



Northern Karamoja Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) Program

Funded by USAID/Food for Peace (FFP)

Quarter: October 1 to December 31, 2017



GHG conducted a national-level learning event in Kampala on September 18, 2017. The event was well-attended by donors, government stakeholders, other implementers and partners.



PROJECT SUMMARY	
Award No.	AID-FFP-A-12-00006
Start Date	July 19, 2012
Report Date	October 1 – December 31, 2017
Total Award	\$ 52,404,800

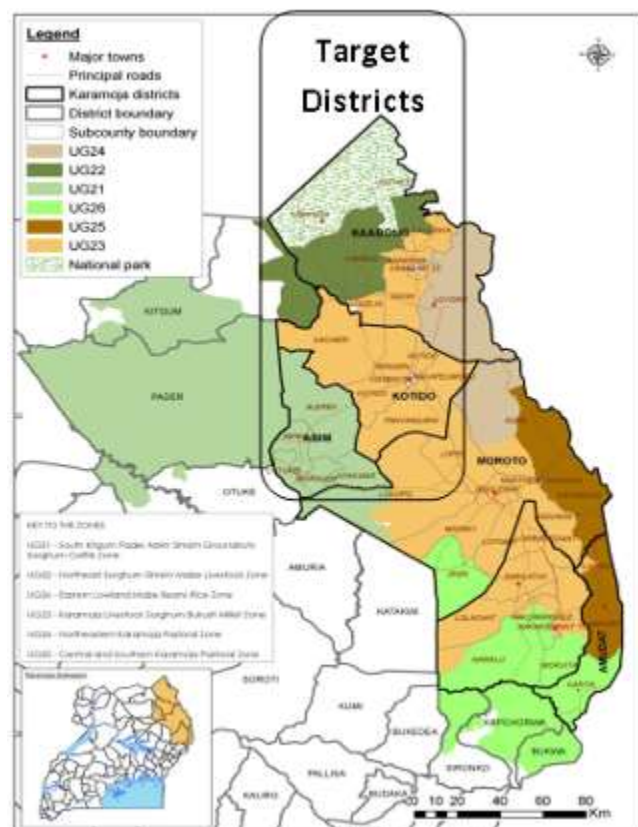
Acronym Reference

AEST –Appropriate Energy Saving Technology	MCA – Male Change Agent
AHO – Animal Health Officer	MCG – Mother Care Group
ANC – Antenatal Care	MCHN – Maternal Child Health and Nutrition
AWOTID – Abim Women Together in Development	MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
BCM – Behavior Change Mentor	MSME – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
CAFH – Community Action for Health	MT – Metric Ton
CAHW – Community Animal Health Worker	MUAC – Middle Upper Arm Circumference
CAO – Chief Administrative Office	NATYA -Napumpum Cattle Traders Youth Association
CLTS – Community-led Total Sanitation	NUSAF – Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
COBERS – Community Basic Education Research Students	ODF – Open Defecation Free
CRC – Community Report Card	OPD – Out Patient Department
CSO – Community Service Organization	NGO – Non Governmental Organization
CU5 – Children Under 5	PLW – Pregnant and Lactating Women
CUAMM – Doctors with Africa	PM2A – Preventing Malnutrition for Children Under 2 Approach
DQA – Data Quality Assessment	PPC – Peace Parish Committee
DVO – District Veterinary Officer	RDC – Resident District Coordinator
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization	SACCO – Savings and Credit Community Organization
FFP – Food For Peace	SGBV – Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
FIC – Feinstein International Center (Tufts)	SHC- School Health Club
GHG – Growth, Health and Governance Project	SIF – Strategic Investment Fund
HBC – Health Behavior Champions	SWAP – Savings with a Purpose
HC – Health Center	ToT – Train the Trainer approach
HH - Household	UCSCU – Uganda Credit and Savings Cooperative Union
HMIS – Health Management Information System	USAID – United States Agency for International Development
HUMC – Health Unit Management Committee	UGX – Ugandan Shilling (currency)
IGA – Income Generating Activity	UPDF – Ugandan People’s Defense Force
iNGO – International NGO	USD – US Dollar
JIECODI- Jie Community Development Initiative	USG – US Government
JIEDAY -Jie Disarmed Youth Group	VHT – Village Health Team
KAPDA - Karamoja Peace and Development Agency	VoK – Voice of Karamoja
KART - Karamoja Action Research Team	VSLA – Village Savings and Credit Association
LCV – Local Councilor Five (district level)	WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
LOTYOG-Lotanyat Youth Group	WFP – World Food Program
PADO - Pastoralism and Development Organization	WHO – World Health Organization
MAAIF – Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	WV – World Vision
M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation	YTD-Year to Date

1. Program Overview

This quarterly report covers the last quarter of implementation of the Growth, Health and Governance program (GHG) which began in July 2012 and officially ends January 31, 2018. In 2012, northern Karamoja was consumed by violent conflict and the Karamojong people relied on food handouts from donors because they were not able to safely grow crops or keep livestock. As the GHG program ends, northern Karamoja is a very different place due to support received from many sources, including USAID's GHG program, and due to the determination of the Karamojong people themselves. Today, people in Karamoja are growing crops, raising livestock, operating small businesses, drinking safe water, delivering their children at health facilities, and are increasingly participating in their own governance. While economic indicators have visibly improved and food aid has ceased, nutrition outcomes are holding steady.

