



# NEBBI DISTRICT NGO FORUM

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021



A Group photograph after an Interface Meeting with the staff of Alangi Health Centre III in Zombo district

**FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021**

PRESENTED BY:  
ADOKWUN EMMANUELA  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME MANAGER

## About Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF)

Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) with a current membership of over 85 civil Society Organizations (CSOs) was formed in June 2001, as a platform through which CBOs, NGOs and FBOs in the Greater Nebbi District can network, share information, influence policies and legislation and advocate for equitable development.

In other words, the Forum is an umbrella organisation responsible for coordination of activities and sharing of information for all members of Civil Society Organisations operating in the 3 districts of the Greater Nebbi (Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach) and supporting its Member Organisations (MOs) and the CSO fraternity to comply with the relevant laws and regulations governing CSOs operations in Uganda among others.

The **VISION** of the Forum is a well coordinated and strong Civil Society Organization in the Greater Nebbi Districts.

The **MISSION** of the Forum is to provide a platform for CSOs operating in the Greater Nebbi Districts to increasingly participate in development processes and contribute to policy dialogue through advocacy, networking, and information sharing.

The **GOAL** of the Forum is to develop civil society into institution able to participate as effective partners in the conception, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, legislation and other aspects of development processes.

### The Objectives of the 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 objectives
- 4) To improve networking and linkages among its MOs and between CSOs and development partners
- 5) To adequately, timely and reliably share information among its MOs to effectively mobilize and utilize their resources to achieve their objectives.
- 6) To do anything or activity that is legal to further the objectives of the Forum.

### Mandates of NDNGOF

1. Capacity building of Member Organizations
2. Information sharing with MOs and other stakeholders
3. Carrying out advocacy and lobbying with MOs
4. Networking with Member Organizations

### Objectives

- To increase mobilization of, and networking among Member Organizations (MOs)

- To promote policy dialogue and advocacy with government, donors and other development stakeholders in formulating pro poor policies and poverty reduction programmes
- To share information and good practices in order to contribute more effectively to the development process in the district
- To build capacity of MOs to engage in policy processes more effectively at all levels
- To promote good governance and human rights
- To carry out other activities that is legal to further the objectives of the Forum

Membership is drawn from national and International NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs from the following Thematic Areas

- ✓ Human Rights
- ✓ Environment and Natural resources
- ✓ Education, training and Research
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Appropriate Technology
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Women, youth, disabled and the elderly

### PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

- a) Community Responsibility to Enhance Transparency and Accountability(**CRETA**) funded by the Inspectorate of Government (**IG**)
- b) Strengthening Institutional capacity of Nebbi District NGO Forum funded by **GIZ**
- c) Clean Energy funded by Rural Initiative for Community Development(**RICE**)

### Funders

**NDNGOF received funds from the** Inspectorate of Government (IG) with the Budget Estimate of **45,466,000/= (Forty five million four hundred sixty six thousand shillings only)**; GIZ-CUSP Programme with a **Budget Estimate of 116,940,000/= (One hundred sixteen million nine hundred forty thousand shillings only)**.

### Project locations

NDNGOF operates in all the 3 districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach.

### Introduction

During this reporting period, NDNGOF was engaged in various activities that included coordination and implementation of field activities amidst the COVID-19 restrictions. This however was not without challenges as it involved limited access to office premises as well as limited movements due to first, second and third lock-down restrictions.

Nevertheless, the Forum has records of achievements, challenges, recommendations and lessons learnt for improvement.

## ACHIVEMENTS

### Planning Meeting

02 planning meetings were conducted at Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) office during which quarterly and annual work plans were drawn for this reporting period and the monthly activity plans were extracted for implementation.

### Documentation

NDNGOF compiled the Annual Narrative Report for the year 2020 that is currently in a draft form awaiting revision and approval by the BOD members and the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

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

The overall objective of the CRETA project is “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.” The project was implemented in selected sub counties of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach.

### Achievements

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 in their areas. Each village selected 2 members to form the CMGs that worked together at the parish levels.

The CMGs followed up on NUSAF III projects, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), Schools, Health Centers and construction sites with remarkable improvement in the implementation of government projects including recovery of lost assets and funds.

### Community mobilization

NDNGOF mobilised Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) and relevant stakeholders in the districts of Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach for the project activities hence, all the **49** CMGs were engaged monthly in project activities. In this line, the CMGs would monitor the projects in their parishes and write reports that were in turn collected by the Community Trainers for compilation.

### Table showing number of reports collected from CMGs during this reporting period (January-June 2021)

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF REPORTS
Nebbi	33
Zombo	42
Pakwach	69
Total	144

### Community Score Cards (CSC)

A total of **23** Community Score Cards (CSC) were conducted for some specific projects and locations during this reporting period as reflected below:

**Table showing number of CSC conducted**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>WATERSHED</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
<b>1</b>	Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond Sub Project	Namthin	Nebbi
<b>2</b>	Olyeko Soya Beans Sub Project	Namrwodho C	Nebbi
<b>3</b>	Payera Okio Bull Fattening Project	Namrwodho C	Nebbi
<b>4</b>	Paminya Health Centre III	Alala	Nebbi
<b>5</b>	Okongo Community Borehole	Paminya Lower	Nebbi
<b>6</b>	Akwecira Community Borehole	Paminya Lower	Nebbi
<b>7</b>	Acer Soil Conservation Sub Project	Namrwodho	Nebbi
<b>8</b>	Paduk Community Borehole	Not a Watershed	Nebbi
<b>9</b>	Ovurukojo B Goats Raring Project	Oguta	Pakwach
<b>10</b>	Ovurukojo Community Borehole	Oguta	Pakwach
<b>11</b>	Nyapolo Community Borehole Project	Paicing	Pakwach
<b>12</b>	Ayila Community Tree Planting Project	Mukale	Pakwach
<b>13</b>	Kwolonyo Animal Traction (CDD Project)	Abok	Pakwach
<b>14</b>	Padengo Community Borehole	Abok	Pakwach
<b>15</b>	Cikithi West B Cassava Growing Project	Ayila	Pakwach
<b>16</b>	Watembu Asu NUSAF 3 Group	Ayila	Pakwach
<b>17</b>	Abadhho Spring Water	Zulume	Zombo
<b>18</b>	Ojigo Community Borehole	Ojigo	Zombo
<b>19</b>	Alangi Health Centre III	Pasai	Zombo
<b>20</b>	Komsoko Spring Water	Pasai	Zombo
<b>21</b>	Miletha Farmers Cooperatives	Ambele	Zombo
<b>22</b>	Parish Community Association	Ambele	Zombo
<b>23</b>	Aduthethe Community Borehole	Ndara	Zombo

