



First Issue

Enabling Every *Child* To Reach Their Full Potential

Maiden Issue !





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EDITORIAL

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Dear Reader, Cognisant of the unique challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the new found opportunities in its

aftermath in 2021, our very first year of implementation we are glad to reflect on some of the key highlights of the Right2Grow Uganda program.

As we reflect, we pride in the fact that all Right2Grow Uganda partners embraced the new normal and effectively innovated unique styles of implementation.

At some point, virtual engagements were the order of the day due to restrictions on movement and gathering. Now is the time to look back on how we relied on collaborations with local partners under the Movement for Community

Led Development and other Right2Grow CBO partners, worked through districts and sub-counties and held small but impactful virtual, physical and hybrid engagements. We are excited to share this reflection with you, particularly highlights from entry meetings, National and District launches in the 10 districts of operation officiated by key government officials like the Minister of General Duties, Justine Kasule Lumumba Minister of Local Government, Raphael Magyezi, State Minister of Local Government, State Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Fred Bwino Kyakulaga, State Minister of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives, David Bahati, Members of Parliament and Resident District Commissioners in the various programme Districts.

In this issue we also bring you key highlights from our teams. Our partners conducted multi-

stakeholder engagements with district departments that are directly implementing nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions within the framework of multi-sectoral coordination. The programme partners also participated and supported various activities both at international and national level including webinars, campaigns and commemoration of International events like the International Youth Day, World Water Week, Global Hand Washing Day, Food Systems Summit, World Toilet Day, World Food Day and World Breastfeeding Week.

Just like John C. Maxwell said, "Reflective thinking turns experience into insights". We believe that our first year of implementation is filled with great insights that we have put together in this First Issue of our magazine.

Enjoy,

Gerald KATO

The Hunger Project

Right2Grow programme places great importance on availability, access and consumption of safe, healthy and adequate food as well as legislation

and governance for food, WASH and nutrition as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals specifically SDG2 on ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The year 2021 came with its unique challenges especially caused by the COVID-19 pandemic yet still it marked the beginning of an inimitable and strategic program of Right2Grow. With funding from Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the power of voices funding subsidy, the Right2Grow program strives to enable every child to reach their full potential and no child below 5 years is undernourished. It is an effort of 6 Global partners including The Hunger Project, Action against Hunger, World Vision, Save the Children, Center for Economic Governance and Accountability in Africa and Max Foundation who lead and ensure smooth implementation of the program in 6 countries including Uganda, Mali, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, and South Sudan.

In Uganda, the program operates in 10 districts with The Hunger Project Uganda (THP-U) as the Lead Partner directly implementing in Kabale, Maracha, Bugweri and Nwoya, World Vision Uganda (WVU)



in Buliisa, Kakumiro and Kamwenge whereas Action against Hunger (ACF) is in Yumbe, Adjumani and Kikkube. Right2Grow (R2G) is also implemented in partnership with national partners who include Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI), Nutrition Society of Uganda (NSU), Movement for Community Led Development (MCLD) and Food Rights Alliance (FRA).

The program has provided practical space to strengthen key nutrition actors like local communities, civil society, local and central government and development partners to support and/or advocate for an enabling environment to tackle stunting reduction for children under 5 in a multi-sectoral manner.

I am pleased to present to you the start of our journey and the progress towards building a Uganda with zero malnutrition and zero people without access to WASH services. In a consortium manner, we had joint activities like baseline study and program launches which provided an opportunity for partners to learn each other's work and networks and appreciate individual partner strength and comparative

advantage in the program. We also had partner led activities which are all put together for you. I am proud to say that we were able to establish CVA teams, support functionalization of DNCCs and drafting of DNAP II and established Nutrition Actors Platforms. You will interface with our ground breaking activities like the district entry meetings, the district launch events and the high level national launch. The resilience revealed by our national and international partners especially during the COVID-19 period is commendable. We share best practices employed to maneuver and successfully continue with implementation of the program despite the disruptions caused by the Pandemic.

We bring to you, engagements held at national, district and community levels as well as our key milestones. You will also learn how the different partners took lead on the various program thematic areas like Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking led by CSBAG, Advocacy led by World Vision Uganda, Communications and visibility led by The Hunger Project Uganda, Mutual capacity Development led by NSU and Linking and Learning led by FRA.



02

“

A community that is stunted cannot be transformed and when people are stunted, their life expectancy is low. God gifted us with good soils and we have to take advantage of that, where we have misused [the environment], we still have a chance to correct,” noted Lumumba.

Hon. Justine Lumumba
MINISTER OF GENERAL DUTIES

Getting **to** Zero

Harnessing the Growth of Every Child to Reach their Potential ...

Right2Grow Programme officially launches in Uganda

Right2Grow Uganda programme has made significant progress towards the Right2Grow ultimate goal of, "Every Child Being Able to Reach their Full Potential" and

various interventions contributing towards realisation of the four programme outcomes have been achieved.

The Right2Grow programme was officially launched in Uganda at a high level event organised by The Hunger Project, World Vision Uganda, Action against Hunger and CEGAA together with the National partners; Food Rights Alliance, Community Integrated Development Initiative, Nutrition Society of Uganda, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group and Movement for Community Led Development.

