient rainfall
- Low rates for CFW

SEEDLINGS PICKED FROM NFA KIRYANDONGO										
	SPECIES	QUANTY								
June	acacia	800	1200	1000						3000
	Grevillea	100	400							500
	Eucalyptus	800	600	600	450					2450
	Terminalia	200								200
	SUBTOTAL									6150
may	Eucalyptus	2000	7000	5000						14000
	Jacaranda	500	500	500	500	500				2500
	Leucaena	500	500							1000
	Terminalia	500	500	250	500	50	20	500		2320
	Eucalyptus	1350	400	80						1830
	G/Lira	2000	500	835						3335
	Grevillea	500	500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	35	6035
	acacia	500	1000	500	1000	2100				5100
	Vitex	500								500
	Gmelina	2400								2400
	Calliandra	500	500							1000
	Pine	1000	1000	2000	500					4500
	Makhamia	165	500							665
	Musizi	25								25
	SUBTOTAL									45,210
April										
	Eucalyptus	3310	2000	3000	950					9260
	Jacaranda									0
	Leucaena									0
	Terminalia	50	50							100
	Eucalyptus	1000	2522	4950	250	360	1000	1555	2000	13637
	G/Lira	100								100
	Grevillea	1000	800							1800
	Acacia	1000								1000
	Vitex	100								100

	Gmelina	500	2000							2500
	Calliandra	200								200
	Pine	2000								2000
	Makhamia									0
	Musizi	1215	1000	4950						7165
	SUBTOTAL									37862
	GRAND-TOTAL									89,222

SEEDLINGS PICKED FROM MASINDI SUMMARY

S/N	SPECIES	QUANTITY
	PICKED BY DCA/HADS	
1	<i>Maesopsis eminii</i>	20,000
2	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	5000
3	<i>Pinus caribaea</i>	10,000
4	<i>Papaya carica</i>	2500
	Jackfruit/ <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	3500
	Brother Heart	2500
	Passion fruits	2000
	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	2000
	SUB TOTAL	47,500
	PICKED BY MR.TIBAKUNWA CHARLES	
1	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	3000
	SUB TOTAL	3000
	PICKED BY KIRYADONGO T.C FOR HHs	
1	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	13000
2	<i>Maesopsis eminii</i>	3000
3	Paw paw	300
4	African Afzelia	3000
4	Passion fruit	50
5	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	100
6	Brother heart	100
7	Jackfruit	450
	SUB TOTAL	20,000
	PICKED BY BANUMBA FRANCIS	
1	<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>	4000
	SUB-TOTAL	
	GRAND TOTAL	74,500

Annex 5: Summary of Nsamizi Activities in Kyangwali

Environment Updates in Kyangwali.

Introduction.

Nsamizi started implementing environment and energy activities this year in April in Kyangwali refugee settlement. Environment activities include tree planting, nursery bed management, woodlot management, environmental sensitizations among others. Energy activities include, sensitization on energy saving practices, training POC's in briquette making, training in Lorena stove construction among others.

Nsamizi is maintaining a nursery bed which was established by LWF in 2019. The Nursery bed has 11 attendants who are responsible for day to day nursery activities like watering, potting, pricking and cleaning.

Below are seedlings and species that were raised by LWF in 2019 for the first season of 2020.

S/N	Species	quantity
1	Eucalyptus	49165
2	Grevilia	5080
3	Pine	11000
4	Melia	420
5	Mangoes	18000
6	Citrus	35000
7	Total	118,665

Tree planting.

We have managed to plant **33009** seedlings of eucalyptus and **1990** seedlings of Grevilia for the first season. Planting was done in Maratatu B village in the land designated for tree planting with support from farmers. Farmers were mobilized and sensitized about the activity since they had cultivated in the same land. Planting activities like lining out and pitting were done by farmers. A total of **31** hectares have been planted.

Seedling distribution.

2510 pine seedling to three beneficiaries.

2600 Grevilia distributed for gap filling

400 Melia seedlings distributed to beneficiaries.

Balance in the nursery bed.

S/N	Species	Quantity
1	Pine	8490
2	Eucalyptus	1500
3	Grevilia	400
4	Mangoes	18000
5	Citrus	35000
6	Melia	20
7	Total	63410

35000 citrus seedlings 18000 mango seedlings are being root pruned in preparation for budding and grafting respectively since most of the seedlings have overgrown and roots penetrated in to the soil.

Maintenance of woodlots.

Young woodlots are being maintained by farmers who cultivate in the land where the woodlot is established until it reaches maturity and they cannot cultivate any more. These include Kavule pine, Kilokole pine and Maratatu eucalyptus. This is done with close supervision of forest guards who monitor woodlots on a daily basis.

Old Woodlots are maintained by the partner in charge of environment. Maintenance of old woodlots includes bush clearing, establishment of fire lines to prevent forest fires and spraying if necessary. This is done by casual laborers.

Ongoing activities.

