



**NEBBI DISTRICT NGO FORUM
(NDNGOF)**

**ANNUAL REPORT
JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020**



Follow-up meeting with CMGs in Ambele Parish, Alangi Sub county in Zombo District

Developed by:
NDNGOF
Secretariat
P.O Box 105-Nebbi

December 2020

NEBBI DISTRICT NGO FORUM (NDNGOF) ANNUAL REPORT 2020

INTRODUCTION

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) with a current membership of **135** Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) was formed in June 2001, as a platform through which CBOs, NGOs and FBOs in Nebbi and Zombo Districts network, share information, influence policies, legislate and advocate for equitable development.

The Forum is duly incorporated in Uganda with Certificate of Incorporation from Uganda Registration Service Bureau (Reg. No: 80020002135339); It is fully registered with Uganda National Bureau for NGOs (Reg. No 1282/ INDR79991014NB) with Operational permit (Permit No 1429/ INDP74771014NB) valid up to year 2023 and also has certificate of Registration with Financial Intelligent authority (Reg. No FIA -14-000336) in the Register of Accountable Persons. The Forum has a working Memorandum of Understanding with Nebbi District Local Government – Reg. No. 26/2008. NDNGOF was on the 30/11/2012 awarded a QuAM (NGO Quality Assurance Mechanism) Certificate, for its adherence to the principles and standards of behaviour for responsible practice of NGOs in Uganda. In November 2020, Nebbi District NGO Forum applied for a new QuAM Certification and has already been assessed and now awaiting feedback from DENIVA about its application and assessment results.

The Forum stands for Transparency, Collective action and responsibilities, Mutual respect, Fair dealings, Equity and gender parity, Active participation, Voluntarism and service above self.

Vision

A Well-Coordinated and strong Civil Society Organizations in Nebbi District

Mission

To provide a Platform for CSOs operating in Nebbi District to increasingly participate in development processes and contribute to policy dialogues through advocacy, networking and information sharing.

Core Values

Transparency and Accountability, Courage, Integrity and Solidarity.

The objectives of Nebbi District NGO Forum

The Forum sees itself as a Platform whose existence is:

- 1) To enable CSOs harness their collective strength to advocate and lobby government and development partners for pro-poor policies and programmes
- 2) To promote Good Governance and Human Rights
- 3) To improve the institutional capacity of the Forum and its Member Organizations to effectively mobilize and utilize their resources to achieve their objective
- 4) To improve networking and linkages among its Member Organizations and between CSOs and Development Partners

- 5) To adequately, timely and reliably share information among its Member Organisations to effectively mobilise and utilize their resources to achieve their objectives
- 6) To do anything or activity that is legal to further the objectives of the Forum

Thematic areas

- Policy Advocacy and Good Governance (PA& GG)
- Capacity building and Civil Society strengthening (CCS)
- Coordination and linkages of members (CL)
- Research, Documentation & Information sharing (RDI)

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGO) with support from Development Partners implemented the following projects during the year:

A) INCREASING ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES IN THE ALBERTINE GRABEN

Introduction

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) in partnership with Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE) entered an agreement for the implementation of a project titled **“Increasing Access to Sustainable and Renewable Energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben”** that is, improved cook stoves and Solar Home Systems to conserve high value forests ecosystems to benefit people and nature in Uganda. Prior to that, the Forum fully supported the development of Nebbi District Local Government Renewable Energy Access Strategy 2019/20-2024/25.

The production of the Nebbi District Local Government Renewable Energy Access Strategy 2019/20-2024/25 was made possible through the inputs of various stakeholders in collaboration with Sector Heads in the district and Private Sector mainly represented by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The project had run for the last 2 years and had seen over 700 Solar Home Systems and 1,000 Improved Cook Stoves distributed to different communities across the West Nile region. In so doing, a number of community groups especially the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) and Farmer groups, business shops located in strategic Trading Centres and market places had been key players and greatly contributed to the marketing and distribution achievements that was realized.

Overall goal of the project

The overall goal of the project is Increased Access to Sustainable and Renewable Energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben.

Roles and responsibilities of NDNGOF in this project

Since the project targeted different community groups, there was need to have some commitment for proper implementation and follow-up which then required a binding document for reference. In that line therefore, NDNNGOF signed agreements with **21** groups prior to the distribution and marketing of the products.

Additionally, NDNNGOF had stipulated roles and responsibilities towards proper project implementation that included:

- a) Delivering the solar home systems and improved cook stoves to the groups for display and distribution
- b) Collecting cash payments from the groups after every 2 weeks
- c) Mentoring the groups on the basics of the product to ease marketing
- d) Monitoring the performance of Solar Home Systems (SHS) and improved cook stoves sold to the customers and provision of after sale services including installation of the SHS, operation and maintenance support
- e) Availing the groups with the necessary documentation materials such as Sales Database, Receipt Books for both SHS and improved cook stove sales and faulty product Register
- f) Maintaining records that included delivery records and sales receipts from the groups and,
- g) Paying the groups a commission for sale of products

On the other hand, the groups too had roles and responsibilities that included among others,

- a) Marketing the products to potential customers interested on cash basis or linking those in groups to NDNNGOF in order to benefit from the credit sales arrangement
- b) Ensuring proper storage and security of the products at their disposal at all times
- c) Selling products to interested customers on cash basis and issuing of receipts for every sale of SHS and improved cook stoves
- d) Documentation of customer details in the sale data base such as their name, sex, locations, telephone contacts, type of products and so forth

Project Locations

The project activities were implemented in the sub counties of Parombo, Nebbi, Kucwiny and Alala; then Abindu and Thatha divisions in Nebbi municipality, Nebbi District.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Sensitization

Using group approaches, a total of **1,620** people from **54** groups were reached with messages of access and adoption of efficient Renewable Energy Technology such that products like improved

cook stoves and Solar Home Systems were availed to them as an alternative means of home cooking and lighting.

Benefits of using the Renewable Energy Products



Figure 1: Mr. Mugisa Robert with Mungu Jakisa Women Group in Nyaravur Sub county during Group Mapping

In a bid to encourage the community to acquire the renewable energy products, it was significant to discuss with them the benefits of these products such as having less production of smoke from the stoves, less consumption of charcoal, faster cooking, and its portability.

The solar light on the other hand, reduces the exposure to smoke, unlike that from the local lamps commonly known as “Kadoma”, the solar lamp lights for a long period of time if well charged. The program helped the group members and other community members to spend less since it had reduced the rate of buying charcoal and paraffin which were rather expensive.

The durability of the renewable energy products (Solar and cook Stoves) was commended by the community members. The groups would be used for district level monitoring activity on the use of the renewable energy products purchased

Conduct targeted awareness campaigns

Together with office of Nebbi District Secretary for Production, Marketing and Natural Resources, massive awareness creation on access and adoption of efficient Renewable Energy Technologies was done to community groups through radio talk shows.

Group selection/mapping



Figure 2: Tinga Malo Disabled Group in Thatha Division, Nebbi Municipality during Group Mapping

It was significant to know the status of the 12 target groups who would receive the renewable energy products hence, Group selection for the distribution of Renewable Energy product was done. The event was characterized by narration of stories about “what was around us” before the destruction of the forest cover, the birds and the swamp. It was important also to draw the attention of the public about the risks of human activities and the disadvantages and/or advantages of not using these products. Furthermore, it constituted an important element to support energy conservation and energy efficiency promotion policies and programme.

It is important to note that during mapping, identification, awareness creation, display of the products took place as well as illustration of how to connect the Solar Home System

Community dialogue

Another activity conducted was dialogue with the selected groups on purchase and adoption of the use of renewable energy products to reduce dependency on biomass for their energy needs. Coupled with this was an awareness raising with regards to utilization and sustainability of clean and renewable energy products and drawing the attention of energy users not only to the economic advantages of lower energy costs, but also to the environmental impacts that were associated with the continuously growing energy use especially in urban areas.