The event held on September 30, 2021 at Fairway Hotel was presided over by Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba the Minister of General Duties as Chief Guest representing the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon Robinah Nabbanja and was graced by among others, Mr. Joses Tegyeza, the Commissioner Strategic Coordination and Implementation-OPM, Mr. Charles Asiimwe UNAP – Technical Advisor, HE. Joost Van Etro the Deputy Head of Mission at the Dutch Embassy, five parliamentarians led by Hon. Milton Muwuma of Kigulu South in Iganga District who doubles as Chairman of the Uganda Parliamentary Food and Nutrition, Religious and Cultural leaders, R2G Consortium Partners and Civil Society Organisations.

"A community that is stunted cannot be transformed and when people are stunted, their life expectancy is low. God gifted us with good soils and we have to take advantage of that, where we have misused [the environment], we still have chance to correct," noted Lumumba.

Running under the theme: Fostering a Multi-Stakeholder Involvement and Investment in Harnessing the Growth of Every Child to Reach their Potential in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond, the event brought together

44 participants - 17 female and 27 males.

The participants stressed the need for more investment in WASH and nutrition to enhance the outcome of the Right2Grow programme. They also called for a need to strive for children's full potential and practice a multi stakeholder approach to ensure that all children under five are well nourished and communities are empowered to guarantee an effective impact.

The Chief Guest called upon all players to continuously address issues of malnutrition in communities to avoid its effects on the economic development of Uganda. She pledged support to the Right2Grow project in Uganda requesting for it to be extended to other districts through partnerships and personally committed to follow up on the progress of the Food and Nutrition Policy.

Contributions to the World Food Systems Summit

The Hunger Project Uganda worked with World Vision Uganda and Action Against Hunger under Right2Grow programme to conduct civil society independent food systems dialogues within the months of July, August and September 2021 in 10 districts; Kabale, Buliisa, Yumbe, Kamwenge, Kakumiro, Maracha, Nwoya, Adjumani, Kikuube and Bugweri. The dialogues aimed at enabling systematic, inclusive opportunities for all civil society stakeholders and grass root actors to contribute to the process of the food systems summit convened by the UN as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Mr. Charles Asiimwe UNAP – Technical Advisor from the Office of the Prime Minister supported, a virtual Right2Grow Independent Food Systems Dialogue training session which was held from July 12th to 15th. 50 participants learned about the Food Systems Summit, how food systems work, food system action tracks, and how to effectively conduct a food systems dialogue. Owing to the critical situation of the COVID-19

pandemic, a local communications team was constituted and oriented to effectively support the communications and visibility aspect of the dialogues. The discussions concentrated on Food Systems Summit Action Tracks 1, 2 and 4 on ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, shifting to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns and advancing equitable livelihoods respectively.

The dialogues reached out to 305 participants from the entirety of food systems such as; the input dealers, farmers, food transporters, Agro-processors, food vendors, small-scale retailers, financial institutions, development partners and political teams, faith, cultural and Religious leaders who proficiently discussed and created significant actions on the progress of Uganda's implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Participants highlighted lack of storage facilities, knowledge gaps, food theft, climate change, high food prices, poor land utilisation, poor post-harvest handling and poor road access among others, as reasons for food insecurity in the aforementioned districts. They pledged to minimise the use of Agro-chemicals in food production for good public health, enact bylaws to support and promote home grown food per household, continuously educate others on nutrition sensitive agriculture, establish new connections among stakeholders and feed their families on nutritious foods before selling. Participants also called for construction of good roads, promotion of climate smart agriculture, creation of markets for their produce, reduction of the agricultural input costs, provision of value addition facilities and technologies to community members to reduce post-harvest losses and improve shelf life of the packaged products.

All qualitative and quantitative outcomes from the dialogues were shared with the OPM to feed into the National Food Systems Summit report that contributed to the World Food Systems Summit.

WE MUST TRANSFORM

Our Food Systems Through
Empowerment Of Youth And
Women For Healthy And Food
Secure Generations

Food systems consist of the interactions among the many actors involved in growing, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of food products, and their links with the social, environmental, and economic structures in which they are embedded (Fanzo et al. 2021; HLPE 2017). Food systems profoundly influence every aspect of human existence and are central to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Inclusive food systems come with multiple benefits that include empowering vulnerable groups such as women, children, people with special needs and smallholder farmers out of poverty and related inequalities, improvement in food supply and distribution, reduced stress on the environment, improved consumer behavior patterns with minimum food loss and waste, and improved resilience to risks that disrupt the economy.

However, estimates from the Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) 2019/2020 indicate that the food system is inequitable particularly for the 20.3% of the population living in poverty and 39% still relying on the subsistence economy as well as the vulnerable and marginalized groups who suffer hunger and malnutrition.

In Uganda, farming is still dominated by smallholder farmers most of whom are women who account for more than 60% of all food production. However, women receive few of the gains and benefits due to gender-based barriers and inequalities that limit access to economic resources, decision making power and mobility particularly in rural areas. As a result, the ability to access external services and inputs is often limited due to limitations on agro-diversity and inadequate capacity for growth. With the frequent disasters that Uganda has faced like drought, floods, landslides, pests

(including locusts), hailstorms and pandemics, women are more affected and left in a more vulnerable state. This necessitates a more collective effort towards mobilizing and supporting women groups especially in rural areas to access affordable credit facilities as well as promotion of equality and land ownership.

On the other hand, Uganda has the youngest population in the world with 77% of its population being under 25 years of age. Even so, there is compelling evidence that youth engagement in agriculture is declining amidst rising youth unemployment. For Uganda to transform and enjoy a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and successful food systems, the country must involve all value chain actors including development partners, private sector, government, etc and increase investment in empowering and supporting youth to ensure that they have the capacity and access to resources and services required for them to fully and effectively get involved in the entire food systems.