### Challenges related to CSC conducted

- Participation in the CSC was affected by COVID- 19 restrictions
- Irregular meetings by group members concerning specific projects being implemented in the community
- Sale of some animals without the consent of the group members (4 cows of Kwolonyo Animal Traction-CDD Project in Abok, Pakwach district)
- Failure to deliver animal drugs worth 60,0000/= (Sixty million only) by the Sub county Veterinary Officer (Kwolonyo Animal Traction-CDD Project)

## Interface Meeting

- Interface meetings were conducted and action plans were generated with specific commitments for follow up by particular persons
- Some of the action plans were generated to address negative issues which were identified on the projects for example, a recovery of 400,000/= (Four hundred thousand shillings only) was realized from a Sub county Veterinary Officer. This was because the said Officer had received some payments for which he had not provided the required services to the animals.



*Participants display the Action Plan drawn during an Interface Meeting at Anjao Ombanya in Nebbi district*

## General Challenges

- The challenges have been categorized at district, Sub county, Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) and Institutional (NDNGOF) levels. This is because of the nature in which the project was implemented. Every group had its unique challenges basing on the level of engagements

### At District level

- There was no face to face interaction with district officials because activities were conducted in the community
- There was an element of force imposed by the district as concerned procurement processes e.g Ayila “A” Soil and Water Conservation Project Group “D” that was forced by the district officials and seedlings were bought at a higher prices
- There was a tendency of tampering with procurement procedures by the District NUSAF Desk Officers specifically
- Beneficiaries threatened and would be forced to select enterprises not of their choice or interest. In other words, transparency was compromised
- Low level of “district level monitoring” of projects particularly in the districts of Pakwach and Nebbi whereas, in Zombo district, monitoring was completely not done
- The NUSAF Sub county Facilitators who were recruited at the district and attached to the Sub counties did not know their roles hence, instilling knowledge in the group members became a bottleneck
- The Facilitators did not live at their duty stations (at the sub county) hence, failure to respond to immediate issues on the ground e.g the Facilitators for Pakwach and Panyimur Sub counties would both operate from Pakwach Town Council
- However, Zombo district did not have a Facilitator and there was no NUSAF project during this reporting period in Zombo apart from other government projects
- There was a failure by the Inspectorate of Government Regional Office to monitor NUSAF3 projects in the area

### At Sub County level

- CMGs were denied lists of government projects especially in Pakwach and Alwii SC. It would always be promised but not given
- Low level of commitment by some Sub county officials to participate in the activities organized by CMGs like Community Score Cards
- Some of the CMGs were less committed in the volunteer work of their community
- As for Community Score Cards, there was less commitment on the side of the politicians because of some issues that concerned them (support during election by some of the community members)
- The inability by Sub county officials to generate lists of projects in their different sub counties has left CMGs with limited number of projects to monitor
- There was an element of covering up wrong aspects where local leaders would not want pertinent issues to be raised. Typical of this was the Subcounty Chief of Atego who did not want the then lost Glucometer issue of Paminya Health Centre to be talked about
- CMGs were generally despised in their level of education, that they have no capacity to monitor those who are educated. In Pakwach Sub county, the CPMC (Community Pt Management Committee) did not give accountability for **200,000/=** (Two hundred thousand shillings only) and they refused to participate in an Interface meeting. There is a tendency of Technical people covering up wrong doers
- Leaders delegating people who would not take any decision during CSC and interface meetings (Alangi Sub county in Zombo)
- There was an element of Suppliers bringing seedlings during late hours especially at **6:00 pm** giving no time for verification, leading to shortages at the time of final distribution
- Delays by the Local government leaders to give feedback on recovered assets and funds to group members leading to further mismanagement (A case in point is Anyomkango Animal Traction in Abok Parish, Alwii Subcounty in Pakwach district)

### At CMG level

- Lack of motivation that translated into limited number of reports collected from the CMGs
- Most mobilizations were done through phones yet the CMGs were not facilitated with airtime especially during the implementation of CSCs
- Notably, relocation of some CMGs due to marriage, employment, garden work affected monitoring of projects/programmes
- Most of the CMGs are youth who were rather difficult to handle
- There was an element of replacement of CMGs by those who were not trained
- Lack of confidence by some CMGs that affected their work due to low level of education
- The CMGs are powerless and cannot cause arrest of suspects

### At NDNGO level

- Late disbursement of funds by IG sometimes
- The mode of accountability dictated on activity implementation where there was a need for a bank Statement to be used as a proof
- Delay by IG to act on issues reported by CMGs especially on recovery of funds and assets

## Way forward/Recommendations

- There is need for the Inspectorate of Government Regional Office to respond quickly to issues raised by CMGs so as to motivate them to work harder
- There should be provision for air time for CMGs so as to aid mobilization on activities to be conducted in their communities
- There is need to have some elders among the CMGs in the future for guidance
- CMGs should be less in number for proper management (Atleast 10-12)
- There is need for quarterly review meeting with the involvement of IG Regional Office at the different districts
- There is need for the Community Facilitators to sensitise the community about the projects and adequate empowerment of the Community Facilitators is needed as well
- There is need for IG representative from the Regional Office to move to the beneficiaries to find more information about the projects
- Mobilisation and training of the CMGs should be done earlier at the initial stages of implementation not in the middle when supplies have been done
- Engagement of CMGs should be continuous that is, those trained and committed ones should be identified, maintained and supported
- Motivation of CMGs should be on the basis of the members who have performed well and not only as a group
- Motivation should be done within the project phase (A case in point is the decision made to even motivate groups of previous phases) this time