- Preparing of mother beds for seedling rising.
- Root pruning of citrus and mangoes

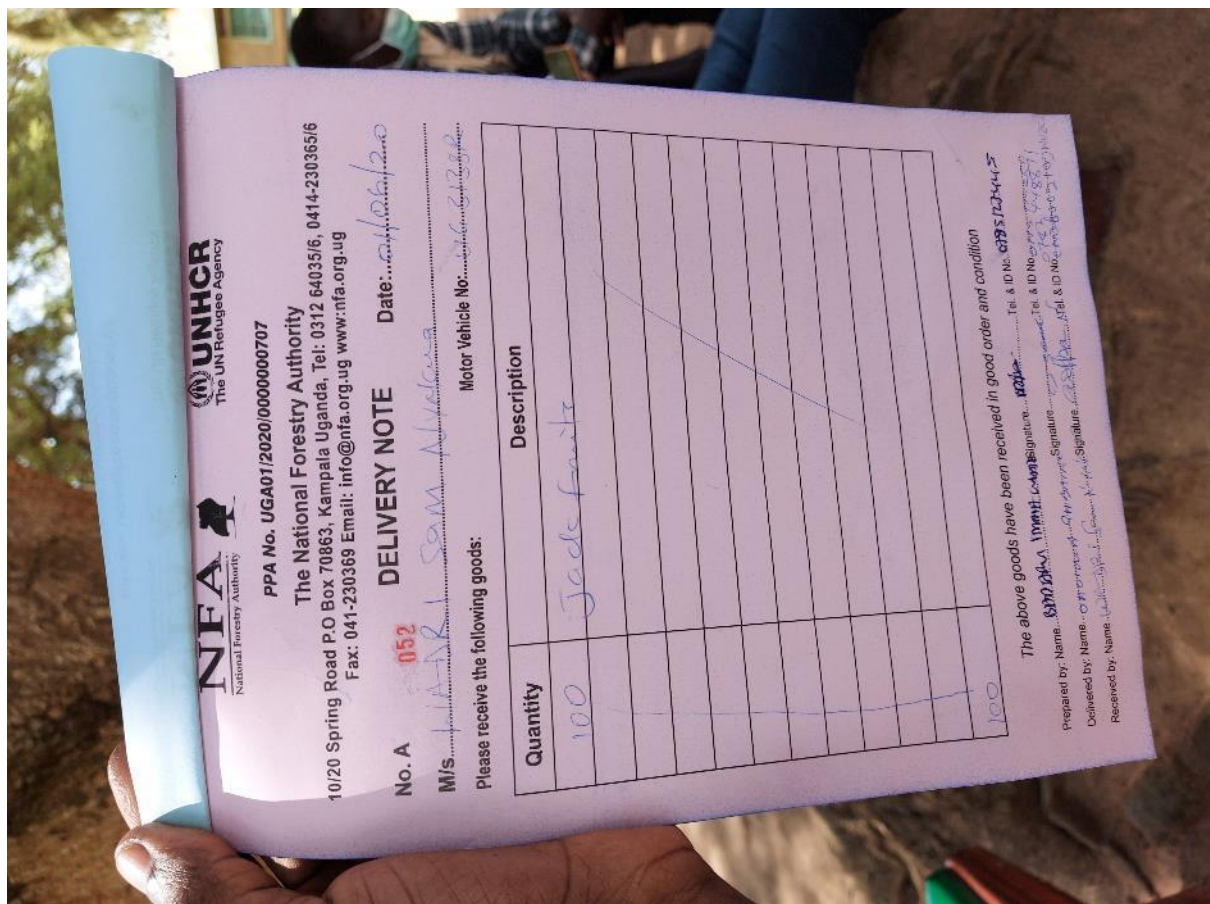
Planned activities.

- ✓ Budding and grafting of citrus and mangoes in preparation for the
- ✓ Environmental sensitizations.
- ✓ Raising of seedlings for the next season
- ✓ Bush clearing in the old woodlots.
- ✓ ToT's in Lorena stove construction.
- ✓ Sensitizations on energy saving activities at household level.

Challenges.

- ✓ Delay in the implementation of environment activities which led to loss of seedlings as some activities were not done in time like sorting and root pruning.
- ✓ We lack a motorcycle which makes it difficult to access areas where vehicles cannot reach.

Annex 6: Samples of Accounting Documents for Seedling Delivery and Requests



31/05/2020

NFA National Forestry Authority
DCA District Council of Arusha
SEEDLING REQUESTION FORM FOR WOODLOT ESTABLISHMENT/HH PLANTING

NAME OF DEVELOPER/INSTITUTION: St. Innocent Church
 LAND SIZE (Hha): 2
 TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03887790
 Northings: _____
 Eastings: _____

ADDRESS/CONTACT PERSON: Pr. James Jones
 TITLE: Srk
 OCCASIONAL TO: _____

PLANTING LOCATION DETAILS: _____
 DESIGN FOR TAKING THE SEEDLING: _____

DATE: 30/05/2020

SPECIES	SPECIES REQUIRED		QUANTITY
	LIB	LIT	
Kaya			
TOTAL			

SPECIES RECEIVED: _____

Approved by: Peter Kijana BEM
 Date: 31/05/2020
 Head of the Bureau: _____
 Date: 15/16/2020
 District Officer: _____
 Date: 16/06/2020