Additionally, there was an element of familiarity in order to consistently make the products grow into a top choice in consumer minds and lastly, knowledge of the numbers of group members who were interested in purchasing and adopting the use of the renewable energy products.

During such dialogues and group selection processes, more group members became aware on the use of the related products leading to immediate acquisitions of the SP2 (Solar Product with 4 bulbs) by some group members and other individuals who expressed interest in purchasing the renewable energy products.

Home visits

Home visits were also made to the VSLA and other groups such as Women, Men and Youth to sensitize them about the available products.

Radio Talk Show

NDNGO Forum conducted a Radio Talk Show to create massive awareness on access and adoption of efficient Renewable Energy Technologies on Radio Maria. The Panelists composed a staff of the Forum, District Secretary for production, a representative of persons with disabilities and the Moderator of the programme. The immediate outcome was that, listeners called from the different corners of greater Nebbi (Pakwach, Nebbi and Zombo) in appreciation of the programme and a recording in form of a CD was later produced.

Field visits to beneficiaries

Project beneficiaries were visited for the purpose of collecting receipts, Cook Stove serial numbers, installment payments and other records needed.

Table showing Sales Record for Solar Home Systems and Improved Cook Stoves

SALES RECORD	UNIT OF SOLAR SOLD		COLLECTION OF THE YEAR		
			Months	Solar	Cook Stove
	SP1	00	Jan	915,000	00
	SP2	20	Feb	250,000	00
	SP3	02	March	473,000	00
	TOTAL	22	April	00	00
			May	20,000	00

				June	30,000	00
				July	360,000	00
				Aug	1,106,000	109,000
				Sep	1,461,000	603,500
				Oct	921,000	273,000
				Nov	1,372,000	300,000
				Dec	600,000	183,000
				TOTAL	7,508,000	1,468,500

The target for Solar Home Systems for the year was **50** pieces. However, only **22** units of Home Solar Systems were sold whereas, for the Improved Cook Stoves, the target for the year was **200** pieces but a total of **161** were delivered. The reasons for these variations had been the absence of SP1 (Solar Product with only one bulb) for the whole year and yet it is the unit that is affordable to the rural persons. Coupled with that, the interruption caused by COVID 19 restricted movements as well as gathering of persons yet the mode of sale is through community groups.

Challenges

- The project is a mixture of advocacy and entrepreneurship
- The project depends on another existing project meaning that if there is no other project, then it may be rather difficult to implement
- The Solar batteries especially for SP1 (Solar Product with one bulb) are very weak and all of them got damaged before 2-year warranty
- Debts collection is rather challenging because no fund was set aside for debt management
- There was no motivation given to the staff in charge of the project

Recommendation:

- Sales of the products (Solar and Cook Stoves) should be left in the hands of private business persons who can manage debt collection given the skills they have
- There should be a dedicated means of transport assigned to the project Focal Point Person
- There is need to replace weak batteries and a better product be identified and supplied to the community
- The 10,000/= (Ten thousand Uganda shillings) which a customer pays at the end of their payment for debt collection is not enough and not a good means therefore, cash should be set aside from the project to cater for such
- There is need for motivation for the staff responsible

Submission of accountabilities and reports

All the accountabilities and monthly reports for the activities carried out were submitted to Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment-WN as required.

Table showing names of groups reached with activities on Renewable Energy

	Group Name	Location
1	Tic ku Tego women group	Parombo
2	Nyaravur Middle East Boda Boda	Nyaravur sub county
3	Mungu rem ungo	Kucwiny sub county
4	Can yabu Yoo	Kucwiny sub county
5	Good Hope	Abindu Division
6	Waparwoth	Nyaravur sub county
7	Kwolonyo	Abindu Division
8	Kuparu	Central Division
9	Tinga malo disable group	Thatha sub county
10	Mungu maro jumakwaye	Thatha sub county
11	Mungujakisa Women group	Nyaravur sub county
12	Yesu 8oom women group.	Abindu sub county
13	Yomcwiny	Nebbi Sub county
14	Mungu Feni	Nebbi Sub county, Omyer Trading Centre
15	Pimungu man pi ngom para	Parombo Sub county
16	Can berku mer	Parombo Sub County
17	Can nyayo rieko	Parombo Town Council
18	Namrwodho Ox traction	Thatha Division
19	Can juriemo ku tic	Thatha Division
20	kabucan	Thatha Division
21	Yesu dit	Parombo sub county

A total of **21** groups were reached and Some of the issues discussed during the meetings included the availability of the renewable energy products, the effectiveness, sustainability and cost effectiveness to the poor people and how it contributed to the development of the households. Furthermore, the introduction of solar loans to the VSLA groups to ensure access to renewable energy products in their households, and the renewable energy products (Solar and stoves) that could be purchased and the payment duration (payable within the period of 12 months). Because of the strength of the groups and knowledge about the products, members were convinced to purchase the products.

Challenges

- Inadequate information among some members about the program and the renewable energy products

- Product price of other improved cook stoves had reduced, a typical example being the Smart Home cook stove thereby, posing elements of competition in the market
- Due to COVID- 19 pandemic, members were forced to stay at home for more than 4 months without engagement in viable economic activities to promote savings which translated in to low household incomes
- One of most serious issues identified during the distribution of renewable energy was the miss out of SP1 (Solar Product with one bulb) and the cook stove that most rural group members could afford
- Year 2019 was one of the worst years the region had experienced in terms of agricultural outputs. Since most of the group members depended heavily on agricultural income, it was not possible to get a better yield that they could sell in order to buy the products as planned
- There was a lot of domestic demands during the festive seasons that affected purchase of the products by many group members
- Logistical challenges involving transportation of products as Nebbi District NGO forum has only one running motorcycle. Some project products such as Improved cook stoves are heavy/bulky requiring hire of transport each time.

Recommendations/way forward

- More awareness creation should be extended to the groups on the advantages of the products to enable them embrace and appreciate the use of sustainable and renewable energy products to outcompete the other renewable energy product suppliers
- More groups to be visited with more visits to make a follow-up on the use of the products and documentation of stories of change
- Logistical support for acquisition of reliable transport for project works.

Lessons learnt

- Group approach is a better way of creating awareness about the benefits of sustainable and renewable energy products among the communities
- Scheduling of meetings with the groups is effective when targeted on dates for their regular group meetings.
- Communities have important ideas that should be incorporated into product development for products targeting communities.

B) COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CRETA)

Introduction

The involvement and engagement of communities in the implementation of Government programmes is key in ensuring effective and efficient service delivery. This, according to the Inspectorate of Government (IG) was the main finding in the Impact Evaluation Report of the Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption (TAAC) sub component of the Second Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF2). The engagement of the communities was done in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who were involved in the training to empower the communities to monitor government projects where Nebbi District NGO Forum was part.

The success of citizen engagement under NUSAF2, informed the design of Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption (STAAC) under NUSAF3. This led to the design of Community Responsibility for Transparency and Accountability (CRETA) activity where more **720** members of the communities in the project areas were trained on Social Accountability. The members trained were called Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) who actively participated in monitoring government programmes in the districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach.

Project Goal

The goal of the project is to promote Social Accountability

The overall objective of the CRETA activity

“To build the capacity of community monitoring groups (CMGs), to enhance community responsibility, transparency and accountability in the implementation of the NUSAF III sub-projects and other government programmes”

In 2019/2020, **720** Community Monitors were trained across the three districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach with funding from the Inspectorate of Government (IG) which was aimed at enhancing community vigilance in monitoring government projects.

Project locations

In Nebbi District alone the training covered sub- counties of Nyaravur, Atego, Ndhew, Nebbi and Nebbi Municipality. In Pakwach sub county, the project was implemented in the sub counties of Alwii, Panyimur, Wadelai and Pakwach while in Zombo district, it was implemented in Athuma and Alangi sub counties. The Community Monitors were able to follow up on different projects like NUSAF III, Uganda Women Empowerment Programme (UWEP), Schools, Health Centers and constructions and there has been remarkable improvement in the implementation of government projects.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Group formation

A total of **48** groups were formed in Pakwach, Nebbi and Zombo districts with a total of **720 (F-360 M-360)** members who were trained in monitoring government projects and grievance handling.

