



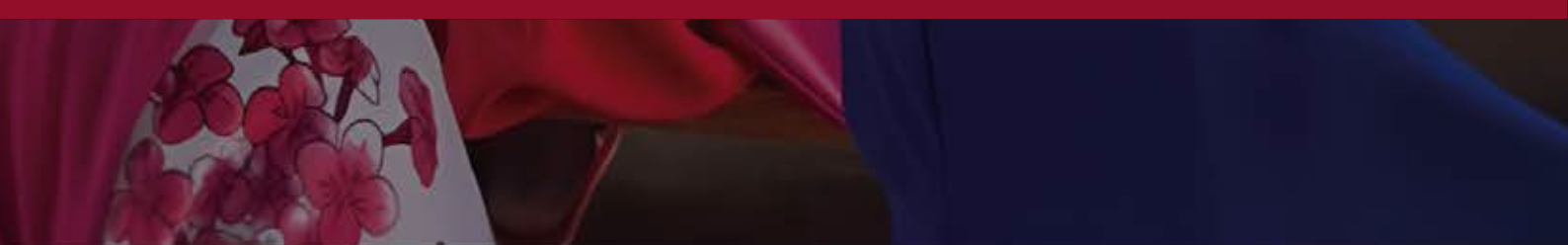
COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA & WEST NILE

- To strengthen communities and government structures to prevent teenage pregnancies and promote the rights of girls
- To ensure teenage mothers are reintegrated into society and provided with services and
- To enhance the capacity of local level social service providers to



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



ADVANCE AFRIKA PROFILE



WHO WE ARE

Advance Afrika is a National NGO incorporated in 2012 as a not-for-profit entity and fully registered as NGO at NGO bureau in 2016. The organisation was founded on the premise that it is critical to elevate people's desires and aspirations to take responsibility for advancing their rights. We seek innovative approaches for creating sustainable sources of livelihood, in order to foster resilience among vulnerable people and social justice in the region.



OUR VISION:

A safe and free society where young people live with dignity and realize their full potential.



OUR MISSION:

We address the root causes of vulnerability by developing opportunities for economic empowerment and transforming the social functionality of communities.



CORE VALUES:

Courageous leadership, Passion, Appreciation and Professionalism

- **Courageous Leadership.** In Advance Afrika we are leaders of change. We are courageous in tackling difficult challenges, we boldly inspire, innovate and break new ground. We are quick to explore new ways of doing things, learn and grow; and we influence others to do the same.
- **Passion.** We are all committed to making a difference. We want to transform the lives of vulnerable people, adding lasting value to our society. This means that we care deeply about achieving a positive impact – we are engaged, results focused, and deliver our promises.
- **Appreciation.** We respect and value all who we work with. We seek to recognize and affirm each other's differing gifts and insights; celebrating diversity. We champion human dignity. We are optimistic, behaving kindly and respectfully. In times of conflict, we seek to reconcile different interests.
- **Professionalism.** We aim for high standards of quality and excellence in all that we do; seeking to discover and deliver best practice. We are disciplined, honest, accountable and transparent, so that we build trust with our stakeholders. We are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, aiming to give value for money.



WHAT WE DO - THEMATIC FOCUS

The organisation's thematic strategic objectives (SOs) are;

SO1: Transforming vulnerable individuals and communities: Advance Afrika addresses violence against women and children; prioritizes rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates and ex-inmates; and community engagement for transformation and peace building;

SO2: Business and Job Creation: Advance Afrika focuses on creation of income generation and employment opportunities through skill building for young entrepreneurs and vulnerable individuals to support workplace success, enterprise development and increasing marketing accessibility.

SO3: Advocacy and creative communications: Focus here is on generating evidence through research and assessments, interactive social media platforms and coalitions, to address vulnerability root causes among the youth, through engagement meetings with duty bearers.

SO4: Institutional growth and capacity building: This includes, capacity building of existing structures, effective management processes and systems, code of conduct/ standards, staff development and team building activities for youth organizations and businesses.

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OUR REACH IN 2023

This section shows a list of projects implemented in 2023 and key targets reached or attained.

1 COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA AND WEST NILE (ATP)



Location

Busoga (Kamuli, Luuka) and West Nile (Arua, Nebbi)



Implementing partner

Advance Afrika (AA), Echoes of Children Voices (ECoV, co-applicant) and Help Disabled Children Excel (HEDCHE)



Donor

European Union

2 UMUNTHU - EDUCATION AND SKILLING



Location

Gulu



Implementing partner

Chance for Change and Advance Afrika



Donor

Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)

3 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TOWARDS ADVANCE AFRIKA'S COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS



Location

Kampala



Implementing partner

Advance Afrika



Donor

Bread for the World

4 ACTION FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA (ALENU)



Location

Agago, Amuru, Nebbi, Pakwach, Omoro and Zombo



Implementing partner

Caritas Switzerland with Advance Afrika, Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), and Gulu Women Economic Development and Globalisation (GWED-G)



Donor

European Union and supervised by Office of the Prime Minister

5 BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE LIVELIHOODS OF YOUTH PRISON INMATES AND EX-INMATES IN NORTHERN UGANDA (BOPLYN)



Location

Gulu, Kitgum, Amuru



Implementing partner

Advance Afrika and Edukans in partnership with Uganda Prisons Service



Donor

European Union

SO1: TRANSFORMING VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA AND WEST NILE (ATP) ACTION



SRHR AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



6,918 STUDENTS ENGAGED

In-school adolescents proactively engaged in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) awareness activities

During the reporting period, 6,918 students were engaged in SRHR activities, including 998 students supported in counselling and career guidance conducted by the trained senior teachers, 5,920 students who actively participated in awareness sessions on the rights and duties of children, and a parent-teacher-student conference on SRHR. The activities contributed to increased awareness of SRHR-related information among students.



SRHR AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



1,799 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

81

TEACHERS

1,665

PARENTS

53

VHT'S

Community members who report a change in their own attitudes, perceptions and practices regarding prevention and response to teenage pregnancies and protection of children's rights

A total of 1,799 community members including 81 senior teachers, 1,665 parents and 53 VHTs were engaged in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights, both at the schools and in the communities.



400

ACCESSING MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CARE SERVICES



53

VHTS

31

FEMALE

22

MALE



80

EXPECTANT TEENAGERS

Expectant teenage mothers accessing maternal and child health care services

In close collaboration with the District Health Departments in the project districts, 53 VHTs (31F, 22M) from Busoga and West Nile were actively engaged. These VHTs reached out to 400 teenage mothers and other community members and sensitised them during the outreach. In West Nile, out of the 200 teenage mothers and expectant teenagers visited, 197 were aged 15–19 years, and 3 aged 10–15 years; while in Busoga 191 were aged 15–19 years, and 9 aged 10–15 years.

The action also supported and facilitated 80 expectant teenagers (40 per region) in Busoga and West Nile, to make four ANC visits to the health centres. The ANC sessions increased the number of expectant young girls accessing maternal health and child care services in the project districts, provided safe spaces for the expectant teenagers to express themselves and led to a reduction in the maternal mortality rate. Finally, all the expectant teenagers were given safe delivery kits, which contributed to clean, safe and infection-free childbirths for both mother and child.

BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE LIVELIHOODS OF YOUTH PRISON INMATES AND EX-INMATES IN NORTHERN UGANDA (BOPLYN)

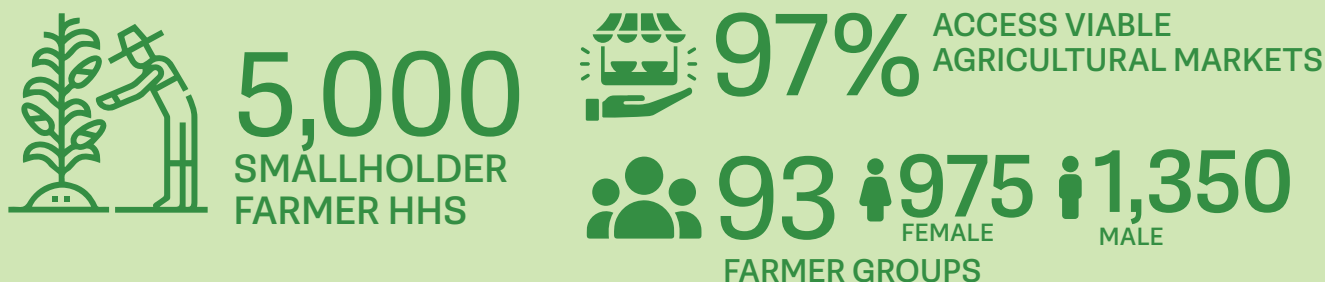


Pro-bono cases handled: Throughout the action, 189 cases (29 female, 160 male) were handled during pro-bono day. In the reporting period, 134 prison inmates (15 females, 119 males) were handled.