Page 1 of 1

NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY NURSERY STATEMENT
 ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, FORESTRY CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT NUMBER: 2278
 PROJECT YEAR: _____
 NURSERY LOCATION MONTH: _____

ACRONYMS: LAMMO

Species	Target	Seed count (kg)		PRODUCTION				Tooth number of seedlings produced (sorted only)		DISTRIBUTION	
		Month	To-date	Stage 1: Int. Picked (kg)	Stage 2: (kg)	Stage 3: Sorted (kg)	Stage 4: Mature/Ready (>20cm)	Month	To-date	NFA Restoration Planting	To other Implementing Partners
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sub-Total											
Total											

Completed by: _____
 Name: _____
 Designation: _____
 Signature: _____
 Submission Date: 31/05/2020

Annex 7: Signage at Selected Nurseries



Annex 8: Summary of overall project performance

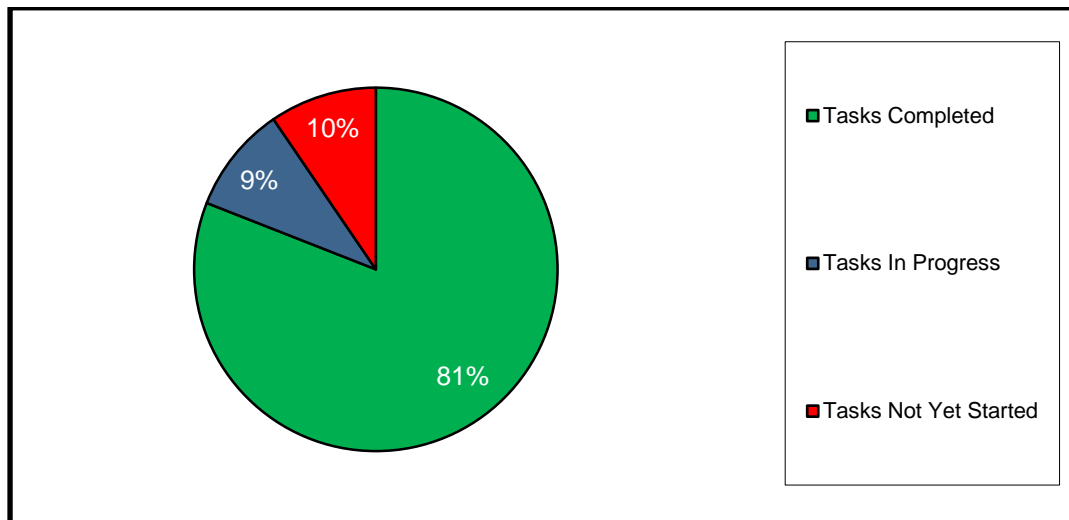


Figure 3: Analysis of task completion to date

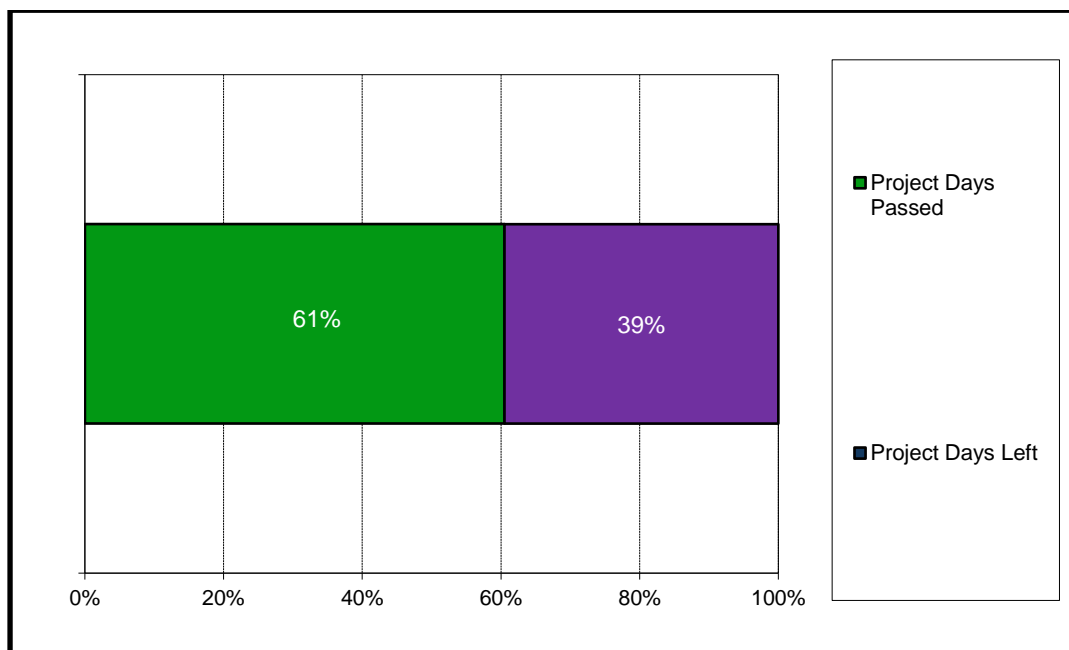


Figure 4: Analysis of project time management