Follow-up visits

A total of **32** visits were made to provide refresher training to groups on their roles and responsibilities in social accountability and empower them with skills to monitor NUSAF 3 and other government projects and also collect monitoring report. During such visits, issues discussed included Score cards, Report writing, Grievance Handling and Project Monitoring.

The NUSAF III projects that were monitored by the CMGs in the three districts were under the departments of Agriculture, Health, Water and Sanitation, Youth Livelihood Project and Education with the following **findings**:

Project Theme	Findings
Agriculture	<p>During a visit of an Ox-plough Farmer Group in Pakwach district, it was discovered that the group had limited cooperation among group members on management of the project and lack of medicines for the treatment of cattle. The group members were advised by CMGs to work together for the development of the group.</p> <p>When Wanen Anyim Farmers, Cattle Restocking project was visited, there was an element of misperception on delivery of cattle to the LCI and Secretary reported. Grievance supervened among the community of Avurao and the LC1 chairperson and the Secretary, who were reported to have taken two cattle that were meant for a group. To that effect, a mediation comprising of LCII, LCIII and GISO of Atego S/C was organized where the 2 persons were found not guilty; it was a false allegation. Consequently, a referral was made to the Sub county officials who later on handled the case to an amicable conclusion.</p>
Health	<p>At 2 Landing Site Community Latrines, at Ogal Lower and Mutusa in Pakwach district, there was generally poor hygiene of the place. The latrine was constructed next to homesteads and produces foul smell due to mismanagement and it lacked hand washing facility as well. Due to the flooding of Lake Albert, the latrine had been filled up with water. The management was advised to collect money from the users of the latrine to ensure proper hygiene of the environment.</p>

	<p>Renovation work of Maternity and General Ward in Paminya H/C/III in Nebbi was found to have over delayed reasons being, delays in bringing construction materials, Engineer’s absence and staying far from the site, leading to poor work by the mansions. Casual workers were not paid in time according to the signed agreement between them. This case was referred to the Health Centre Administration for further intervention.</p> <p>According to the required Standards for operations, Staff ceiling is 19 but for the above Health Centre, there are only 11 staff that are on the ground. As for the Staff Quarters; there are 3 blocks that occupied only 5 staff, others are sharing the accommodation Facility. The Toilets are not enough that is, 4 stances for women and 4 stances for men. Medicines/drugs always came in small quantity yet the number of patients kept on increasing daily, weekly and monthly leading to shortage of medicines. Men and women were mixed up in the general ward.</p> <p>Additionally, there was an element of staff starting work from 8.30am till 7.00 pm daily due to inadequate staffing. They are in other words overwhelmed by the number of patients, the OPD is very old coupled with the loss of a Glucometer machine. Therefore, staff issues, toilets, were forwarded to the district whereas, issues related to medicine was referred to IG.</p>
Education	<p>At Ringe Memorial Primary school, there was Low enrollment of pupils which is 432 out 750 in 2019, Inadequate staff housing, 2 teachers had been transferred leaving the school with 10 teachers, No safe water source for the school. In response to that, the CMGs urged Parents to send their children to school while issues concerning Teachers Quarters and transfers were referred to the DEO and IG respectively.</p>
Water	<p>A Community borehole was visited and Poor sanitation around the facility was noted as the project lacked latrine. There is a non-functioning Water User Committee and a case of financial mismanagement by the Committee coupled with no accountability. This case was referred to IG and sub county water management committee. Another Community borehole in Pakich was flooded by river Nile and the community could not access clean water. This too was referred to IG for attention.</p> <p>Other issues found were misappropriation of finances, overcrowding due to only one borehole drilled in the area, theft of fences during night hours, deviation of community members from the set rules, and lack of cooperation between Water User Committee and the community. This was particular to the community borehole in Okumu East in Nebbi district. Referred to sub county water management committee. The community members were advised to</p>

	employ Guards to provide security for the bore holes, Charges should be levied on those who were not following the stipulated rules of cleaning the area. The CMGs agitated for the elections of new leaders.
Livelihoods	During the follow-up visit, Olyeko Youth Grinding Mill was found to have broken down since January 2020. There was a Community mind set and perception not to grind without measurement in kilogram and since others had relatives in the group, they would want their cassava, sorghum and maize etc. to be ground for free. Notably, some of the group members had scattered in different locations for other jobs in Nebbi SS, Busia, Pakwach and others joined the Army(UPDF). The CMGS advised the group to repair the grinding machine within one month since it only needed 50.000(Fifty thousand shillings only) and the weighing scale should be put in place to measure any item for grinding.

Community dialogues

Community dialogues were conducted with the Community Monitoring Groups and issues discussed were generated through the use of Score cards.

Referrals to Inspectorate of Government (IG)

During follow-up of the government/NUSAF III community projects monitored by the Community Monitoring Groups, there were concerns and grievances that were handled with the involvement of the responsible stakeholders such as Sub county officials, Local Council Is & IIs. However, there were cases or grievances that could not be handled by these leaders that necessitated referrals to higher authorities especially to the office of Inspectorate of Government (IG) Arua Regional Office. The typical examples of such cases were as tabulated below:

Table showing cases referred to Inspectorate of Government

SN	Name of Facility	Condition	Comments
1	Padengo Community Borehole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor sanitation around the Facility as it lacked a latrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to IG and feedback yet to be established
2	Pakich Community Borehole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Facility was flooded by River Nile and the community could not access clean water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred to IG and feedback yet to be established

3	Paminya Health Centre III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little medicine/drugs delivered contrary to the increasing number of patients at the Facility • Inadequate staffing • Od OPD • Loss of a Glucometer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to IG and feedback yet to be established
4	Ringe Memorial Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate staffing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to IG and feedback yet to be established

Community Score Cards

On the progress, two score cards where implemented. One was in Ovurukajo East village in Panyimur sub county where group members had distributed goats among them which was against the guidelines of NUSAF III. In that line, an interface meeting was convened and the goats were taken back to the main shelter. Meanwhile in Paila East, Alwii sub county, there was a disagreement between community and Land owners over the area where the community borehole was drilled. As a response to that, the sub county officials headed by the Local Council III chairperson of Alwii sub county were involved. The two parties were mediated and the disagreement was amicably resolved.

Another case in point was of a spoilt borehole that could not be repaired because the community had not been remitting their monthly contributions to the sub county. As a result of an interface meeting that was held, the Chairperson LC III of Alwii Sub county ordered the Sub county Water Management Committee to repair the borehole and this was done within a week, with the borehole functioning to date.

Engagement with Inspectorate of Government Office (IG)

A team from IG Office Kampala visited NDNGO Forum on the implementation of Community Responsibility to Enhance Transparency and Accountability (CRETA) project since its inception. The visit was aimed to get information on the progress, challenges and possibly, what could be done for improvement.

Challenges

- Not all the groups could be met due to the Covid-19 restrictions to observe Standard Operating Procedures that is, only few were targeted to minimize gathering
- The number of Community Trainers has been reduced from 2 per District to 1 and that increases the burden to deliver on targets.
- One person to administer questionnaire and take notes at the same time was rather challenging
- General reduction in funding for the project and withdrawal facilitation for CMGs) has affected the work moral of the CMGs.

Recommendations

- Focus Group Discussion should be conducted by two people where one person administers the tool while the other takes notes
- Group mobilization should be done earlier
- Creative approaches to boost the morale of CMGs to continue working despite withdrawal of funds for their facilitation.

Lessons learnt

- Community can positively respond for programmes activities when mobilized in time
- When information is well packaged, communities can be mobilized to work effectively even without pay.
- Communities appreciate the role they have been given to watch over projects in their areas.