Being a country considered to be a food basket with diverse agro-ecological zones and opportunities, capabilities of young people, women and other major groups should be fully exploited to deliver sustainable food systems and improved nutrition, trade and development outcomes for generations today and in the future. All stakeholders need to come together to support the process of achieving production of high quality products, increased demand for these products, better transportation, to mention but a few. With this in place, people will have improved incomes, reduced inequalities and above all, access to nutritious, safe and adequate food for all. Food systems have the power to unite families, communities and nations when they function well but can also threaten education, health, peace, security and all forms of development when they fail, therefore, the time to act is now!



Violah Nayebare

**ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER.**

THE HUNGER PROJECT UGANDA



Community Led Development

Right2Grow consortium embraces community led development.

The Movement for Community Led Development on Right2Grow nutrition and WASH advocacy is up and running. The Movement for Community Led Development (MCLD) is a global drive with several chapters in different countries including Uganda. The Uganda Chapter has 53 members, mainly community-based organisations spread across districts. MCLDU is part of the R2G Consortium to primarily mobilise and engage households and communities to adopt good nutrition and

WASH practices through community led approaches conducted by six-member CBOs including; Wilmat Development Foundation (WDF), Support Agency for Intellectual Disabilities and Elderly (SAIDE), Mengo Youth Development Link (MYDEL), Amani Initiative, Family Harvest Foundation (FHF) and Uganda National Farmers Federation as resolved by the MCLD Uganda Chapter Steering Committee.

For effective implementation, the secretariat took the above mentioned CBOs through an orientation on August 9, 2021 to discuss the financial, programmatic, reporting procedures, policies and expectations. Further still, on September 22nd and 23rd, the secretariat held a virtual capacity building workshop to unpack THP's Vision, Commitment and Action model of work as well as Integrate CLD practices in programming.

Increase CBOs and CSOs legitimacy, capacity, and voice

Right2Grow partner, MCLD Uganda Chapter engaged the six-member CSOs to participate in the implementation of Right2Grow community activities. Through 16 different forums they carried out community consultations to identify capacity needs of communities, particularly women, adolescent girls, and people with disabilities, to address barriers to practicing good food, nutrition, and WASH practices. The experiences and evidence-based findings strengthened their capacity and legitimacy to voice the concerns of marginalised communities particularly on issues concerning nutrition and WASH services.

Subsequently, WDF conducted a community fellowship to bring communities together to a discourse of sharing knowledge and suggesting recommendations for the improvement of food, nutrition and WASH services. Similarly, they led the development of

a household survey tool that was used to conduct household mapping involving 120 households in five villages in Mayuge district to identify WASH capacity needs among communities. Following this survey, one of the members noted, "I was surprised to witness some households without toilets and no source of income as people are still immersed in poverty with one or no meal a day. Some of the households we interacted with have never heard about anything concerning nutrition and WASH practices or services. We need to establish more awareness forums that will inform the grassroots person on what basic rights are."

Family Harvest Foundation (FHF) also conducted community entry meetings that resulted in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Nwoya District Local Government to enable smooth implementation of activities within Koch Goma Sub-county. In addition to the identified 12 community advocates to propagate the CLD manifesto, the Sub County Chief and other key local leaders including the local councils decided on Lakalac and Kalang villages as the programme sites and recommended the VHT to technically support in the implementation process.

In an effort to mitigate stunted growth MYDEL conducted nutrition sensitisation sessions with teenage mothers and commercial sex workers in Rubaga division and Kampala central, using active citizens (a volunteer arm of MYDEL).

Ainembabazi, 15, a school girl who got pregnant during the first wave of the Covid-19 lockdown, is one of over 1,000 people that have been reached so far. Ainembabazi fell victim to a man in her neighbourhood, but her dreaming of becoming a school teacher in future did not die. It is for that reason that she was hesitant to breastfeed her baby, fearing that her breasts would grow bigger and floppy and then she would be teased on returning to school. Little did she know that failure to breastfeed would result into the baby getting stunted. While attending the community dialogue session with MYDEL Active Citizens, Ainembabazi turned up with an evidently malnourished child that attracted the attention of the facilitators. Reality hit her hard when she learnt that her child's poor health was a result of not breastfeeding. She committed to start breastfeeding her regularly for at least two years.

