



KRC UGANDA

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021**

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Consolidating our strategic progress

2021 was an important year in our strategic journey. We concluded our strategic planning period 2016 – 2021, guided by our development ideology of “Increased household food and income security, civic competence for improved livelihoods.”.

A review of this planning period was commissioned at the close of 2021, preceding the development of a new strategic plan.

Our mission to serve continues, and “Consolidating our strategic progress” thus far became a core focus for the closing term, while looking ahead to commence the new strategic planning period, 2022 – 2026.



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People are empowered to map their development path while KRC predominantly plays a facilitation role.

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Contents

Message from the Board Chair--	6
Message from Executive Director -	7
Our Mission. Our Vision. Our Core Values. --	8

OUR PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE - 9

Food Security & Agribusiness (FAGRIB) Unit --	9
Environment and Energy (E&E) Unit --	9
Governance, Policy and Advocacy (GPA) Unit -	10
Information, Research & Communication (IRC) Unit --	10
Our Operational Environment- --	11
Our outreach summary --	15

OUR STORY -- 16

1.0 ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY, HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND AGRI-BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES -- 17

1.1 Resilient and productive family farms -	17
1.2 Increased Production Volumes --	17
1.3 Increased Farm Sales --	18
1.4 Improved Food Security Situation --	18
1.5 Maternal Child Health and Nutrition --	19

2.0 ENHANCING CIVIC COMPETENCE THROUGH RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY - 29

2.1 Conflict prevention and peace building --	29
2.1.1 Conflict early warning and response --	29
2.2 Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights --	30
2.3 Conflict Mapping -	30
2.4 Leadership and governance- --	31
2.5 Aiding access to justice for the poor --	31
2.6 Youth Engagement --	32
2.6.1 Markets for Youth -	32
2.6.2 Increased gainful involvement of the youth in agriculture -	32
2.6.3 Youth engagement through sports--	32

3.0 ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION-- 33

3.1 Promoting Solar Powered Energy Efficient Stoves (PROSPERS)-	33
3.2 Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) -	34

4.0 INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION - 35

4.1 Research Products --	35
4.1.1 Dietary Diversity Study in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement --	35
4.1.2 Radio Listenership Survey --	35

4.1.3 Conflict Mapping Study	36
4.1.4 Food Safety Study in Fort Portal City	36
4.1.5 Food System Lab Blogs	37
4.2 Information and Communication outcomes	37
4.2.1 Online communication	37
5.0 GENDER MAINSTREAMING	-38
5.1 Enhancing gender equality in the coffee sector through men-engage	38
5.3 Equitable access and control over production and household resources	39
5.4 Addressing Child Malnutrition linked to Gender Based Violence	39
6.0 2021 HIGHLIGHTS	-41
6.1 KRC subscribes to the 13 Principles for food systems transformation	41
6.2 KRC Uganda National Office	41
6.3 Closure of the 2016-2021 strategic planning period	41
6.4 Commemoration of the International Youth Day 2021	42
6.5 The annual African CITY FOOD month campaign	42
6.6 The Networks for Peace, Multi-Country Peace Conference, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21st – 22nd September, 2021	43
Financial Statements	44

An overview of financials	-44
Statement of income and expenditure	44
Human Resources	-45
The Board of Directors	45
The staff	45

LIST OF STORIES

Story 1: Sikiriza Ombeni	20
Story 2: John Banga	23
Story 3: Kababiito Joy-	25
Story 4: Katusabe Beatrice-	26
Story 5: Dada Aline	27

LIST OF CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: Ministry of Lands reopens boundaries of disputed land in Kasese	29
Case Story 2: KRC Uganda Human Rights Clinic & Kasenene V	31

Acronyms

DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination committee
DRDIP	Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project
FSL	Food System Lab
GBV	Gender Based Violence
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
OTT	Over-the-Top Tax
PROSPERS	Promoting Solar Powered Energy Efficient Stoves
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
STRENPO	Strengthening Resilience and Promoting Inclusive
ULGA	Uganda Local Governments' Association
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations



Message from the Board Chair

KRC Uganda's mission is continually evolving to connect with the most glaring global issues; broken food system, climate change, civil conflict, abuse of human rights, and the shrinking space for civil society and free media.

As you will find exciting stories in this report, I am pleased that our interventions are making a real difference. The Human Rights Clinic, the Nutrition Clinic, KRC FM Radio, VSLAs, Farm Extension Services, Conflict Early Warning, to mention but a few; these programs are creating opportunities to masses of people to escape poverty. Our work with refugees is helping them rebuild their lives in a foreign land.

Through our researches, KRC Uganda continued to generate evidence-based information not only for our interventions but also to build a repository of knowledge to benefit everyone in the development sector.

2021 was the final lap for 2016-2021 strategic plan. As board, we commissioned its review and a process to develop a new strategic plan 2022-2026. It was a prudent and inclusive process that involved series of stakeholder consultations. I am hopeful that the next phase will start on strong strategic footing, drawing energy the many accomplishments and lessons learned from even situations where we have failed.

On this note, I wish to commend the KRC team - staff and Board members- for standing firm, despite the risks, to continue serving the communities. On behalf of KRC Uganda, I most sincerely wish to express our appreciation to the partners who continually support this work.

Welcome you all and enjoy reading our 2021 Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Beatrice Kiraso'.

Beatrice Birungi Kiraso

Board Chairperson KRC Uganda



Message from Executive Director

As I note down these remarks, I express gratitude to all our development partners and our civil society colleagues for all your support in 2021. Some partners, like Hivos and Broederlijk Delen have walked this journey with us for about a decade now and they have never tired from our ever-evolving mission.

It's such an honor to be trusted this much. More strategic partners have since come on board and are significantly contributing to the accomplishment of our mission.

Allow me make a few highlights of how we summed up 2021. It was a year of recovery from the impasse caused by COVID-19. The recovery was flagged by an increase in our project portfolio, enabling us actualize many of our strategic result areas of Youth Engagement, Environment and Energy, Foods Systems, Good Governance and Policy Advocacy, Food Security and Agribusiness, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building. Throughout our program we reached 105,809 people with direct services, of which

61 percent were women. We also reached to 40,660 people through our online engagements. There are so many stories to tell behind the numbers, and we bring some of the stories in this report. Our promise to expand our programs to Northern Uganda was also actualized, working in 3 refugee settlements and host communities in Lamwo (Palabek), Arua (Rhino) and Yumbe (Bidibidi). The program is Northern Uganda works to advance peaceful co-existence and respect for human rights. KRC Uganda also became a trusted development partner with government of Uganda, acclaimed by our capacity to conduct voter education, monitor and observe elections by the Electoral Commission. Our growing technical capacity in the energy sector also endeared to us a new partnership with the Office of Prime Minister to implement the World Bank funded Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP). Our resident capacity to articulate new ideas to transform Food Systems for humans and livestock resulted into opening new opportunities for the farming community.

Amidst all the successes however, we have sailed through some difficult and enabling contexts as highlighted in the operational environment segment of the report.

Once again, we are indebted to our development partners, the Local Governments, our colleagues in Civil Society, the media, researchers and academia, private sector partners, farmers, citizens, migrant populations for having been part of this noble mission.

I invite you to read in detail this summary of our work.



Mohammed Ahmed Shariff

KRC Executive Director

Our Mission. Our Vision. Our Core Values.



MISSION

To build a dynamically strong research, advocacy and community development organization that enables policy makers, academia, CSOs, private sector and rural communities to respond to development needs for a peaceful, equitable and economically sustainable development.

KRC generates and shares evidence-based information that contribute to sustainable, pluralistic, accountable and equitable socio-economic development.

KRC generates and shares evidence-based information that contribute to sustainable, pluralistic, accountable and equitable socio-economic development.



VISION

A leading research, advocacy and community development organization in Uganda.

Working with smallholders to promote food safety practices



CORE VALUES

We are driven by Love For Humanity, expressed through:

- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Service above self
- Respect for self and others

Our programs at a glance

In 2021, KRC Uganda operated four program components, which we commonly call program UNITS.

Working with refugee and host communities to access affordable and adequate nutritious food



Food Security & Agribusiness (FAGRIB) Unit

This is the economic arm of KRC that facilitates smallholders to use available resources to improve their livelihoods. The unit facilitates small holder farmers including refugees with knowledge, skills and financial resources for sustainable transformation from subsistence into market-oriented production. The unit promotes targeted value chains, including Coffee, Bananas, Maize, Legumes and Horticultural crops. FAGRIB also facilitates a Food Systems Transformation aimed at addressing household level and policy challenges of the agri-food system in Uganda.

Facilitating vulnerable communities access environmentally-friendly sources of cooking energy.



Environment and Energy (E&E) Unit

The core mandate for this unit is to promote efficient utilization and management of natural resources, energy and environment with full participation of communities, refugees, private sector, NGOs and government institutions for an inclusive green growth economy. The unit specifically promotes efficient energy cooking stoves, bio-gas, solar energy and briquette making. It also supports natural resource related disaster risk reduction initiatives, massive tree planting including establishment and management of community tree nurseries and restoration of degraded forests.

KRC Uganda facilitates platforms for dialogues and discourse on issues affecting communities



Governance, Policy and Advocacy (GPA) Unit

The major focus of this unit is to build the civic competences of citizens which in turn enables them to participate effectively in their development, engage actively with their leaders in realization of their rights and obligation to their country. In order to be able to make meaningful change with the citizens, it is critical to focus efforts on establishing proper policies for governance. This unit also advocates against all forms of exploitation & abuse, and promotes accountable leadership and a corruption-free society.

The KRC FM radio team on a day-out to meet listeners and clients



Information, Research & Communication (IRC) Unit

The Information, Research and Communication Unit executes the institutions research mandate and makes evidence-based information available to relevant audiences to support advocacy, influence policy change and validate all interventions of the above program units (GPA, FAGRIB and E&E). The IRC Unit repackages information and disseminates it to different levels through KRC FM radio, videos, insightful stories, illustrations and comics, online platforms, public dialogues and other citizen engagement platforms.