The GHG project contributed to these positive developments by conducting a wide range of economic, health, and governance activities. These activities helped cement gains from increased security to build a foundation for broader self-sufficiency, while well targeted food aid for pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of two hastened the process of transition from decades of food aid by filling nutrition deficits in highly food insecure households. GHG also expanded in FY16 to conduct a livestock sector pilot program that examined opportunities for livestock production and marketing in Karamoja's post-conflict development. There is now broad recognition that Karamoja's future economy will revolve around livestock production. GHG's overall geographical focus included the northernmost three Karamoja districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Abim, as well as Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripit in Southern Karamoja for the livestock pilot.



The GHG consortium pulled several complementary capacities into one coherent, unified approach, embodied in the facilitative approach that pushed local actors to take the lead in sustainably providing products (e.g., seeds, tools and livestock pharmaceuticals) and services (e.g., land preparation, para-veterinary services, security, finance and healthcare) which improve the productivity and quality of life for many. As the consortium lead, Mercy Corps took overall responsibility for the development of GHG's facilitative strategy as well as the quality of all programming implemented by the project. Mercy Corps also implemented all economic programming and employed a team of three Youth, Gender and Vulnerable Population Officers who were supported by a Regional Gender Advisor, to ensure that an understanding of Karamoja's complicated gender and youth dynamics were incorporated into all activities. World Vision Inc.

(WV), with its robust commodity management and public health qualifications, led supplementary feeding activities. Together, Mercy Corps, WV and WHAVE conducted community-level public health initiatives, behavior change, water, sanitation, and hygiene programming. The Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA) and Abim Women Together in Development (AWOTID), constituted the spear-tip for GHG's conflict management and governance activities, working primarily through local formal and informal authority structures to bolster local systems for conflict reduction and government service improvement. Six local youth groups complemented these efforts and also worked with communities to reduce harmful practices and behaviors. Lastly, Tufts University's Feinstein International Center (FIC) conducted annual impact evaluations using its community-focused Participatory Impact Assessment methodology that helped the rest of the consortium partners to understand the impact of their work, and inform future implementation plans and programs.

2. Key Lessons Learned & Constraints

During the past quarter, GHG learned the following lessons.

Conduct learning events with stakeholders annually – don't save it for the end!

In its final quarter of implementation, GHG conducted a learning event in each implementation district followed by a learning event for national actors in Kampala.¹ The district-level events were structured so that participants learned about GHG activities through presentations from GHG field staff and our clients (beneficiaries). Key stakeholders at district level included local government technical teams (DHOs, CAOs, DVOs, DPOs), district leadership (LC5, RDC, CAO) and fellow implementing partners within the districts. Discussions centered around program achievements and lessons learned, with highlights around the results of the livestock dairy and fodder trials, improvements in MCHN behaviors, the Whave model and CSO capacity building. Staff described what GHG did while farmers, mothers and business people would then explain how they used the information or services and what the outcome was on their livelihood or family. While GHG frequently updated government officials about the program over the five-year implementation period, through one-on-one meetings and by sharing quarterly reports, hearing about program activities from their own community members resonated more significantly with them. They made comments like "if I knew GHG was doing that, we could have been more helpful" or in some cases they offered suggestions for how GHG could have improved upon activities. The actual learning generated and disseminated from these events was excellent for GHG to capture, but could have been even more effective if we had learned it earlier when we still had an opportunity to actually apply it. If the events had been conducted more frequently, the program could have been more collaborative, iterative and therefore impactful.

The fieldwork for the Final Evaluation of GHG was conducted in August – September 2017. The data analysis and write up of findings took place during October and November. The evaluation team presented their finding in December 2017 and submitted the final report in January 2018. Some of the key lessons learned from GHG's Final Evaluation Report are also included below.

¹ Events were held on the following dates: September 2017 Kotido (5th), Kaabong (7th), Abim (12th), Moroto (14th) Kampala (18th)

Livelihood

- The Karamojong can and are willing to adopt new practices providing that a benefit can be demonstrated. The change in herders' mentality seen in the purchase of health services and medicine can spread to other sectors.
- In the semi-arid zone of Northern Karamoja, pastoral livestock systems have a comparative advantage for production of both large and small ruminants. As found in other arid and semi-arid lands in the Greater Horn of Africa, realization of these benefits to livestock keepers is the ability for mobility to seasonally trek to traditional grazing areas. Disruption of these seasonal movements (government regulations, livestock raiding and community restrictions on trekking routes) creates economic hardship for households depending on their livestock for their livelihood. Communities will have to cooperate on protecting grazing areas, producing and storing fodder, establishing water points and ensuring trekking routes. There are economic benefits which are currently not being recognized in livestock production that can be captured by communities and can benefit regional development.
- Infrastructure investment has a significant impact on economic development and livelihoods. The GHG investment in a 36 kilometer road in Kacheri is a good lesson learned for economic development. By opening a transportation route, the road has led to multiple positive impacts. The infrastructure improvement reduces transport costs which has been shown to have a direct effect on producers who will adopt improved, modern technologies and become linked to the marketplace. In addition, the people of Kacheri invested their own money and labor to build two shorter feeder roads to connect their villages to the new main road.

Health

- Market driven approach and service delivery on a "Payment-by-Result" basis are more effective than traditional borehole drilling or rehabilitation initiatives. Inserting a WASH provider into the equation, such as seen through Whave, results in greater accountability and subsequently, reliability of community managed water resources.
- MCAs play an effective role in achieving behavior change. Men serve as educators to families and as mentors to other men. MCAs can advocate for husbands to share household, child care and farming duties with the wife. When it comes to health decisions, MCAs can influence men to be more inclusive at a household and community level, creating space for joint decision making about key resources and plans, such as ideal family size.