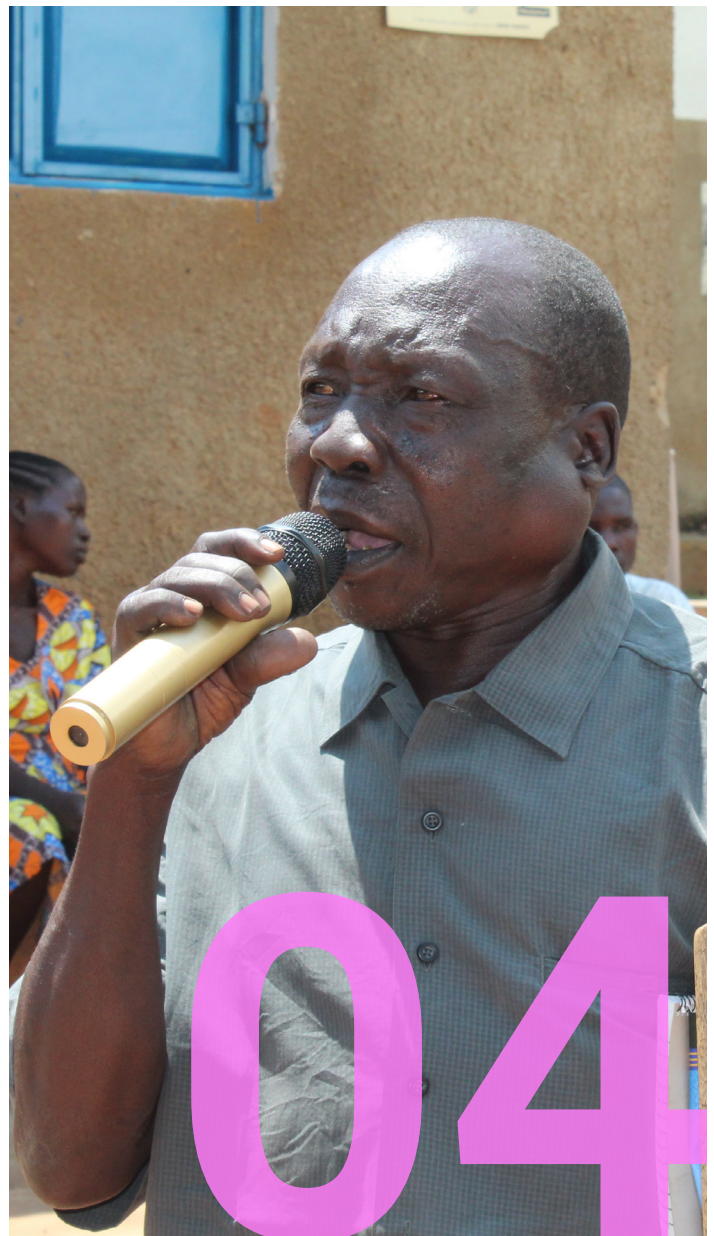
MYDEL then developed and disseminated nutrition posters to demystify myths and the negative attitude surrounding breastfeeding. They also procured and supplied hand-washing facilities as well as conducted clean ups in grocery markets around Kampala City as a way of encouraging communities to adopt self-help mechanisms to uphold sanitation and hygiene practices for better health.

SAIDE in collaboration with the Disability Councillor, Nakawa Division conducted household visits among 20 parents of children with disabilities in Nakawa and Kawempe divisions in Kampala to identify community knowledge and practices on nutrition and WASH issues. Fourteen out of the 20 families were headed by single mothers whose partners abandoned them because of birthing disabled children.

"My husband left us when I produced my son who has cerebral palsy. After sometime the landlord chased us out of the house. I used to get food from rubbish bins and leftovers from local restaurants to feed my children. Whatever food I got is what we ate because we needed to survive," shared Jackie Nkwasi-bwa a single mother of three.

According to the survey findings, 11 out of the 20 families do not have their own toilets and some families are extremely poor to prioritise good food and nutrition. To help improve the dire condition, SAIDE carried out a sensitisation workshop focusing on the importance of good nutrition in mitigating extreme disability effects among children.

Amani Initiative held entry meetings with the Local Chairpersons. They identified and mapped out model homes with good nutrition and WASH practices in six villages in Maracha and Arua districts. The team worked with local leaders to randomly sample 20 households from each of the villages. Out of the 120 homes, 51% were from Maracha and 49% from Arua district; 62% were male and 38% female. The key findings were presented to the key stakeholders on August 16, 2021 during the celebration of the International Youth Day where Mr. Elubo Paskal one of the heads of the model households in Ambidro village Aroi parish in Maracha district noted, "The biggest challenge affecting our community is alcoholism and drug abuse. The responsibility of the family lies entirely on women, they have to dig, cater for children's needs, feed the family and yet they earn little income. Men should be encouraged to support women"



05



Agnes Kirabo
Executive Director
Food Right Alliance

If it's not safe, it is not food

The Executive Director of Food Right Alliance (FRA), Agnes Kirabo, who specialises in food and agricultural policy analysis with a two-decade work experience has a commitment to ensure that every person has access to adequate, safe and nutritious food. Over the years, she strives to ensure that food is treated as a human right and governance issue in addition to being a basic need. Ms Kirabo takes pride in championing this agenda and acknowledges that many actors currently appreciate this issue and the environment is becoming smoother than it was 10 years ago.

“I take pride as a champion of food which is a human right, policy and development issue in Uganda. Governance of food and the entire food system is of paramount importance and should be treated as such”

Kirabo declares that her efforts are driven by a conviction to do the right thing. She believes that human life begins and ends with food and it is the only one characterised as a fundamental human right in the bureau of rights. She argues that it is immoral for people to go hungry especially in a country of plenty like Uganda. Kirabo avows that food is the foundation of achieving all the 17 SDGs making it the heart and soul of national development. She rhetorically asks that if the day becomes darker when one misses lunch, how about millions of people that spend days without a meal? Those who are sick because of what they have eaten? What about those that are unable to feed themselves because of our negligence? And those whose production resources were grabbed from them? The 66% children who spend a day in school without a meal?

“The extreme form of poverty is failure to feed yourself and the cost of not taking action is too high for all of us and nobody is going to be free from it,” she says.

Kirabo approaches food issues with a lot of energy because it affects the entire nation. She says if a child goes hungry and is malnourished, the world is losing generations, even those that are healthy will never be safe in a country with

a hungry and malnourished population. It is within the interest of national development, social transformation, peace and security that these generations must be saved. She accredited women who offer over 70% support to the agriculture sector observing that these are mothers who give to everybody except themselves. She calls for efforts to end practices that limit them in accessing productive resources. Kirabo emphasizes that no one should accept to live in a world of deep-rooted inequality whose consequences are suffered by everybody. She expresses confidence in the resilience and equity of women.