C) CIVIL SOCIETY IN UGANDA SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CUSP)

Introduction

Nebbi District NGO Forum entered into a partnership with GIZ to implement a project for Strengthening of the Institutional Capacity of Nebbi District NGO Forum under the Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP) funded by the European Union, implemented by GIZ. It is a nine months project running from August 2020 to April 2021. Originally the project was meant to run from March 2020, it was interrupted by the COVID- 19 lockdown with attendant restrictions. Since August 2020, the following activities were carried out in the Project:

Consultation meeting

Nebbi District NGO Forum was engaged in the process of revising its Strategic Plan with the technical and financial support of Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP). CUSP is financed by the European Union and the German government and implemented by GIZ. This was the first activity in the Strategic Plan revision that was meant to draw a road map for the

development of the Strategic Plan. The workshop had **23 (F-02 M-21)** participants drawn from the various Member Organisations that form the Forum, the Secretariat, and representatives from Board Of Directors spanning from Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach Districts.

The meeting was moderated by a CUSP Advisor based in GIZ sub regional hub in Arua. In order to adhere to the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), the participants were divided into two groups whereby, the first group was met in the morning hours whereas, the second was met in the afternoon hours.

The meeting outcomes were that, members identified the stakeholders to be consulted to inform the Strategic Plan. These included Civil Society Organisations that had Member Organisations, Development Partners, other district CSOs Networks and Thematic Networks; Government that included technical and political wing; Private Sector that had Financial Institutions and Business Community.

Additionally, the meeting identified **11(F-02 M-09)** members that formed the needed Task Force. This had a representation from the districts of Pakwach, Nebbi and Zombo where the exercise was conducted. These members were assigned roles such as, Prioritizing list of interview participants, developing data collection guides/tools, conducting interviews, Compiling interview notes and data analysis, conducting secondary data review, Drafting Nebbi District NGO Forum Strategic Plan and Presentation of the Strategic Plan to the Board Of Director and AGM for approval.

Observations

Some participants had preferred that hiring a Consultant to lead document review and drafting of the Strategic Plan. However, the GIZ CUSP Advised that the Forum should undertake these tasks to build its capacity while GIZ CUSP would offer the necessary technical support and guidance. There was an interest in knowing about the funds available to support activities to which, appropriate clarifications were made by the Secretariat and the CUSP Advisor.

Strategic Plan Development

At the operational level, the Strategic Plan 2015-2019 was largely not implemented and most proposed staff positions in the Organogram were not filled. Besides the Strategic Plan, the Forum's Constitution and Policy Documents were not reviewed in a long time — the last review of some policy documents occurred in the year 2008. With the ever-changing operational environment and revisions to the Strategic Plan, most policies have become outdated.

The Board of Directors (BoD) did not meet regularly yet the Constitution required at least one meeting every quarter. The Board sub Committees did not meet completely. Annual General Meetings were not held in 2016 and 2017 hence, the failure to approve Annual Work Plans, Budgets and Reports. Board members whose tenure expired within the period could not exit or

be replaced by the constitutionally mandated General Assembly. Below is a summary of the problem and solution analysis for priority capacity area identified during and after the OCA.

Problem and Opportunity Analysis (causes, effects, implications and solutions)

No .	Priority Capacity Area	Cause	Effect/Implications	Solutions
1.	<p>Lack of an up-to-date Strategic Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forum diverted from its core mandate to implementation of projects that compete with members • Staffing is not adequately aligned to the Organogram. Staff members have two versions of job descriptions — one focusing on the positions in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015-19 Strategic Plan expired in December 2019 • There were no funds to develop a new plan after the expiry of the 2015-19 plan. • Reliance on donor funds with its stringent terms • Staff roles defined by available projects and not organizational mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of direction • Implementation of budget and plans outside the Forum’s mandate • Unnecessary competition and conflict with members • Loss of self-confidence in pursuit of its mission • Limited relevance to members and stakeholders • Loss of trust from members and stakeholders • Loss of members of the Forum • Decline in moral authority to demand good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a new Strategic Plan in a participatory way to include all stakeholders’ views • Develop a fundraising strategy inclusive of alternative sustainable funds without stringent condition

	<p>Organogram and another based on projects under implementation</p>		<p>practice from members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited match between staff competency and their role leading to under performance and low staff morale Conflicting roles 	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No AGMs or Board meetings. The new Board will need to mend relationship with the old Board (who are still staff of member organizations) and to ensure teamwork among the staff members Some members believe that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited funds. The old Board members question their replacement in a coup style Few members attended the AGM Besides the brief provisions in the Constitution, there were no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced trust among members and other stakeholders Misgivings about the current Board members by some MOs Lack of legitimacy Limited participation of members in the Forum's activities Continuous misunderstanding between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validate the current membership and register new members Develop and operationalize a BoD Manual Develop rules and regulations for conducting elections Amend the Constitution to expand and clarify the mandate of AGM

	<p>the AGMs and the last Board election did not comply with some provisions of the Forum’s Constitution</p>	<p>rules and regulations for conducting AGM and elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumption of elective offices happened without proper induction 	<p>members of the Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrediting of the Forum by members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new team (BoD and ED) should be inducted to execute their mandate according to the guiding frameworks Dialogue meeting for BOD members and MOs
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited skills in Result-Based Monitoring and Evaluation and knowledge management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no dedicated MEAL personnel Limited skills of other staff members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited evidence-based programming development Limited documentation of results Underreporting of results Limited knowledge transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of key staff members to undertake result-based MEAL
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of policies (internal control mechanism) on anti- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funds to facilitate the review and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low levels of control on the resources of the Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, develop and adopt relevant operational guiding

	<p>corruption (a draft in place), and HIV/AIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following policies require updating (Constitution, Finance Manual, Procurement Policy, Gender Policy, Human Resource Manual) 	<p>adoption of the policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of trust from partners Loss of potential partners 	<p>documents (Constitution, HR, Finance Policy, Procurement, Anti-fraud and Gender)</p>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Accounting Software Use of Excel/ Spreadsheets for accounting purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of funds and inadequate capacity to use computerized accounting software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not trusted by partners Time consuming in data entry and extraction Risk of data loss Easily manipulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and install the software Train key staff members in using the software

Expected change

Outcomes

1. Improved working relationship between MOs, BoD and Secretariat
2. Policies and other guiding frameworks implemented leading to transparent and accountable governance and management processes
3. Staff members produce result-based project designs and reports
4. Improved financial management practices complying with the generally accepted accounting principles and standards

Outputs

1. An updated list of member organizations
2. A joint resolution to improve the working relationship between Member Organizations, Board and Secretariat
3. Internal policies and manuals developed or revised
4. Increased knowledge and skills of Secretariat and Member Organizations' staff in result-based project design and reporting
5. QuickBooks accounting software installed

Conduct interview with stakeholders

In the process of Strategic Plan development, Nebbi District NGO Forum engaged Task Force members in the interviews that were successfully completed. The Development partners interviewed were representatives of Action Aid and Plan International; for NGOs, it was representatives from CEFORD, AFARD, CARITAS and CBOs such as HEDCHE, JOYODI, AWAKE etc. From the technical wing of the district, the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), District Health Officer (DHO), District Education Officer (DEO), District Community Development Officer (DCDO) and the District Production Officer (DPO) were interviewed; while at the Lower Local Government level, it was the Senior Assistant Secretary (SAS), the Senior Community Development Officer (SCDO) and Community Development Officers (CDOs).

On the Political wing, the Municipal Mayor, Town Clerks, Local Council V, Local Council III both Urban and rural were involved in the exercise. Whereas, for Private Sector, it was West Nile Private Sector (WENIPS) that was interviewed, and for Financial Institutions, Nyaravur SACCO, Centenary Bank, and STANBIC Bank were interviewed. Other categories were the Media Fraternity that had Radio Maria, Paidha FM, Pakwach FM, some distinguished individuals like the Former Board Member, Former Staff Member and Founder Member. Lastly, the community representatives that included the Community cultural and Religious leaders and beneficiary groups that were engaged through Focus Group Discussions.

Report compilation

After the completion of the interviews, meeting was convened with the Task Force members for the compilation of the data collected where a draft report was produced awaiting further analysis that would be done during a workshop with the team involved.

Conduct Field verification of Member Organisations

In a bid to strengthen the capacity of the Forum, NDNNGOF conducted a verification exercise of old and registration of new Member Organisations respectively. This was intended to verify the currently registered Member Organizations in terms of their existence, registration status, programme focus, and their interest in the membership of the Forum as well as their perception on the activities and the relevance of the Forum to them. Additionally, it was to register new Member Organizations in the districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach. The exercise involved meeting the CSOs representatives in their respective locations where interviews were conducted to inform policies and decision making.

Table showing number of organizations verified by Nebbi District NGO Forum

S/N	NAME OF ORGANISATION	ABBREVIATION	SUBCOUNTY	DISTRICT	TYPE (INGO, NGO, FBO, CBO)
1	Iyatal Savings Group		Warr S/C	Zombo	CBO
2	Child Care Community Development Initiative	CCCDI	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
3	Destiny Women Group		Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
4	Zombo District People Living with HIV Aids network Forum (NDPHANF)	ZDPHANF	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBOCBO
5	Independent Expert Mothers Association	EXPERT MOTHERS	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
6	Paidha Thukuthuku Transporters	PTTA	Paidha T/C	Zombo	Company Limited by guarantee
7	Capacity Building for Rural Development	CBRD	Abanga S/C	Zombo	CBO
8	Muyungano Veterans Association		Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
9	Zombo Youth Mirror Organisation	ZOYOMOG	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
10	Zombo Rural Development Network Association	ZORUDA	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO

11	Ajobi B. Progressive Farmers Saving and Credit Scheme		Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
12	Community Livelihood Empowerment Initiative	COLEIN	Warr T/C	Zombo	CBO
13	Bedober Association		Warr T/C	Zombo	CBO
14	Agyermac Ojebo Women Group for Development	AOWD	Warr T/C	Zombo	CBO
15	Zombo District Farmers Association	ZODFA	Zombo T/C	Zombo	Company Limited by guarantee
16	Leke Young Stars Group	LEYOS	Kango	Zombo	CBO
17	Eucharistic Youth Movement Akaba	EYOMAC	Alala	Nebbi	CBO
18	Community Uplift and Welfare Development	CUWEDE	Erussi	Nebbi	CBO
19	Edu Child Foundation Uganda	ECFU	Abindu Division	Nebbi	NGO
20	People Living With HIV/AIDS Role Model Action Group-Nebbi	PLWA-Role Model	Thatha Division	Nebbi	CBO
21	St. Timothy Vocational Training Centre		Thatha Division	Nebbi	CBO
22	Kubi Community Development Project		Erussi	Nebbi	CBO
23	International Initiative for Community Empowerment	INCODE	Parombo	Nebbi	NGO

24	Aratarach Farmers Coop Society LTD	AFCSL	Kucwiny	Nebbi	Company Limited by Shares
25	Jesus Christ is the Lord Orphan Care Ministry		Erussi	Nebbi	CBO
26	Kucwiny Integrated Food Security project	KIFP	Kucwiny	Nebbi	NGO
27	Ndhew Development Initiative		Ndhew	Nebbi	CBO
28	Uplift-Uganda		Padwot	Nebbi	CBO
29	Agency For Accelerated Regional Development	AFARD	Central Division	Nebbi	CBO
30	Awake Development Agency	AWAKE	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	NGO
31	Save the Youth for Social Change and Economic Development	SYSED	Nyaravur	Nebbi	CBO
32	Mamba Women Christian Association		Kucwiny	Nebbi	CBO
33	Help Disabled Children Excel	HEDCHE	Nyaravur-Angal T/C	Nebbi	CBO
34	Nyaravur Farmers Group		Nyaravur	Nebbi	CBO
35	New Generation Heritage		Akworo	Nebbi	CBO
36	Parombo Allied Youth Association for Development	PAYAD	ParomboT/C	Nebbi	CBO
37	Akworo Anti HIV Youth Organisation	AKAAYO	Akworo	Nebbi	CBO

38	Church of the Living God		Parombo	Nebbi	NGO
39	Cab Ber ku Kwer	CBUK	Parombo	Nebbi	CBO
40	Creative Living Against Poverty	CLAP	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	CBO
41	Paidha United Drivers Association	PUDA	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee
42	Community Empowerment Forum	CEF	Paidha T/C	Zombo	CBO
43	Alaa Progressive Farmers Group	APFG	Kucwiny	Nebbi	CBO
44	Kucwiny Development Forum	KDF	Kucwiny	Nebbi	Company Limited by guarantee
45	Charisma Folk Development Initiative-Uganda	CHAFODI	Nyaravur-Angal T/C	Nebbi	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee
46	Agency for Socio Economic Transformation	AFSET	Ragem S/C	Pakwach	CBO
47	Apar Ario Youth Group		Wadelai	Pakwach	CBO
48	Panyimur Fisher Community Initiative	PAFCI	Panyimur T/C	Pakwach	CBO
49	Mer Ber Ku Dikiri		Panyimur T/C	Pakwach	CBO
50	Adundo bidoko Mit Youth Piggery Group		Panyimur T/C	Pakwach	CBO
51	Nyamutagana Youth Group		Dei S/C	Pakwach	CBO, Company Limited by Shares
52	Action for Youth Empowerment (Formerly Panyimur Anti Child	PAICAP	Panyimur T/C	Pakwach	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee

	Abuse Initiative Programme- PACAIPO)				
53	Agent For Community Empowerment	AFCE	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	NGO, Limited by guarantee
54	Wapoi Abok Youth Group		Panyimur T/C	Pakwach	CBO, Limited by guarantee
55	Dei Parish United Pastors Association		Dei S/C	Pakwach	FBO
56	Wanaciel Paroketo Development Association of Jonam		Pakwach	Pakwach	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee
57	Pakwach Rural Environmental Agro Forestry Industry		Pakwach T/C	Pakwach	CBO
58	Tim ni Rwoth Youth Group		Pokwero	Pakwach	CBO
59	Charity Home Care	CHC	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee
60	Community Empowerment For Rural Development	CEFORD	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	NGO, Company Limited by guarantee
61	Jesus' Army on the move International Christian Centre	JAMICC	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee, FBO
62	Forum for Development of Greater Nebbi	FDGN	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	NGO, Company Limited by guarantee
63	Legacy Children Foundation	LCFN	Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	CBO, Company Limited by guarantee

64	Devine Healing Church		Nebbi Municipality	Nebbi	CBO, FBO
65	Life Concern	LICO	Paidha T/C	Zombo	NGO
66	Nebbi Baptist Ministry	NBC	Nebbi Abindu Division	Nebbi	CBO, FBO
67	Joint Energy and Environment Projects	JEEP	Nebbi Central	Nebbi	NGO
68	Africa Water Solutions	AWS	Nebbi Abindu Div	Nebbi	NGO
69	Nebbi Transporters and Drivers Coop. Society LTD	NETDRICS	Nabbi Municipality	Nebbi	Company Limited by guarantee, Cooperative
70	Omoyo Women Group	OWEG	Ndhew	Nebbi	CBO
71	Nyapea Safe Motherhood and Childcare Association	NSMCCA	Nyapea S/C	Zombo	NGO

The target was 135 however, only 71 organizations were accessed and verified

Challenges encountered during the above exercise

- Many CBOs did not turn up for the exercise. It was noted that some of them were no longer active while others didn't get the information that was passed over Radio announcements. Due limitation of resources, data collectors couldn't reach each and every location where the MOs were located and they were requested to convene in a central location which others considered to be inconveniencing for them.
- Some of those to have been met were absent and those they had delegated could not give the required information
- Some of the assessment forms were not received at the time of analysis
- There is a general apathy among the local members of CBOs and NGOs as a result of perceived unhealthy competition between International and National NGOs now doing direct implementation in local communities thereby making local CBOs/NGOs irrelevant to communities.
- many government officials still look at CSOs as opposition sympathizers and any activity conducted during time of election misunderstood to be inciting the population against government

Recommendations

- There is need to explore all other means for mobilization in order to meet set targets
- Need for continuous dialogue between government and CSOs on rights and freedoms of citizens for participating on civil rights and duties
- There is need for dialogue among members of CSOs to determine best methods to cooperate in implementation of development agenda
- There is need for more empowerment to local CBOs and NGOs in order to reach out and strengthen communities' efforts towards development

Three days workshop to review the Constitution and development of Board Manual and Board Election Guidelines

A draft of the Board Manual was developed and adopted by the Board members pending review and approval. The draft was developed jointly by a team from Board members, secretariat staff and a consultant.

Inception Meeting for accountabilities

This activity was conducted prior to project implementation to ensure that NDNGOF was fully conversant with the goals, scope, risks and fully took responsibility for its roles as regards to accountabilities and the deliverables of the contract. The discussion entailed issues like who was accountable, to whom a particular entity was accountable in terms of partnership, the standards or values to which the partner/Consultant was accountable and the means by which a partner was made accountable.

Board Meeting

NDNGOF had a Board Meeting organized by the Secretariat to reflect on issues pertaining the developments in the organization. The meeting was participated in by 7 members who represented all the 3 districts of Greater Nebbi. Some deliberations during the meeting included Confirmation and approval of previous minutes, presentation by the Executive Director on Partnership, Project Briefs (RICE-WN; RE/GIZ-CUSP/IGG-CRETA), Status of the Forum where activities and performances were affected by Covid-19, general apathy by Member Organisations, the need to revise and pass Membership Subscription fees, dwindling/inactive membership and communication procedures.

Another area presented were the Challenges and Recommendations, Highlights of Financial Statement FY2020, Presentation and Approval of Annual Plan and Budget and Adoption of Board Manual/Policy.

The Improvement Plan as pulled out by the Quality Assurance Mechanism (QuAM) team was presented to the Board. This Plan identified areas to improve by Nebbi District NGO Forum with stipulated dates, the latest for an item being 31st January 2021 while others were to be completed by 13st December 2020. What to improve or the recommendations given included; adherence to the provisions of the Constitution and conducting regular Board meetings, Updating Board Files for reference, expediting the process of developing the new Strategic Plan to improve the Board Manual as promised, and ensuring that all documents are accessible to relevant stakeholders during official hours.

Furthermore, the need to have Annual Work plans and budgets approved at the beginning of each financial year was also reflected, ensuring that the consolidated Annual reports are produced and disseminated to stakeholders for accountability, the Institution should start paying Local Service Tax to the sub counties where the staff reside, work on volunteer contracts to formalize their work relationships, sign Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Local Governments and file Annual Returns with Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and NGO Bureau.

COLABORATIONS

Training/Meetings

NDNGOF participated in a **Strategic Meeting** held at Dove's Nest Hotel-Gulu that was aimed at to develop and harmonize CSO paper which was to highlight evidence on key government reforms in the past Financial year 2019/20, budgeting and service delivery that needed redress as well as proposals on reforms that could be embraced by government as part of making the budget more impactful to the ordinary citizens through delivering of quality services. In that line, therefore, NDNGOF in the person of the Executive Director (Ronald) participated in the development of Regional Position Paper for West Nile.

NDNGOF participated in a **TOT Training on Contract Management and Monitoring** that was organized by Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG in partnership with Pubic Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) with funding from GIZ at K Hotels in Entebbe. PPDA is mandated to monitor public procurement where the institution needed more CSOs to assist them because they were rather thin on the ground. Areas covered included Public Procurement and contracting, Legal Frameworks, Principles of Public Procurement, Roles and Responsibilities in Procurement Cycle, Value for money procurement Audits, key intervention areas for PPDA/CSBAG in the Public Procurement and Disposal system. In that line, the CSOs who participated were given monitoring tools that would help them to monitor government contracts in their areas.

A similar **training** organized by **Africa Freedom of Information Centre** (AFIC) was also participated in by NDNGOF in Nebbi Municipality at GAF Entertainment Centre that was intended to strengthen CSO's capacity in Access To Information (ATI) and Contracts Monitoring and Open Contracting through site visits. It was also meant to increase citizens demand for transparency

and accountability, ensuring transparency in public procurement processes, and the implementation and management of public contracts performance.

The trainees were trained to participate in Contract Monitoring upon completion of the training especially on issues affecting their communities in relation to poor service delivery, poor construction visa vis value for money.

NDNGOF is a **member of Regional Budget Committee (RBC)** under the umbrella of Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), that is a coalition formed since 2004 to bring together Civil Society actors at national and district levels to influence government decisions on resource mobilization and utilization for equitable, gender responsive and sustainable development.

CSBAG instituted a Capacity Assessment of itself and the network whose purpose was to identify institutional and staff capacity gaps even for its members because the new NGO Law had introduced new sets of requirements for NGOs to be compliant with, of which many of them were institutional in nature while some were process oriented. The Capacity Enhancement support was intended to improve on the governance of RBC members and improve program quality and to ensure compliance with the laws and policies, similarly, it would in turn support the RBC members in assessing themselves against the legal requirements of the laws and policies.

NDNGOF participated in **NASEN Coordination meeting** to which it is a member. The meeting was organized by RICE-WN at Heritage Park-Arua and participated in by members like APEF, Alur Kingdom (Executive Secretary), CERID ED. During the meeting, presentations were made on the remaining NASEN documents to members for their information and approval. These documents included among others, Communication Strategically, Host Institution Agreement and Membership Forms.

Additionally, there was a brainstorming session on resource mobilization for the network such as membership/subscription fee payment, joint proposal writing, Income Generating Activities etc. There was a presentation on resource mobilization group work and an official launching of NASEN members registration.

Nebbi District NGO Forum participated in a **meeting for Regional Member District and Civil Society Organisation Leaders** at Muni University in Arua City. The meeting was organized by West Nile Development Association (WENDA). **WENDA** is a body corporate of all the District Local Governments in the region (Moyo, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Nebbi, Koboko, Zombo, Maracha, Pakwach, Obongi, Madi Okollo and Tereg), Municipalities, Arua City and membership also includes Civil Society, NGOs and Private Sector players in the region.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide opportunity for the regional leaders to join forces with other stakeholders in addressing the challenges that face the region. It was important for the top leadership to explore critical pathways to better recover from the Covid-19 crisis, climate change challenges and seek systemic solutions to fix the regional Poverty and economic

development architecture. The meeting provided an opportunity to to present the progress of WENDA and keynote address on how to build a regional cooperation and solidarity on Disaster Risk Reduction and dealing with regional challenges.

Similarly, the meeting sought to address the above challenges through seeking Financing for WENDA to address the crisis and promote regional development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond shaping an envisioning roadmap for the region and Action Plan for capacity building in Disaster Risk Reduction. The specific objectives of the meeting were; To prepare the region to respond to disaster and crisis risks, To produce a comprehensive menu of policy options and, To enable discussions of concrete financing solutions to WENDA Secretariat.

NDNGOF participated in the Joint Action Planning (JAP) organized by West Nile Humanitarian Platform. This was a process that brought together multi-stakeholder representation from Local Government, Civil Society Organisations, Media, Private Sector, INGOs with the aim of co-creating what they wanted to sustain and achieve collectively. It focused on roles, strategies and actions. During the year however, the JAP was done remotely with a number of 40 participants engaged in various ways. NDNGOF is a founder member of WENDA and was one of the 40 participants.