Governance

- Social issues (alcoholism and SGBV) have increased. While government can play a role through regulation of alcohol, it is critical that any initiatives to respond to SGBV and/or alcohol are community driven, with involvement YCBOs and informal traditional leaders.
- The women of a community play an important role in ensuring long term success in achieving peace in Karamoja Region. The success of GHG supported women's peace groups in

negotiating the return of former warriors was just one of many cases that collectively show that women can be effective peace-makers in Karamoja. Women have the capacity to address conflict with an approach that can reduce tension and establish dialogue for resolution. Programs that can empower women to take on leadership roles in their community will have great benefit for many people.

3. Livestock Production and Market Strengthening Program (Livestock Pilot)

GHG completed its implementation of the Livestock Market Systems Pilot during this final quarter. These final activities are summarized below.

Advanced Trials (Dairy & Fattening)

The GHG livestock pilot concluded an advanced trial for dairy production and livestock fattening/value addition during the quarter. The advanced trials helped a small number of farmers in each target district to implement “advanced” livestock practices to see if they would be readily adopted, and if so, if they would be effective and profitable. The improved practices included feed production and supplementation, preventative animal health, livestock identification, and record keeping. The advanced trials were conducted in Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts with two groups of farmers in each district. Each group of farmers provided five to ten cattle for the trial, including at least three lactating cows, as well as sheep or goats.

The advanced trial found that herders in Karamoja will cut grass, make hay and will feed the hay to their lactating cows, in conjunction with limited grazing on natural pastures. In addition, they were willing to mix the hay with purchased molasses or brewers’ grain. These improved feeding practices resulted in an average increase in milk production from 2 liters per day to 4.7 liters per day per cow (a 135% increase which is consistent with the previous (smaller) trial that achieved a 137% increase). In some instances, farmers were able to produce 7.5 liters per day (per cow) with the improved feeding practices. These reported production levels only include the amount of milk received by the farmer, and not the milk that was also suckled by the calf (which continued during the trial). All of the cows in the trial were local breeds (dual-purpose zebu), which are adapted to Karamoja’s harsh environment but are not known for being very productive in terms of milk or meat production. Therefore, increasing the daily milk production to 7.5 liters per day is very significant, especially when considering that the calf received roughly an equal amount of milk (making the total daily yield around 15 liters). In comparison, cows in neighboring Ethiopia that were 50% Holstein and 50% local breeds often produced 15 to 20 liters of milk per day when fed hay *and grain* under zero-grazing management.

The advanced trial also found that households that produce more milk also consume more milk, and that excess milk is either sold in raw form or is preserved as butter or sour milk. Roughly 76% of the milk produced by a household is consumed by the household’s young children. On average, each CU5 consumed 0.85 liters per day while the household earned 952 UGX or 0.28 USD per day from milk-related sales. As reported previously, household net incomes from milk production increased 310% when families adopted the improved practices.

The advanced trial also taught livestock traders to use supplemental feed, preventive health practices and ear tags, in order to condition livestock for a few weeks before selling them. Lean, tick-infested animals generally sell at a lower price than conditioned, tick-free animals in

Karamoja's markets, providing an incentive for traders to sell higher quality (heavier and healthier) animals. GHG found that traders were willing to use supplemental feed and preventive health practices if it resulted in faster weight gain at a reasonable cost. During the advanced trial, the livestock did indeed gain weight faster as a result of receiving supplemental feed and improved health care. The "treatment" cattle gained an average of 0.53 kg per day while the "control" cattle gained 0.08 kg per day (over a 60 day period). The value of a cow increased from \$114 (lean) to \$152 (conditioned), with sheep prices increasing from \$18 to \$20, and goat prices from \$18.5 to \$29. To condition the animals over the 60 day period, farmers spent approximately \$1.20 per sheep or goat, and \$8.00 per cow/bull. These expenses included purchased feed supplements (molasses, brewers' grain, mineral blocks) as well as drugs and animal health services (mostly acaricides for tick control), but did not include additional labor expenses if they were provided by the family.

In conclusion, the advanced trial showed that Karamoja's herders are willing to adopt new practices and that the new practices tested are in fact effective and profitable. Feed production was essentially unheard of in Karamoja prior to the advanced trial, but was so readily accepted by the herders that word of mouth is organically spreading adoption of this technology. Demand for locally-made hay-balers resulted in a Moroto-based business beginning its own manufacture/production based on an improved design developed with GHG staff, and field-tested by farmers. This is a first step towards Karamoja's livestock sector transforming into a full livestock value chain driven by market opportunity. Now that herders understand that new management practices can produce greater profits (versus just additional animals), their understanding of livestock production has changed from viewing livestock as a "bank" to a way of producing food and income. The next five years will likely see many of the Karamojong enter into fully-commercial and even intensive livestock production, which will hopefully include innovations created by the Karamojong themselves since they are already knowledgeable livestock producers (albeit previously not commercial).

Poultry

A recent assessment conducted by GHG showed that 47% of families in Karamoja keep poultry and consume 42% of the eggs at home, while 58% of the eggs are sold for cash or traded for other goods. Approximately half of the eggs consumed by the household are consumed by children under the age of 5 (CU5). While most migratory livestock production (cattle, goats, sheep) is conducted by men in Karamoja, poultry production is primarily conducted by women at the homestead and therefore presents a good opportunity to improve household nutrition and income. While the rest of Uganda widely uses cross-bred chickens for combined egg and meat production, improved poultry had not been introduced in Karamoja.