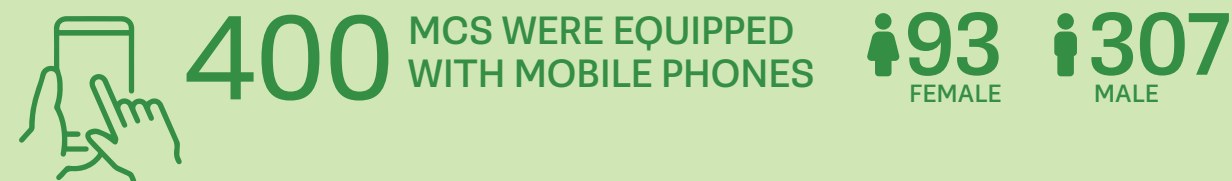
In collaboration with the Uganda Law Society (ULS), 44 lawyers were engaged and they reached out to 5 prison units of Gulu Main, Gulu Women's, Pece Prisons, Kitgum Main and Amuru Main. During provision of the pro-bono day services, much emphasis was put on remands.

SO2: BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION

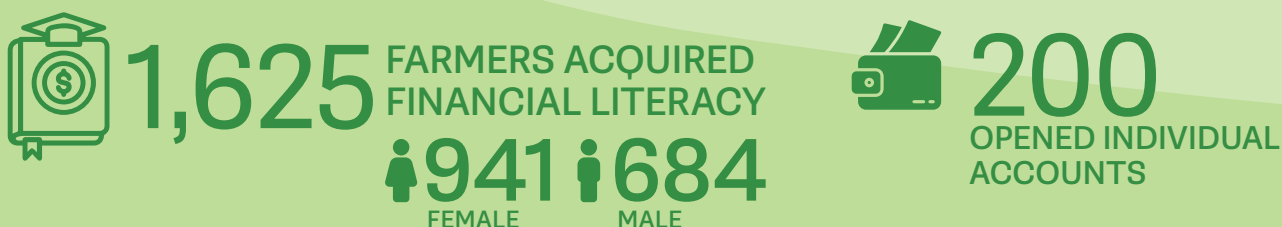
ACTION FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA (ALENU)



Organizing and promoting sub-county farmers markets: By the end of the action, 4,850 HHs of the targeted 5,000 smallholder farmer HHs, approximately 97%, could access viable agricultural markets (local and regional produce markets). The action organized 36 sub-county farmers' markets, at least three farmers' markets per project sub-county. The farmers' markets were dependent on the market days of the selected markets. At least 85 direct links were created with market actors, including bulk buyers (10), ordinary buyers (46), agro-processors (5), transporters (12) and market regulators (12), for continued marketing of their produce. The 93 FGs comprised of 2,325 (1,350M, 975F) farmers in Amuru (49), Omoro (19), Agago (3), Zombo (6), Nebbi (5) and Pakwach (11). These were able to bulk buy and collectively sell different project commodities, including groundnuts, Irish potatoes, soya, and some non-project commodities like maize, out of the linkage created.



Access to market information by the farmers: 400 (307M, 93F) MCs were equipped with mobile phones and facilitated with transport and data to continuously collect and update market information from 40 markets in the sub-regions in PY2 and PY3. The activity substantially enhanced access to market information by the farmers. In addition, 91% of small holder farmers got knowledge on innovative market information technologies; this increased their capacity to make relevant market-related decisions. Three local radio stations were engaged to disseminate market information, advertise, and link the groups. Furthermore, using the app, 21 links were created on the digital platform, to facilitate marketing by the farmers groups in the form of direct phone calls and follow-ups to market actors (bulk buyers) and agro-processors, easing the marketing efforts of the committees. Also, Farm Gain, the market information actor, retained 30 (25M, 5F) trained MCs as their agents in the region for purposes of collecting market information.



Establishing market links: The action organized financial clinics at district level and engaged three (3) financial institutions: Centenary Bank in Amuru, Omoro, Nebbi and Zombo districts; Bank of Africa in Agago; and Post Bank in Pakwach district. FGs were supported to open bank accounts and operationalize their VSLA accounts. In total, 1,625 (684M, 941F) farmers acquired financial literacy, 200 opened individual accounts and 65 FGs opened accounts with banks. At least 15 FGs (Amuru – 7; Pakwach – 3; Nebbi – 2; and Omoro – 3) further benefited from borrowing from Centenary and Post banks.

SO3: ADVOCACY & CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

ENGAGEMENTS AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS



05
ENGAGEMENT
MEETINGS



54
PARTICIPANTS



19
FEMALE



35
MALE

Community Response Actions to Reduce Teenage Pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile (ATP) action.

Under this, 5 engagement meetings – 4 at local government level in each of the project districts and 1 at national level, were conducted. The engagement meetings aimed at addressing the rights of young girls and teenage mothers. The meetings brought together a total of 54 participants (19F, 35M), i.e., 44 duty-bearers at regional level and 10 at national level.



**NATIONAL DIALOGUE WAS
HELD IN KAMPALA**

Action for Livelihood Enhancement in Northern Uganda (ALENU)

In PY3, a national dialogue was held in Kampala, organized with the Office of the Prime Minister and presided over by the state minister for Northern Uganda, the Hon. Grace Freedom Kwiwucwiny. This dialogue targeted national-level policy influencers from the Acholi and West Nile sub-regions, including Members of Parliament, technical leads at the ministries (Agriculture, Transport and Local Government), LCV Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, Chief Administrative Officers, DINU focal persons, partners, the media and the project beneficiaries. The aim of the dialogue was to discuss and find constructive solutions to constraints and problems in the areas of production, market access, income (small share of VC revenues) and nutrition (poor nutritional status and health).

SO4: INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

COMMUNITY RESPONSE ACTIONS TO REDUCE TEENAGE PREGNANCIES IN BUSOGA AND WEST NILE (ATP) ACTION



36 SENIOR TEACHERS
CAPACITY BUILT

20 FEMALE
16 MALE



40
SELECTED SCHOOLS IN THE
PROMOTION OF SEXUAL
AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND RIGHTS.

Training senior teachers in counselling and career guidance: The action built the capacity of 36 (20F, 16M) senior teachers selected from 40 primary and secondary schools from Busoga and West Nile. The action also proactively engaged all the senior teachers – 81 (41F, 40M) in the 40 selected schools in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The senior teachers were re-oriented on their roles, using the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Roles and Responsibilities of Senior Teachers in Uganda* and the *Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy in a School Setting in Uganda*. The trainings were presided over by the Commissioner Education Policy Review, Mrs Monica Abenakyo Monge in Kamuli, and Senior Education Officer, Mr Ronald Drani, in Arua.



04
CBOs



03
NGOs

TRAINED IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
AND INCLUDED THE PROJECT PARTNERS
(ECOV AND ADVANCE AFRIKA)

Quality of the CBOs' management systems: 4 CBOs and 1 NGO addressing social issues of vulnerable youth, women and children in their communities were selected in collaboration with the DCDOs of the project districts. A training in financial management was organised for the 4 CBOs and 3 NGOs and included the project partners (ECoV and Advance Afrika). The training mainly targeted the finance personnel (finance officers or accountants) for each organisation. A total of 10 individual staff (8F, 2M), i.e. 8 finance officers, an Accounts Assistant from Advance Afrika and 2 Project Officers from ECoV and AA, actively participated in the training that aimed at enhancing the overall management and operational effectiveness of the CBOs and at strengthening their financial organisational competencies and internal structures.

THE NOREC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Norec's Partner Training: Chance for Change (lead coordinator) and Advance Afrika attended the Norec partner training from 24th to 26th April 2023 in Nairobi. During the training, partners from various countries and continents under the exchange programme were inspired to coordinate the Norec exchange projects supported.

Disability Inclusion training: In February 2023, the Norec participants attended a training on disability inclusion, organised for 10 Advance Afrika staff. The training was conducted in Gulu district, supported by Light for the World, an international disability and development NGO.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

This section highlights some of organization's achievements from the projects implemented in the year 2023, directly aligned to the strategic goals of the organisation.



S01

TRANSFORMING VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES



Senior teachers provide counselling and career guidance to boys and girls

Under the ATP action, during the reporting period, 998 students (711F, 287M) were offered counselling and career guidance. The action engaged all the senior teachers 81 (41F, 40M), including those trained under the action in the selected 40 schools, two in each school. In Busoga region, 41 senior teachers (21F, 20M) were engaged while in West Nile, 40 senior teachers (20F, 20M) took part in the training. Each senior teacher had an average of 12 to 15 students to guide/counsel per term. One-on-one counselling sessions were held, which encouraged openness among the students and enabled the senior teachers to pay attention, and give possible solutions to the students. The senior teachers offered age-tailored information to learners on the prevention of pregnancy, the dangers of early sexual practices, and the rights of children. Some senior teachers organised talks with boys to educate them about a girl's body and menstrual cycle. The aim of the talks was to help the boy appreciate that menstruation is normal in a girl's body, as well as appreciate the need to protect girls from harm in school, at home and in the community. The senior teachers also tracked and followed up cases of discrimination and stigmatisation of expectant teenagers in school and also discussed the guidelines for the continuation of education by the expectant students. For example, at Arua Secondary School and Okufura Secondary School, teenage mothers who had given birth and returned school, found the counselling sessions very helpful because they were able to disclose their challenges regarding how to balance taking care of a baby and pursuing education. These were given some coping mechanisms. In addition, the senior teachers approached the girls' families for support. However, it was noted that most of the girls who got pregnant preferred to drop out of school for fear of being laughed at, in addition to the limited social support from their families.

In situations where the matter was beyond their powers to handle it, mainly cases of child neglect and child labour, the senior teachers referred the cases to the senior authorities for further support. It was also observed that for many students, poor performance and absenteeism

were a result of poor parenting and mistreatment by their parents, relatives and caregivers. Therefore, the senior teachers recommended the action to help the needy students with scholastic materials and provided a list of those that could be supported in Y2. They requested continuity of the counselling sessions in schools so as to have a meaningful impact. They also expressed the need for Advance Afrika and ECoV to bring the concerned authorities on board and organise community dialogues to sensitise the general public regarding positive parenting and the importance of education.

Conducting awareness sessions on the rights and duties of children, the ABC model and the legal consequences of sexual abuse

A total of 37 primary and secondary schools (20 in Busoga and 17 in West Nile) benefited from awareness sessions on the rights and duties of children, the ABC model and the legal consequences of sexual abuse. An average of 150 students per school were sensitised on SRHR, their rights and duties, resulting in a total estimate of over 5,550 students being reached. The project partners in collaboration with school administrators engaged 3 guest speakers from different fields, who conducted awareness sessions, with a focus on age-tailored information on the rights and duties of children. The key stakeholders invited to speak to the students were the Senior Education Officers, the Officer in charge of the Police Family and Child Protection Unit, health assistants from general hospitals (such as Kamuli General Hospital) and the Probation Officers in Arua, Nebbi, Kamuli and Luuka. The learners were informed that they had an obligation to respect their parents and guardians. They were also empowered with information regarding their rights and duties, including the ability to report cases of child abuse in and out of school. The students were further guided on the dangers of bad peer groups that would expose them to early sexual activity. The head teachers from the schools appreciated Advance Afrika and ECoV for the intervention and were convinced that it was going to make a positive impact on the lives of young adolescents and teach them to make better decisions.



998

STUDENTS WERE OFFERED
COUNSELLING AND CAREER GUIDANCE



711
FEMALE



287
MALE



The Senior Education Officer, Arua, Mr Ronald Bileah Drani, giving remarks on sex education during the awareness sessions



The Officer in Charge Child and Family Protection Unit, Arua, Christine Driciru sensitising the learners on their rights and duties



Sharif, a nurse at Kamuli General Hospital talking to students at Nawangwe Secondary School in Kamuli District

Conducting parent-teacher-student conference on SRHR

Parent-teacher-student conferences were organised in 17 schools in Arua and Nebbi and 20 schools in Kamuli and Luuka. Overall, 45 parents, 4 teachers and over 160 students attended the parent-teacher-student conferences per school. In total, 1,665 parents, 148 teachers and 5,920 students were actively involved in the activity. Guest speakers/experts were engaged at different schools and these included Senior Education

Officers, peer educators, District Health Inspectors, police personnel from the Child and Family Protection Unit, Education Officers and Medical Officers from the Health Centre IIIs. The conferences discussed the role of teachers and parents in childcare, parenting skills, the importance of parent-child communications, how to prepare and guide children through the adolescent phase, sexual decision-making and values, family planning and STDs/AIDS. It was also an opportunity for the parents to follow up on the progress and performance of their children in school.



Parents, teachers and students' conferences schools in Arua and Nebbi districts

Training expectant teenagers on antenatal care, immunisation, hygiene and sanitation

ATP action organised trainings on antenatal care, immunisation, hygiene and sanitation for 80 expectant girls (40 per region) in Busoga and West Nile. During the outreach conducted by the VHTs, 10 expectant teenagers were selected from Balawoli, Namasagali, Bukanga and Bukooma sub-counties in Busoga and Nebbi, Nyaravur, Arua Hill Division and Vurra sub-counties in West Nile. The selection criteria were based mainly on one's being a first-time teenage expectant mother. This was because these teenagers found it difficult to seek antenatal care for fear of being ridiculed, their discomfort in the company of older mothers during ANC sessions, and ignorance of the importance of early ANC caused by the myths surround seeking early ANC in Lugbara culture, where a girl is considered to be proud if she goes for ANC before the pregnancy starts to show. The action, therefore, supported and facilitated each of the 80 expectant teenagers to make four ANC visits to the health centres.

The trainings (ANC sessions) took place at the selected health centres and hospital, which included Namasagali Health Centre III and Balawoli Health Centre III in Kamuli District; Bukanga Health Centre III and Bukooma Health Centre III in Luuka District; Oli Health Centre IV and Vurra Health Centre III in Arua; and Koch Health Centre II and St. Luke Angal Hospital in Nebbi District. The ANC sessions were delivered by experienced government health

workers (midwives, nurses, VHTs and Health Assistants) who used the MoH guidelines as reference sources. Key methods used during the training were images, demonstrations and real-life examples, brainstorming, asking questions, and active listening, to ensure proper understanding. The sessions covered areas such as the importance of early ANC; early health-seeking behaviours; personal hygiene; danger signs in pregnancy; PMTCT; the dress code in pregnancy; rest and exercise during pregnancy; nutrition; a balanced diet; birth preparedness; family planning; cord care; immunisation; breastfeeding; malaria prevention; HIV/AIDS and STDs; sanitation, and psycho-social support.

Feedback from the health workers and the expectant teenagers indicated that the trainings were very relevant and timely. This is because there were number of teenage mothers in the community who did not attend ANC. The training therefore contributed to: i) an increase in the number of expectant young girls accessing maternal health and child care services in the project districts; ii) a reduction in the maternal mortality rate; and (iii) the provision of safe spaces for the expectant teenagers to express themselves. The Principal Health Officer, Maternal and Child Health, Arua City, Mrs Ssali Andeju, highly appreciated the European Union for supporting government in fulfilling its mandate through organising activities that enable teenage mothers to access maternal health care, which contributes to good indicators such as reduced maternal mortality rate in the respective districts.