“A hungry person is an angry one. If generations are hungry, then we are having an angry population. We are not at peace even if we are not at war. Children need to live to their full potential and have the pride of growing up with sense and strong enough to contribute to the country, not to be hospitalised or to repeat classes but to have the joy of coming up with new innovations.”

Despite the conducive environment to foster investments for food and nutrition in Uganda, Kirabo highlights the need to deal with the specifics like the employed, students, etc. She points out that the country still has 10.9 million Ugandans going hungry, 2.6 million characterised as acute which raises a need for technological and financial support towards favourable policies. She calls for re-enforcement of over 1000 standards already developed by the UNBS as well as increased sensitisation on these policies and standards.

Kirabo cautioned all stakeholders to reassume their responsibilities to end hunger and malnutrition with support from Right2Grow.

FRA, envisions a world free from malnutrition and work to Promote sustainable access and consumption of safe and nutritious food for all.

WASH Food Security And Nutrition

Amplifying debate on WASH, Food Security, and nutrition financing at the Local Government Budget

CSBAG Mobilised CSOs to participate in the FY 2022/23 Local Government Budget Consultative Workshops where Central Government engages Local Governments on key guidelines for the upcoming financial year. In these workshops and CSOs presents to Central Government as well as Local Government feedback on budget

implementation, to inform planning and budgeting for the coming year. With Right2Grow Support, we developed a position paper highlighting key service delivery issues, we as well mobilised CSOs to present these issues in these meetings, which are critical in Uganda's budget process. Some of the key issues highlighted in the Civil Society Position Paper include; Inadequate Financing for under five Nutrition Interventions, and Poor Post-Harvest Handling. Ms. Agnes Kirabo, The Executive Director of Food Rights Alliance presented the CSOs Position Paper on October 7, 2021 at Ridar Hotel in Seeta, Mukono District.

Amplifying debate on WASH, food security, and nutrition financing FY 2022/23

Government started the budget drafting process for the financial year 2022/23, during the budgeting cycle that kicked off in October 2021 and invited CSBAG to provide citizens perspectives on the budget process and service delivery in these consultations. These meetings availed CSBAG an opportunity to engage with key government officials including technical and political leadership from all Local Governments and



With Right2Grow Support, we developed a position paper highlighting key service delivery issues, as well as mobilising CSOs to present these issues in these meetings, which are critical in Uganda's budget process

municipalities in the whole of Uganda. With Right2Grow Support, CSBAG developed a CSO Statement on Measures for improving Service Delivery from CSOs position paper highlighting the key service delivery issue for Government to focus on in the FY 2022/23.

Evidence Generation to Inform Policy

As a measure to enhance CSOs participation in advocating for a Uganda free from under 5 malnutrition, CSBAG conducted a public financing Study on food security, nutrition, and WASH FY 2019/20-FY 2021/22. Evidence generated from this assessment will be used to popularise the status of food security, nutrition and WASH financing in Uganda; advocate improved financing for food security, nutrition and WASH in Uganda; and lobby the government to deliver on food security, nutrition and WASH commitments. Some of the highlights from the study include; mismatch between the UNAP 11 / Zero Hunger Strategy Priority Actions and priority interventions in the budget frameworks; inadequate budget allocation to FSN & WASH; implementation of District Nutrition Action

Plans (DNAP) as off budget; insufficient funds for FSN WASH at Local Government level; difficulties in capturing financing from donors, NGOs, the private sector and the Civil Society; huge human resource gaps for nutritionists and water officers to support MDAs in planning, budgeting and execution of nutrition plans.

CSBAG held a high-level strategic meeting with CSOs, MDAs on the budget FY 2021/22 on May 18, 2021. Overall, 99 (71 male and 28 female) participants attended the dialogue. The strategic meeting provided a platform for citizens, the media, academia and CSOs to interrogate the responsiveness of the FY 2021/22 Budget towards addressing social services delivery challenges for inclusive growth and development. It is envisaged that through this high-level strategic dialogue, there will be improved multi-sectoral coordination among Government entities for increased budgetary allocations for food security, nutrition and WASH. See link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ig52vBg7PyE>



CSBAG leads the Budget Monitoring and expenditure tracking thematic area of the Right2Grow program. Under the Component CSBAG led the Programme through various interventions;

Budget Monitoring And Expenditure Tracking on WASH, Food Security and Nutrition CSBAG through the Right2Grow programme

To ensure that Right2Grow partners are equipped with the right technical skills and knowledge to track, analyse and report on allocation and expenditure related to food, nutrition and WASH, CSBAG conducted one capacity needs assessment amongst Right2Grow consortium members.

The assessment helped establish the knowledge and skill levels in Budget Monitoring and Expenditure Tracking and Advocacy in order to improve resource tracking and advocacy for food security, nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions. The assessment supported CEGAA and CSBAG to design a capacity enhancement plan that is responsive to the gaps highlighted by the assessment.

Strengthening Capacity In Budget Monitoring And Expenditure Tracking

In order to address the gaps identified by the capacity building assessment, CEGAA and CSBAG conducted a two phased capacity building programme which targeted to give both knowledge/theory and practical based capacity building on BMET. Phase 1 which was largely knowledge-based was organised in August 2021 covering sessions like strategies for mainstreaming food security, nutrition, and WASH Interventions in LG Budgets; designing advocacy and lobbying strategy, advocacy, and lobbying campaign planning; and developing advocacy strategy plans.; advocacy message writing skills and advocacy presentation skills.