## Lessons learnt

- Some political and technical leaders fear to involve themselves in the implementation of Community Score Cards especially when the issues generated concern them or people who voted them in power
- At sub county level, there is limited level of monitoring by officials on projects funded. This is something that is affecting sustainability of projects especially NUSAF 3 in Pakwach and Panyimur sub counties
- The sustainability of some projects could not be ensured since some beneficiaries were forced to take on projects they had not applied for especially on NUSAF III
- Working as a group by the CMGs empowers those members who would not go alone to monitor the projects
- It is easier to work with a small number of CMGs unlike having many
- Most of the CMGs know where the government projects are
- The elderly CMGs are more committed than the youth
- IG project has made the community alert, knowing that they are being followed (Community involve CMGs in their activities)
- CPMC fear to put Sign Posts especially where the project has failed
- Most activities are being spearheaded by the men with the exception of Angar Parish with a lady as the Chairperson of the CMGs
- Monitoring of government programmes has made work easy for some leaders. A case in point is the LC III of Alwii who confessed that the project made his work very easy because of the work of the CMGs

## CIVIL SOCIETY IN UGANDA SUPPORT PROGRAMME (CUSP)

### Achievements

- **Strategic Plan Consultation** was done, notes/views compiled and draft documents developed
- **Context/situation analysis of Nebbi District NGO Forum** was done, which was intended to feed into the draft Strategic Plan
- **Strategic Planning Workshop was conducted** engaging Secretariat staff, Board Of Directors and representatives from Member Organisations (**M=16 F=04**). The 4 day workshop was moderated by a CUSP Advisor
- **Verification exercise of CSOs** was conducted by NDNNGOF, the staff and some representatives of Member Organisations to verify the currently registered members in terms of their existence, registration status, programme focus and interest in the membership of the Forum
- A total of **74** CSOs were verified some of which, double as FBOs, NGOs
- **Data entry** of the verification exercise was successfully done by NDNNGOF Secretariat with the support of CUSP-GIZ Advisor

### Review of Policy Documents

- These included the Constitution, Human Resources Manual, Financial Policy and Board Manual/Electoral Guidelines

### Development of Policy Documents

- These were Procurement and Anti-Fraud Policies. It is important to note that all the above policy documents were approved and adopted as working documents during an Annual General Meeting
- Reviewed/developed policy documents had taken too long hence, negatively affecting the normal operations of the Forum

### Special General Meeting

NDNNGOF conducted a Special General Meeting that was participated in by representatives from Member Organisations, Local Government, Secretariat staff, GIZ and EU. It was during this meeting that all the draft policy documents were approved and became operational. Additionally, report presentations were made on the activities that were implemented as well as the financial status of the organisation. However, it was sad to note that the secretariat staff had gone without salaries for a rather prolonged period of time and yet they continued working.

There was hope that the new partnership with CO:OPERAID (Alochi Ku Somu, Education Project in Zombo) would rectify this situation and staff would get the motivation to work.

### Registration of new CSOs for membership

A total of **08** CSOs applied for membership awaiting approval by the Board. However, there had been remarkable decline in the number of CSOs intending to register

### Recommendations

- There was need for the Forum to make follow-up on the registration of new members and annual subscriptions of old ones
- The Project Officer in charge should draw specific programme for the visit of MOs at their offices to remind them on their registration status with the Forum

## 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.

### Activities carried out

There were a couple of activities that were conducted during this reporting period that included **Awareness creation** on sustainable and Renewable Energy Solutions with some specific groups. This was done along **Demonstrations** to make comparisons for the individuals in the groups to take an informed decision to acquire the improved cook stoves and the Home Solar System (HSS)

**Distribution of Improved Cook Stoves and HSS was done** to organized Village Savings and Loans Association groups specifically in Nyaravur and Thatha Division, both in Nebbi district. After the distribution, **Follow up on pending payments** was done to 4 groups.

**As the acquisition of these products was done at different times by the interested members of the groups, Marketing** was continuous. In addition, there were some faulty products noted after distributions were done hence, **Collection** of 10 faulty products from Pakwach and Paidha also done

**Once a new product is acquired, there is need to make a follow-up on its use. Therefore, a Follow-up visits was made by the team to the groups** to monitor the effective use of the products. It was found out that the members appreciated the new products for their effectiveness and efficiency.

NDNGOF was visited by a team from Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE) and had a meeting to verify the locations that still had the balances of the products delivered to them. In that line, some of the unsold products were recalled by the team.

### MAJOR FINDINGS IN THE FIELD

TABLE SHOWING SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS IN THE COMMUNITY

LOCATION	ITEM	QUANTITY	STATUS
Goli	Solar Home System (SHS)	01	Not sold
Parombo	SHS	01	Not sold
Nebbi	SHS	01	Not sold

## RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTS WITH GROUPS

NAME	ITEM	QUANTITY
Mungujakisa Women Group	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	10
Kwolongyo Savings Group	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	02
Yesu Dit	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	02
Kabu Can Savings Group	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	05
Yesu Romo	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	17
Mungu Maro Jumakwaye	Improved Cook Stove (ICS)	04
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>

### Challenges

- Many groups were found yet mobilizing themselves to make their payments for the products hence, little collection was realised
- There was limited facilitation in terms of fuel and airtime to reach out to the members
- The delays in delivering the stoves to the members made them to forget about saving cash for its acquisition
- The preferred Home Solar System with only one bulb was out of stock

### Recommendations

- There is need for identification of groups to be done through Mapping exercise
- There should be a Constant reminder through phone calls and messages to the customers
- There is need for a Support team from WWF through RICE- WN to be on the ground and make repairs of delivered products
- RICE-WN should come up with a clear agenda/workplan for the project
- There is need to procure more of the Home Solar System with one bulb

### Lesson learnt

- Support visit to the clients is key for the success of the project

## Project monitoring

During this reporting period, monitoring visits were made to specific project sites particularly areas where the CRETA project was implemented. This included:

PROJECT	FINDINGS
<b>Omiyo Community Borehole</b>	The Borehole was very hard to pump due to a prolonged dry spell and the community
<b>Athuma Hoes distribution</b>	The sub county has <b>55</b> villages. According to records, a total of <b>6,600</b> hoes were to be received by the Sub county for the <b>3,300</b> households. However, the hoes delivered would only serve <b>44</b> villages. The CMGs intervened and engaged the district officials whereby, more hoes were delivered and every household received as planned.
<b>Ugonju Community Bore hole</b>	The borehole was non-functional for approximately 5 years without being reported to the Sub county Water Board. The CMGs in that line, reported the case to the LC III of Athuma Sub county who informed the district and the borehole was fixed.
<b>Pubidhi Ayabu Lower</b>	<p>The 5,000,000/= that group generated from selling 8 bulls was divided among themselves for each to buy 4 goats</p> <p>None of the group members bought the goats they had planned for</p> <p>The group members could not give clear information.</p> <p>The case was referred to NUSAF Desk Officer.</p>