The livestock pilot tested Kuroiler breed chickens with women farmers to see if they would be productive and profitable. Kuroilers are the most common "improved breed" of poultry in Uganda with fast growth, large carcasses, high egg production and also some disease resistance. Their larger eggs were already being imported into Karamoja and were selling at a premium (\$0.13 per egg versus \$0.08 for a local-breed/smaller egg). GHG promoted adoption of a management package for farmers willing to test the Kuroilers. The management package included using a poultry house, supplemental feed, regular water, and regular vaccination against Newcastle disease. This new management package costs approximately \$1.70 per Kuroiler per month. On

average, the Kuroilers produced 22 eggs per month versus the local chickens that produced 16 eggs under the same conditions. Therefore, for most women, the Kuroiler chickens were **not** more profitable than the local breed chickens, although there were notable exceptions.

As expected, feeding the poultry presented the most challenge. While some women were able to source affordable feed (peri-urban women, women associated with a milling business, and women who brew sorghum beer), many women were not able to adequately feed their birds unless they allowed them to forage outside. Reduced feed resulted in reduced productivity and higher mortality. In both scenarios, some of the women were able to profitably raise Kuroilers by selling the roosters for meat and keeping the hens for egg production, but success was not universal. Because there is a price premium for Kuroiler eggs and carcasses, the peri-urban women with easy market access to sell eggs and meat and also purchase affordable feed tended to receive higher profit, which resulted in more careful management, and in turn greater overall success. The rural women were often less successful, or were successful with a smaller flock size.

GHG has shared this information with other implementers, clients, stakeholders and the poultry companies so they can make informed decisions about increasing poultry production in Karamoja.

Livestock Health Sector

Livestock health continues to be the single largest constraint to livestock production in Karamoja. The region's livestock herd faces a wide range of endemic diseases that reduce productivity and result in livestock deaths. Although the region's animal health sector continues to be weak, it is none the less improving. The livestock pilot has contributed to these improvements by strengthening the private sector animal health sector and improving their relationship with government veterinary services and policy makers, as well as private sector drug companies. In a recent survey conducted by the livestock pilot, we learned that a private drug shop serves 171 farmers and has average monthly sales of \$340, while they spend \$260 each month to purchase their inventory. Livestock herders also reported that they spend \$26 per month on livestock drugs and services, which roughly correlates with the vet shops sales (52% is spent during wet season and 48% during the dry season).

During the past quarter, GHG provided small grants to seven Private Veterinary Practitioners (PVP), who distribute products to an additional 20 smaller drug shops (Agrovets) and over 200 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). The livestock pilot provided business management training to the PVPs, Agrovets, and CAHWs in prior quarters. These grants to PVPs were used to establish new distribution centers, refrigerated storage facilities, and expanded transport to previously underserved areas. With this supply chain now in place, the availability of drugs and services is expected to improve, which will reduce the burden of livestock disease.

The livestock pilot also rolled-out the newly developed Community Animal Health Worker standardized curriculum developed by Makerere University in partnership with GHG, the Commissioner of Animal Resources at MAAIF, Senior Inspector of Drugs at the National Drug Authority, the Uganda Veterinary Association, District officials of Karamoja (RDCs, LC Vs, DVOs, AHOs), Members of Parliament, private veterinarians and vet drug shop operators, CAHW representatives, FAO and NGOs. Thirty-one veterinarians (6 female, 25 male) are now trained as trainers of the new curriculum and are the only people authorized to conduct CAHW training and

certification in Karamoja. These trainers represent the public sector, private sector and some are NGO staff. In the past, various NGOs would conduct their own CAHW training programs (with varying levels of success), but now all stakeholders must use one of the newly certified trainers to conduct CAHW training that is recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Livestock Enabling Environment

In order for stakeholders to have a roadmap leading to the development of Karamoja's livestock sector, the livestock pilot has supported the Karamoja livestock development forum to use a participatory and consultative process to develop a Karamoja Livestock Master Plan. To further support this process, the livestock pilot conducted a livestock survey in all seven districts to determine the current status of the region's livestock. Livestock censuses are often flawed because herders do not want people to know how many livestock they have, which could impact their access to free services, tax burden, or even attract thieves. To improve the reliability of the new survey, GHG paired CAHWs with an enumerator and had them physically count animals, record their sex, age and other characteristics. It is possible that herders did not produce their full herd for counting, but it is unlikely that they produced the same animals multiple times. For this reason, the final figures are likely underestimated instead of overestimated. The sampling frame was large enough to produce statistically significant data. The final figures showed that Karamoja's livestock herd is much larger than expected (see table below), which makes it increasingly important for the sector to have a strategy for its continued development.

Table: Livestock population change from 2008 to 2017
(Sources: Uganda Bureau of Statistics for 2008 data, GHG for 2017 data)

	2008 (UBOS)	2017 (GHG)	Average Annual Growth Rate	Total Growth
Cattle	2,253,960	2,897,203	3%	29%
Goats	2,025,293	2,694,125	3%	33%
Sheep	1,685,502	3,307,854	8%	96%
Total	5,964,755	8,899,182	4%	49%

The Livestock Master Plan is now a written report that analyzes the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each livestock sector: dairy, beef, sheep, goat, bees and poultry. It also includes recommendations on next steps and policy initiatives needed. The widespread recognition while developing the master plan is that Karamoja's future economy will revolve around livestock, much as it has for centuries, but that it will shift to modernized, intensive and commercial production moving forward. The follow-on program to GHG, called Apolou will track progress with the implementation of the livestock master plan and provide additional support if needed.