Our Operational Environment

Ongoing reflection is part and parcel of KRC's programming outlook. We study the prevailing environment in which we operate, which enables us to engage in candid discourses to develop context specific programs. The following operational contexts were very key to our program interventions in 2021.

1. FOOD SECURITY AND AGRIBUSINESS

Ban of Uganda's maize exports into Kenya and Burundi

In March 2021, the Burundi Ministry of Commerce instated a ban on all maize grain and flour for a period of six months irrespective of the countries of origin over contention that imported maize was found to be *"not good"* and could affect people's health. Relatedly and earlier, the Kenyan Government had banned maize imports from Uganda and Tanzania over similar safety concerns. Food safety, nutrition and food security are core areas of KRC programming and overtime, smallholder farmers have been supported in the areas of proper post-harvest handling to prevent food contamination. Our current Food Systems Lab (FSL) program engages food sector players in action research aimed at gathering evidence for advocacy in food safety and improving working conditions of street food vendors in view of providing safe and nutritious food to the urban population.

Uganda coffee exports reach a new record high

Uganda recorded a 23% growth in coffee export earnings for the 2020/21 coffee season (October-September) to US\$629.8million. Latest data from the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) shows that farmers exported 6.49million 60 kg bags of coffee for the 2020/21 season compared to 5.36million



60kg bags in the 2019/2020 season. The farmers earned US\$512.22million in the previous year.

Coffee is one of KRC's supported value chains. The outcome evaluation of the Sustainable Family Farming Development Program at the end of September 2021, revealed a 59.8 percent in coffee production for households supported through KRC's agricultural extension support. Production increased from 184 kgs to 294 kgs.

2. GOVERNANCE AND POLICY ADVOCACY

2021 general election in Uganda

On 14th January 2021, Uganda went to the polls to elect the President and the Members of Parliament, followed by election of other elective positions in local governments. The period climaxed KRC's Civic and Voter Education program funded by the Democratic Governance Facility and heralded our strategic engagement aimed stimulating citizens' civic competence. KRC Uganda was also amongst selected CSOs accredited to monitor and observe the general elections by the Electoral Commission, to ensure the integrity of process and results of the election. The period also witnessed enormous audience traffic and participation on KRC FM Radio programs that gave aspiring candidates space to campaign during the peak of COVID-19.

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (Presidential Elections Act, Section 56(1)), as amended RESULTS			
DISTRICT	046 KAMWENGE		
Registered Voters	117466		
Total No. of Polling Stations	250		
Total No. of Polling Stations Received	250 (100.00% of total polling stations)		
Candidates' Names	Votes	Percentage	
AMURIAT OBOI PATRICK	386	0.43%	of valid votes cast for candidates
KABULETA KIIZA JOSEPH	41	0.05%	"
KALEMBE NANCY LINDA	82	0.09%	"
KATUMBA JOHN	149	0.16%	"
KYAGULANYI SSENTAMU ROBERT	3969	4.38%	"
MAO NORBERT	41	0.05%	"
MAYAMBALA WILLY	38	0.04%	"
MUGISHA MUNTU GREGG	517	0.57%	"
MWESIGYE FRED	90	0.10%	"
TUMUKIUNDE HENRY KAKURUGU	108	0.12%	"
YOWERI MUSEVENI TIBUHABURWA KAGUTA	85241	94.02%	"
Valid Votes	90662		
Invalid Votes	1087	1.18%	of Total Votes Cast
Total Votes	91749	78.11%	of Registered Voters
Spoilt Votes	233		
Returning Officer's Name	Magezi George William		
Date	15/01/2021		
Place	Kamwenge District Hall		

THE RETURNING OFFICER
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
15 JAN 2021
KAMWENGE DISTRICT

Presidential elections tally sheet. KRC commissioned election monitors and observers were deployed at polling stations to scrutinize the transparency of election-day proceedings of the general elections



Vote counting at a polling station in Kamwenge. KRC monitors and observers were posted to different polling stations to ensure the integrity of the process

Restrictions in the operations of Civil Society

In February 2021, the government halted DGF operations over allegations of funding subversive activities aligned to promoting the interests of the opposition and foreigners. The suspension of DGF funding cast uncertainty over operations of about 74 civil society organizations associated with the fund, including KRC. The state action was seen by many as a suppression of civil society space and citizen freedoms.

On August 20, 2021, the NGO Bureau announced the halting of activities of 54 civil society groups, including human rights and election monitoring organizations. It was alleged that 23 of the organizations were found to be operating with expired permits while 15 others had “consistently failed to file annual returns and audited books of accounts.” Another 16 groups were “operating as NGOs without registering with the NGO Bureau.” Most affected CSOs expressed concern about the Bureau’s failure to give them an opportunity to respond to the allegations before taking such drastic measures.

Relatedly, the government proposed that all donor programmes will be signed off by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. In the proposal, it stated that donors are supposed to prepare country strategies jointly, and that all programmes and projects will be jointly implemented with the relevant government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). The government suggests that the decision intends to streamline the operations of development assistance and ensure that the people of Uganda obtain maximum benefits from the assistance the country gets from non-state actors. However, the decision was construed by civil society as a move to defeat its vibrancy and independent oversight role, which is an essential ingredient of an effective and stable democracy.

3. INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

Restrictions on internet, social media and the widening digital divide

The government and social media hostilities began when social media multinationals, Twitter and Facebook blocked a number of social media accounts belonging to government officials on allegations of manipulating public debate ahead of the 2021 elections. In retaliation, the government also pressed restrictions for citizens to access internet and social media on suggestions that certain individuals in the country and abroad were using social media to promote hate speech. However, some human rights organisations such as Freedom House, voiced their concern over what they termed as “declining internet freedoms in Uganda”.

Prior to that in July 2021, a new tax on internet came into force. A 12 percent tax on internet data was imposed as a part of a new tax package passed under the Excise Duty (Amendment) Act 2021.¹⁹ While the new tax exempted data used for medical and education services, it was condemned by a wide section of internet users for its reverse implications in further widening the digital divide, when internet costs become unaffordable to the majority poor. Meanwhile, the new tax was slapped on Ugandans as they celebrated the repeal against Over-the-Top Tax (OTT) earlier imposed on social media use after government failed to raise the revenue it had anticipated. To the public, the move was like giving with right hand and taking away with the left hand. When OTT was first introduced in 2018, civil society groups raised concern that it would make social media access overpriced and restrict its use especially for poor Ugandans. In the development arena, a retrogressive move in the access and use of internet has a direct setback to all sectors of the economy.

4. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Spike in fuel prices

Pump prices continued on their upward spiral. It started at the beginning of the financial year in July when 100 Shillings incremental tax was added for every litre of petrol. By the end of the year, cumulative tax increments amounted to a total of 1,450 Shillings tax per litre. However, pump prices again surpassed the new tax resulting into fuel price crisis that dominated the most part of the year. By the close of November 2022, Uganda fuel prices were the highest in East Africa. The average price of petrol at pump station in Uganda was Shs4,590 (approx. US\$1.3) per litre which was the highest among member states of the East African region.

Sharp drop in exchange rates

The Uganda shilling has persistently depreciated against the hard currencies particularly the US Dollar. The price of the dollar was highest on 19th October 2021 at 3629 UGX. It was lowest on 5th September 2021 at 3519 UGX. The Euro was highest on October 20th 2021 at 4,219 UGX, and lowest on 26th November 2021 at 3,988 UGX. Downward fluctuation of exchange rates greatly impacted on project budgets, increasing administration costs of delivering projects.

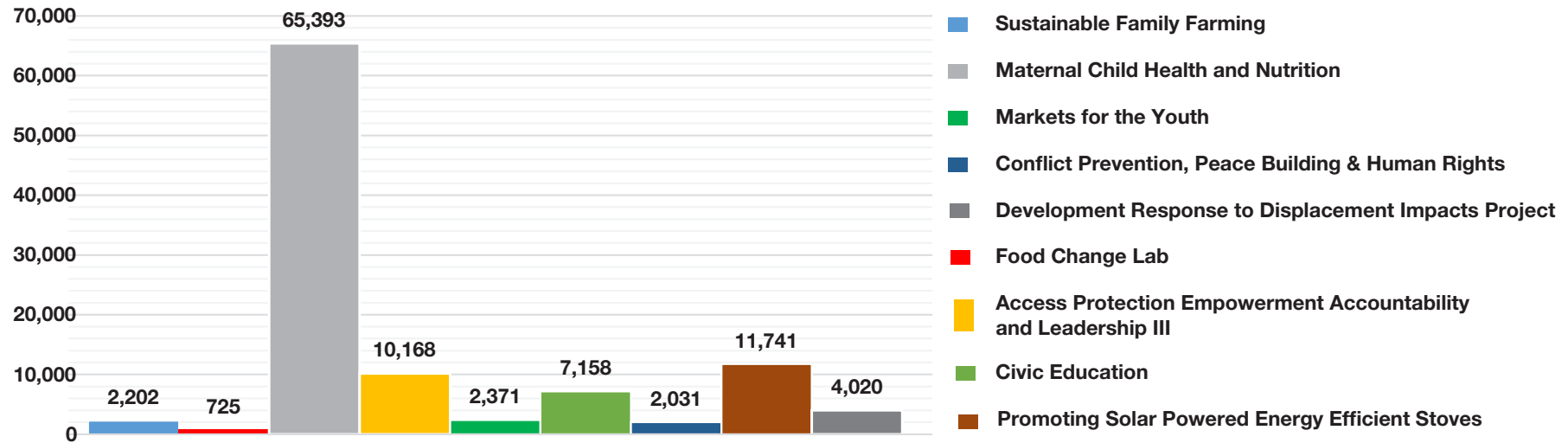
Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals

At KRC, the SDGS is a working document that keeps our focus aligned to global development agenda. We continually work within the interconnectedness of all the 17 goals with specific attention to SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 15, and 16.

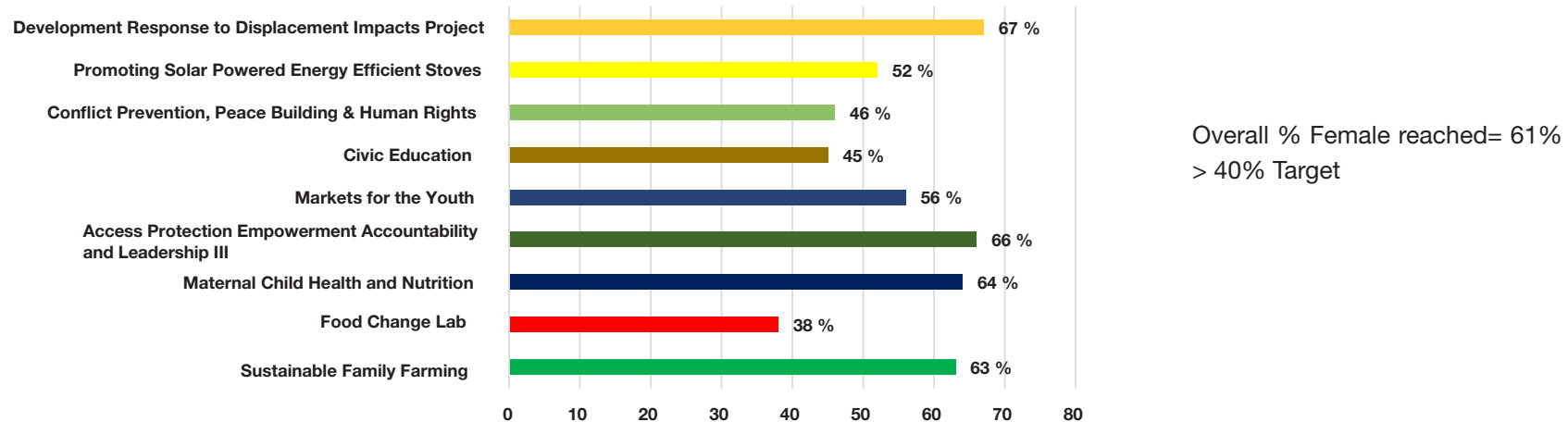


Our outreach summary

People reached through our projects



Overall proportion of females reached





Our story





KRC Extension Workers provide ongoing advisory services to smallholder farmers on their gardens to enable direct transfer of skills and good practices

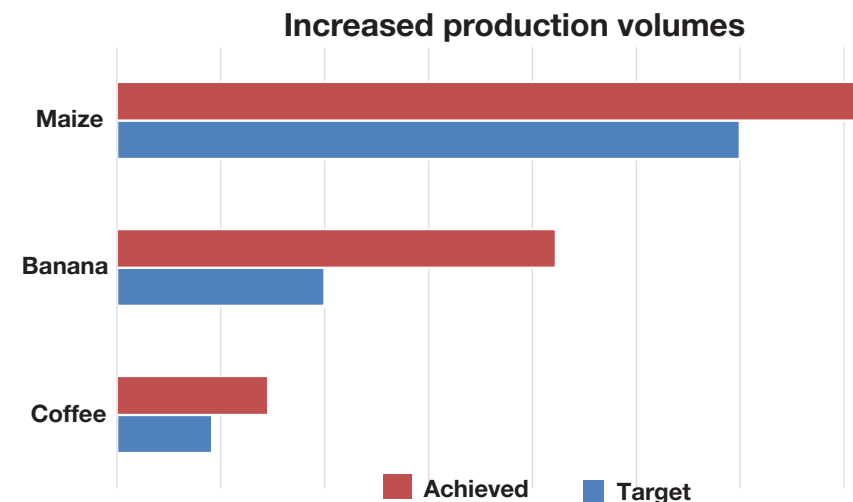
1.0 ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY, HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND AGRI-BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

1.1 Resilient and productive family farms

In 2021, KRC's sustainable family farming development program funded by Broederlijk Delen worked with 24 farmer groups and 18 cooperatives, directly reaching 1,183 people in their households and 40,000 people in mass events. In terms of vulnerability inclusion, the program reached 400 young people (18-35 years) and 913 women. Delivered through our farmer extension and advisory services, family farmers are supported to work in 3 major value chains, including coffee, banana and maize. An outcome study of the program was conducted at the close of 2021 and overall, the program realized positive change on major indicators.

1.2 Increased Production Volumes

According to the outcome study, production volumes for all the targeted value chains increased, largely attributed to availability of adequate family labour during the second COVID-19 lockdown.



1.3 Increased Farm Sales

Whereas there was a marginal increase in the annual returns of sales aggregated from the 3 key value chains. The increase in sales supported by increased prices of coffee (UGX 4,500 – 8,000 per kg) and maize (UGX 300 - 800 per kg). The sales for banana miserably plummeted as a result of a sharp price drop from over UGX 10,000 to 2,000 per bunch.

My family was affected heavily during the COVID-19 lockdown especially the household income went very low due to lack of ready market for my bananas. My household major source of income is from bananas. Before the COVID-19 lockdown, I used to sell banana twice in a month selling about 110 bunches with the least being sold at 10,000 Ugx which earns me about 700,000

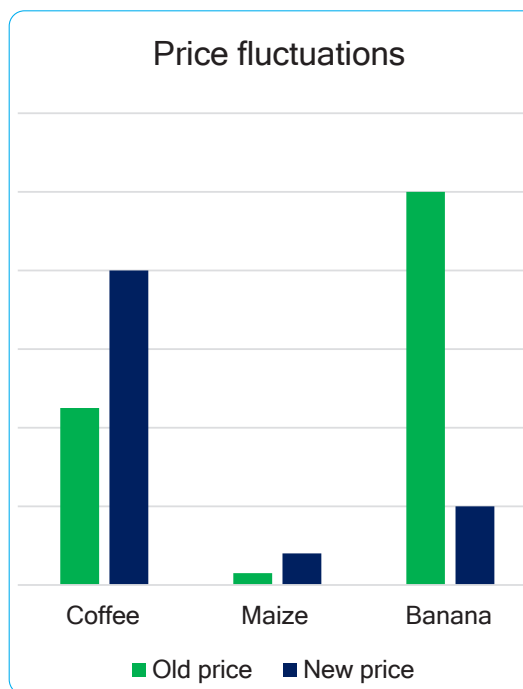
Ugx per month. But now I earn about 30,000 Ugx-60,000 Ugx per months and this after cutting all the bunches in my plantation.”
Banana farmer from Harugongo Sub County in Kabarole District.

1.4 Improved Food Security Situation

The outcome study conducted amongst supported family farmers found that their food security situation improved from the target of 70 percent to 77 percent at the end of 2021. Improvements in food security are attributed to increase in production volumes, especially on bananas and maize. In addition, the program supported 77 farmers with seed which was shared among the neighbour

households. This resulted into increased production of vegetables, including carrots, cabbages, egg plants and Sukuma wiki.

Regarding food storage, 97% of the targeted households reported having an appropriate food store with majority using the piece meal harvesting of bananas, cassava, sweet potatoes, beans and other foods. Other appropriate food storage methods adopted by the targeted farmers included storage in bags mounted on pallets in the house, lockable metallic containers and use of sealed/ air tight bags. There is a notable shift from the use of tradition post-harvest equipment such as the granary. Only 1percent of the households surveyed were found to maintain the traditional granaries. Trainings and continuous mentorship by KRC extension workers were also instrumental in improving the food security situation at household level.



Only 1% of the households surveyed were found to maintain the traditional granaries.



Farming households trained in kitchen gardening have adopted the practices, resulting in improved food and nutrition security at household level.

of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) through a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) with focus on Children 6- 59 Months and PLW with MAM. In order to reach a bigger population with optimal health and nutrition messages, the project leverages on an MCHN plus methodology of community engagement through a care group approach where community volunteers are selected by the community members and each of the selected volunteer is trained by the nutrition and health technical team on health and nutrition modules/concepts. The volunteer then cascades the same knowledge learnt to his/her 10-15 neighbors and continuously follows them up to ensure adoption of optimal health and nutrition practices. Program deliverables are at Health Centres, community outreaches, and household level by Nutritional Assistants and Community Based Facilitators.

1.5 Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

The Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) program implemented in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in partnership with Save the Children International (SCI) aims to prevent stunting and all other forms of under nutrition during the first 1000 days of life. Nutrition (MCHN) targets pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6 to 23 months. The program also delivers quality treatment



Nutrition Gardens established by program participants to improve nutrition in the household in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

Success stories

Story 1: Sikiriza Ombeni

18-year-old Sikiriza Ombeni is a lactating young mother enrolled for Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme (TSFP) at Kakoni Health Outpost. When Ombeni and her 19-year-old husband received their first child through caesarean section at Bujubuli Hospital, little did she know that her lack of basic nutrition knowledge for self and the child was going to bring her multiple health complications. She developed engorged and painful breasts and could no longer breast feed her baby with ease and later on fell into depression because of the demands to find food for herself and the baby. Ombeni was distressed with persistent issues; feelings of abandonment by her unsupportive husband, not knowing how to go about her engorged breasts and lack of food for herself and the baby. She became so weak that she decided to wean her baby from breast milk.

When Ombeni visited the health centre for post-natal care (PNC), it was discovered that she was moderately acutely malnourished, screened with a

MUAC of 21cm. She was then immediately enrolled on a targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) by KRC in partnership with Save the Children at Kakoni Health Outpost.

Ombeni had resorted to feeding her 2 months baby on cow's milk, a practice that is highly discouraged for a baby of two months, and a potential cause of morbidity and malnutrition in children. Besides, the practice of feeding the baby on cow's milk was expensive, unsustainable and not nutritious for the child.

One day during her TSFP visit she was told to attend one of the nutrition education sessions on breastfeeding, where she got opportunity to share her ordeal with other mothers.

In the nutrition shelter where she sat amongst the other clients and care givers, Ombeni attentively listened to the Nutrition Assistant highlight the benefits of breast milk; as being inexpensive, nutritious, body protective and discouraged mixed

feeding. In her narration, Ombeni revealed that the awareness she received that day was deeply impressed on her heart that she wished she had the knowledge from the time she gave birth to her baby. As Ombeni continued to listen to the Nutrition Assistant emphasize that adequate nutrition during infancy and early childhood are mandatory to ensure childhood growth, health and development of the baby, she was greatly moved and wanted to breastfeed her child again. After the nutrition education sessions, she moved closer to the Nutrition Volunteer and softly whispered "I need to talk to you; I have an urgent breastfeeding problem". She was directed to a secluded counselling corner where the volunteer met her; with tears rolling down her eyes she narrated her experiences, from the time she had a caesarean delivery, and showed her the engorged breast. The Nutrition Assistant, with the aim to discover the cause of engorgement requested her to place the baby on the breast and alas just as she had predicted noticed wrong attachment of the baby onto the

breast. The Nutrition Assistant wore a warm smile and encouraged her to be strong and promised her that the problem of painful breasts was going to be sorted within a few days if she adhered to the advice given. She was also told to gently hand-press the breast milk from the engorged breast using warm water and resume breast feeding with right positioning and attachment.



Ombeni is happy one month after practicing proper attachment, during the second home visit

After 3 days, a follow up visit was made to Ombeni's home to see how she was progressing with advice. It was found that the engorged breast was beginning to heal and resumed to breast feed her baby. Ombeni full of excitement, found courage to put into practice all the nutrition advice she could get at the health centre and at home. As a result of these efforts, her nutrition status improved to Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of 22.8cm. Happy Ombeni now teaches mothers around her homestead of the power of optimal breastfeeding attachment or latching and how it prevents breast engorgement and ensures sufficient drainage of the breast for continued milk supply.

During the home visit; Ombeni's adolescent husband was also taught on ways he could get involved in making sure his household had a good nutrition and health status. The young couple was advised to establish a kitchen garden to ensure they have affordable nutritious food at all times.

Strengthening Agricultural extension and advisory for family farmers

Agriculture extension services remain the main conduit for disseminating information on farm technologies, supporting rural adult learning and building the capacity of farmers in technical and managerial skills.

KRC introduced a community-based agricultural extension program at the start of 2021 to address glaring farm extension service gaps in Kabarole, Kasese and Bunyangabu Districts. According to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (2019), the ratio of extension worker to farmer is 1: 1,800 whereas the recommended is 1:500 (the approved structure is 13 officers at district level and 3 extension staff at sub-county level).



KRC Agriculture Experts provide on-call extension and advisory services to smallholder farmers

KRC extension workers are working with farm families organized in their associations to transfer skills for good agricultural practices (GAPS) through on-farm demonstrations, mentoring groups to streamline governance and facilitate linkages with agriculture market system actors.

KRC farm extension operates a demand driven approach, responding to the felt needs of farmers. Through the farmer hotline (0800133533) stationed at KRC FM Radio and daily interfaces with the communities, farmers' questions are received by the experts, researched and responded to on radio for the benefit of the wider community.

KRC extension workers are always on call to respond to questions from the farmers. This approach proved to meet the core mandate of agriculture extension, most importantly spending adequate time with the farmer and providing timely response to advisory needs.

Application of Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs)

One of the key success factors for increased farm production in 2021 was the resilience achieved through adoption of Good Agriculture Practices. For sustainable family farmers, the adoption agro-ecological practices as part of the wider GAPs were so critical as testified by participating households in the program.

Advancing agroecological farming technologies



Banga makes and uses organic inputs on his farm

Story 2: John Banga

John Banga is the chairperson of Busamba I Coffee Growers Association in Bunyangabu District. He is also a participating farmer in the Sustainable Family Farming Project implemented by KRC with funding from Broederlijk Delen. He was trained by KRC Extension Workers in the use of bio-concoctions, which are organic farm inputs for prevention of pests and diseases. Bio-concoctions can also be used as a soil conditioner to boost and maintain the health and productivity of the soil. In his mid-60s, Banga is a good student who practices what he learned. He uses selected green plants, ash, urine and pepper to process organic pesticides and manure. Banga has trained his association members in the same technologies. He attests to the benefits of using organic farm inputs. His coffee plantation is much healthier than his neighbors' who have not adopted similar practices. Productivity has since improved and the coffee beans are heavier.

Banga and members of Busamba I Coffee Growers Association have weaned-off dependence on synthetic pesticides and soil conditioners. Before he was introduced to organic methods by KRC, Banga was using synthetic chemicals, spending between 70,000 – 80,000 Uganda Shillings per season. He says that this cost has significantly been reduced, knowing that synthetic farm inputs degrade the soils. Banga however, testifies to some challenges of stubborn pests and humid conditions. When he approached KRC Extension Workers, he was advised to use synthetic inputs in moderation, and in particular application of small amounts of Dithiane to prevent scotching of crops during humid conditions.

In addition, Banga's bio-concoctions have earned him some income. Passersby on his coffee farm noticed that his coffee and other crops were doing so well, so, they were curious to find out his secret and requested to buy his product. Indeed, the market just knocked on his door. He sells 5 litres of bio-concoctions for 10,000 Uganda shillings, a price lesser than synthetic products to promote organic farming. Banga proposes that if he had larger containers, like a 10, 000 litre tank and packing containers, he would increase production for sale. He says that giving his product good packaging will build confidence of the buyers that they are using a genuinely refined product.

Banga is all praise for organic farm products. He asserts that because of their broad-spectrum composition of materials obtained from nature, bio-concoctions provide multiple benefits for pest control, vigor growth of crops and soil improvement.

However, Banga cautions that it's important to carefully master the mixing of the right amount of ingredients to get an effective product. Bio-concoctions also do not have product user guidelines to prevent wrong application. Overdose could lead to scotching of the crops. Banga says that he took time to do several trials to arrive at the right measures or dosage. Adequate research is needed to determine the lethal dose of bio-concoctions.

Influencing sustainable food systems

The Fort Portal Food System Lab (FSL), a KRC-HIVOS partnership project funded by Health Food Africa and the European Union is our lead intervention for involvement in Sustainable Food Systems. A sustainable food system is one that aims to achieve food and nutrition security and healthy diets while limiting negative environmental impacts and improving socio-economic welfare.

The Fort Portal FSL employs a multi-actor approach to identify the key food systems constraints and develop actions and innovation to address them. The key actors in the Fort Portal FSL include; local government, District Nutrition Coordination committee (DNCC), Coalition of the Willing (a consumer advocacy group), food ambassadors (influential leaders who promote healthy diets in their communities), small holder farmers, small scale food processors, street food vendors, formal chefs, academia, researchers, Hospitals, nutritionists, media, artists and civil society organisations.

In Fort Portal and Tooro Region, the FSL works to fix a broken food system characteristic of high malnutrition and stunting rates among children. The Sub Region has the highest rates of stunting (40.6%) among children under five in Uganda.



Key highlights

- 20 members of the Coalition of the Willing (CoW) were sensitized in different areas of the food system, including; nutrition, food safety, food loss, consumer rights and responsibilities as well as the advocacy role of CoW in food systems
- 52 food system actors were oriented in collaborative frame work on Food systems transformation.
- Influenced Kabarole District Local Government to adopt the UN collaborative framework on food system transformation, and was later signed by Council
- 72 Village Health Teams (VHTs), 48 food processors, 65 lead farmers in Fort Portal Tourism City and Kabarole District were oriented in understanding of food systems, food safety and nutrition.
- From the food safety study in Fort Portal City, it was found that 54% of the inspected public eating places' employees (waiters, waitresses and chefs) did not have effective hair restraints. Poor waste management was observed where some food stalls in Kabundaire market were selling food stuffs closest to garbage points while abattoirs were found with poor waste management and drainage system.

Launch of the Nutrition Clinic

A Nutrition Clinic was launched in Fort Portal City and is instrumental in screening children for malnutrition, provides counselling, dietary therapy and collaborates with the Regional Referral Hospital to treat acute malnutrition cases.



Access to finance

KRC promotes Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in refugee and host communities as a social safety net where people save, access small loans, invest in small businesses, build resilience to shocks and wean-off helpless dependence on relief aid. Evidence from our work prove that VSLAs enabled women street food vendors navigate the economic recession following the extended COVID-19 lockdown. Amongst refugee communities in Kyaka II and Kyangwali, VSLAs enabled income deprived households fleeing conflict in DRC to integrate and contribute meaningfully in developing the local economy.

Financial Access for Women in Agri-Food Systems

The Fort Portal City Women Street Food Vendors' SACCO that started in 2020 with 30 member is now of age. The women started off with a paltry 2.9 million Uganda Shillings out of their own savings, and supported by KRC-Hivos partnership with 15 million as a seed capital. Ever since, the seed capital has been used as a revolving loan fund to its members. By the close of 2021, the women's SACCO has accumulated financial assets worth 40 million Uganda Shillings.

The initiative to boost business finance for vulnerable urban populations evolved from the pioneering work of KRC on food systems supported by Broederlijk Delen, Hivos and IIED from as early as 2014. Several years later, a study of the impact of COVID19 on street food vendors established that the financial situation of women was critically decimated. This finding resulted into the funding of Fort Portal Women Street Food Vendors' SACCO. The SACCO became a life-saving business boost for the women vendors during the post COVID-19 business recovery period.

Now, the Fort Portal Women Street Food Vendors SACCO is a flagship project for financial inclusion of women in agri-food systems. Two women attest to the benefits the SACCO has created for their businesses and households.

Story 3: Kababiito Joy

Street Food Vendor, Kibogo Road, Fort Portal City

Joy, 35 and mother of two children, hails from Bwabya, Rwengaju Parish, Busoro Sub County. She is a member Fort Portal City Women Vendors Savings and Credit Association. Joy is a street food vendor who operates her business along Kibogo Road, in the city centre of Fort Portal. She serves chips and chicken. She's been in this business since 2016. She testifies that as result of her job, she's been able to keep her two children in school, take care of her elderly parents and run her home.

She has utilised loan services from the SACCO to boost her business. Starting in 2016 with capital of not more than 100,000/= Uganda Shillings, she



Kababiito Joy, Street Food Vendor supported through the Women Street Food Vendors' SACCO by KRC

has been able to grow her business both in capital assets, working capital and savings to over 4 million Uganda Shillings. She was able to complete her house from the proceeds of her business.

Financial services from the SACCO have kept her business afloat and ensured its recovery and stability during the COVID-19 recession. Her daily running expenses on stock has seen since the start increased from about 70,000/= Uganda Shillings to 250,000/= Uganda Shillings. Joy's business is capable of feeding about 100 clients per day.

She says that this success comes at the backdrop of KRC's support, that the group received through training in business skills, business records, cost-benefit analysis, good nutrition, proper food handling and hygiene. The loan facility was especially very instrumental. Despite the success, Joy and her fellow women vendors decry the lack of security of tenure of the work premises. The vendors on the street occupy rented spaces where landlords charge exorbitantly high costs but fail to provide security of vendors' property, utilities and sanitary services. The rainy and stormy days are the worst because they lack shelter to seat their customers. Nonetheless, life goes on. The vendors look forward to delayed promises from the City authorities to resettle them in a safer, convenient place.

Story 4: Katusabe Beatrice

Street Food Vendor, Fuelex, Bwamba Road Fort Portal City

Beatrice, 27, started her business career on the streets of Fort Portal in 2019, vending food, after dropping out of school in 2014. She testifies that her entrepreneur spirit motivated her to begin something small that has incredibly sustained her livelihood for 3 years. With a loan obtained from the KRC supported Women Vendors' SACCO, Beatrice was able overcome the COVID-19 business shutdown to grow her business from 50,000/= in 2019 to over 2 million shillings in 2021. She prepares and serves potato chips to over 60 clients everyday along Bwamba Road, at Fuelex Boda-Boda stage, close to a motorcycle repair garage in Fort Portal City. Beatrice has an eye for business. While serving food to her clients from the motorcycle repair garage and boda-boda stage, Beatrice saw an opportunity to diversify into retail dealership of spare parts. She sought a loan from the SACCO and plus her own savings, she rented a kiosk next-door and established a motorcycle spare parts retail shop. Beatrice maintains her two businesses operating alongside each other to diversify her income. She employs another woman vendor to support her juggle the two businesses. Beatrice is grateful to KRC for having supported the women vendors' SACCO from which vendors have benefited credit services.



Beatrice at potato chips business on the street



Enterprising Beatrice, diversified her income sources, to start a Motorcycle Spare Parts Shop

Financial Access for Refugees and Host Communities

KRC implemented the Village Savings and Loans Association Plus initiative (VSLA Plus) as part of the wider ECHO-APEAL Consortium package designed to enhance provision of targeted life-saving protection and inclusive services to refugees and vulnerable host communities.

In one of our success stories, it's gratifying to see how VSLAs empower refugee women integrate in the foreign country but also participate in the development of the local economy.

Story 5: Dada Aline

Dada Aline 30, a Congolese national, Refugee and a mother of one, survived the onslaught of civil and ethnic wars in Congo in 2018, fleeing to Uganda with a few members of her family. Aline is now a mother of one child. She and her family have since resettled in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in Kyegegwa District. Aline recalls the dark days and suffering before she joined one of the KRC's supported VSLA Groups, Tuiniwane VSLA Group in Bukere. The group is comprised up of 30 members, of which 27 are women. In the group, where she was taught how to save money, she started saving a paltry UGX 6,000/= monthly portion of the World Food Program cash transfers for refugees (mupokero). Before joining the VSLA group, she was using her own small money to buy and vend tomatoes from house to house in the trading centre to find buyers and the small profits that she made would be used to grow the business. After saving several times with the group, she requested for a loan of UGX 100,000/= which



Dada Aline attends to her grocery stall

she used as capital to increase her stock. All profits that accrued were kept aside to service the loan, which she paid back without much struggle. After clearing the loan, she borrowed more money which she was given due to her good established credit worthiness. She borrowed UGX 250,000/= which she used to pay three months' rent for her business kiosk and also stocked more items.

As time went on, and her business starting to expand, Aline felt that she needed to move her business premises from a kiosk to a spacious place, which she did. After some time, the landlord decided to sale off the house. Aline went back to the VSLA, borrowed more money and bought off the house which she currently owns. Together with her friends, they celebrated the achievement and hard work. She furnished the house with more stocking shelves and added more items such as soap, salt, water, cereals and other basic home items that people always buy.

According to Aline, the VSLA was a game changer, first by providing a financial boost to her business idea, and then a social belonging to a group from where she derives emotional support to confidently face life's challenges that come with forced migration. She now uses her success story to inspire young people in the settlement to hope again. Aline is also able to support the extended members of her family.

Partnership for a bio circular green economy

KRC Uganda started a new program with Bio4Africa to establish a green biorefinery in Fort Portal, Uganda. Together with other partners in the European Union and Africa, the project aims to empower farmers to sustainably produce a variety of higher value bio-based products and energy, including animal feed, fertilizer, pollutant absorbents, construction materials, packaging, solid fuel for cooking and

catalysts for biogas production. It's envisaged that this product menu will significantly improve the environmental, economic and social performance of forage agri-food systems.

KRC Uganda will among other roles produce protein concentrate, liquid whey, and press cake from forage species and grasses selected according to

their percentage protein content, percentage dry matter yield under optimal agronomic conditions and conduct feed trials on cattle, pigs and poultry. These products are expected to improve voluntary feed intake, milk yield and milk composition in cattle; egg quality and production in poultry and; average daily weight gain, feed conversion efficiency in pigs.

KRC Uganda will also produce soil conditioners using manure generated from the feed trials. The manure will undergo Hydrothermal Carbonization (HTC) to produce biochar that will be used in soil improvement trials.

According to FAO, some 54 percent of Africa's work force relies on the agricultural sector for livelihoods, income and employment, especially in family farming. Its however, characterized by low productivity due to numerous constraints in production that include among others climate change, pests and diseases, declining soil fertility, low quality inputs and inadequate extension services. The Bio4Africa project was designed in the context to address some of the above issues. The projects focus will be on transferring simple, small-scale and robust bio-based technologies adapted to local biomass, needs and contexts.



2.0 ENHANCING CIVIC COMPETENCE THROUGH RESEARCH, POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Under this program area, KRC Uganda partnered with the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) to advance peaceful co-existence and respect for human rights in Northern Uganda. We also partnered with Minority Rights Group International to build an effective conflict early warning infrastructure for conflict prone areas in what is called, “Networks for Peace: Preventing and resolving conflicts through early warning mechanisms in Africa”.

2.1 Conflict prevention and peace building

2.1.1 Conflict early warning and response

KRC Uganda continued to strengthen conflict early warning mechanisms amongst the Basongora pastoralists and coordinate activities for early response. KRC works with a network of 30 peace ambassadors, 80 community members organized in 4 groups of the coalition of the willing known as Nyekundire (participation by choice), security agencies, local governments and other public agencies to deescalate risky incidences of conflicts violence. In its third year of implementation, the Networks for Peace project is supported by Minority Group International with funding from USAID.

Case Study 1: Ministry of Lands reopens boundaries of disputed land in Kasese

A conflict mapping study conducted by KRC in 2020 revealed that local communities in Kasese were approaching violent boundary conflicts in Kahendero with Uganda Wildlife Authority, the public custodians of Queen Elizabeth National Park. A number of reports had been received through the Early Warning System, about animals becoming a menace to the local community, destroying crops, attacking livestock and endangering human life. KRC and Peace Ambassadors were also involved in series of engagements, sensitizing communities on peaceful conflict resolution, mediating and amplifying the outcries of the local people with local and central government leaders to resolve the land question.

As a result, on the 3rd August, the Ministry of Lands convened a special meeting at Muhokya Sub County Headquarters to address the contestation over 9,000 acres stretch of land in Kahendero, neighboring Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Efforts to open the boundaries in the past had stalled due to alleged failure of government to involve the community. Learning from this experience, the

Ministry of Lands constituted a joint technical committee to reopen the boundaries. The committee comprised surveyors from the Lands Ministry, officials from UWA, local leaders and members of the community.

The preferred participatory process to resolve the conflict had been long advocated for by KRC, while leading conflict mediation



between Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the local community. The participatory process was commended by Kasese District Leadership, UWA and the community who suspected that they had been intentionally sidelined in the previous attempts to open the boundaries. It was also intimidated by residents of Kahendero that the production of GeoMaps upon which the boundary demarcation had been drawn by the Lands Ministry without their involvement. During the boundary opening exercise, the District Chairperson of Kasese, Hon. Muhindi called for respect of the established boundaries from the conflicting parties. Pontius Ezuma, the Chief Warden at Queen Elizabeth National Park called for rebuilding of relations between UWA and the local community and amicable resolution of contentions as they arise. It is hoped that the exercise to open boundaries will indefinitely ease tensions between the conflicting parties.

2.2 Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights

KRC interventions aimed to enhance good governance, rule of law and human rights. In partnership with the Democratic Governance Facility, the civic education program enhanced

citizens' civic competence. Equipped with the right information on leadership accountability, voter rights and obligations, the citizenry in the Rwenzori region was effectively prepared to participate in the election of their leaders based on real issues rather than coercion.

2.3 Conflict Mapping

In October, KRC commissioned a conflict mapping study to gather in-depth insights of conflicts affecting refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda. In the findings, different forms of conflicts consisted of:

- Resource based conflicts, mainly concerning access to land, building materials and fuel
- Identity conflicts that are mainly ethnic driven
- Generational conflicts involving the youth and the adults
- Structural and relationship conflicts

Other forms of conflicts were mainly influenced by the external actors, inherited from the places of origin of the refugees which were still imbedded in ethnic identity. It was further revealed that the above forms of conflict were fueled or driven by conflicting livelihoods (e.g., livestock farming versus crop farming), limited social services, differences in legal regimes, nature of socialization and untreated trauma inflicted by wars in Sudan and DRC.



Fencing-off gardens and homesteads among the Dinka and Nuer pastoral refugee communities helps prevent conflicts resulting from livestock trespass and grazing of neighbors' gardens.

2.4 Leadership and governance

Domestic election monitoring and observation

In the run-up to the 2021, general elections in Uganda, KRC was recognized by the Electoral Commission of Uganda as a trusted civil society partner in promoting civic education in the Rwenzori Region. KRC was also mandated by the same body to undertake the monitoring and observation role of the general elections in six districts of Kabarole, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kitagwenda and Bunyangabu. 60 (sixty) election monitors and observers were trained and commissioned to report proceedings of the general elections, to ensure free and fair elections by observing the process from the beginning to the end vote count. Election monitors and observers were drawn from KRC's change agent network, trained, mentored and equipped with information and knowledge on citizen rights and obligations and civic duty.

2.5 Aiding access to justice for the poor

The KRC Human Rights Clinic continued to provide pro bono legal advisory services to indigent persons, be it mediation, giving information, or referrals. Complaints are usually registered through the early warning system online, call centre or mobile phone SMSs. Legal information is also disseminated through KRC FM Radio and many times mediation is administered through community outreaches.

Case Story 2: KRC Uganda Human Rights Clinic & Kasenene V

Note: (this is a true story but using fictional characters for confidentiality of information shared)

KRC Uganda Human Rights Clinic received a complaint from Kasenene V alleging that Ivan B unlawfully built his house on her land. That upon the death of Mutabazi the father to Kasenene V and five others, his property was distributed amongst his children and widow by the elders of the clan, demarcations were duly designated and an agreement thereto executed. Amongst the children who received land was Deusdedit M (RIP) a father to Ivan B. That when the father of Ivan B passed on Kasenene V brought Ivan B to stay in with his grandmother who was being taken care of by Kasenene V. That when the widow passed on, her property was also divided amongst the six children (including the late Deusdedit M whose share was given to his son Ivan B) and the house was given to Kasenene V since she had constructed it. That later when Ivan B was nineteen years, fully aware of his late father's property and share, he built a semi-permanent house on the land of his then care taker (Kasenene V), he promised to demolish the house. He however kept upgrading the house despite the warnings from Kasenene for 14 years (and as per the time of reporting, the house was more of a permanent house).

When the Human Rights Clinic contacted him, he informed us that he was raised by Kasenene V and

thus has every right over her property. He further added that his aunt Kasenene V is the one who told her to build on that site.

The clinic invited the parties for a medication meeting which was held on the disputed property. Among the invited people where the LC1, Lc2 and Lc3 chairpersons of the community, clan members, residents of the village among others. The KRC Uganda Legal Officer educated the parties about the law in regard to the various issues that arise from the facts and their resolution in the formal procedure with much emphasis and cutting the advantages of ending the matter at mediation

The attendees of the Mediation suggested various solutions to the challenge and finally settled for the most convenient solution. The attendees resolved that the house should not be demolished but rather that piece of land (land A) is given to Ivan B and a piece of land of the same measurement should be measured off the land (land B) that belonged to Ivan B (the share of his late father Deusdedit) and given to Kasenene V. The attendees also appreciated the fact that the land taken by Ivan B was of more value than the land being given to Kasenene (since it was close to the road) therefore they agreed that an extra 20% of land A should be added on Land B for matters of Justice. This resolution was unanimously welcomed and an agreement was executed and both parties signed.

2.6 Youth Engagement

2.6.1 Markets for Youth

The Markets for Youth Program was launched, funded by GOAL. 2,371 young people organized in their groups with a motivation to collectively and collaboratively increase their influencing power in the agricultural market systems were reached through:

- Group profiling and selection (70 groups)
- Training of youth champions in group dynamics, VSLA approaches and community engagement approaches (139 were trained)
- Mentorship of youth groups in group dynamics



2.6.2 Increased gainful involvement of the youth in agriculture

Under the sustainable family farming, improvement was registered in the number of youths finding autonomous livelihoods in the program value chains. A total of 250 youths were registered compared to the set target of 200 youths. This result can be attributed to the fact that KRC continued working with the existing youth groups in Kasenda, Harugongo and

Kitswamba sub-counties. In addition, KRC recruited two new youth groups (Twanzane youth group in Rugendabara and Rweteera youth and farmers Association). These youths were trained in saving with a purpose (SWAP), exposure learning visits, mentorships in value addition, business planning and enterprise selection.

2.6.3 Youth engagement through sports

As part of KRC's youth engagement program, KRC FM more than ever stimulated the ingenuity of young people to get involved in responsible, challenging actions to create positive social change through sports.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, when so many young people faced a long period of redundancy and restricted travel and social restrictions, KRC radio sports programming became a cornerstone for youth engagement and rallying them to live healthy lifestyles, guard against the spread of Corona disease and participation in agriculture.

KRC FM's Sports Hour Show aired Monday – Friday from 2.00PM to 4:00PM is a unique program hosted by a panel of 3 sports journalists who are not only knowledgeable in the field of sports but also qualified coaches, sports delegates, and referees. The crew has hosted several dignitaries in the sports sector, including the President Rally Fraternity (Federation of Motor sports Uganda-FMU), the FUFA President Eng. Magogo Hashim, the Patron



KRC FM sports crew and commentators, conduct weekday conversations with young people using sport as a mobilization tool for development.

Tooro Province Football Club, Fort Portal Member of Parliament Hon. Alex Ruhunda, Mr. Karamagi Job who has played for Kasese Cobalt Company Limited FC in the Super League, Mr. Magezi Milton Kabuleta who has played for Express FC, Uganda Airlines FC, Hodari FC, Mbarara United and Mr. Dan Rubombora who is certified Confederation of African Football B coach, among others. Hosting such personalities is a great inspiration to young people to develop discipline in the different stations they are at in life. For young people, sports builds self-discipline and skills that can be transferable to their other activities.

3.0 ENHANCING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION



Our strategic focus in the area of climate change in 2021 was to increase the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities through the promotion of energy saving technologies.

3.1 Promoting Solar Powered Energy Efficient Stoves (PROSPERS)

The Promoting Solar Powered Energy Efficient Stoves (PROSPERS) project implemented in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement (Kikuube District) implemented in partnership with CARE International in Uganda and African Clean Energy (ACE) funded

by the Dutch Relief Alliance. The project promoted solar-powered energy-efficient stoves and briquettes through improving access to quality and affordable clean energy solutions and maintenance. In order to promote ownership and ensure sustainability of project outcomes, the PROSPERS project adopted a business model called User Referral Bonus (URB) model whereby clients are able to reduce the monthly instalments on which they purchase the product by recommending it to a friend. Briquette production was also purely established as an income generating enterprise for

participating groups to address the high demand for affordable and accessible fuel alternative for refugee and host populations. On the social side, these energy solutions create a leeway for women and girls who shoulder the burden of domestic cores, collecting firewood and in the process experience untold sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).



**Charcoal
briquettes**



**ACE One Stove marketed
through the User Referral
Bonus (URB) model**

- 700 ACE1 stoves sold out to 700 households
- 10 briquettes making machines distributed to 10 groups
- 10 groups trained in quality briquette production and marketing
- 05 local mechanics trained in briquette machine repair and maintenance

WEKA HAKIBA STORY



WEKA HAKIBA is a Swahili translation of “KEEP VIGILANT or KEEP ALERT”. Weka Hakiba is one of the beneficiary groups of the PROSPERS project. In her testimony, Alphonsina Muhawe, the groups Chairperson exudes the vigilance that members of this group have shown in taking-up some of the novel programs that support refugees. It’s not a vigilance to receive handouts but to learn, innovate and make a living in sometimes an intimidating migrant environment. With a membership of 25 women, the group received specialised training in briquette production. With KRC’s intervention, the group was supported with a set of motorised briquettes making machine with production

capacity of 300kgs per day. Weka Hakiba women have one unique success factor for their business, and that is their mastery skill in making a good binder for the briquettes. While many artisan players in briquette industry continues to struggle with standardisation of product quality, the women of Weka Hakiba have an instinct to get the rightful ratio of the ingredients. According to Alphonsina, Weka Hakiba has so far largely achieved their objectives of the project. Their dependence on firewood and its scarcity has been removed. They are also hitting the energy market with a promising product to improve their livelihood.

3.2 Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP)

Also implemented was the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), a government of Uganda partnership funded by the World Bank. The project aimed at addressing environmental challenges in refugee hosting districts brought about by unsustainable exploitation of natural resources by host communities and high refugee populations. KRC Uganda promoted local production and use of briquettes, Lorena and Jiko stoves, and institutional cook stoves.

- 70 environmental conservation groups supported in 5 districts
- 30 motorized briquette making machines distributed to 30 groups
- 70 environmental conservation groups trained in briquettes making
- 06 institutional stoves constructed for public schools in Isingiro District
- 1,535 Lorena stoves constructed for households
- 17 Kilns constructed for burning portable cookstoves
- 17 groups trained in molding portable cookstoves (Jiko Stoves)
- 156 youths trained as TOTs in household Lorena stove construction

4.0 INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

The Information, Research and Communication Unit continued to execute its research and communication mandate.

4.1 Research Products

4.1.1 Dietary Diversity Study in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

This study was conducted in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement amongst pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 5 years. It aimed obtaining in-depth comparative study of how dietary diversity amongst the target group contributes to Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and chronic malnutrition (Stunting) in Kyaka II refugee settlement. In addition, the study aimed to generate evidence on the understanding of healthy diets in Kyaka II and factors that prevent the study group from accessing healthy diets. The results of the study will contribute to a more conducive policy environment, laws and development programmes that make the region's food system more inclusive, sustainable, diverse, healthy, acceptable and affordable foods available to all to address the glaring challenge of stunting in Kyaka II.

4.1.2 Radio Listenership Survey

Radio remains a significant information and communication tool used in the rural areas. In 2013, KRC with major funding from Broederlijk Delen founded KRC 102 FM Radio as part of its broader research communication strategy. KRC FM's major objective was to communicate evidence-based information to the farming community, thus deriving its brand name, the "Farmers' Voice". Since its establishment, a number of programs have been aired but there was no comprehensive study conducted to establish its listenership in the context of the prevailing media landscape. As such, this study was specifically conducted to:



1. Assess the listenership landscape of major FM radio stations in the Rwenzori Region
2. Establish audience preferences to the different program segments across the FM radio stations in Rwenzori Region
3. To gather listeners' perspectives, feedback and recommendations for improvement of KRC FM radio programming and listenership

A total of 442 people from Rwenzori region participated in the study. Data was collected using the M-water Mobile App that uses Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, which makes it easier to determine the spread and coverage of survey sample.

The study revealed that, a total of 41 FM radio stations are listened to by the wider community in the Rwenzori region. Voice of Kamwenge (VOK) followed by KRC FM topped the list of the most listened to radio stations at 35.0% and 10.5% respectively. The most popular radio brands in the Rwenzori Region are VOT (46.8%) followed

by KRC FM and VOK FM both at 32.4%. The study also revealed that people most listened to the news programs (39.9%), followed by human rights educative programs (14.3%) and family affairs (14.3%). The farming and sports programs on KRC FM were the most listened to on KRC FM, accounting for 19.0% of the listenership. It was recommended that KRC FM should increase the strength of its network signal and develop a robust advertising strategy in order to further improve on its listenership.



4.1.3 Conflict Mapping Study

The Conflict Mapping Study was conducted in Northern Uganda to inform the implementation of the “Advancing Peaceful Co-existence & Respect for Human Rights among Refugees & Host Communities Project in Palebek (Lamwo District), Rhino Camp (Arua District) and Bidi Bidi (Yumbe District).

The key objectives of the study were to assess the conflict situation, existing gaps in the mitigation measures and management structures, and suggest practical recommendations in relation to approaches and interventions that can contribute to achievement of Peaceful coexistence within the refugee settlements and host communities.

The report explains the characteristics of the existing conflicts, the causes and drivers, the nature of the conflict actors, indicators, what has been done to address the conflict contexts, the gaps thereof and suggests practical recommendations for instituting sustainable peaceful coexistence interventions.

4.1.4 Food Safety Study in Fort Portal City

This food safety study was undertaken by KRC with support from Health Food Africa to generate situational evidence on proper food handling protocols in Fort Portal City. A sample of food markets, public eating places and abattoirs was inspected by the research team, and data collected based on recommended food safety standards.



Slaughterhouse waste management in Kitumba abattoir



Fresh food stalls next to a landfill in Kabundaire market

4.1.5 Food System Lab Blogs

The IRC unit produced and published three blogs online, highlighting issues shrouded in a broken food system;

1. Visioning sustainable production and consumption of nutritious food in Fort Portal [<https://healthyfoodafrica.eu/blog/visioning-sustainable-production-and-consumption-of-nutritious-food-in-fort-portal/>]
2. Community perception on the burden of malnutrition and child stunting in the Tooro Sub Region [<http://krcuganda.org/admin/uploads/Nutrition.pdf>]
3. Growing cities, new food safety challenges: Case of Fort Portal Tourism City [<http://krcuganda.org/newspage.php?id=32>]

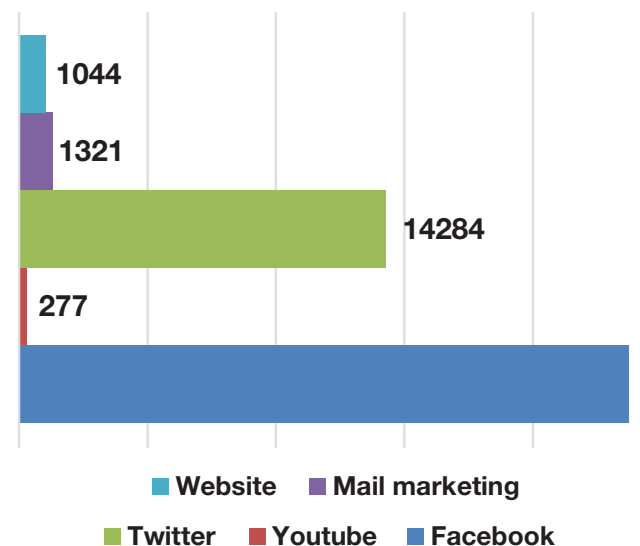


Unhygienic handling of meat in some city abattoir. These findings feed into advocacy for addressing food safety challenges in Fort Portal City.

4.2 Information and Communication outcomes

4.2.1 Online communication

With growing importance of digital communication stimulated by COVID-19 restrictions on mobility, meetings and socialization, KRC enhanced the use of internet to communicate our work. However, 2021 witnessed declining internet freedoms in Uganda as a result of a ban on social media, interrupted access to internet especially during the general elections and introduction of prohibitive taxes. The following graphic table shows our audience reach from the use of social media and the website.



5.0 GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Across KRC programs, the gender dimension of our interventions applies to the larger group of beneficiaries and any attention paid to it does not make it exclusive to any particular program. As such, this section highlights selected areas where gender aspects are integrated.



5.1 Enhancing gender equality in the coffee sector through men-engage

At the backdrop of a lucrative coffee sector lies serious gender concerns where women reportedly suffer various forms of domestic violence meted on them by men. Accordingly, there are ample literature and research pointing accusing fingers to men as perpetrators of gender-based violence.

At KRC, we have learned from experience, while working with coffee farming communities that during peak seasons of coffee harvesting and marketing, there is reported escalation of GBV cases in the households. It's reported that violence on women and men arises from domestic disagreements on the control and use of coffee revenues. In patriarchal societies, men assume excessive power over control of resources negating the immense contribution of women and their right to equal treatment in accessing those resources. Karangura mountain community is renowned for high incidences of early marriages. Both



Men Engage GBV awareness meeting at Karangura Peak Modern Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Society

issues of domestic violence and early marriages are associated to access and management of resources at household level.

In 2021, KRC trained 10 men from Karangura Peak Modern Coffee Farmers' Cooperative Society in mitigating gender-based violence amongst the coffee farming community while directly working with men, in what was called Men Engage. The Men Engage idea is KRC's pragmatic response to GBV. It involves men working with men to bring awareness on GBV issues, persuade, negotiate and seek their commitment to the adoption of respectful and positive social and cultural norms with respect to gender equality. Men engage enrolls selected men from the community as role models and advocates against male orchestrated GBV.

Ronald Tumusiime, the chairperson of Karangura Role Model Men Engage Group asserts that household conflicts over money are the leading cause of GBV during the peak seasons of coffee harvesting and marketing. Through awareness rising and mediation of cases, more men are brought to the cognizance and appreciation of behavior change. GBV creates severe effects for the coffee sector. According to Ronald, GBV directly affects workforce productivity, reduces production volumes and consequently affects household revenues and the entire performance of the sector. It's often

asserted that societies that treat women badly are poorer and retrogressive.

5.3 Equitable access and control over production and household resources

From the sustainable family farming program, we registered overall increase in the number of households reporting joint decision making over household resources and joint planning and decision making over production resources. This can be attributed to the trainings in joint household and awareness raising on radio. In addition, the programme registered equally registered an increase in the number of household reporting absence to Gender Based Violence. This can be attributed to the sensitization on the triggers of GBV during the COVID-19 lockdown on radio, men engage activities, training of media personalities to create awareness on GBV risk identification, mitigation and response, timely referral of GBV cases to other partners along the GBV referral pathway.



Ronald Tumusiime, the chairperson of Karangura Role Model Men Engage Group

5.4 Addressing Child Malnutrition linked to Gender Based Violence

In Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, the men engage model was used to promote optimal health and nutrition practices for pregnant, lactating mothers and their babies. During routine nutrition education and counselling sessions, KRC Nutrition Team encourages mothers to freely share information on non-health issues that are contributing to poor response of their children to Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSP).

While probing a mother whose child was taking exceptionally time longer on program than

recommended, it was discovered that the mother of the child was staying with an abusive alcoholic husband who was not providing food for the family. The mother narrated her ordeal.

“My husband chose alcohol over us, he is always drunk and never home, night after night I am physically and emotionally abused. I toil alone

to provide for all household needs and providing enough food for the children is a constant struggle.

This was a hurtful confession from a mother whose child is a beneficiary of the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) services in Kaborogota, Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. Raising children

single-handedly is not a very easy task for women, worse if they have to endure abusive relationships.

In order to address this nasty issue, the nutrition team visited the couple’s home to address the issue head-on while engaging the husband directly. Care was taken not to further destabilize the home but rather used choice words in a way that do not escalate tension in the family. After two consecutive mediation sessions with the couple, the KRC team realized that despite the couple’s struggles, the couple still wanted to move on without conflict. The husband accepted to be more accountable to his family and together with the wife engage in food production at home utilizing the small land they have. The father sensitized and accepted to take part in the feeding of the child during meal times. He accepted to restrain from excessive alcohol intake which would enable him have more productive time for his family. The husband and wife were thankful for the services KRC provides through its staffs to see their families happier. For behavior change to take place on the part of the husband, KRC staff continued to visit the family regularly for monitoring and support.



KRC Nutrition Staff during one the home visits to TSFP clients

6.0 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

6.1 KRC subscribes to the 13 Principles for food systems transformation

KRC signed a declaration to adopt the 13 principles for food system transformation. These principles provide a unifying factor of KRC's focus on food systems, agroecology and the environment through robust collaboration with relevant actors. In a related development, KRC was able to influence Kabarole District Local Government to adopt the Collaborative Framework for Food Systems Transformation.



6.2 KRC Uganda National Office

Following our move to Northern Uganda, KRC Uganda's expanded national focus was further impressed by opening a national office in Kampala, Uganda's Capital. The national office will play a significant role in coordinating KRC operations in Kampala and other regions. The national office will also contribute to robust collaboration with our national partners and advocacy efforts with duty bearers.

6.3 Closure of the 2016-2021 strategic planning period

Our five-year strategic plan 2016- 2021 came to a close at the end of 2021. The process to develop a new strategic plan commenced with review of the old plan and wide stakeholder consultations on their views into the new plan. The development of the 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) will be concluded in January 2022.



Stakeholder consultations during KRC strategic planning for the period 2022-2026.

6.4 Commemoration of the International Youth Day 2021

The International Youth Day was celebrated on the 12th August 2021. In Fort Portal, the celebrations were held at Kicwamba Technical College, organized by KRC, the Youth Innovation Hub, Y-Factor, Ile De Paix, the Youth Councils of Kabarole District and Fort Portal City and supported by GOAL under the Young Africa Works; Markets for Youth Program. In Northern Uganda, the Day was commemorated in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement, under the auspices of European Union funded peace programme.

The theme of the of the 2021 International Youth Day underscored the role of young people in transforming the currently troubled Food System, and sought their ingenuity and innovation to fix its deficiencies.

As KRC, the message of the International Youth Day addressed two strategic elements of our mission; promoting youth engagement in fulfilling and dignified work and influencing system change for food security and nutrition for all.



6.5 The annual African CITY FOOD month campaign

On 29th July 2021, Kabarole Research and Resource Centre joined Health Food Africa and Hivos to participate in the African City Food Month campaign webinar, that focused on the Multiplicities of entry points into urban food governance through the lenses of “Food Sensitive Urban Planning” and the “City Food Systems”.

The annual event is organized by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), a global network working with numerous local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. The African City Food Month campaign highlights diverse, innovative and evolving African urban food systems. During the event, KRC presented the operations of the Fort Portal Food System Lab to the global audience.



6.6 The Networks for Peace, Multi-Country Peace Conference, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21st – 22nd September, 2021

KRC Uganda was represented at the Multi-Country Peace Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon by the Executive Director, Mr. Mohamed Shariff and the Head of Governance and Policy Advocacy Unit,

Mr. Mugarra David. The conference is an annual meeting of the Network for peace project involving Minority Rights Group International and national partners from Uganda, Kenya and Cameroon.

The project works to build a formidable conflict early warning infrastructure, constituting of local communities, peace ambassadors (community resource persons), civil society, media, security

agencies and respective duty bears. The multi-stakeholder arrangement of early warning uses evidence-based information generated through the online reporting system (<https://rwenzoriconflictprevention.info/>). The conference discussed identity-based conflicts in the three countries and reflected on the opportunities and challenges to peace building with intention to generate ideas and consensus for collective action.



An overview of financials

	Dec-21
GRANT INCOME	UGX
DGF	-
BD	292,320,000
MRG	153,483,224
HIVOS PHASE IV	-
CARE APEAL 1	-
CARE PROSPER	515,503,750
GOAL	830,253,754
EUROPEAN UNION	1,086,729,301
CARE APEAL III	271,287,736
CARE APEAL 2	84,569,674
EUBIO REFINERY	820,618,221
DR DIP	3,161,869,831
CARE STRENPO	
HIVOS - STREET VENDORS	
HIVOS FOOD LAB-SD4 ALL	141,700,000
SAVE THE CHILDREN	386,066,209
TOTAL	7,744,401,700
OTHER INCOMES	
Rental Income	
Consultancy	13,296,300
KRC Farm	
Interest Income	1,138,490
Other Income	106,494,189
Revaluation Gain	
TOTAL	120,928,979

Statement of income and expenditure

	Note	Dec- 2021
INCOME		UGX
Grant income	2	7,744,401,700
Other incomes	3	120,928,979
		7,865,330,679
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative expenses	4	808,568,472
Direct Programme expenditure	5	5,351,850,478
Depreciation	6	58,929,887
		6,219,348,837
Surplus		1,645,981,842

Human Resources

The Board of Directors

No.	Name	Position
1.	Beatrice Birungi Kiraso	Chairperson, Board of Directors
2.	Thomas Kalyegira Rubaale	Vice Chairperson, Board of Directors Chairperson, Human Resource and programming committee
3.	Msgr Isaiah N Mayombo	Chairperson, Finance and Investment Committee
4.	Kateera Joseph	Member
5.	Kazigati Grace	Member
6.	Martha Muhumuza Sabiiti	Member
7.	Kanyarubona John Sunday	Member
8.	Kagambe Edmond	Member
9.	Muhindo Christine	Member

The staff

No.	Names	Title
1.	Mohammed Ahmed Shariff	Executive Director
2.	Muzinduki Patrick	Deputy Executive Director
3.	Bihunirwa Medius	Head of Unit-Food Security and Agribusiness Unit (FAGRIB)
4.	Nandera Michal	Finance and Administration Manager
5.	Mugarra David	Head of Unit-Governance and Policy Advocacy
6.	Kakande Godfrey	Accountant
7.	Bwambale Bernard	Nutrition Program Manager
8.	Niyigaba H. Ezra	Program Manager-Governance and Policy Advocacy Unit
9.	Tusiime Richard	Project Assistant – Markets for Youth Program
10.	Edyline Kakibogo	Project Assistant – Markets for Youth Program
11.	Musinguzi Francis	Information, Research and Communication Manager

12.	John Murungi	General Manager – KRC FM Radio
13.	Hyeroba Geoffrey	Monitoring and Evaluation Manager
14.	Kabajogya Alice	Project Assistant – Markets for Youth Program
15.	Mugerwa Fred	Project Officer-Civic Education
16.	Kihumuro Ainebyona	Project Assistant – Markets for Youth Program
17.	Kabugho Maria Gorretti	Nutrition Officer
18.	Okeng Alfred	Environment and Energy Officer
19.	Kahunde C Vicky	Accounts Assistant
20.	Katya Rabson	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
21.	Baluku Yosia	M&E Officer
22.	Kobusiinge Winnie	IT Volunteer
23.	Kaliisa Maureen	Project Assistant – Markets for Youth Program

24.	Mwirumubi Robert	Driver
25.	Kagaba Richard	Driver
26.	Basaija Joseph	Receptionist
27.	Katwere Florence	Field Training Officer-FAGRIB
28.	Kezaabu Margaret	Cleaner
29.	Esiolo Peter	VSLA Protection Officer
30.	Nyakairu Jack	VSLA Protection Officer
31.	Billy Bernard	Machine Operator
32.	Kaheru William	Cleaner
33.	Abas Bananuka	Driver
34.	Deborah Baguma	Associate, FAGRIB
35.	Ronald Buwa	Research Associate

Welcome to new members of the team

In 2021, we were joined by new staff. We were also glad to receive returnees who served KRC before but returned home to serve their treasured organisation.



John Murungi

General Manager,
KRC FM Radio. In
charge media and
public relations, KRC
Uganda

When John took his one-year leave from KRC in 2020, it was not a “good bye” but “see you soon”. He had previously served KRC for over 17 years, in communications, information, media, public relations, governance and human rights. John is a professional media practitioner having attained his bachelor degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University. He later pursued a bachelor of laws of Uganda Pentecostal University, Grotius School of Law and professional studies. His one-year leave from KRC was spent in the private sector. John’s wealth of experience weaves into his current role as General Manager at KRC FM Radio, the farmers’ voice. His unique expertise enables him to multi-task into media and public relations, human rights and governance.



Ronald Buwa

Biorefinery Research
Associate

Ronald joined as the Biorefinery Research Associate. Ronald is a PhD Candidate of Gulu University. He has his first and second Degree in Forestry and Crop Science respectively from Makerere University.

Ronald brings a wealth of experience in agriculture research to KRC and the bioeconomy sector obtained from his lecturing work with Mountains of the Moon University, and as a Research Assistant with the International Food Policy Research Institute. In his new role, Ronald will be training farmers on bio-based solutions in Agriculture Production. He will also do research design for validation of biorefinery products in improvement of livestock production. He will also be building capacity of his team, and mentoring them into the technical undertakings of the biorefinery.



Jackline Murungi
Human Resource
Officer

Jackline rejoined KRC as a Human Resource Officer after a twelve -year break, where she started her professional career working on Human Rights, Governance, Policy Advocacy. Her first professional qualification is a Diploma in Secondary Education of Kyambogo University, from where she added a first Degree in Social Work & Social Administration and then a Master in Public Administration, all from Kampala International University. In addition, Jackline studied a Certificate in Human Rights and Human Development in India.

Jackline returns to KRC with 15 years working for the non-profit sector. She brings vast experience in project management, policy formulation and management, human psychology to strengthen KRC's human resource systems.



Robert Musinguzi
Environment and Energy Officer

Robert is another returnee who served KRC diligently between 2014-2019 working on health advocacy and GBV prevention projects. Robert had his first career stint in the private sector and has always exhibited that entrepreneurial energy working on some extremely demanding projects. He brings on board excellent mobilization, facilitation, advocacy and marketing skills.



Sharon Kauda
Nutrition Assistant

Sharon joined the KRC team as a Nutrition Assistant with a professional background in Human Nutrition and Dietetics obtained from Kyambogo University. She is experienced working with children in the areas of early childhood development, counselling and training. She brings this experience to KRC's nutritional programming in maternal and child nutritional health.



Louis Twinamasiko
Agriculture Extension Worker

Louis joined KRC as Agriculture Extension Worker. He is an Agricultural practitioner with Diploma in Crop Production and Farm Management of Uganda Martyrs University. He comes on board with 8 years' experience working in the public sector as Community Based Facilitator with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. At KRC, Louis will be training farmers in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) and fostering linkages for agricultural markets.



Henry Kamanyire
M&E Officer

Henry was recalled to duty since he left KRC in 2014. His first professional job as Data Analyst at KRC and later Head of M&E at Kabarole Hospital, prepared him for return with added experience and skills to serve as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Henry has a Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics of Makerere University.



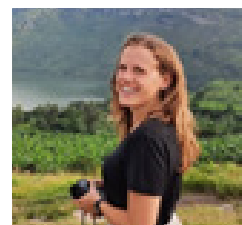
Irene Kamakune
Administration Assistant

Irene joined KRC as a Volunteer Administrative Assistant having started her administrative career in Agency Banking in the private sector. Her organizational skills, customer care and multi-tasking competences exhibited in her volunteer role helped catapult her into new role as a full Administrative Assistant. She is a BBA - Finance graduate of Makerere University Business School.



Esther Namara
Procurement Officer

Esther joined as a Procurement Officer upon completing her graduate BBA degree majoring in Procurement studies at Makerere University Business School. The new role is an exciting opportunity for Esther to translate theory into practice.



Emma Segers
Student Intern

Emma joined KRC on 5-months placement as a Student Intern from UCLL University College in Belgium where she is pursuing her Master Degree in Orthopedagogical Science. She is at KRC for a cross-cultural exchange and involved with young mothers and youth, training them to better organize and build strong institutions using her excellent organizational, relational, and communication skills.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



KRC Uganda

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<https://youtube.com/krcuganda1>