## COLLABORATION/LINKAGES

Activity	
<b>Meeting</b>	NDNGOF had a meeting with Plan International for verification and harmonization of CSO list to be considered for partnership in the 3 districts of Greater Nebbi (Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach).
<b>Organisation Capacity Assessment (OCA)</b>	Plan international conducted an OCA with NDNGOF for future partnership. However, to date, no feedback has been received on the status of the partnership.
<b>Meeting</b>	A meeting was held with the Manager of Centenary Rural Development Bank to get feedback on the services offered by the Bank
<b>Radio Talk Show</b>	NDNGOF Participated in a Radio Talk Show on Preventing Electoral Violence during the 2021 General Elections organized and sponsored by Uganda Radio Network on Radio Paidha FM, Zombo district

<b>Training</b>		The Accountant of NDNGOF participated in a 5 day Training in Financial Management conducted by NIRAS on behalf of GIZ at White Castle Hotel in Arua
<b>Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)</b>	<b>Of</b>	NDNGOF signed Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Nebbi District Local Government for its operation for the period 29 <sup>th</sup> day of January 2021 and ends on the 29 <sup>th</sup> day of January 2026
<b>Meeting</b>		Participated in a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) meeting of Nebbi District Local Government organized by OPM under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat
<b>Annual Assembly</b>	<b>General</b>	NDNGOF participated in Uganda Red Cross Society's Annual General Assembly (AGM) Nebbi Branch at the Nebbi Office
<b>Meeting</b>		NDNGOF participated in a Resource Mobilization Strategy meeting for West Nile Humanitarian Platform (WNHP)
<b>Meeting</b>		NDNGOF participated in the Localisation Agenda meeting organized by WNHP in conjunction with CEFORD/OXFAM at Beri Cottages in Arua
<b>Meeting</b>		NDNGOF participated in an update meeting organized by Uganda Radio Network on Education, Teenage pregnancies, Reproductive Health and Environment. The objective of the meeting was to follow-up on the discussions held on the project that was introduced in September 2020
<b>Workshop</b>		NDNGOF participated in a public education and awareness raising workshop on the problems of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons that was organized by the Uganda Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ministry of Internal Affairs (the agency responsible for coordinating national actions on matters of Small Arms and Light Weapons {SALW} in Uganda)at GAF Apartments in Nebbi district. The workshop was <b>aimed at preparing district authorities for the implementation of the new law when passed into the Act of Parliament</b>
<b>Training</b>		Participated in a 3 day training organized by WHRD-Network in partnership with International Service for Human Rights on using International and Regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Women's Rights in Uganda
<b>District Meeting</b>	<b>Task Force</b>	Participated in Nebbi District Task Force Meetings in response to COVID-19 called for by the RDC where reviews were made on DHOs reports and discussions generated
<b>Online meeting</b>		Participated in an Online meeting organised by Women Human Rights Defenders Network for West Nile Region to create local support system in case of attacks of a colleague-amplification of voices as a region
<b>Data Collection</b>		Participated in data collection and uploaded the information from Key informants for NASEN Strategic Plan
<b>Training</b>		Participated in a training in ESEA
<b>Orientation</b>		Participated in an Orientation of Early Childhood Development CSOs (ECD-CSOs) on National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy (NIECD) in Nebbi District at Leosim Hotel. This was organized by Plan International in collaboration with Ministry of Education/MGLSD

<b>Meeting</b>	Participated in a meeting organised by Uganda Radio Network on the existing gaps that limit organisations, individuals to collaborate with Media as well as the collective efforts that have been made amidst COVID-19
<b>Inception Meeting</b>	Participated in a District Stakeholders' Inception Meeting organised by Global Support Development Initiatives (GDI-U) to align what the partner does with District Development Plan
<b>Launch</b>	Participated in the Launch of PLAYFUL FUTURES Project by Plan International at Satellite Hotel in Nebbi. The project aims to improve Childrens' learning through play for meaningful Early Childhood Development
<b>Meeting</b>	Participated in Regional Women Human Rights Defenders Network meeting in Arua for nomination of Focal Point Persons
<b>Visit/Meeting</b>	NDNGOF had a meeting with NSSF to gauge whether the organisation was aware of its mandate regarding compliance
<b>Coordination Meeting</b>	Participated in a GBV coordination meeting organised by UNFPA to assess the capacity and co-relation of each stakeholder in effective prevention and response to GBV
<b>Launch</b>	Participated in a Project Launch by Rainbow Youth Empowerment Village (RYEV) on mitigating the impact of COVID -19 on artisanal and small scale mining of development minerals in Nebbi district Awareness creation to the different stakeholders from the district level, Abindu Division and project beneficiaries
<b>Partnership</b>	There is work in progress with a potential donor (CO:OPERAID) for an Education Project for Zombo district. NDNGOF will officially start implementation on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022  The partners involved in this process are Life Concern (LICO), Community Empowerment For Rural Development (CEFORD), Nebbi District NGO Forum (NDNGOF) and CO:OPERAID
<b>Advocacy Walk</b>	NDNGOF participated in an Advocacy (Campaign Walk) against teenage pregnancy in Nebbi district that was organised by MEMPROW (Mentoring and Empowerment Program for Young Women) where the Woman Member of Parliament (Hon. Agnes Acibu) was the Chief Walker.

## Conclusion

Despite limited finances coupled with COVID-19 restrictions, NDNGOF continued its operations as reflected in the activities above and the stories of change especially in the CRETA project that was implemented in Nebbi, Zombo and Pakwach district.

## STORIES OF CHANGE

### STORY 1:

#### REPLACEMENT OF A MISSING GLUCOMETER AT PAMINYA HEALTH CENTRE III

##### Background

Paminya Health Centre III is located in Atego Sub county in Nebbi district. It is one of the Health Facilities constructed in the year 1983 under CAP programme. The Health facility has a staff ceiling of 47.3% only, staff Quarter accommodating only 5 Health Workers, Latrines are filled up yet still being used, there is increasing number of patients visa-vis the drugs delivered, patients are mixed up in the ward (males and females), there was a request for more Health workers through the District Health Officer since 2014 but to no avail. Nevertheless, all these issues were presented to the Sub county Officials during a Community Score Card to which the response was that, it would be considered in the new Financial Year.

##### Process

Paminya Health Centre III was equipped with seven machines when it started operation. Among the machines that were brought to serve the community at the Health Centre, one (Glucometer) was found missing during a monitoring visit conducted by the CMGs of Paminya Lower parish on the **25<sup>th</sup> November 2020** (That time it had gone missing for a period of 7 months) during which, a practical recommendation was made that ***“the lost machine should be returned with an immediate effect. We have given 14 days from today...”*** the report states.

The missing Glucometer therefore, raised a lot of concerns by the community and the CMGs were prompted to work harder to ensure that the machine was recovered. This however was not an easy struggle as it would involve exposure of the staff responsible for the use of the machine that was non-other than the Laboratory Assistant who was requested to be at the Health Centre with the machine within 14 days.

On the **5<sup>th</sup> February 2021**, a Community Score Card was administered at the facility, followed by an interface meeting during which, the Sub county Chief of Atego shunned the participants (community/CMGs) from talking about the missing Glucometer. The CMGs on that note referred the issue to the Inspectorate of Government that followed up the case more closely on telephone through the Sub county Chief.

##### Good News



The new Glucometer Machine at the Office of the In charge Paminya Health Centre III

Through the hard Monitoring Groups NGO Forum follow-up done by Government (IG), a happened to be recent monitoring by the CMGs on the Paminya Health



CMG Chairperson, Secretary and the In charge Paminya HC III discussing on the new Glucometer during a Monitoring visit before it was handed over

work of the Community (CMGs), Nebbi District (NDNGOF) and a close the Inspectorate of new Glucometer found during a visit conducted **5<sup>th</sup> June 2021** at Centre III !! It is

reported to have been procured by the Laboratory Assistant from whom the Glucometer was reported to have been lost. The new machine, bought to replace the lost one was receipted on the **20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

### Handover

The new machine was handed over on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, to the Incharge Paminya Health Centre III in the presence of the Sub county Chief and the Chairperson Health Centre Management Committee (HCMC)

## STORY 2:

### ANJAO OMBANYA FISH POND PROJECT

#### Background

Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond Project is located in Anjao Ombanya village, Namthin Watershed in Nebbi Sub county, Nebbi district. The Project started on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 under NUSAF 3 and falls under Labour Intensive Public Works.

The community opted for this project basing on the history of a similar project (a Fish Pond) in the area around the year 2001 that was successful until the demise of the owner.

#### Process

The project cost was **75,188,000/=** (Seventy five million one hundred eighty eight thousand shillings only). It had **158** beneficiaries who provided labour for a period of **54** days and received a remuneration of **55,500/=** (Fifty five thousand five hundred shillings only) each.

During the Launch of the project, a total of **3,000** fingerlings were reported to have been put in the newly constructed fish pond.



*Photograph taken during CSC at Onjao Ombanya*

However, after the launch of the project, some conflicts arose due to some rumor that another fish pond (Pubidhi) in the same watershed was also constructed with part of the funds meant for Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond. This therefore prompted a Community Score Card that was conducted so as to get clarifications from the responsible NUSAF officials (Facilitator/NDO).

During the community could not the Fish have a specific name neither a Sign Post for returned for the Interface Meeting the next

Similarly, the community members of Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond were not very clear on the terms and conditions of the project because they wondered who the true owner of the project was and



Interface meeting, the of Pubidhi were present but make any contribution since Pond in their area did not identification. They never day.

*NDNGOF Programme Manager with the community members of Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond during the Interface Meeting and Action Planning*

the NUSAF Facilitator could not give a clear explanation. Many of the participants left the meeting in protest.

### Emerging Issues

There was an emerging conflict on the ownership of the Fish Pond where group members needed an explanation as to whether the Fish Pond belonged to the community or an individual.

Additionally, there was poor location of the Fish Pond that is, low water level with a hanging pipe that should let water into the pond but, no water. This was experienced during dry season. There was also very dirty water covered with Spirogyra/algae (green) which was not conducive for the aquatic life and no inlet for clean water to the pond neither an outlet for the dirty water.



Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond

### Recommendations before first harvest

The NUSAF Desk Officer (NDO) needed to thoroughly explain the content of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) that was signed for the operations and ownership of Anjao Ombanya Fish Pond to mitigate the existing misunderstanding/conflict among the group members.

There was need to have a community dialogue with the communities of both Anjao Ombanya and Pubidhi Fish Ponds to clarify on what actually happened at the initial stages of the project.

### First harvest

In **June 2021**, the community decided to have the first harvest of the fish in the presence of some District and Sub county officials whereby **700** pieces were reported to have been harvested with the biggest piece weighing **1.5 kilograms**. Unfortunately, the proceeds were just distributed to those present where members got 5, 7, 9 fish depending on the sizes.

The second harvest of the fish should have been done in August 2021 before handing over the Pond to the Landowner. However, the reality on the ground is that, immediately after the first harvest, the Pond was handed over to the Landowner on agreement (according to the Community Development Officer) that community members would be given fish at half pay by the Landowner.

Contrary to that, the community just handed over the pond due to dissatisfaction as to how the whole project was mismanaged. This is because, according to the MOU, the Landowner would take up the Fish Pond in September 2021 when NUSAF would stop giving feeds. Additionally, the community also realized that there would be no much benefits from the project if **70%** (according to the stipulations in the MOU) of the proceeds were meant for the Landowner whereas, only **30%** would be for the beneficiaries/community.



Fish harvested from Anjao Ombanya sub project in Nebbi S/C and distributed to the community members

## Challenges

The community reported some elements of illegal fishing before the official harvest.

## Conclusion

Anjao Ombanya was a good project from which the community should have benefitted. However, not much was realized because the process was somehow messed up to the extent that most aspects in the MOU were not properly clarified to the beneficiaries at the initial stages of the project that kept them wondering about the real owner of the project.

## STORY 3:

### GAMBA/ANDHUKE BULL FATTENING SUB PROJECT

#### Introduction

Gamba/Andhuke Bull Fattening Project is located in Gamba/Andhuke village, Kaluwang parish, Namthin Watershed in Nebbi Sub county, Nebbi district. Before NUSAF project, a group engaged in a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) existed in the area with a total of **15** members. After being identified and assessed as beneficiaries, the group was supported with **17,009,900/=** (Seventeen million nine thousand nine hundred shillings only) for a Bull Fattening Sub Project on the **20<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.

However, by the time of receiving the NUSAF III project, **02** of the group members had dropped out leaving only **13** members (**F=08 M=05**). It is important to note that the project beneficiaries are members from the same vicinity who were engaged at the initial stages of the project through mobilization and interviews that were conducted by a Community Facilitator.

#### Process

Prior to the project implementation, there was an agreement signed between the community and the district (Financial agreement, documents, physical accountabilities and others) that had commitments by the district to provide trainings to the group members especially the two different departments of Community Procurement Committee (**CPC**) and Project Management Committee (**PMC**). The training was meant to guide the members during procurement, building the kraal and support from the Veterinary.

The group received **16** bulls but **01** is reported to have died during the course of caring leaving the group with **15** bulls. The group is very committed to the project in that, they get loans from their savings to pay school fees and do farming and yearly in December the group shares out and starts anew. It is 3 years now that the group is doing VSLA alongside the Bull Fattening Sub project.





The Kraal where the Bulls are kept

Additionally, the Sub county authorities also made commitments to pay routine visits to the group whereas, the Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) on the other hand played a big role in the group project through their frequent monitoring that made the group to take up the project seriously without falling in any trap.

The group's Chairperson showing the CMGs and LC I how the group cleans the Kraal after every two weeks



Above all, there is clear ownership of the project by the group members that is evident in their commitments for example, adding poles on the kraal as a reinforcement to what had been constructed, collecting the dungs after every two weeks, slashing around the kraal, rotational rearing of bulls and regular meetings during savings. Similarly, the group frequently consulted with the Veterinary, high cooperation is noted among the members coupled with hard work are aspects to be appreciated. The project as well had a spacious land given by an elder of the community.

### Challenges

Amidst the good care of the bulls by the group however, there are challenges faced by the group and these include; lack of equipment for collecting dungs from the kraal, no protective gears during rainy season when rearing the bulls, medicines the group had in the store are over and they are expensive to buy but the group.

### Future Plans

The group has maintained the **15** bulls and plans to sell them when the right time comes and make replacement of **16** bulls. Additionally, the members plan to buy medicine and equipment for collecting the dung.



A group member grazing the Bulls on rotational basis

### Conclusion

The group has learnt how to keep and maintain the project (sustainability) and conserve the environment by individually planting the trees that were distributed by the district to the group members (Fruits and non-fruits trees). This is one of the most successful Bull Fattening projects in the area.

## STORY 4:

### AYILA TREE PLANTING PROJECT

#### Introduction

Ayila Tree Planting Project is a NUSAF 3 project that was funded in 2019 to benefit six villages of Cik ithi East, Cik ithi West, Ayila, Ayila Central, Kuba and Olobodegi in Mukale parish, Pakwach Sub County in Pakwach district. This project was supposed to have been in one location. However, this could not materialize due to land shortage hence, the seedlings were divided among the six villages, ending up into an individual tree planting.

## Process

The group was given **97,000,000/= (Ninety seven million shillings only)** for tree planting under Labour Intensive Public Works.

## Findings

During CMGs monitoring visits to the group, it was discovered that they had received around **5,900** (Five thousand nine hundred) seedlings only from the supplier and had signed the delivery note for having received **11,000** (Eleven thousand) seedlings that should have been supplied.

In the group's budget, the CMGs also found out that a total of **200,000/=** (two hundred thousand shillings only) was allocated for digging a dip dumping site that should have been done by the CPMC but this was not done and the money was not accounted for.



*LCII Chairperson Mukale parish handing over recovered money from CPMC to Jenifer's sister in Pakwach S/C, Pakwach District*

One of the casual laborer's in the name of Oyungrowth Jenifer did not receive her monthly wage of **120,000/=** (One hundred and twenty thousand shillings only) because she was absent during payment due to personal reasons and no clear explanation was given by the CPMC.

All the above findings prompted the implementation of a CSC followed by an interface meeting to find solutions to the above issues identified.

During the interface meeting, the Sub county chief and CDO of Pakwach were tasked to follow up on the CPMC to ensure the digging of a dip dumping site. This however was not done due to various interferences.



the interface meeting, the Sub county chief and CDO of Pakwach were tasked to follow up on the CPMC to ensure the digging of a dip dumping site. This however was not done due to various interferences.

## Resolutions

The stake holders resolved that the CPMC pay the casual laborer who had demand her payment and this was cleared within one month.

*Chairperson LCI and Chairperson CMGs witnessing the handover of the recovered money from the CPMC of Ayila Tree Planting Project*

On the issue of less delivery of seedlings, the group was advised to always follow procurement procedures by counting the seedlings delivered before signing the delivery note issued by the supplier as non-compliance to NUSAF 3 SOPs will continue leading to loss of funds.

## STORY 5:

### PUBIDHI AYABU LOWER BULL FATTNING SUB PROJECT

## Background

Pubidhi Ayabu Lower Bull Fattening Sub Project is located in Pubidhi Ayabu Lower village in Nebbi Sub County, Namthin Watershed in Nebbi District. The project has a group that consists of **14** members (**M=06 F=08**). This group started as a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) but they later on showed interest in running another project of Bull Fattening when NUSAF II came in; and was able to get the fund in 2019.

## Process

Pubidhi Ayabu Lower Bull Fattening Sub Project received fund worth **18,300,000/=** (Eighteen million three hundred thousand shillings only) under NUSAF II to implement a Bull Fattening Sub project. The fund enabled the group to procure **16** bulls. As the group took care of these bulls, some fell sick and **07** bulls were reported to have died at different times where the members kept sharing the meat, while **01** got blind that no one would buy either hence, the group slaughtered it and shared the meat as well. The remaining **08** bulls were sold off for **5,000,000/=** (Five million shillings only).

## Challenges



*The Chairperson CMGs standing in a bushy, empty Kraal of Pubidhi Ayabu Lower Bull Fattening Sub Project indicating no activity taking place*

The death of **07** bulls at different times coupled with the one that got blind really disorganized the group. Another challenge was associated to lack of grazing land since the surrounding areas were individually owned and being used for cultivation. Coupled with that, misunderstandings ensued between the Landlord and the group where the kraal was constructed to the extent that he stopped the project from operating on his land.