L: Pregnant Teenagers listening to the midwife during their ANC visit at Namasagali Health Centre III. R: Mr Munyette Abuddalla District Health Inspector, Kamuli District Local Government addresses the teenagers

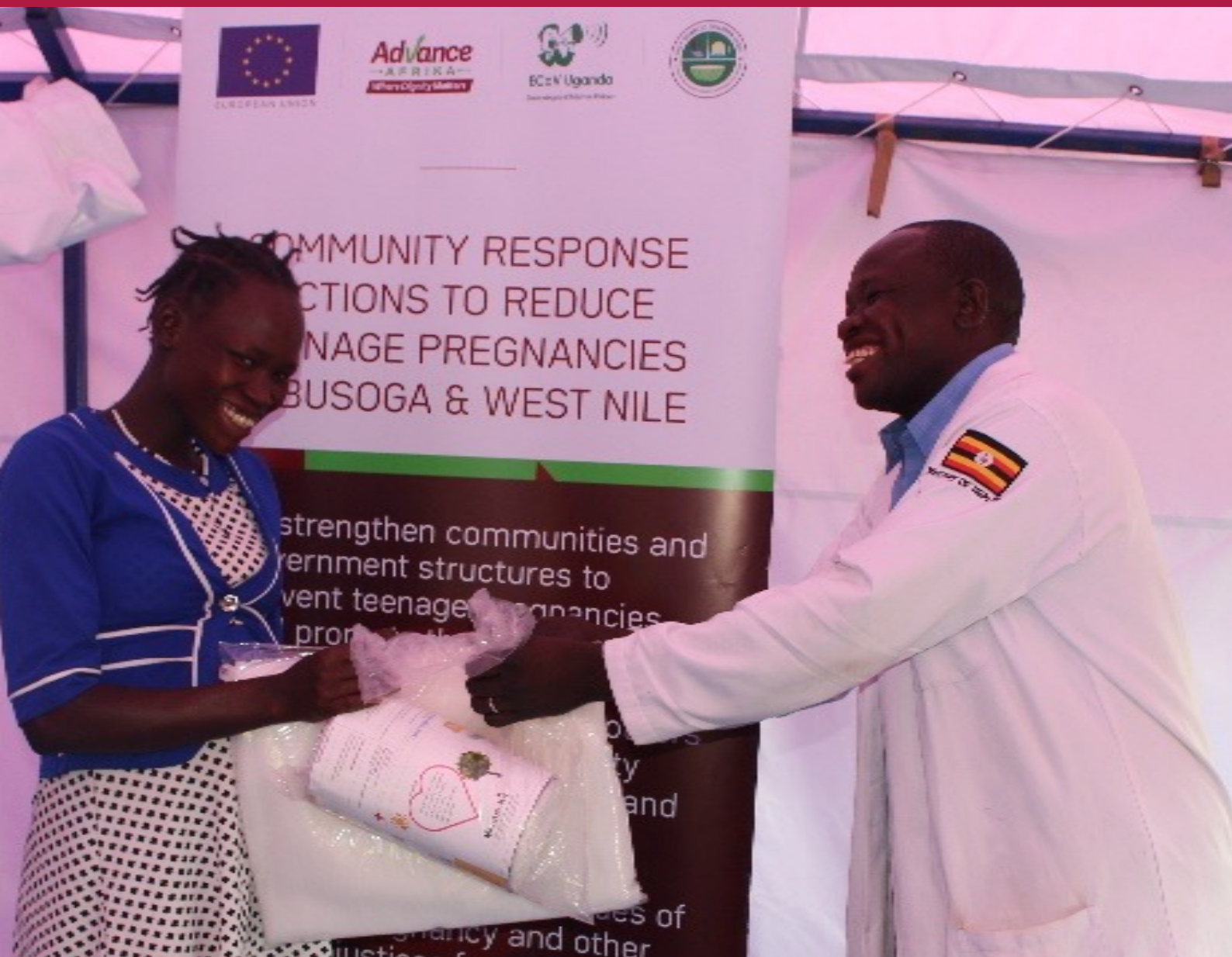
Provision of safe delivery kits (including mosquito nets for malaria and mama kits)

In line with the activity above, safe delivery kits, including treated mosquito nets, mama kits and other supplies, were procured and distributed to the expectant teenage mothers who had made all the four ANC visits and attended all the sessions. The mama kit contained all the necessary supplies that included gloves, a piece of laundry soap, a piece of cloth, a cord ligature, razor blades, tetracycline, cotton, sanitary pads and a metre of plastic sheeting. Additional items were also provided. A total of 80 safe delivery kits were issued to the expectant teenagers, which contributed to clean and

safe infection-free childbirths for both mother and child. Advance Afrika worked hand in hand with the office of the DHO in Nebbi, Arua City and Arua District, during the distribution of the mama kits and mosquito nets. In Kamuli and Luuka, the kits were handed over during an EU monitoring visit and ECoV worked hand in hand with the District Health Inspector to hand them over. The expectant teenagers greatly appreciated the support they had received because they were not able to afford the mama kit as most of them were single mothers, struggling to fend for themselves and their unborn babies. To make matters worse, some of them had been abandoned by their families and the fathers of the babies.

My name is **Rashida Binti Idi**. I am 18 years of age and I reside in Arua Hill Division, Arua City. I come from Koboko and that is where my family lives. While still in Koboko, I studied at Koch Secondary School. I got pregnant in 2022 when I was in Senior One. When my parents realised that I was pregnant, they chased me away from home and sent me to stay with the father of the baby; and that is how I came to stay in Arua with him. The father of the baby is taking care of me and the baby and I hope that we can get officially married after I give birth. After I give birth, I hope to start a produce business from which I hope to get the money to take me back to school. I was included in this program by the VHT working with Advance Afrika and I participated in all the training sessions in antenatal care. I have learnt a lot from the health workers and I take this opportunity to thank the EU project for providing me with a treated mosquito net and a safe delivery kit that will help me have a clean birth and healthy baby.





Pictures of expectant teenager receiving their Mama kits after all the recommended ANC sessions

Legal outreach to prisons

In collaboration with ULS, the action conducted legal outreach activities in 5 prison units in Y1, Y2 and Y3 in Gulu, Amur and Kigtum districts. A total of 2,341 inmates were reached. Prison inmates had an equal opportunity to freely ask questions concerning legal aid services. They interacted with the Regional Coordinator ULS and other lawyers during the legal sessions. It is important to note that in Y1 and Y2, COVID19 restrictions greatly affected the activity. However, in Y3 more participation by the prison inmates was witnessed, owing to the removal of the SOPs.

The legal outreach focused on the rights and laws of key legal documents as well as the human rights and obligations of each citizen. The main issues raised by the prison inmates included procedures for bail application, failure of complainants to appear in court for

hearing, the mandate of court at all levels, an overview of law and legal proceedings, juvenile procedures as an emerging issue in adult detention facilities, legal aid services, long periods on remand, administrative challenges due to the transfer of prison inmates, and challenges connected to missing case files at the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP). With regard to juveniles, the advocates requested transfers. The lawyers urged prison inmates to treat the issue of the national ID seriously since there is already a new guideline on bail application that requires mandatory possession of a national ID when applying for bail. Through this intervention, inmates became more aware of the existing innovations in the criminal justice system, such as plea bargain sessions and court clinics. It also provided authentic learning experiences that engaged the minds and hearts of the prison inmates.



An Advocate from Uganda Law Society, responding to legal concerns of prison inmates during the legal outreach sessions at Gulu Women Prison



The NIRA District Registration Office, Gulu attending to prison inmates who wanted to know the status of their National ID progress prior to imprisonment at Amuru Main Prison

Outreach to prisons on ID registration (with NIRA)

Prison inmates from Gulu Main, Gulu Women’s, Pece, Amuru Main and Kitgum Main prison units were sensitised about the relevance of national ID registration. An estimate of 2,341 prison inmates were reached. This was led by the regional NIRA officer working together with the District Registration Officers of Gulu, Kitgum and Omoro. During the outreach, inmates were informed of the NIRA mandate and the administrative steps required to acquire or renew a national ID, which include filling in forms, incurring specific costs and waiting for a particular period before getting the ID. It was also noted that many inmates were unable to be granted court bail if they could not produce their national ID (this is a new law for those applying for bail, and this places inmate awaiting trial in a dangerous situation). The inmates were cautioned about the risks of not having a national ID, noting that it limits their chances of participating in national exercises like national elections in their communities.

On the possibility of piloting the registration of inmates, it was noted that in Y3 this, this was not possible as the relatives, parents and guardians of the inmates could not provide all the necessary requirements for the registration. NIRA noted that there is need to target all the Local Councils 1 (LC1s), the Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISOs) and the District Internal Security Officers (DISOs) in the districts where inmates come from. This, therefore, requires adequate time and resources. NIRA strongly recommended that it is easy to target the youth ex-inmates with information regarding registration and replacement of national IDs. For inmates who would not be able to renew their national IDs between June and August 2023, NIRA urged them to visit their nearest offices in their areas, for support. NIRA further proposed that Advance Afrika should make an effort in the future to engage the top leadership of NIRA and the line minister to advocate for a special arrangement to ensure that prison inmates access this service.

S02

BUSINESS GROWTH & JOB CREATION



Organizing and promoting sub-county farmers markets

By the end of the ALENU action, 4,850 HHs of the targeted 5,000 smallholder farmer HHs, approximately 97%, could access viable agricultural markets (local and regional produce markets). The action organized 36 sub-county farmers' markets, at least three farmer markets per project sub-county. The farmers' markets were dependent on the market days of the selected markets. 540 (225M, 315F) farmers were provided with special incentives to access markets in the form of transport for their commodities, market dues and any other associated marketing costs in PY2, quarter 1. However, subsequently, the markets were opened to all farmers and not restricted to the action commodities. This meant that the action supported both ALENU and non-ALENU commodities

during the farmers markets. Thus, through the farmers market activities, farmers generated 753,934,500 UGX from the activities of the 36 farmers markets, and out of this 719,709,000 UGX (95.5% of the sales) was from ALENU commodities while 34,225,500 UGX (4.5%) was from non-ALENU commodities.

During the market days, at least 85 direct links were created with market actors, including bulk buyers (10), buyers (46), agro-processors (5), transporters (12) and market regulators (12) for continued marketing of their produce. A total of 93 FGs, comprising of 2,325 (1,350M, 975F) farmers in Amuru (49), Omoro (19), Agago (3), Zombo (6), Nebbi (5) and Pakwach (11) were able to bulk and collectively sell different project commodities, including groundnuts, Irish potatoes, soya, and some non-project commodities like maize, out of the linkage created.



Mr. Opiyo Charles the District Commercial Officer of Amuru district buying from the a female beneficiary under ALENU project during the sub-county farmer market at Amuru Trading Center market

ALENU farmers display their vegetables and tomatoes at Akaba market in Nebbi



ALENU farmers display their produce at Alangi market during subcounty farmers' market day in Zombo district.





Farmers in Lamogi sub-county, Amuru district bulked their produce (Groundnuts) ready for marketing during Olwal farmer market in Amuru district.



Establishing market links and achieving progress in certification, quality control, branding and contracting

The ALENU action made deliberate efforts to establish sustainable links between farmers' group members and financial institutions (formal banks), with cooperatives, processors/buyers, and links to BDS support. The action organized financial clinics at district level and engaged three (3) financial institutions: Centenary Bank in Amuru, Omoro, Nebbi and Zombo districts; Bank of Africa in Agago; and Post Bank in Pakwach district. FGs were supported to open bank accounts and operationalize their VSLA accounts. In total, 1,625 (684M, 941F) farmers acquired financial literacy, 200 opened individual accounts and 65 FGs opened accounts with banks. At least 15 FGs (Amuru – 7; Pakwach – 3; Nebbi – 2; and Omoro – 3) further benefited from borrowing from Centenary and Post banks.

Furthermore, ALENU conducted a mapping of existing cooperatives in the region and collaborated with five cooperatives (Dei-Panyimur in Pakwach, Kulo Otit Cooperative in Omoro, Amuru Progressive Cooperative in Amuru, Omot Cooperative in Agago, and Nyaravu Cooperative in Zombo). FGs were sensitized to the availability of the existing cooperatives and provided with information and opportunities to join or form cooperatives. As a result, 1,400 (850M, 550F) farmers were linked to the cooperatives, 49 FGs were formed into producer groups (Amuru – 11; Agago – 5; Omoro – 5, Pakwach – 4; and Zombo – 24). Out of these, six (6) producer organizations were formed for two (2) commodities, i.e. groundnuts and Irish potatoes, which involved 23 FGs (groundnuts, 575 farmers; 250M, 325F; and Irish potatoes, 600 farmers - 430M, 170F) including Amuru-ALENU Groundnut Processors, and LamogiALENU Groundnut Processors in Amuru; Wol-ALENU Groundnut Processors in Agago; LakwanaALENU Groundnut Processors in Omoro; Panyimur-ALENU Groundnut Processors in

Pakwach; and Abajji-Zolume United Farmers' Cooperative (AZUF-Cos) in Zombo district. The producer organizations will ensure continuity and functionality of the processing equipment supported under the action. Also, Yoo Kwo FG in Panyimur sub-county, Pakwach district benefited from tractor hire services, quality seeds and financial support of UGX 3,000,000 from Dei-Panyimur cooperative scale-up funds.

Under the links created with processors, buyers and other BDS support, 20 apiary FGs comprising 500 (280M, 220F) farmers were linked to Muzuri Honey Limited, a private sector actor in Omoro district, to provide them with beehives, training, and marketing. Farmer groups were linked to government programmes and other development programmes in their districts. For example, 40 ALENU FGs (Agago – 6; Amuru – 7; Omoro – 10, Pakwach – 4; Nebbi – 8; and Zombo – 6) were linked to the ongoing government intervention under the Parish Development Model (PDM). These groups have subscribed to the SACCOs and are benefiting from the intervention financially. One FG – Ngeclonyo in Oboko village, Pamora Upper parish in Atego sub-county Nebbi district – was selected to benefit from the Uganda Multi-sectoral Food Security and Nutrition Project, implemented by Nebbi district LG, under which the group received financial support of up to UGX 10,000,000 as booster capital for the group to borrow from and invest in their income generating activities. In Amuru district, at least two (2) FGs – Rubangatwero and Reckiceke in Amuru sub-county – were selected to benefit from the Northern Uganda Farmers Livelihood Improvement Project (NUFLIP) vegetable growing project implemented by JICA, in partnership with MAAIF and district local governments in the Acholi sub-region. Finally, all the 12 Community Development Officers of the project sub-counties conducted a one-on-one session with groups to strengthen them in the areas of conflict resolution, leadership, and sustainability. The LGs will continue to support sustainable linkages between beneficiaries and other actors.



20
APIARY FGs

500

FARMERS WERE LINKED TO MUZURI HONEY LIMITED



220
FEMALE



280
MALE



Visibility enhancement materials for groundnut processing groups in Lamogi sub county in Amuru and Panyimur sub-county in Pakwach to support marketing of their products.

S03

ADVOCACY & CREATIVE COMMUNICATION



ALENU Multi-stakeholder dialogue at national level

The ALENU action in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister organised a national dialogue on 18 January 2023, held in Kampala. The dialogue focused on advocacy issues raised by farmers and the districts in the areas of production, market access, income (small share of VC revenues) and nutrition (poor nutritional status and health). This was presided over by the State Minister for Northern Uganda, the Hon. Grace Freedom Kwiyuwiny. The dialogue targeted 45(32M, 13F) national-level policy influencers from the Acholi and West Nile sub-regions, including Members of Parliament, technical leads at the ministries (Agriculture, Transport and Local Government), LCV Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, Chief Administrative Officers, DINU focal persons, partners, the media and the project beneficiaries. The dialogue was intended to discuss and find constructive solutions to put in place policies for pro-farmers interventions.

Key policy issues emerging that were discussed included exploitation of farmers by unlicensed agro-input dealers selling poor quality seeds,

unpredictable weather (as evidenced by floods and prolonged droughts, especially in Pakwach, Agago and Omoro districts, and the lack of alternatives to these calamities, high marketing dues charged on farmers' produce, and the absence of a functional sub-county market structure in Kango and Athuma sub-counties in Zombo district. The increase in teenage pregnancies and the low level of male involvement in matters of maternal and child health was another issue discussed.

Reactions and feedback from the policy influencers and stakeholders indicated that **at production level**, the VSLA approach needs to be advanced by farmers to the level of investment and not restricted to the routine of saving, borrowing, paying back and dividing; that MAAIF should bridge the technical gap between farmers and extension staff by recruiting more extension officers; that there is need to enforce the use of seed quality by the agricultural police under MAAIF; and that there is need to promote the local seed business by the farmers through the office of the DAO, so that the farmers are able to produce quality seeds.



Pic 25: Stakeholder from the ALENU project districts participating at the National dialogue at Hotel Africana (L) and Ms. Sharon Atukunda the CEO of Advance Afrika and Hon Grace Freedom Kwiyuwiny, the Hon Minister for Northern Uganda at the National dialogue. (Photo taken by New Vision Journalist)

On the issue of markets, it was noted that farmers need to be organised and take up collective marketing to boost their access to markets. Also observed was the need to improve other infrastructure like roads, which need to be tar-macked to enhance access to markets, in addition to having in place a policy to promote sub-county government-led markets to promote the sale of agricultural produce. These markets should have bulking rooms, stalls, demonstration sites etc. There should also be close supervision and monitoring of market regulators to avoid exploiting the farmers; and there should be clarity about who sets the prices or how to monitor the prices.

Under nutrition, the government was urged to see how best to support the VHTS because of their frontline role; to carry out close monitoring and licensing of health providers in the communities by the DHOs; and to ensure that nutritional governance is multi-sectoral. Another issue noted was the need to work as a multi-sectoral entity to address the concerns of under production, markets and nutrition, to also tap on the resources within the sectors. Recommendations and Immediate follow-up actions proposed were *the need to have programmes on effective implementation of men's involvement in reproductive health initiatives that address the barriers and challenges to men's supportive activities.* The Minister for Northern Uganda also recommended that all leaders should speak in unison, appreciate the impacts and bring out the challenges to inform government interventions. The dialogue recommended the need for districts and local governments to work together and adopt the multi-sectoral approach if there is to be development, since the different sectors already have the resources within their various departments. Important contributions were published in newspaper articles and broadcasted on national television: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNQzxQCdaOc>

Engaging cultural and religious institutions to promote behavioural change among young girls and boys

Two engagement meetings with the cultural and religious actors were held, with a focus on teenage pregnancy – to promote behavioural change among girls and boys. The meetings

were held at Heritage Courts Hotel in Arua and Century Hotel in Kamuli. 12 representatives (4F, 6M) from cultural institutions (Obwa Kyabazinga and Lugbara), religious leaders including priests and the imams, and district officials from the Health Department were actively engaged. Advance Afrika used this platform to present the findings of the baseline survey, as well as discuss the use of family planning among adolescents, reintegration support for young mothers in the communities, the changing trends, especially among young people, and how to address teenage pregnancies in the regions.

Some of the key issues raised were that the Children Act is not effectively enforced and culprits are not dealt with accordingly, and that there is a need to encourage positive parenting. Additionally, both teenage boys and girls are sexually active, indicating the need to promote sex education in schools and communities to protect young girls and to support access to family planning from health centres. Another key concern expressed by the cultural leaders was that the current generation of young people are more exposed to information. Therefore, both religious and cultural leaders have to adopt youth-friendly ways and approaches to share the information on SRHR and be engaged in fighting this vice. During the meeting in Kamuli, the Sabalangira (the Head of Princes in Busoga) remarked that the institution of the Kyabazinga was taking the matter of teenage pregnancies seriously and had partnered with many organisations to reduce their incidence in communities in Busoga. He thanked the European Union for funding such an initiative and gave the assurance that the Busoga institution was available to work with the project partners and provide support in whatever way possible to change mindsets. Finally, the religious leaders and cultural leaders in both regions signed a commitment to support access to family planning and other interventions to help reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy in their jurisdictions.

|| **Some of the key issues raised were that the children act is not effectively enforced and culprits are not dealt with accordingly, and that there is a need to encourage positive parenting.**



Religious leaders participating in the engagement meetings on teenage pregnancy in Kamuli and Arua districts respectively.



Religious Leaders & Cultural leaders in Arua (R) and Kamuli (L) sign a commitment to support teenage girls in dealing with teenage pregnancies including access to family planning for sexually active teenagers.

Holding engagement meetings with duty-bearers

Two engagement meetings with duty-bearers were held in Kamuli and Arua, respectively. The meetings involved 20 participants (13F,7M), including the Vice Chairperson (LCVs), Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), District Health Officers (DHOs), District Education Officers (DEOs), Inspectors of Schools, Community Development Officers (CDOs), women councillors, the Child and Family Protection Unit of the Uganda Police Force, and Probation and Social Welfare Services counsellors. The meetings provided a platform for a discussion on issues causing teenage pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile, as well as to identify gaps in the legal and policy frameworks and address them. Presentations were given by representatives from the District Health Department and the Police Child and Family Protection Unit on the status and issues of teenage pregnancies. The project baseline findings were also shared with the stakeholders. It was noted that many children lacked information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and that parents were responsible for the unresolved cases of teenage pregnancy at police since they connived with the perpetrators of defilement to settle cases out of court. Also, it was established that there were no baby corners in schools for those teenage mothers who might be reintegrated into school. Therefore, it was advised that the duty-bearers have a collective responsibility to engage the responsible entities and authorities such as the police and Probation Officers to apprehend the perpetrators, and to use their platforms to sensitise the communities about the rights of children and the need for responsible parenting. The duty-bearers committed to ensuring that society is safe, and that it constitutes an environment where children are protected. They also pledged to bring parents on board and to change their mindset with a focus on instilling morals in them to raise responsible citizens. They agreed to enact by-laws to regulate the activities that exacerbated the vice such as night markets, discos etc. The stakeholders also accepted to embrace technology and promote the use of contraceptives among adolescents.

Joint Field Mission for the International Development Partners Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (IDPWG – SRHR)

On 8th November 2023, a joint field mission by the International Development Partners Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (IDPWG – SRHR) was conducted in Luuka District. The IDPWG group was composed of foreign missions from the World Bank, UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF), ENABEL, OXFAM, the European Union and embassies such as those of Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the US. Advance Afrika was selected by the EU Delegation Uganda to liaise with other partners working in the district and the district local government to showcase some of the work that they were doing on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The partners included USAID's Uganda Health Activity (USAID UHA), the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation, the Ministry of Health, and Echoes of Children's Voices. The visit started off with a meeting at the district, involving district leaders such as the RDC, CAO, DHO, DEO and many others. The district leadership gave a presentation on the status of teenage pregnancies in the district as well as the interventions by different development partners. Members of the IDPWG–SRHR were also given time to ask questions, and make comments and recommendations. Once this was done, the participants were divided into two groups and were taken to Bukooma Health Centre to interact with teenage mothers being supported to attend ANC under the EU action. They also visited a school supported by a project being implemented by the Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation. The IDPWG appreciated the engagements and requested the partners to always document and share the stories, as well as promote advocacy for sexual education in schools and the use of contraceptives.

Advance Afrika was selected by the EU Delegation Uganda to liaise with other partners working in the district and the district local government to showcase some of the work that they were doing on sexual and reproductive health and rights.



A cross section of participants at the meeting with district leaders at Luuka District Headquarters.



Mr Martin Balyedhusa, Luuka District Health officer (L) and Mr Francis Kamyuka, District Education Officer (R) making their remarks.

Engagement meeting with JLOS actors organise by LEGATUM

The LEGATUM Foundation organised a review meeting of The Advancing Access to Justice program in Uganda at the Onomo Hotel in Nakasero, Kampala. This was an opportunity for partner organisations to share achievements, lessons learnt and challenges faced in the implementation of the program. Advance Afrika was invited to share some of its extensive work with Uganda Prisons Service and experiences on the provision of legal aid, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners. The meeting also organised a panel discussion moderated by Dr Livingstone Sewanyana and the following panellists; 1) Shifa Katutu- Asst. Commissioner Social Reintegration, Directorate of Community Service 2) Irene Nakimbugwe – Public Relations Officer Office of the Directorate of

Public Prosecutions 3) Anatoli Biryomumaisho- Commissioner Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Uganda Prisons Service 4) His Worship Martins Kirya – Magistrate, LDC Court. Discussion centred around the different bottlenecks to access to justice in Uganda. Panellists shared their experiences and some of the solutions that are helping deal with many of the issues. Some of the issues raised included files missing in court and at the police, lack of trust between the public and the police, a large number of inmates on remand and some for long periods of time. The panellists also encouraged organisations to develop MOUs with the government departments they represented. This would help ensure that officers on the ground would respond to requests and support their efforts. Participants agreed to work together and not resort to blaming one another which is counterproductive.



Pic 1: Group picture with LEGATUM Foundation, JLOS representatives including; Asst. Commissioner Social Reintegration- Directorate of Community Service; Legal Officer Uganda Police Force; Public Relations Officer Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions; Commissioner Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Uganda Prisons Service; Magistrate, LDC Court among others taken during the review meeting of the Advancing Access to Justice Program in Uganda at Onomo Hotel in Nakasero, Kampala.



Pic 2: Guy Cave, President LEGATUM Foundation (1st right), Colin Webb, Senior Vice President, LEGATUM Foundation (in the middle) & a participant on the left listening to a presentation during the meeting.

SO4

GROWTH OF ADVANCE AFRIKA



Norec's Partner Training

Chance for Change (lead coordinator) and Advance Afrika attended the Norec partner training from 24th to 26th April 2023 in Nairobi. During the training, partners from various countries and continents under the exchange programme were inspired to coordinate the Norec exchange projects supported. These were guided on the Norec model, its principles and values; reporting and communicating within the Norec framework and understanding the crucial factors for a successful exchange. The training was very practical with various exercises, games and energizers. This created an opportunity for networking, appreciating intercultural differences, sharing experiences and understanding the Norec conditions for a fruitful exchange programme. Advance Afrika CEO and Director of Finance & Administration attended and actively participated in the training. As a result of the training, Advance Afrika has ensured a professional and collaborative engagement with C4C and the Norec participants is maintained.

Training in cognitive behavior therapy (rebuilding identity)

The Norec participants organised a training for 6 Advance Afrika staff on cognitive behavior therapy (CBT)- rebuilding identity. The training was conducted on 17th and 18th April 2023 at the office in Gulu. The main purpose

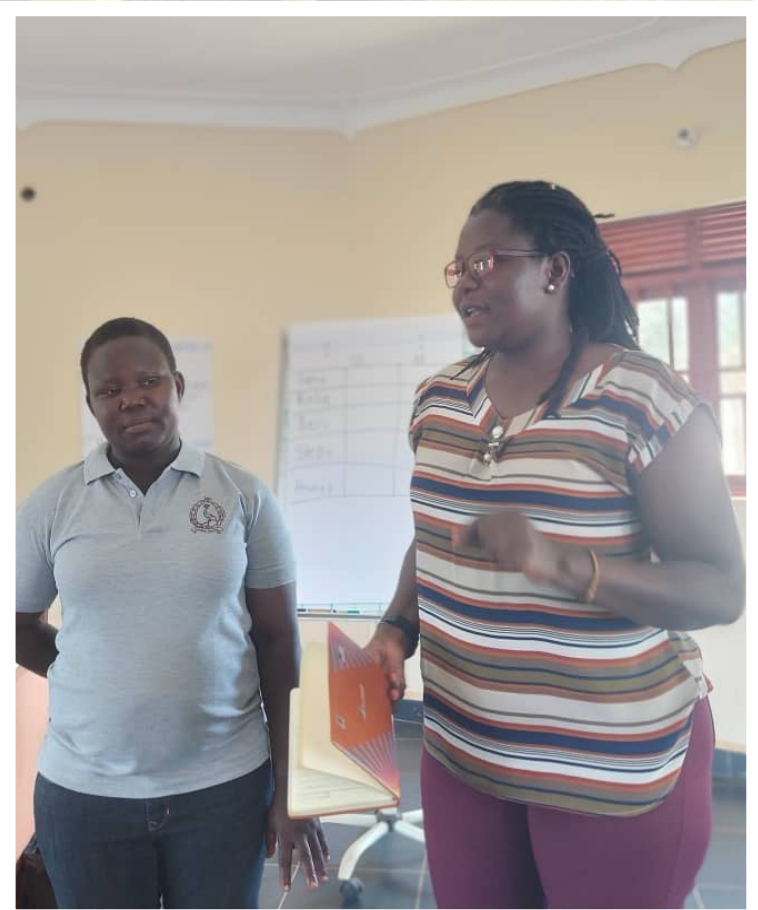
of the training was to equip Advance Afrika staff with the knowledge, skills and techniques on rebuilding identity in the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates in Uganda Prison service. Additionally, a training of 6 Prison Social Workers (PSWs) from 3 prison stations- Gulu Main, Gulu Women and Pece prison in Gulu districts was conducted for two days from 29 and 30 May 2023 at Advance Afrika Gulu office. The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the PSWs as trainers and improve their skills on how to deal with inmates-to change the way they think and behave. Key topics covered included; Choice theory, social contract and team building, Experiential learning and Advantage thinking. The PSWs were further guided on various approaches, techniques in rebuilding identity and on how to facilitate the workshops in prisons. During the training, the PSWs also shared testimonies of successful re-integrated cases of ex-inmates. The training was delivered by the Norec participants in collaboration with Mr. Stephen. M. Ocaya (a Project Coordinator on a prison project funded by European Union1 and an alumnus to Norec exchange programme). After the training, the PSWs were given an assignment to conduct the same training to inmates in their various prison units for four weeks. The activity helped them to practice what they learned during their CBT training. It also boosted their confidence and motivated them to act as the champions of the CBT model under the project.



C4C and Advance Afrika partners receiving certificates of attendance during the Norec Partner training in Nairobi



Prison Social Workers participating in an energizer and in an experiential learning session



Disability Inclusion training

In February 2023, the Norec participants attended a training on disability inclusion organised for 10 staff of Advance Afrika. The training was conducted in Gulu district and supported by Light for the World, an international disability and development NGO. This train-

ing used a problem-based learning method of learning. This helped the participants appreciate the different approaches, skills to engage persons with disabilities (PWDs) in community and include them in project activities. The participants also learnt an effective way of communicating with PDWs.



Norec Participants and Advance Afrika staff during Disability inclusion Training

Learning visits to in-prisons project in Acholi and Bushenyi districts Ankole Private Sector Promotion

Centre Limited (APROCEL) in collaboration with Advance Afrika conducted learning visits to in-prison projects in Acholi and Bushenyi districts with support from Legatum Foundation Limited. APROCEL is a local NGO, rehabilitating and empowering inmates for community integration in Bushenyi in the south-western region. They do similar work as Advance Afrika in skilling prison inmates. In March 2023, APROCEL visited Advance Afrika's work with Uganda Prisons Service at Gulu Main and Gulu Women prisons. Similarly, in June 2023, Advance Afrika visited Bushenyi Main and Women prison units. Both visits focused on the in-prison projects set up by both partners, learning from the best practises and models. In-prison, projects such as carpentry, tailoring, hair dressing/ barber shop, arts and crafts, pastry bakery and music performances were viewed. Key lessons learnt included the Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology as a good model to engage inmates in savings, adult learning education, for the need for inmates to undergo Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) assessments after vocational training; and Music, Dance and Drama as a core rehabilitative therapy activity for prisons. The Norec participants were active in the learning visits and de-briefing meetings. The participants learnt a lot through the visits and plan to transfer the knowledge to C4C after the exchange.

Training in good governance and financial management

Under the ATP action, a two-day training in financial management was organised for the 4 CBOs and 3 NGOs. These included Amani Initiative and Women Effort for Inclusive Development in Arua District; Pir Anyim Youth Group in Nebbi District; Aids Education Group for Youth (AEGY) in Kamuli District; and Rural Aids Orphans and Mothers Support Organisation (RAOMOSO) in Luuka District. The training was held at the Advance Afrika Head Office in Kira Municipality, which mainly targeted the finance personnel (finance officers or accountants) from each organisation. A total of 10 individual staff (8F, 2M) including 8 Finance Officers, the Advance Afrika Accounts Assistant and 2 Project Officers from ECoV and Advance Afrika actively participated in the training that aimed at enhancing the overall management and operational effectiveness of the CBOs, and strengthening their organisational competencies and internal structures.

At the beginning of the training, the QuickBooks accounting software (QuickBooks Premier Accountant UK Edition Version) procured was successfully installed on the laptops of each of the Finance Officers by an IT specialist. The key topics covered were budgeting; budget control and reporting; launch of QuickBooks (accounts setup, charts of accounts); budget setups (classes); posting of transactions in the system linked to the budget; report generation; backing up information (external devices; Google Drive; or subscribing online) and reasons for preparing a bank reconciliation statement. The training was practical, which provided a platform for the accountants to share their experiences on how they had been handling financial transactions in their respective organisations. The sessions were delivered by Advance Afrika Director Finance and Administration (DFA) with qualifications in ACCA, as well as experience in NGO financial management and professional training.