Phase II of the training largely focusing on budget analysis and budget monitoring.

Budget; Introduction to Costing – Costing of government strategic plans and programmes, Overview of Costing Tools - Available tools, Budget Analysis: Practical Budget Analysis Skills - Uganda & Elsewhere, Advocacy and Messaging in Action – Plenary session and Small Group Work and Citizen Monitoring Tools: Overview was held in November 2021. The two-phased capacity building approach was largely appreciated by the targeted CSOs as it helped them to secure clarity on what was not clear in Phase I and enabled them to practice some of the skills acquired in phase I making them more connected to the training in Phase II.

Owing to the fact that budgeting is a complex area and many had not interfaced with such work before the two phased approach enabled them to gradually learn and we hope to follow through in the coming year to check levels of knowledge and practice in BMET.

Overall, 12 CSOs/Consortium Members (4 females and 8 males) from Food Rights Alliance, Community Integrated Development Initiative, The Hunger Project Uganda, World Vision Uganda, Movement for Community Led Development and Action Against Hunger participated.

The new skills are a pre-requisite in having an independent civil society sector that can provide to Government credible policy and financing options for improved financing for food security and nutrition and WASH in Uganda.

Increasing Access To Simplified And Up-To-Date Budget Information

Several knowledge products have been jointly developed by CEGAA and CSBAG in this period to increase access to simplified budget information. Two position papers on the National Budget were developed to support CSO lobbying with Parliament as it debated and considered the National Budget FY 2021/22.



These skills have benefit the individuals and communities where they are...



In addition to this, CEGAA and CSBAG developed simplified Local Government Budget Guides for FY 2021/22 for the Districts of Adjumani, Nwoya, Yumbe, Maracha, Buliisa, Kikuube, Kabale, Kakumiro, and Kamwenge. The information contained in these guides were extracted from the approved District Local Government Budget and will support citizens to understand targeted outputs and plans for Financial Year – 2021/22. It is envisaged that when all stakeholders are equipped with the simplified, up-to-date budget information then they will be in position to meaningfully participate and influence the budget processes within their Local Governments. More

specifically, the budget guide summarizes

1. The district's FY 2021/22 planned revenue and expenditure.
2. Highlights the district's major development projects to be implemented in the social sectors in FY 2021/22
3. The Lower Local Government FY 2021/22 budgets.

See link: <https://www.csbag.org/district-budget-guides/>
When all stakeholders are equipped with the simplified, up-to date budget information then they will be in position to meaningfully participate and influence the budget processes within their Local Governments.

1 Article 1: CSOs question budgetary allocation not the Agriculture Sector

2 Article 2: Inadequate funding, lack of budget for feeding in public schools top CSO concerns in the education sector.

Influencing The Budget Decisions For Fy 2022/23

Aware that CSOs play a vital role in the budget making process, CEGAA, CSBAG and NSU mobilised CSOs in Uganda to undertake two key policy level engagements during the budget process for

the financial year 2021/22. Through this CSBAG influenced Government budget decisions on increasing resource allocation for food security, Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene. Specifically, CSBAG mobilised CSOs to analyse the National Budget indicative figures from FY 2021/22 and generated a funding priority list that Parliament should consider as it debates the budgets for WASH, Food Security and Nutrition.

Specifically, CSBAG secured an audience with Parliament Committees for Education, Natural Resources and Agriculture and discussed with them the CSO priority funding list in the month of April 2021. Details of these engagements can be accessed via these links.

Symposium On Implementation Of The International Code On Marketing Of Breast Milk Substitutes In Uganda

The Nutrition Society of Uganda which also leads the mutual capacity development thematic

area of the Right2Grow programme in partnership with the Ministry of Health through Right2Grow conducted a one-day symposium on September 13, 2021 on implementation of the international code on marketing of breast milk substitutes in Uganda. The code was adopted in 1981 by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF to ensure that breast milk substitutes are regulated to promote and safeguard breast milk.

The symposium aimed at creating awareness of breast feeding in Uganda, strengthening advocacy and action towards improved maternal, infant, young child and adolescent nutrition in the country and sharing current policy documents about breastfeeding. It attracted 20 participants at Makerere University and 51 participants virtually with representatives from Ministry of Health, UNBS, Academia, OPM, THP-U, R2G, IBFAN to mention but a few.

Substituting breast milk was noted to be increasing due to Unsupportive workplaces policies, inadequate support from the health care and facilities and unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes in Uganda. Participants called upon health workers to counsel and support pregnant women on breastfeeding and mothers with children less than two years to initiate breastfeeding within the first hour of life and to exclusively breastfeed their infants for the first six completed months of the infants' life. Mothers and families must be protected from the effect of marketing BMS using the provision of national regulations on marketing of IYC foods, healthcare providers have a key role to play in protecting families from marketing of breastfeeding



Right2grow Budget Proposals Adopted By Government

CSO Proposal

Inadequate funding to rural and urban water supply sub programmes (CSOs Position Paper on WASH FY2021/22 Page 5) CSOs Proposal

The government should provide funds to address the funding gap of UGX55Bn required to fund the rural water supply sub programme by realigning some of the priorities. This will be key in ensuring that water coverage and access to safe and clean water in the rural areas is improved.

The government should allocate funds amounting to UGX 40Bn to address the unfunded priorities under the urban water supply sub programme. This will ensure that the urban water supply and coverage is improved.