NDNGOF participated in a **Consultative Meeting/workshop** organized by Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) in partnership with Ministry of Water and Environment and supported by OXFAM at Desert Breeze Hotel in Arua City. The meeting took in-depth into the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC I) review process and inputting into the NDC II process. The workshop was meant to provide a multi stakeholder platform for non-state actors to deliberate and scrutinize the NDCs implementations, achievements, lessons learnt and recommendations to be carried into NDC II.

The discussion did not only enable participants to have a better understanding of Uganda's NDC but also prompted the actors to do more work as a call to action to address the climate change challenge in their project areas as well bringing to speed local communities employing local action in coping with the negative effects of climate change.

The engagement also contributed to assessment of the achievement of the current NDC implementation highlighting progress to date, gaps, efforts, lessons learnt and needs. The meeting also identified the current and projected climate change trends and hazards, observed and potential impacts of climate change. It also identified actions and support to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts and inform NDCII. Grass root voices into a revised NDC was also captured in form of a position paper for inclusion.

CSBAG instituted a Capacity Assessment of itself and the network whose purpose was to identify institutional and staff capacity gaps even for its members because the new NGO Law had introduced new sets of requirements for NGOs to be compliant with, of which many of them were institutional in nature while some were process oriented. The Capacity Enhancement

support was intended to improve on the governance of RBC members (Including NDNGOF) and improve program quality and to ensure compliance with the laws and policies.

Similarly, it would in turn support the RBC members in assessing themselves against the legal requirements of the laws and policies. The Forum participated in a TOT in Capacity building in Governance issues/ Compliance, Contract Monitoring and Regional Budget priorities

Nebbi District NGO Forum participated in a **meeting** organized by **Uganda Human Rights Commission** (UHRC and UN Human Rights) at Heritage Courts Hotel in Arua City. The meeting was aimed at establishing the Human Rights Platform in the region. In that line therefore, discussions were centred on the need for mapping of key Human Rights Concerns in the region as well as the impact of Covid-19 on the working environment of Civil Society Organisations.

On a similar footing, NDNGOF participated in a **Dialogue** organized by the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD-U) where issues presented and discussed included among others, an overview of Operating Environment of Human Rights Defenders in the West Nile Region, the Role of Uganda Police Force-protection of HRDs, Human Rights Protection in the region, State's oversight role in ensuring Human Rights Defenders Protection, Women HRDs and unique gender specific challenges and Journalists and Elections. The Panelists were; representatives from the Uganda Police Force, NCHRD-U, Head of Office Uganda Human Rights Commission, The Resident District Commissioner-Arua and the Media Fraternity.

NDNGOF participated in an **Inception meeting** organized by **Plan International** that was aimed at introducing a project titled "Ending Child/Forceful Marriages (NORAD)" in Nebbi, Zombo, Pakwach and Adjumani districts. The participants were drawn from the CBOs/NGOs/FBOs from the 3 districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach. These were the CSOs who had been assessed by Plan International to support in the direct implementation of the said project.

During the Inception Meeting, NDNGOF had an opportunity to remark on the status of the Forum and the activities that the Forum had carried out that included the updates of CSOs in the 3 districts whose result was that, some had persisted while others had disintegrated. Plan International pronounced that the organization would work closely with the Forum to ensure proper implementation of the new project. Plan International requested NDNGOF to share the updated list of the CSOs to crosscheck with that availed to them by the local leaders.

NDNGOF participated in a **Training/dialogue** that was organized by **RICE** (Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment)-WN in partnership with Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability. The training was geared to Safeguarding farmers as regards the Effectiveness/relevance of farmer managed seed system in promoting seed sovereignty and food security in community, Enhancing effective remedies to protect the rights of farmers (Grievance management) in relation to business and Human Rights. Some of the action points in that line were that, Farmers should rise up to complain when seeds do not germinate for compensation,

Seeds should be produced in the region instead of getting it from elsewhere. A typical example was of Okoro Coffee being the best in the world and then one would wonder why the region should get seeds from elsewhere.

There was an element of Social Corporate Responsibility (SCR) that actually benefits a particular company while exploiting the community. CSOs were called upon to help the community to engage in an Agreement between the company and the community-Community Development Agreement (CDA) so as to hold the companies not only responsible but accountable for their actions in the course of their development interventions.

NDNGOF participated in a **Bi-Annual Reflection Meeting** with Community Resource Persons and Duty Bearers that was organized by **Action Aid** to reflect on issues affecting service delivery and corruption in the community within Nebbi district. The Community Resource Persons made presentations on the areas and projects they had monitored with the commitments that were previously made by the duty bearers. It was an interactive meeting that had Departmental heads within the district to respond to issues raised.

NDNGOF mobilized and participated in a **Women Leaders Conference** organized by Community Empowerment For Rural Development (**CEFORD**) in partnership with OXFAM and the West Nile Humanitarian Platform in Arua. The Theme for the conference was, Building up the next generation of Women Leaders in Humanitarian Action “Wear Your Crown with Pride”.

The objective of the conference was To amplify the voices of women, their role and contribution in humanitarian action and stakeholders efforts in encouraging women’s leadership and participation in the public domain.

The conference brought women leaders from various districts within the region (Adjumani, Moyo, Obongi, Yumbe, Koboko, Arua, Nebbi, Pakwach, and Zombo among others) to dialogue in line with the theme through experience sharing and learning as well as how they can support the girl child and each other to become independent individuals and better leaders in their communities.

Prospective Partnerships		
1	AFLI	<p>Africa Leadership Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited the NDNGO Forum in October 2020 • Proposed partnering with the Forum in conducting Parliamentary Scorecards • Zombo district would use Life Concern (LICO) whereas, Jonam Youth Development Initiatives (JOYODI) was recommended by the Forum for Pakwach district

2	NCHRD	<p>National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited Nebbi District NGO Forum mid-October 2020 • Pledged support in the installation of CCTV Cameras/system as well as Computer set • Support in various Human Rights advocacy related activities
Loose Coalitions/Networks		
1	NANEP	<p>Northern Albertine Network on Petroleum and Gas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebbi District NGO Forum is a Vice Chair on the Steering Committee which is an executive arm of the organization and does the administrative functions with support of a coordinator who is employed on full time employment status. • NANEP works very closely with the Local Governments in the Albertine region and supports the work of the environment departments of the LGs.
2	NASEN	<p>Northern Albertine Sustainable Energy Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supported by WWF, implementing Renewable Energy Projects with NDNNGOF • The products being supplied are the improved Cook Stoves and Solar Power Systems (1,4,6 bulbs).
3	WNHP	<p>West Nile Humanitarian Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition of West Nile local Actors/NGOs to influence Humanitarian agenda in the region • supports Humanitarian Agenda in West Nile • Expressed willingness to induct the Board members of its members with NDNNGOF inclusive.
4	CSBAG	<p>Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building in Governance issues • TOT for Contract Monitoring • Regional Budget Priorities
5	WNHRDP	<p>West Nile Human Rights Defenders Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under creation

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebbi District NGO Forum is a Founder member • Supported by Uganda Human Rights Commission Arua/UN Human Rights (Gulu)
6	CAN-U	<p>Climate Action Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion advocacy for climate change actions • Conduct dialogues and support trainings • Conducts various trainings on climate resilience
7	WB CS-GFF	<p>World Bank Global Finance Facility For Civil Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDNDOF submitted a proposal to them in November 2019 • The organization had given a fairly positive response • A Platform for sharing information and opportunities
8	RMNCAH	<p>Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative of MoH to save motherhood and adolescence health • Has several CSOs like PATH, UNICEF
9	SEATINI	<p>Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiation Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for equitable tax regimes in the region • Tax advocacy and consumer protection
10	AFIC	<p>Africa Freedom of Information Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate of Governance issue • Conducts training of partners
11	ANGOC	<p>Africa Non-Governmental Organisations Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based in Free Town, Sierra Leone • Opportunity for information sharing and networking
12	Plan International	<p>Plan International will be implanting a 5 year project ending Child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It plans to use Nebbi District NGO Forum to build Capacity of its members who will be directly involved in implementing components of the above project in the various selected parishes. • CSO strengthening or capacity building plan will address capacity gaps and areas for improvement with specific priorities for the initial 2 years; NDNDOF will be a strategic partner to achieve this.