Kaabong and Kotido District governments are now removing roadside brush and grass, maintaining ditches and grading the road.

4. Construction status

All GHG construction activities are now successfully completed and have been turned over to the local governments for full use and maintenance. GHG monitored the operations and maintenance of the facilities during the quarter and is happy to report that two previous problem areas – the operations of the Amita health center in Abim, and the maintenance of the Kacheri-Lobalangit road are now fully resolved.

5. Updates by Strategic Objective

SO1: Livelihoods Strengthened

IR1.1 Improved productivity and market access among male and female agriculturalists, agro pastoralists, and pastoralists

GHG's IR1.1 programming during the quarter was limited to assisting farmers to use improved post-harvest technologies that will better preserve their grain. GHG partner, Whave, also continued their activities with water user committees and borehole rehabilitation during the quarter, which is partially represented in the table below while the narrative of Whave activities is included later in this report under SO2.

Table 1: IR 1.1 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

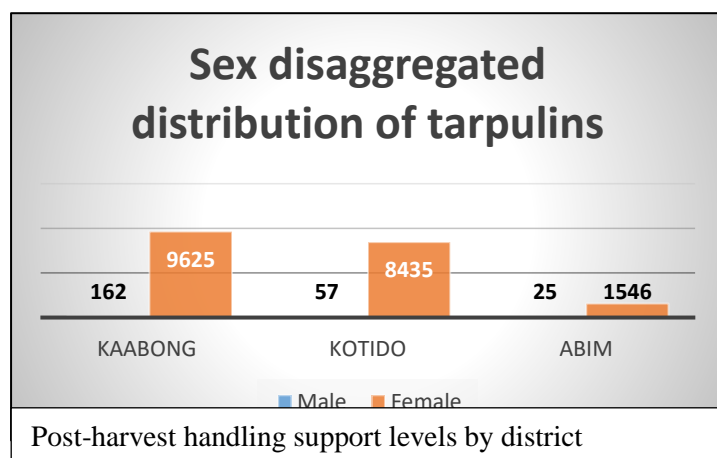
Indicator	Performance in the Quarter	LOA target	LOA achievement	% achieved	Comment
10. Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.	41	358	280	78%	Data for this quarter is related to water user committees strengthened by Whave. The LOA achievement is lower than anticipated due to the exclusion of FY16 data per the FY17 DQA.
13. Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training.	7,950	21,769	37,857	170%	Q1 figure is for training conducted in FY17 Q4 but reported in FY18 Q1. Target surpassed due to high farmer demand for the training.

Post-Harvest and Handling (PHH) Support

The 2017 cropping year produced Karamoja's largest crop yields in comparison to the five previous years, and potentially higher than any previous year (data not available). This was due to adequate rains, a record amount of land planted, a record amount of improved seed varieties sold in Karamoja, and also farmers' gradual adoption of improved technologies such as row planting, contour tillage, and responsive weeding. Prior studies have estimated that a large portion (25% to 40%) of Karamoja's crops are lost, wasted or spoiled each year, either during harvest or as a result of poor handling and storage. In 2016, GHG focused on introducing improved grain storage bags and silos, which was very successful. In 2017, these storage items are still in use and the improved grain bags are now available for sale through most local agrodealers who developed a lasting relationship with the Kampala-based supplier (including supplier credit terms). Therefore, GHG shifted focus to improve grain processing and drying by subsidizing the purchase of large, high quality tarpaulins for the women who are members of the mother care groups. GHG once again worked through its private sector partners, the agrodealers and their agents, to implement this activity, while GHG-contracted agricultural extension agents taught the women how to best utilize the tarpaulins and ensure that their grain is fully dried before placing it in the storage bags and silos.

19,850 farmers accessed tarpaulins via GHG in the past quarter, through a network of 44 ag-input retailers in Abim, Kotido and Kaabong. The total cost of each tarpaulin was UGX 64,000 (USD 18), with the farmers paying UGX 15,000 (USD 4²) and GHG paying UGX 49,000 (USD 13.6), which is an 80% subsidy. GHG chose this high subsidy level because the regular price of low quality, smaller tarps is generally 15,000 UGX. Considering GHG's target clients (mother care group women), it was important that the supported tarps were not more expensive than a regular tarp. While a regular tarp lasts only one or two years, the improved tarps will last five years or longer. In addition, the improved tarps were much larger so that the women could harvest and process larger volumes of grain each day, which reduces in-field losses from backlogged processing.

As a result of purchasing a tarpaulin, women reported that they were able to reduce food contamination, and improve hygiene and food safety. Ms. Namoe Lokoria, a farmer and member of the Mother Care group in Narengemoru village, Kotido district noted that *"we used to dry on bare ground and the grains would have soil on them with bad smell and as a result some grains would be thrown away leading to reduced quantity before storage. Now because of the tarpaulin that I bought no single grain has changed color, and the amount of grains have remained the same. Unlike before, I feel overjoyed and my neighbors are now borrowing my tarpaulin."*



² Exchange rate at USD 1:3600 UGX

When asked what motivated her to buy the tarpaulin, she said *“I was impressed by the education and sensitization made by the leader mothers and agricultural extension workers about the importance of tarpaulins. I took up a loan from my Wadio Wadio VSLA of UGX 25,000 to buy both the tarpaulin (UGX 15,000) and super grain bag (UGX 8000). I do not regret making this decision. I am encouraging my neighbor women and the entire community to join me in this way of drying grains by acquiring the equipment.”*



Ms. Namoe drying sorghum and local vegetable on her new tarp.