Parliament Recommendation

UGX 5Bn towards Rehabilitation of Chronically broken-down boreholes (Source; Budget Committee Report Page 62)

UGX 10Bn toward Drilling Point Water Sources in water stressed areas (hand Pumps and Production Wells (Source; Budget Committee Report Page 62)

UGX 8Bn Subvention to upgrade the infrastructure in the new towns taken over by NWSC from the ministry (Source; Budget Committee Report Page 64)

UGX 5Bn towards Strengthening Water Utilities; Directorate of Water Development to increase the economic regulation of the provision of water in the country to increase its economic sustainability and economic growth with a view of increasing household income. (Source; Budget Committee Report Page 65)

UGX 46Bn under Project Code 1533, Water and Sanitation Development Facility - Central Phase III to ease access to clean water using solar piped technologies in various urban centres (Source; Budget Committee Report Page 60)

On the July 15, 2021, FRA coordinated a CSO food systems dialogue. A CSO issue paper was developed and shared with the Office of the Prime Minister to be incorporated in the National report that was shared during the UN food systems dialogue. On August 19, 2021, FRA co-organised the National Food Systems Dialogue alongside MAAIF at Kololo Independence Grounds; this was in regard to the preparatory processes of the UN food systems dialogue.

FRA participated in the Agro industrialization review preparatory processes. The essence of these processes was to lay out strategies on how CSOs would go about participating in this process and also draft an AGI review statement to be presented before the duty bearers.

FRA also provided technical support to the National Organising Committee of Africa Agricultural Extension Services week and this was launched at Speke Resort Munyonyo On August 18, 2021, the event was launched by the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries.

The Africa Agriculture Extension Services week took place on November 14 -20, 2021. This process laid platforms for FRA to advance the Right2Grow agenda in terms of re-echoing the same in advocacy webinar organised by AFAAS on improving nutrition through enhanced extension services system.

FRA has undertaken a number of media engagements both traditional and contemporary for example, featuring on radio to further advance the Right2Grow variables of Food and nutrition security for example, on June 27, 2021 and September 5, 2021, FRA participated in a radio talk show organised by Farm Radio on the food and nutrition safety, equity and resilience.

Right2Grow Uganda partners together with CSOs delivered a Joint Non-Governmental Organisations Submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 40th, Session of The UPR Working Group-The United Nations Human Rights Council. Working on the Right to Adequate food cluster, Right2Grow partners supported coordinated by FRA drafting the final submission of a CSO position paper on the Right to Adequate Food to the United Nations with proposed recommendations on how to improve access to adequate food. It is anticipated that obtaining UN endorsement to prioritise and recognise the right to adequate food for all will enhance coordination of international development actors to address underlying determinants of under nutrition. FRA further leveraged on different UPR and the Food systems platforms to advocate coordinated financing on nutrition and WASH; the delegates were further informed that uncoordinated financing was/is one of the reasons affecting the realisation of positive nutrition and WASH outcomes. The immediate outcome was that delegates committed to following up on this issue and address it before the government during their subsequent meeting.

On August 10, 2021, FRA conducted a Linking and Learning meeting with the R2G team to build consensus on Linking and Learning topics, questions and activities. The consortium agreed to focus on bridging the gap from Policy to Practice as the topic for 2021 and outlined the activities to focus on, these included - training on BMET, preparing citizens through community dialogues, facilitating participation of citizens in budget processes, participating in global, national and regional advocacy spaces, building capacity of existing government structures, training R2G partners, implementing at the local level



substitutes.

After a panel discussion that was composed of Hakim Mufumbiro UNBS, Dr. Kajura Richard- Academia, Gerald Kato and Barbra- second name, it was noted that standards are in place but need to be enforced. They asked all stakeholders to treat nutrition as a human rights issue.

They called for Involvement of private actors, community sensitisation, creation of an enabling environment to promote exclusive breastfeeding and engage fathers in caring for the children.

Join the campaign to end inappropriate marketing of breast milk substitutes in Uganda.

Orientation of the District Nutrition Coordination committees

Adequate nutrition is paramount for a healthy and productive life free from malnutrition and its related effects. As we strive to attain zero malnutrition in Uganda, R2G seeks to strengthen DNCCs' ability and effectiveness while performing their duties and responsibilities such as coordinating nutrition activities at district level.

Right2Grow held orientation sessions for 156 District Leaders and the DNCCs in the project Districts on under nutrition and WASH to trigger mind-set change. CIDI also supported Bugweri district in constituting functional DNCC with representatives from the different departments like Water, Natural resources, Health among others. The sessions deepened understanding of District and Sub County leaders on under Nutrition and WASH, enabled the officials to understand the magnitude of under nutrition and WASH within their Communities as well as the consequences and solicited pledges to fight the causes of under nutrition/ THP-U through MCLD partner Amani Initiative organised

Essay competitions for boys and girls where they were sensitized on key appropriate issues on nutrition and Water Sanitation and Hygiene. A total of 16 schools: 12 from Maracha district and 4 from Arua participated with a total of 336 entries. Out of 336 participants 241 submitted their essays and each was awarded a certificate. Issues raised by the children are presented before the government officials for further action.

CIDI holds advocacy forums with duty bearers and right holders on WASH and Nutrition. The fora held in Maracha, Nwoya, Kabale and Bugweri culminated into duty bearers making commitments/pledges to address WASH & nutrition issues brought forward by the communities. Some of these included planning and budgeting for trainings/ Interventions on nutrition, opening up demonstration gardens with in the communities even in some district compounds/spaces, as well as schools, conducting cooking demonstrations with in the communities and also at health facility level and also installation of hand washing facilities in schools.