Exchange visit to Hoima

NDNGOF participated in an **Exchange visit** that was organized by **RICE-WN**-Northern Albertine Network on Petroleum and Gas (NANEP) to which NDNGOF is a Vice Chair, Steering Committee. The team was hosted by BAPENECO, a sister network to NANEP that looks at environment issues, through Article writing of literature on land, environment and petroleum. The participants were drawn from representatives of community and youth groups of Nwoya (Acholi sub region), Panyimur (Pakwach) and some CSOs. The visit was intended for the groups to exchange the best practices and learn how advocacy was being done in that region (Hoima) so as to improve on what the different groups do in their own areas in relation to Oil and Gas as well as environment at large.

BAPENECO confirmed having good relationship with the Oil Company, government and other key stakeholders in the area. A community group was visited to share on their engagements as concerns Oil and gas specifically on how prepared they were in terms of benefits that would accrue as the result of oil and gas in their area.

General Challenges

- ❖ Absence of Strategic Plan (expired in Dec 2019)
- ❖ The outbreak of Covid-19 world over affected activities implementation and performance
- ❖ Dwindling/inactive membership with only 7 fully paid up members
- ❖ High expectations of Member Organisations (MOs) of Certificates that come with costs
- ❖ MOs expect benefits from the Forum with very little contributions
- ❖ General apathy among CSOs not showing interest in what the Forum does yet the Forum is owned by the members. They are in the state of disenchantment
- ❖ Heavy taxes and unnecessary payment during registration and renewal of operational permit
- ❖ Limited resources to accommodate all the needs of the Forum and its members
- ❖ Narrow space for NGOs

Recommendations

- Need to revise and pass Membership/Subscription fees and have fixed figures
- There is need to re-activate the activities of the Forum for a better image
- New Strategic Plan to be developed or review of the old one
- Definition of positions to align staff directly to deliver towards what the Strategic Plan stipulates

Conclusion

Nebbi District NGO Forum had a number of challenges that affected its mode of operations. However, efforts were put in place to address the challenges and there are renewed interest in the Forum by members and other stakeholders. The Forum today has a substantive Executive Director and a new Programme Manager with vast experience in programming and project work. The Forum also renewed funding from its partner IG-World Bank in support of CRETA projects

being implemented in the three Districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach. With support from GIZ-CUSP, the Forum is envisaged to have increased capacity to deliver on its mandate and to be a strategic partner through which many of its members can access for joint project implementation. The Forum is on the verge of signing partnership agreement with plan international in order to build its capacity to support the other NGOs/CBO involved in implementing the project of Child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU). The support will include but not be limited to multiple approaches for strengthening organizational capability to achieve its vision / mission; By addressing the various Capacity gaps, the Forum is preparing for a new dawn and a paradigm shift where it hopes to be a strategic partner for potential donors and its own members in order to develop and implement various projects with and through its members who are spread in the three Districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Success Story 1

Introduction



Manano Paulino, aged 73, hails from Ageno village, Mbaro West Parish, Nyaravur Sub county in Nebbi District. He is a retired Civil Servant, and a father to 8 children. Mr. Manano, for a long time had been using the local lighting system commonly referred to by the community as “Kaduma”.

He learnt about the new product (Home Solar System) from Nebbi District NGO Forum technician (Jimmy), who deals in electronic products in the trading center of Nyaravur.

Situation before NDNNGOF intervention

During one of the interactions, Manano confessed that he had been using “Kaduma” and sometimes batteries from his motorcycle for lighting. He admitted the challenges he had faced with the old system that included among others, cost of paraffin which was not friendly as he put it.

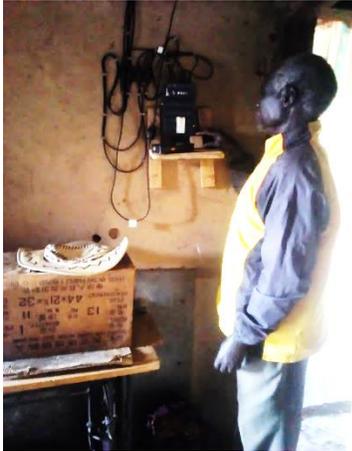
“Due to ignorance, I was spending 1,200/= (One thousand two hundred uganda shillings only) on a useless thing per week. The smoke from “kaduma” was leaving my clothes very dirty and smelling each time. When I would leave the “Kaduma” throughout the night sometimes, in the morning I would realize that my nostrils were very dirty!”. He further stressed that Lights that came from” Kaduma” was not enough to light up the room very well.

Intervention

During one of the Radio Talk shows organized by Nebbi District NGO Forum on Radio Maria to create massive awareness on access and adoption of efficient Renewable Energy Technologies which included Home Solar Systems, Manano reported to have picked interest after the Talk Show and made a call to one of the staff on how he would acquire the product. He confirmed that a staff was in close contact with him and gave him more viable information on installation of the product as well as the modes of payment.

Situation after

Manano narrated that he acquired the new technology in July 2018, and there is a number of good things he has achieved/observed; *“unlike those days where I was spending 2500/= (Two thousand Uganda shillings only) per week on phone charging, I now charge my phone at home for free. “I got relief of looking for the money all the time”. The light is very bright as compared to the batteries of my motorcycle I was using. I have security light in my compound, my grandchildren now read at home with me, I can easily access my latrine due to the light that is all over my compound and Even when it rains for 2 days, I would still get the light.*



Manano is one of those beneficiaries who works very hard to promote the product. At his shop he has placed a poster of the product in order to attract his customers.

Challenges

The only challenge I am facing is that the new technology cannot be upgraded to support ironing and usage of TV.

Message

My message to other people using the old technology is that I am relieved of very many things. These products are strong, that is why I do promote it at my shop and I want to become an Agent. Manano is therefore discouraging people who are still trapped with the usage of “Kaduma” to come out so that together the environment can be conserved.

Story 2

Introduction



Wilembe Sunday is a female Councilor of Nebbi Municipality, aged 31, a resident of Akesi village, Nyacara parish, Abindu division, and blessed with 4 children. Wilembe remembers having heard about the improved Cook Stove from Mugisa Robert (a staff of Nebbi District NGO forum) who happened to have visited a friend in their neighborhood. In the process of discussing with the friend about the available products at their office, Wilembe picked interest in knowing more about the products.

Situation before intervention

Wilembe explained that her family had been using a metallic cook stove and was often faced with a lot of challenges using the old system. *“I have been using a lot of charcoal that is, 1½ basin of charcoal at the rate of 7,000/= (Seven thousand Uganda shillings only) on weekly basis. Besides, the Metallic cook stove cooked slowly and was very dirty since it came without any paint on it, and the box is hot all the time you are cooking, said Wilembe”.*

Situation after intervention

After getting sensitized on all the benefits of the new improved cook stove, as opposed to the old system, she went ahead and acquired the new technology and noted the following: *“The dual cook stove looked attractive and uses both charcoal and fire wood, there is often an alternative that is, the cook stove uses less charcoal and lesser smoke.*

Challenges

Wilembe (Councilor) noted some challenges associated with the new technology especially the fact that the dual cook stove is heavy for the children to lift and are not easily accessible as they cannot be found in open markets and replacement is not possible.

Message

Wilembe strongly advises her fellow women to come up and adopt the new system in place so as not to put so much pressure on the environment.

Wilembe Sunday and her daughter preparing a meal using one of the new cooking stove.

Pictures



Figure 3: Pasai Classroom block in Alangi sub county, Zombo district that had some elements of corruption at the initial stages of its construction but with the close monitoring by the CMGs, a good structure was completed.