IR1.2 Business investment environment stabilized

GHG conducted close-out activities during the quarter with its regular partners under this activity, which includes business forums and SACCOs. GHG did not conduct any disaster preparedness or radio programming during the quarter. The loan data reported in the table below was generated during the prior quarter but is just now being reported by partner SACCOs.

Table 2: IR 1.2 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Performance in the Quarter	LOA target	LOA achievement	% achieved	Comment
12. Value of agricultural and rural loans (USD)	8,215	597,656	477,318	80%	Loans were issued in FY17Q4 but are just now being reported in FY18 Q1. LOA target not met due to reduced loans made in FY17, possibly due to reduced demand. This data is captured from partner SACCOs.
14. Number of MSME's receiving USG assistance to access bank loans (including farmers).	47	3,739	3,916	105%	Loans were issued in FY17Q4 but are just now being reported in FY18 Q1.

Strategic Investment Fund

GHG's strategic investment fund (SIF) provided in-kind contributions to groups and individuals that were already engaged, or expressed an interest in becoming engaged, in Karamoja-based

income generating activities that were associated with GHG's economic development activities. The SIF was created in the 5th year of GHG implementation to improve beneficiaries' ability to sustain their activities once GHG ends.

GHG concluded the SIF activity during the last quarter, having completed 48 grant agreements that build the capacity and sustainability of existing partners. A full list of these grants, and their initial outcomes, are listed in the table below. During the quarter, GHG confirmed that the SIF assets are being used as intended, with no evidence of misuse.

SIF Summary

Partner	Type of Business Activity Supported	Key Investments (estimate – in-kind)	Outcomes To-Date
GHG Consortium Partner CSOs (2)	Internet Café (KAPDA) and stationary shop (AWOTID)	\$10,426 – start up equipment and access to power	The first IT café in Kaabong and the only power connected stationary shop in Morulem, Abim
Youth led CSOs (5)	Cereal banking and grinding enterprises (KART, LOTYOG, KAPDA), bakery (JIECODI), salon (PADO)	\$17,111- grinding mill, bakery equipment, access to solar power for salon	PADO trained on salon skills and operations, while KART has established cross-border trading links.
Peace Groups (2)	Grinding mill enterprise (Kawalakol Anti-Violence) and tent rental (Karenga Peace and Justice Commission)	\$4,215- tents and chairs, grinding mill	Both groups filling a market gap in their communities and now able to self-fund their peace programming
SACCOs (3)	Increased functionality of SACCO through improved electronic record capacity	\$13,678- computers, metal filing cabinets and connection to solar power	Lokitelaebu SACCO expanded to a newly constructed larger building which was self-financed. IT and furniture inputs are helping them reach more clients and keep better records
District Business Forums (3)	Business resource centers offering access to internet, printing and presentation tools	\$34,000- n-computing desk set to allow for internet connections and projectors	Business forums are now connected to power and able to offer greater services to members, increasing member satisfaction
Urban Team Partners (2)	Briquette producing equipment (Narikapet Women's Briquette Producer Group), Transport (Abim HPMA)	\$7,488 – crushers and drums for briquette production, zongshen tricycle to increase area of	Abim HPMA is saving money on transport by transporting more equipment directly (rather than paying for transport) and Briquette producers able to increase

		operation and reduce transport costs	member production, previously limited by a lack of equipment
Agro Dealers (12)	Increased agro-dealer capacity (Kosomongin Ent, Josana Agro, Riflot Co, Jahco Ent, Awor Josephine, Agale Rach, Malim Interprice Ltd, Epol Akuj Ent, Yesu Ekone, Jost Produce Suppliers, EEOI, Nen Ayim Ent.)	\$56,923- Increased agro-dealer capacity through improved equipment (scales, grinder) and key enterprise furniture (counters, display shelves)	Agro-dealers used the furniture to strengthen their agent network as an incentive for high performance, while agents benefitted by improving business shops.
Honey Producers (3)	Increased production and storage capacity (Alakara Honey, Lomerikomol Bee-Keepers, Ik Honey Gold)	\$4,929 – Honey presses, honey jars, refractometers	Bee keepers have used the improved processing techniques to clean honey, increasing market value, aggregators have also used the refractometers to more accurately measure the quality of aggregated honey from other vendors, ensuring a fair price for quality
Livestock Traders and Fatteners (11)	Improve trading and fattening capacity	\$24,392 – Irrigation system (2) for napier grass production, troughs, poor condition shoats, cattle to increase fattening capacity, tricycle for trading	Livestock fatteners have increased trading capacity through growth of fattening herd, napier grass production underway at year-round sites.
Private Veterinary Practitioners (5)	Increased access to veterinary health services through expansion of provider services and/or locations	\$29,972 – Cold chain supply expansion with mobile coolers and solar fridges, business expansion support (furniture/shelves), marketing (t-shirts), key vet. Technical inputs (burdizzo, drenching gun, etc)	New PVP locations are operational and collectively PVPs are supplying more than 20 agro-vet shops and have established links to Community Animal Health Workers

SO2: Nutritional Status among Children under Five Improved

GHG's activities for MCHN and WASH are implemented by Mercy Corps, World Vision and WHAVE Uganda. While World Vision activities ended in FY17, Whave's activities continued through the quarter and ended Dec 31, 2017. Mercy Corps' activities during the quarter focused on close-out and partner sustainability.

IR2.1 Access to quality maternal and child health care improved (no implementation)

GHG increased access to public health care resources to improve maternal and child health services as part of the prevention of malnutrition for children under two approach (PM2A). No results are reported for the quarter in the table below.