Conducting of interface meetings

This activity was conducted in the four districts with an aim of having discussions between the rights holders and the duty bearers to identify service delivery gaps especially in the areas of nutrition and WASH. The participants selected included the CSOs, CBOs, CAOs, Speaker, Nutritionists, LCIIIs, LCV chairpersons, DHOs among others.

Outcome Harvesting Training

Action against Hunger (ACF) organised an Outcome



Harvesting Training with MEAL Global which brought all the Right2Grow Uganda Consortium Focal Persons and three international participants from South Sudan and Ethiopia. A total of 27 partners (11 females and 16 males) attended the training.

Right2Grow partners conducted entry meetings at District and Sub County levels in all the 10 Districts and 20 sub-counties of project implementation. The meeting participants were 214 (83female and 131 males), District and Sub-county officials from key departments, the political wing, representatives from WASH, Nutrition implementing partners and community representatives. Community representatives included representatives of women and youth groups and other vulnerable groups like PWDs and young mothers. These meeting spaces provided avenues for elaborating the programme overview, scope, and next steps. The meetings also sought pledges of support to fight against under nutrition through improved WASH and Food Security services and practices.

World Vision Uganda (WVU) Mapped, assessed and conducted capacity building training of community structures; In June, WV mapped out existing community structures and CBOs focusing on nutrition and WASH in the three targeted districts. A total of 63 CBOs were mapped across all the three districts in the target sub-counties. Furthermore, in July, two district hospitals, two Health Centre IVs, 4 Health Centre IIIs and 4 Health Centre IIs were mapped in all the six sub counties of operation which will act as Nutrition CVA units

per Sub County.

Right2Grow partners conducted capacity assessment of CSOs partners in all the 10 project districts. Out of the many mapped out CSOs in year one, 22 were selected (12 WVU, 8 THPU and 2 from ACF) additional CSOs will be selected by ACF in year II. Gaps were identified and action plans developed to enhance their capacity to navigate the civic space and advocate for improved nutrition governance in their respective districts. MoUs will be signed with the selected CSO partners in the selected locations by 2022.

In September, WVU oriented the identified community structures on under nutrition and selected 36 (18 females and 18 male) potential community resource persons per sub-county. Across the six sub-counties of operation, 216 persons (108 Males and 108 females) were identified. In November, 2021, the selected resource persons in addition to 24 CBO leaders were taken through capacity building sessions to mobilise communities and create awareness on under nutrition for children and intersection with WASH.

WVU supported the formation of CSO Nutrition platforms at District level. The platforms comprise of all the Nutrition CSOs in the 3 Districts. The platforms will strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration to address key Nutrition and WASH challenges and will be a channel for joint advocacy. The platforms were utilised to obtain CSO representation on the District Technical Planning Committee.

Citizen Voice and Action is the R2G advocacy model. It is a local level advocacy and social accountability approach that facilitates dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services that impact the daily lives of children and their families.

Mobilization and Orientation of Religious and Cultural Leaders on Stunting

The Right2Grow took 136 religious and cultural leaders through an orientation on issues of stunting in October & November 2021. Of the trained leaders, 119 were male and 17 females, from three districts. Further still, THP-U through MCLD

partners, Uganda National Federation of Farmers oriented 39 (26 males and 13 females.) religious and cultural leaders on the relevance of nutrition and WASH services. This was to equip them with knowledge to advocate zero stunting in their areas of worship.

Reflections On Under Nutrition

In July 2021, WVU took 40 District officials through a reflection on nutrition for the district level multi-stakeholder platform.

The programme also mapped out existing community structures focusing on nutrition and WASH service delivery in the targeted districts. The identified CBOs/community structures were assessed for capability of partnership building. The assessment checked the institutional and technical capacity of CSOs to advance nutrition, WASH and food security services and advocacy capacities at sub county level.

The CBOs/community structures will represent the communities/community voices during sub-county and district budget processes including participating in budget dialogues and discussions, tracking commitments and action points made by key stakeholders as well monitoring service delivery and demanding for accountability and transparency at various public units

Quarterly Reflections On Under Nutrition For District Level Multi-Stakeholders

WVU organised reflection meetings in the three districts zeroed on under nutrition at health facility level and aimed at establishing the current prevalence of under nutrition, identify services given in the management and prevention of under nutrition and to identify the gaps. The meetings were attended by health facility in-charges, biostatisticians, DHOs, health workers and DHT representatives. Key commitments from stakeholders during the meetings included training of Village Health Teams (VHTs) on identification referral and management of the malnourished, capacity building of health workers in nutrition service delivery and integration of community support groups in health systems so as to support community interventions at community level.

Actors' leaders meetings held;

In August and September 2021, WVU organised actors' leaders' meetings to formalise, terms of collaboration, coordination structure and mechanism for district CSO nutrition platform and an MoU will be signed by 2022.

WVU identifies and Conducts CVA trainings;

Citizen Voice and Action is the Right2Grow advocacy model. It is a local level advocacy and social accountability approach that facilitates dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services that impact the daily lives of children and their families. Through



The programme also mapped out existing community structures focusing on nutrition and WASH service delivery in the targeted districts.

the CVA model, CVA resource persons per sub-county, including 9 females and 9 males (108 CVA members in the six sub-counties from the three WVU supported districts of Kamwenge, