Promotion of self Reliance for War Affected Households

In Northern Uganda

Jan – Dec 2015

Narrative Progress Report

Submitted to:

All Saints Parish Church Council Wokingham – UK

By:

Community Initiative for Rural Development

(CIFORD – GULU)

P.O.Box 598, Gulu – Uganda
Promotion of Self Reliance for War Affected Households in Northern Uganda,

Narrative Progress report

Livelihoods Sub – Project: Gulu/ Nwoya

Background:

Northern Uganda suffered 23 years of internal conflict which devastated about 85% of community infrastructures; The war displaced people from their land thus people could not grow food for their own consumption let alone investing in income generating activities. For survival the population was depending on food ratios from world food program (WFP).

As a result the entire Northern Uganda population returning home from camps did not have sufficient start up tools and seeds to quickly start growing food crops and cash crops to improved household/family income and guarantee food security. Access to domesticated livestock was equally difficult due to high levels of poverty among the camp dwellers.

Ciford (Community Initiative for Rural Development) a community based organization that closely interact with the affected communities identified these needs and through funding from All Saints Wokingham UK is implementing a project on promotion of self reliance for war affected communities in Northern Uganda.

Activities carried out

Animal Traction:

Farmers that received goats in 2014, about 90% of them reported their goats had delivered and therefore were able to pass on the gift to those beneficiaries that did not get in the previous year. One farmer who also received piglets was able to pass on the gift this year. Please find below attached photos of the handover ceremony presided over by the Chairperson Ciford Parents Support Committee.

Above Rev. Vulnerable John Ochola, Veterinary technician Opiyo Richard Okema vaccinates goats and also witness Mrs. Beatrice Akech pass on 2 exotic piglets to Mr. Olweny Sammuel under the promotion of self reliance project.
Crop Husbandry

Ciford established six local coordination units within her areas of operation in Koch Goma Sub County. The local coordination units were used during registration of farmer groups to be assessed, verified and later selected.

A total of six farmer groups were registered from Koch goma Sub County.

The office of the Parish priest Koch Goma parish was involved in the registration exercise as she played a fundamental role during mobilization and reaching the remote communities deep in the village together with Ciford field officer.

Group assessment

The farmer groups were assessed to ascertain whether they fall in the following categories of vulnerability.

- Extremely vulnerable Households (HIV/AIDS affected H/h, elderly widows looking after orphans and persons with disability)
- Widows and widowers.
- Child headed households.
- Single Mothers/child mothers
- Formerly abducted persons reintegrated into the community

In addition to the above Ciford critically looked at the aims, objectives and activities of each group in line with Ciford’s current endeavors.

- Assessed if the group developed out of their own local initiative.
- Availability of accessible land for use by the group.

Above Chairperson and Secretary Ciford Parents Support Committee handover goats brought to be passed on to beneficiaries that did not get in 2014. This year 2015 a total of 20 goats and 2 piglets were passed on as gifts to other vulnerable families.
It is based on the above guidelines that Ciford successfully interviewed and screened 6 farmers groups to receive support under (PSR project 2015)

**Groups selected**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s/no</th>
<th>Group Name</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Land cleared in acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Roc paco Farmers group</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Oterem</td>
<td>• Rebuild lives and end poverty among group members</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ogen Rwot Farmers group</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Kalang Ogone</td>
<td>• Carry out seed multiplication (g/nut, cassava, Maize and beans)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goro Pe lekke farmers group</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Koch Lila</td>
<td>• Make sustainable development endeavors accessible to persons with disability. (G/nut, Cassava)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lubanga Lakica Widows development association</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Lukutu</td>
<td>• Secure family income and diet through vegetable growing.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Koch Goma mothers Union Association</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Kal A</td>
<td>• Seed multiplication for sustainable livelihood.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cac pe Yeka widows groups</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Rom,</td>
<td>• End hunger, poverty and promote income generation through seed multiplication and tree planting.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Above are the selected groups from Koch Goma sub County benefiting from the (PSR project 2011)

Above is Ogen Rwot Farmers group preparing their 5 acers garden to plant ground nuts, Maize and cassava
Mobilization of seeds;

Ciford successfully mobilized better performing and resistant varieties of seeds, this was carried out in consultation with agricultural experts within the Sub County. Cassava cuttings were also identified and procured from demonstration farmers in Alokolum village. Below is the list of seeds procured and distributed to the farmer groups in Koch Goma Sub county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/no</th>
<th>Seed type</th>
<th>Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ground nuts</td>
<td>Red beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>Nabe III &amp; Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cassava cuttings</td>
<td>TME XIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>Longe V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above is Goro Pe Lekke Farmers group preparing their garden to plant ground nuts. While on the left Ogen Rwot Youths look at their egg plants in the garden. They expect good harvest with the fall of the rain.

Ciford Executive Committee attend one of the group assessment meetings in Koch lila Village, Koch Goma Sub County, Nwoya District.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Onions</th>
<th>Red Creole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Green paper</td>
<td>California Wonder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cabbages</td>
<td>Comphenagen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Orkra</td>
<td>East africa’s Best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>Henz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Egg Plant</td>
<td>Long Purple</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fruit trees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mangoes</th>
<th>Grafted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oranges</td>
<td>Grafted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pawpaw</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jack Fruit</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Garve</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Avocado</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hand over and Distribution of seeds.**

Ciford mobilized the groups and sub county officials to participate in the official hand over of seeds to the groups in Koch Goma Sub County. The hand over exercise was conducted on the 13th April, 2015, officiated by the office of L.C.III chairperson, sub county community development officer and Ciford executive committee members.
The hand over ceremony was presided over by the L.C.III chairperson representative who thanked Ciford management and the team for the support they have rendered to the vulnerable people in his sub county. He acknowledges and deeply appreciates the kind heart of the donating partner church in the Uk who sacrifice their penny to support the vulnerable people of Northern Uganda to have a dignified and productive life.

The community development officer called upon all farmers to practice better farming practices, to ensure the seeds they receive are planted in a timely manner to produce best results. Both officials observe that this programme has come at the right time when people are moving out of the camps and going back home where there is very fertile soils and enough space for cultivation, the only emphasizes is on hard work and collaboration.

Ciford management thanked the sub county officials for their time and cooperation as well as the parish priest for the ministry he is perusing among God's creation in Koch Goma sub county. Ciford chair noted that improved varieties of seeds have been procured in accordance with farmer group need. It is therefore important for each group to work hard together with her members to yield better results. Ciford will continue to collaborate with the sub county office to make regular follow up and track activity progress.
Achievements noted so far;

- A total of 20 sheep - goats and 2 exotic piglets passed on as gifts to another 21 vulnerable families in Northern Uganda.
- Hired the service of CIFORD trained veterinary technician to treat and vaccinate project animals to ensure no project animals succumb to ill health.
- Secure family livelihoods, happier and healthier families founded.
- Boasted family income levels and a start to diversified livelihood sources.
- 6 farmer groups supported with assorted seeds based on group needs assessment conducted by Ciford field office.
- Improved seeds mobilized, procured and distributed to 6 farmer groups in Koch Goma sub County at the right time.
- Practical demonstration training carried out for 2 groups particularly on nursery bed establishment.
- Successfully established six (6) functional coordination units.
- Ciford field office has been able to assess group gardens and visit them in their villages of origin.
- There is an improved correlation between members from different groups and villages hence promoting peace co-existence in the sub county.

Above Maize planted by Ogen Rwot Farmers group, the seeds germinated and grew so well. The group is hopeful for a very good harvest that will be used for domestic consumption and surplus sold to earn income.
Challenges

- A couple of goats producing males that cannot be passed on and therefore delaying the passing on target per year.

- Transport to constantly follow up beneficiaries was a challenge. There was inadequate fuel facilitation in terms of fuel and motorcycle servicing.

- Unpredictable rainfall, this year it took up to mid April before the rain started falling again hence delaying the planting season.
• Inaccessible and bad roads leading to villages and farms, this requires better riding gears and fairly stable bikes.

• Some groups face the challenge of wild animals especially the elephants that escape from Murchison National park and destroy crops planted this was a case in point in Koch lila.

• Land wrangle among returning communities from the camps is on the increase. Many families struggle over boundary demarcations and therefore waste time in courts and in other cases where the struggle becomes violent then property and lives are lost. This is a major challenge.

Recommendations:

• Farmers should be encouraged to prepare land early and carry out timely planting of crops with the fall of the rain.

• There is need to include in the next disbursement administration cost and staff stipend for effective office management and administration as well as retain committed volunteers to oversee successful project implementation.

• Training on better farming practices to be apprehended and peace building ideas to be mainstream in the project components since it’s a cross cutting issue that directly affects farming.

Conclusion:

We are very grateful to All Saints Parish Church Council Wokingham Uk for the funding support that makes the neglected and poverty stricken people of Northern Uganda gain access to economic opportunities and relatively attain some level of development. Community Initiative for Rural Development (Ciford) wish to sincerely appreciate All Saints Parish Church Council Wokingham for all the efforts put in to make this programme achieve its stated objectives both in the short term and long term.

Thank you,

Compiled by: Okot Darwin ton Tobbi  
Approved by: Rev. Vulnerable John Ochola

Head of Operations – CIFORD, Ug  
Patron Ciford – Gulu