Public Health Care Sector

During the quarter, GHG completed training activities to ensure that the Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) corners previously initiated at 60 health facilities in Kotido, Kaabong and Abim would be effectively operated to prevent, manage and treat dehydration through early administration of ORS. The World Health Organization emphasizes that having ORT stations to prevent dehydration or treat dehydration early can in turn decrease recovery time and enhance child survival by 93%. This quarter, GHG trained 103 health workers at each of the 60 health facilities (with two to five health workers in attendance at each training) to assure the ORT corners are properly maintained and operated.

GHG also conducted a stakeholders learning visit to Apalopama HC II in Kotido for Abim district government and sub county officials, and to Kaabong Hospital guest house for both Abim and Kotido district government and sub county officials. Of the three districts where GHG constructed health facilities, Amita HC II OPD in Abim had remained non-functional despite commissioning and furnishing the structure with MCH equipment. The Abim officials were able to learn strategies from Kotido district, Kacheri sub county who have made Apalopama HC II functional in providing health services to the communities. On the same note, despite all three districts receiving student houses, it is Kaabong District who has made strides in managing a budget and sustainably functionalizing the student guest house to include raising revenue towards maintenance and operations. Abim and Kotido teams were able to learn best practices from their colleagues and return to their respective districts to take action.

The Citizen Report Card (CRC) approach which uses evidence based dialogues to create agreements between health centers and communities to improve accountability and strengthen relationships continued during the quarter. Third CRC follow-up dialogue meetings were conducted in four facilities of Abim with 305 participants. GHG learned that the previously trained community development officer (CDOs) and health assistants in Kaabong district conducted the remaining six dialogues in Kaabong without the support of GHG, showing the sustainability of the approach.

IR 2.2 Increased consumption of nutritious foods for households (MCG celebrations)

GHG conducted several final activities within IR2.2 to successfully conclude its activities with mother care groups (MCGs), mother care group pluses (MCG+) and male change agents (MCAs). These activities did not contribute to the indicators listed below, but instead helped ensure that

GHG activities and results are sustainable.

Mother Care Groups (MCGs)

GHG supported community celebrations in all of the target sub-counties of Kotido, Kaabong and Abim districts (6, 19 and 2 sub-counties respectively) with more than 21,000 lead mothers, promoters, MCAs, HBCs, HUMCs, Peace III peace structures, indirect project beneficiaries and sub-county officials participating. The celebrations presented an opportunity for the mothers and male change agents to perform dances and dramas depicting what they have been learning and practicing. The celebrations were structured to also get the local leaders involved in recognizing the most successful mothers and male change agents (defined selection criteria was used) by awarding certificates of appreciation and small prizes. These events also repeated messages that the GHG program would be closing, but that a follow-on program would be starting.

To promote the sustainability of the care groups and MCAs, GHG also completed joint registration of all 211 care groups (including MCAs) within Kotido and Kaabong Districts (103, 108 respectively). Registration of care groups with local governments is envisaged to formalize their status as recognized community structures, strategically position them to actively participate in various government livelihood programs such as the women empowerment grants, youth livelihood grants, and to also increase their influence with communities.

MCG Plus (MCG+)

During the quarter, all 73 MCG+ groups (in Kotido and Kaabong) shared out their first round savings. The sustainability of MCG+ groups' commitment to savings was then emphasized for them to start savings for round two without the assistance of paid mentors. Mentor contracts expired at the end of October, and for the majority of the groups, the mentors became members of the VSLA group and took on voluntary roles as group secretaries to support savings. Even with GHG closeout activities and share out complete, GHG continued to support the highly motivated groups engaged in circle two savings. GHG distributed 38 ledger books and 1140 passbooks to 38 VSLA groups in Rengen and Kacheri to support cycle two saving with GHG officers providing continuous support supervision.

Male Change Agents (MCAs)

During the quarter, GHG conducted 11 inter sub-county exchange learning visits in Kotido and Kaabong districts under the theme "Enhancing learning through sharing experiences and adoption of best practices." The visits were led by the sub-county chairpersons with technical support from Community Development Officers and health assistants. The events attracted a large audience with 2,615 participants (40% female) and gave communities the opportunity to interface, share testimonies, reflect on their current health status and determine areas of improvement.

MCAs continue to lead the charge towards addressing harmful norms and practices, serving as role models, and promoting change in their communities. MCAs and Health Behavior Champions (HBCs) conducted 135 community dialogues across the three districts reaching men, women, youth, elders, opinion leaders and community leaders. During the quarter, 42 video shows were screened in health centers, sub-county headquarters and recreation centers addressing various MCHN topics. Other activities held during the quarter include nine radio talk shows conducted

with 18 MCAs and their spouses on the topics of ANC, maternal nutrition, family planning and dietary diversity.

IR 2.3 Reduced incidence of diarrhea disease among children

GHG addressed sanitation and hygiene gaps in order to reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease as well as general exposure to pathogens for children under five. GHG partner, Whave, continued its full implementation during the quarter.

Table 3: IR 2.3 Annual Indicator Performance Tracking Table

Indicator	Performance in the Quarter	LOA target	LOA achievement	% achieved	Comment
46. Number of people gaining access to an improved drinking water source	12,252	239,048	291,057	122%	Reported figures represent new people gaining access to safe water. The LOA target for this indicator is exceeded due to higher than anticipated community demand for the Whave model that uses a private sector franchise model to provide reliable water services.
48. Number of boreholes constructed or rehabilitated meeting water quality standards	28	290	456	157%	Quarter data is due to Whave activities. The LOA target surpassed due the success of Whave's private sector model which varies based on community demand.
49. Number of gender-balanced water committees established and trained at each water point	26	247	384	155%	Quarter result is from Whave activities. LOA target surpassed (refer to justification above).