In that line therefore, with the consultation of NUSAF Facilitator, the group opted for change of enterprise, from Bull Fattening to Goats Rearing project where each member would rear the goats on his/her own land.

On a significant note, **5,000,000/=** (Five million only) that was generated from the sale of the remaining bulls was reportedly divided among the **14** members whereby each member would buy **04** goats at **80,000/=** (Eighty thousand shilling only) contrary to the procurement process that should have been followed. However, during one of the visits by the CMGs, it was discovered that no goats were procured by the members because none could show a goat that was bought to that effect.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this is one of the unsuccessful projects in the area.

## STORY 6:

### PADENGO COMMUNITY BORE HOLE

#### Introduction

Padengo Community Borehole was constructed in 2017 in Padengo village, Alwi Sub county, Pakwach District by the Government Of Uganda under (DSSDCG) Programme to facilitate access to water for the households in the village and other neighboring villages. After the construction, the Sub county Water Board managed to train seven Water User Committee to manage the operation of the borehole.

#### Process

The CMGs through their routine monitoring visits to government projects in February 2021 visited the Water User Committee and also interacted with the water users of the Borehole and identified some

issues which included lack of accountability by WUC on finances collected from water users for almost one year, the 70% return to the Sub county that was not being done and there was a nonfunctional WUC.

This situation prompted the implementation of a Community Score Card (CSC) which brought in different stakeholders both at Sub county and community levels for an interface meeting on the issues generated and action points were agreed upon to help in addressing the above identified issues.

## Results

The borehole which had mechanical fault was repaired by the Sub county on request by the CMGs even when the community was not remitting their 70% to the Sub county.

There was election of new WUC following recommendations from the Sub county Water Board of Alwi and other stakeholders.

The new WUC is working so hard such that, accountability is being given to the community after every three months and the committee remits 70% of their monthly collections to the Sub county.

## Conclusion

It is very common to find gaps with WUC as well as water users. However, this has been one of the most successful water project where the WUC has worked so hard to ensure adherence to stipulated procedures.

## General challenges

- Most members of the CMGs are demotivated due to no remuneration leading to low level of participation in monitoring the projects in their areas
- Relocation of some members of the Executive has affected mobilization for activities
- Some of the CMGs do not take the initiative to know about the projects in their areas hence, no reports at the time of collection

## Recommendations

- There is need to appreciate the voluntary work of the CMGs through some token as it was in the previous phase of NUSAF Project
- Future training is needed for new people to replace those CMGs who have abandoned the work as well as those whom due to employment and marriage have relocated from their original homes
- There is need to mentor the CMGs on existing projects in their areas for close follow-up

## Lesson Learnt

- Having active and motivated community structures in place makes implementation of government programmes/project very easy.

## Conclusion

The presence of the active CMGs is a resource to the community. This is because the community has become very vigilant on issues concerning them in relation to projects that are meant to benefit the community. Therefore, it is very significant to maintain the CMGs through refresher trainings as well as motivation in all forms for the good work they are doing for the country.

## STORY 7:

### OMIYU COMMUNITY BOREHOLE

#### Introduction

Omiyu village, with a total of **40** households did not have any clean water source for quite a prolonged period. Alongside subsistence farming, the community of Omiyu are engaged in cattle rearing with the surrounding dirty steam (Omiyu) and (Ongwal woo) being shared with the animals they keep. Two neighboring villages; “Rabu” with **33** households and “Arikpa Central” with **36** households had similar challenges.

#### Challenges before

Prior to the drilling of the Borehole, there was limited cooperation among the households of Omiyu village reason being, the confirmed location for the water source was rather far from them (Arikpa Central village) and yet the Borehole was meant for Omiyu village. In addition, there was a requirement that the community contributes a total amount of 200,000/= (**Two hundred thousand shillings only**) and remit to Athuma Sub county; to which they were rather reluctant.

#### Process

The local leaders of Omiyu village reported to have drawn a village workplan and submitted it to Athuma Sub county that reflected lack of clean water in the area. The lack of a clean water source and other challenges identified by the Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) and their local leaders impelled a Community Score Card that prioritised it as a most pressing need for an immediate response.

An Interface meeting was therefore conducted by Nebbi District NGO Forum in collaboration with the CMGs of Olyeko Watershed where the community members from the 3 villages were sensitized on the importance of clean water source and how the location for drilling was determined. Given the importance of the meeting, The LC III Chairperson of Athuma Sub county, Hon. Onegi Jinaro in his concluding remarks expressed gratitude to meet the community to discuss issues concerning the 3 villages (Omiyu, Rabu and Arikpa Central). He admitted that gaps existed and promised commitment to work with the community for development.

He emphasized the significance of maintenance of all water sources as a sole responsibility of water users and encouraged them to ensure effective monthly contributions for routine maintenance because **Sub county doesn't do minor repairs**. He requested the community to contribute generously for the borehole drilling.

On a similar note, the LC II Chairperson of Olyeko Parish Mr. Canmua Saviour who was also present during the meeting requested the community to cooperate with government and show interest in government programmes and that, government programmes come slowly after needs that are generated by the community.

### After Interface meeting

After the Community Score Card and interface meeting, the community members showed willingness to contribute the required amount to facilitate the drilling process under co-funding. This however was not adequate. They had only contributed 80,000/= (**Eighty thousand shillings only**) which had delayed the drilling process. To this effect therefore, Athuma Sub county leaders did not wait but called the drilling Company (**MSR Technologies Uganda Limited in March 2021**) and the borehole was drilled, a clean water source was ready for use on Easter Day (**4<sup>th</sup> April 2020**).



*The children fetching water from the new Omiyu Community Borehole as the staff from NDNGOF (Emmanuel) looks on*

This was done on an agreement that the community would pay the remaining balance later.

### Plan

The LC I Chairpersons of the 3 villages sharing the borehole had planned to have a meeting with the households to speed up the process of contributing for the remaining balance and to decide on the monthly contributions for the water source maintenance. Similarly, a plan was underway to select new Water User Committee members (all the 3 villages to be represented) and request the Sub county to intervene with a training for proper management of the water source.