During the training, the DFA explained financial management as the practice of handling companies' finances in a way that allows a company to be successful and compliant with regulations. It was noted that financial management combines several financial functions such as accounting, fixed assets management, revenue recognition/income and payment processes/expenses. The participants were advised to be part of the organisation budget planning process, project proposal and fundraising, in order to be ahead of the game when reporting the budget to the donors. The participants were further encouraged to embrace the accounting qualities of transparency, compliance and honesty when working with their respective organisations. This is because they are contracted to perform all duties assigned to them without fail. The facilitator found the trainees very interactive and active during the training sessions, and the participants were also able to discover that the financial position of an organisation depends on their practices. They were now able to post transactions in the system linked to the budget. The training enhanced the accounting abilities of the Finance Officers and exposed them to the use of new accounting software. The Finance Officers assured Advance Afrika that they would put into practice what they had learnt. An online app (TEAMS) was set up for the participants to continue engaging with the Advance Afrika DFA on any queries as well as share more experiences among themselves.



Director Finance and Administration facilitating the participants on the use of the new installed accounting software



The IT Specialist giving tips to trainees on how to back information and keep it secure when using Quick Books

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract pattern. It consists of various organic, rounded shapes in shades of orange, green, and white, set against a dark, almost black background. Some shapes are filled with a white dotted pattern, while others are solid or have a textured orange fill. The shapes are scattered and overlap, creating a sense of movement and depth.

STORIES OF CHANGE

HOPE TO A SAFE BIRTH

My name is **Onzimayo Judy**. I am 17 years and I reside in Adravo East, Ezuku Parish, Vurra, Arua District. I grew up in a polygamous family, and being in a polygamous family, my father did not provide for us equally because we were many children. Due to the high demand, my father abandoned my mother and left with his second wife. My mother had to look for ways of taking care of us because she wasn't getting any money from my father. At that time, my mother planted vegetables to be able to support me and my siblings in school and buy food at home. My mother paid my school fees up to primary six at Ezuku Primary School before she fell sick and died. When my mother died, my elder sister, who was already married, took care of me and my siblings. At that time, my elder sister advised me to do a tailoring course and she paid my fees for only one term. My sister wasn't able to sustain me in school because she had her own children to pay school fees for. She therefore sent me to our father, who refused to support me, so I dropped out of the tailoring school in 2022. While staying at my sister's home, I met the father to the baby at a football match that was organised at one of the playgrounds near home. At that time, he was in Senior Four at Ocoko Modern Secondary School. I was in a relationship with him until I conceived. When I realised that I was pregnant, I told the father of my unborn baby, who later picked me up and we started staying together. One day, when I was at a health facility, I was approached by a nurse, who told me about the programme of training expectant girls in antenatal care organised by Advance Afrika and I accepted to join. I appreciate Advance Afrika for this opportunity and for giving me a full set of safe delivery kits, and I will use it effectively to benefit me and my unborn baby.

VHT OUTREACH – BAKO SHARON

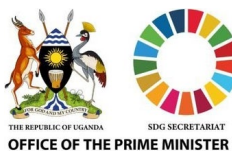
One of the girls the VHT visited is named Bako Sharon, a girl of 17 years, who was married but separated from her husband because he did not pay her bride price, which is highly valued in Lugbara culture. She therefore returned home to stay with her parents, and by that time she had a one-year-old baby boy with her husband. When the VHT visited her, she was helpless and her baby was very ill. The VHT health educated her and took her and the child to Oli Health Centre IV, where they received treatment. The child fully recovered from the sickness and she was very grateful to the VHT. On the second visit, the VHT asked her what she was doing to support herself and the baby. Bako said that she washed clothes for the neighbours and she had so far collected some money that she had used to cater for the needs of the baby and had 50,000 shillings left. The VHT advised her to start a small business using that money, but she said that she only knew how to make porridge. The VHT went ahead and advised her to use that money to buy two kilograms of millet flour and one kilogram of sugar and start from there. Bako took the VHT's advice and started that business. Bako currently prepares morning and evening tea for customers such as boda-boda riders and shopkeepers at the market stage where her micro-enterprise is located. She is now able to purchase more than five kilograms of millet flour and can save money. Her feeding as well as the child's diet have improved because she can afford a balanced diet for herself and the baby.

OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

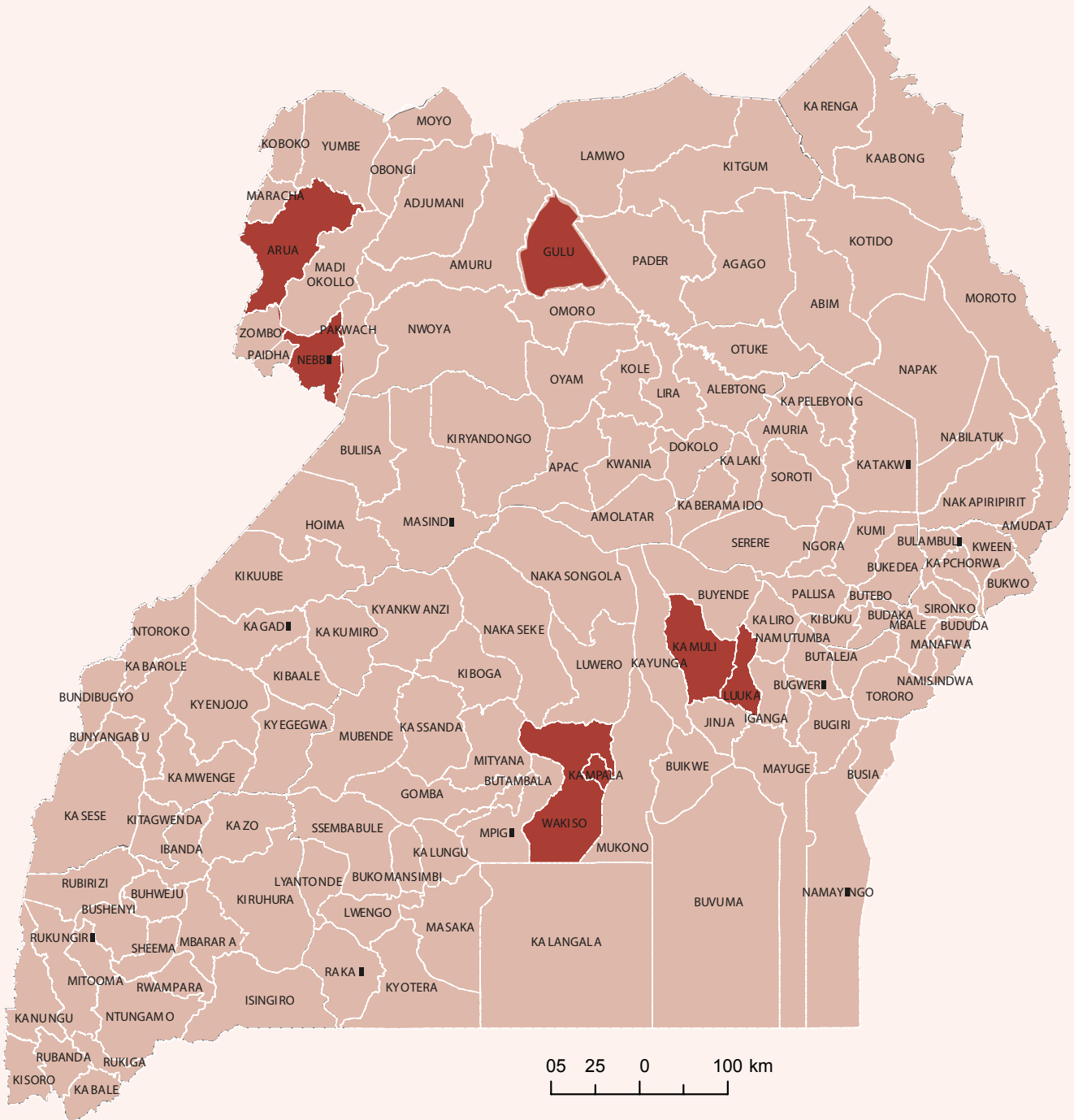
DONORS



PARTNERS



WHERE WE WORK



ADVANCE AFRIKA PRESENCE

- **Central Region:** Kampala and Wakiso
- **Eastern:** Kamuli and Luuka
- **Northern:** Gulu
- **West Nile:** Arua and Nebbi

HEAD OFFICE

Mulawa (Opposite Makerere College Campus), Kiira Municipality, Wakiso District.

P. O. Box 36888 Kampala - Uganda

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Arua: Room A112, KKT Center, Plot 16-22 Duka road, Arua District

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