Rehabilitation of Existing Boreholes

GHG and its local partner Whave continued to work on an Improved Community Based Management System (ICBMS) for operation and maintenance of water sources in rural communities to address the problem of low functionality rates of water sources. This approach

emphasizes maximizing daily functionality of water sources, creating a financial structure for preventive maintenance, alongside water quality monitoring and hygiene/sanitation efforts. Twenty-eight boreholes were rehabilitated this quarter in Kotido and Kaabong. Rehabilitated boreholes have increased access to safe water and reduced the distance needed to travel for water, which in turn contributes to reduced diarrheal disease when coupled with hygiene promotion.

To determine the status of boreholes and the communities' commitment to their operations and maintenance, Whave conducted 14 community engagement visits. In addition, 23 communities signed WASH service agreements which spells out the various roles and responsibilities of both the communities and Whave. Whave also conducted eight hygiene baseline surveys. The survey is essential to establishing the hygiene and sanitation status of the communities to inform Whave's activities and measure impact.

Piped Water Assessment

During the quarter, Whave assessed the operational status and management structure of rural piped water systems in the four sub counties of Kaabong district where Whave operates. The activity reviewed piped water schemes to assess their operational status, maintenance schedules and management structures. A few key findings included 1) private operators who maintain the borehole



GHG CoP and local subawardee staff at a GHG close out meeting in November 2017

equipment were found to be charging a tariff that the majority of the local consumer base could not afford; 2) additional assessments should be made to determine what water users can realistically afford; 3) to boost the popularity of each water source, a promotional incentive could be offered where the management will cover the cost of parts and labor to install a private connection if the registration fee of 50,000 UGX is paid by the user; and 4) non-governmental investment is recommended to create the enabling environment required for effective operation and maintenance and to bring each water source back to full functionality.

SO3: Reduced Incidences of Armed Conflict

IR3.1 Local Conflict Prevention and Management Systems Strengthened

GHG implements its SO3 – IR3.1 activities through two local partners: KAPDA and AWOTID. GHG activities included strengthening both organizations' capacity to engage local structures in conflict mitigation and response, to build their own organizational capacity, and also directly assisting them to conduct conflict mitigation activities. During the quarter, GHG conducted close-out activities with both organizations; therefore there was no actual program implementation. Moving forward, GHG's follow-on program (Apolou) will engage with KAPDA while another Mercy Corps conflict management and mitigation program will engage with Awotid. The capacity of both organizations has grown tremendously over the GHG program, but is not measured in the program indicators below.

During the quarter, GHG provided support to the Abim District government to complete its new

alcohol regulation policy. GHG directly supported outreach to the sub-county leaders to ensure that the new policy benefitted from a participatory process. GHG had previously supported the Abim leaders to visit Gulu where they had learned about Gulu's successful new policy. GHG's follow-on program, Apolou, will not work in Abim district which contributed to GHG's willingness to conduct these activities during the final quarter, despite GHG's primary focus on close-out, particularly in Abim. GHG also conducted a formal handover meeting with CRS's new FFP program and Mercy Corps' new conflict program, both of which will operate in Abim District. This handover reassured the district leaders that they would continue to have development partners whom they can engage to further the development of Abim District.

IR3.2 Constructive Male and Female Youth Engagement in Peace and Development Initiative Enhanced (no implementation)

GHG works with six youth groups in Kotido District for IR3.2 activities. These youth groups include: Jie Community Development Initiative (JIECODI), Jie Disarmed Youth Group (JIEDAY), Pastoralism and Development Organization (PADO), Lotanyat Youth Group (LOTYOG), Karamoja Action Research Team (KART), and Napumpum Cattle Traders Youth Association (NATYA). The agreements with these groups ended in the previous quarter; therefore there were no activities conducted nor reported for the current quarter.

6. Cross-Cutting Activities: Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Populations (no implementation)

GHG had a dedicated team to ensure that all of its programming for men, women, boys and girls was implementing in ways that improved the overall effectiveness of GHG activities. The effectiveness of these cross-cutting/integrated activities is one of the primary reasons why GHG activities achieved its objectives. During the quarter, GHG did not conduct specific activities in this area. This three-person team instead supported other teams for close-out activities and final reporting. There are no activities to report for the quarter.

Table 4: Cross-cutting and compound indicators

Indicator	Performance in the Quarter	LOA target	LOA achievement	% achieved	Comment
62. Number of people benefiting from USG supported social assistance programming	32,102	675,715	775,234	115%	LOA target is exceeded primarily due to additional people accessing safe water (indicator 46), as well as other contributing indicators.
63. Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers,	26	858	431	50%	Quarter's result is from Water user

organifzations, water user associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG-food security related organizational development assistance					committees. LOA target was misunderstood as being a sum of all year, versus the actual definition, which resulted in an unreasonably high LOA target.
68. Number of farmers/beneficiaries reached as a result of USG assistance	20,202	560,000	375,815	67%	GHG revised the definition for this indicator as a result of the FY17 DQA, which resulted in excluding several data sources. Only indicators 13, 29 and 46 are now included.

Farewell from all of us who were GHG! We loved implementing this program and want to thank everyone who helped us along the way.



GHG Team photo at The Rock in Kotido, Karamoja on November 24, 2017. (36 staff not present)