## STORY 8:

### ADIDA RIVER

#### Introduction

Adida is one of the rivers that connects Athuma and Akaa Sub counties in Zombo district. As one of the important routes that promote movements between the 2 Sub counties for various economic activities including education, it was significant for both sub counties to open the road on both sides of the river. In that line, Athuma Sub county did their part up to Adida river.



*The improvised bridge on Adida River on the side of Akaa Sub county*

#### Process

During an interface meeting about Omiyu Community Borehole, the LC III Chairperson Athuma Sub county had confirmed that part of the road on Akaa side would also be opened by the community and that all the villages from both sides would collaborate to work on the spot where the bridge would be constructed. He assured the community that mobilization was under way and a Tipper Lorry would bring in Marram and lobbying would be done through the district for the bridge construction.

He (LC III Chairperson) however cautioned the community on careless use of the opened road through cutting trees that would fall on the road and interrupt movements, planting of trees very close to the road as well as dragging hoes on the road.

### Bad news

Akaa Sub county had not opened the road on their side that has affected lobbying Zombo district for the construction of the proposed Adida Bridge and yet the condition is so deplorable! There are so many people who risk crossing Adida river every day for various economic activities on either sides. A case in point is of Mr. Okethi Zenone who is a teacher of Abanga Kubi Primary School in Akaa Sub county but yet resides in Arikpa village, Athuma Sub county.



Mr. Okethi Zenone (Teacher) crosses Adida bridge on the side of Athuma Sub county

During one of the visits in Olyeko parish, Athuma Sub county in Zombo district, Mr. Okethi Zenone laments, ***“I wake up very early every day to catch up with lesson time in my school but I am always challenged by the risk and difficulties in crossing this river especially on Akaa side....! My concentration as well is very much affected because even when in class, I keep thinking of how I would cross the river on my way back home late in the evening...!”***



The Programme Manager (NDNGOF) struggles to cross Adida river on Akaa side

Furthermore, Okethi added, ***“communication is so difficult because the learners from Akaa Sub county who wish to study in Athuma Sub county cannot make it due to very poor infrastructure and the improvised bridge is so risky to cross...”***

The LC V Chairperson of Zombo district is reported to have been contacted already by the LC III Chairperson of Athuma Sub county to lobby for the bridge. Whereas, for Akaa Sub county, the road on their side had not yet been opened as planned.

### Plan

The LC III Chairperson of Akaa Sub county is expected to mobilise his community members to open the road so as to lobby Zombo district to act on the bridge issue.



Nyingaling Kennedy (CMG) shows how bad the path after crossing Adida River is, as people from Akaa side pave their way, heading to Athuma Sub county

### STORY 9:

## OGONJU COMMUNITY BOREHOLE NUSAF I



The Ogonju Community Borehole in a jungle

### Introduction

Ogonju Community Borehole was the first borehole ever constructed in the area under NUSAF phase one with a total number of **142 households** by then. However, there are currently 3 other villages born from Ogonju village like Arikpa Central (**36 HHs**), Arikpa Centre (**37 HHs**) and Kathanga (**34 HHs**) whose households were all beneficiaries to the Borehole. Since its construction, the Borehole had lasted for a period of over 10 years! It had been repaired for more than 5 times with community contributions until it was discovered that all the 12 pipes were rotten.

During an interaction with an elder Mr. Okweda Boniface of Ogonju village and first former Chairperson of the Water User Committee (WUC) for 5 years (from 2008-2012), he confirmed that old pipes were used to replace the rotten ones during the numerous repairs made to the Borehole. **“Most of the pipes that were replaced were very old ones. Sometimes the Pump Mechanic would weld pieces of metal to reinforce some rotten pipes”**, he added.

### When it broke down

After several repairs were made to the Borehole as reported above, it eventually broke down completely in June 2020 and the community was left in a dilemma of clean water shortage. Currently, the household members of Ogonju travel long distances to fetch clean water from the neighbouring villages and Arikpa Primary School.

In addition, the current village Chairperson LC I, Mr. Oromcan Joel reported having presented the case to the former Sub county Chief Athuma Sub county. Unfortunately, it was discovered that the pipes could not be replaced as the funds collected by the water users was so meager to buy 12 new pipes and the Sub county on the other hand did not have the required fund for the major repairs needed. Besides, focus (Budget) was on new villages that did not have clean water sources before for new drilling, and other water sources that could be repaired at an amount of not more than 500,000/= (Five hundred thousand shillings only), as confirmed by the current Sub county Chief, Athuma Sub county on a telephone call.

### Associated challenges



Mr. Okweda Boniface, former Chairperson of the Water User Committee (WUC) narrating the status of the water source at the verandah of his house

The absence of a clean water source in Ogonju village has registered many associated challenges. In a discussion with the LC I Chairperson of Ogonju village Mr. Oromcan while checking on the broken down Borehole, he noted with deep apprehension the fact that cases of Typhoid and Diarrhea were increasing amongst his community members because of drinking from a very dirty nearby water source called “**Can Ocuka**” literally meaning “**Poverty has forced me**”. **Can Ocuka** is just a well that has existed for many years that is mainly being used for washing purposes....it is covered with Algae/Spirogyra. Due to lack of a clean water source nearby, many households are forced to drink this dirty water especially the children....., he lamented.



Mr. Oromcan Joel (LC I) and Emmanuela (NDNGOf) checking the broken down Borehole

### Future plan

Prior to the construction of Ogonju Community Borehole, the village had a protected spring “**Bin ku Woru**” meaning, “**Come with humility**” not far from the broken down Borehole. However, this protected spring too had broken down. With the current lack of a clean water source in the area, the LC I Chairperson plans to organize a meeting with the water users to share a tentative budget for the repair of the “**Bin ku Woru Protected Spring**” to rescue the situation. He is convinced that the water users would make contributions because repair of a Protected Spring does not require a lot of fund as compared to that of a Borehole.

### Good News!

Towards the end of the year 2021, encouraged by the CMGs of Olyeko Parish in Athuma Sub county, Zombo district, frequent meetings were held with the community with quick contributions that led to the repair of the Spring, while the LC III Athuma Sub county lobbied the district for the repair of the Borehole.



The Woman MP of Nebbi District participates in Advocacy Walk against Teenage Pregnancy organized by MEMPROW



Recovery of embezzled fund of Ovurukojo Borehole in Pakwach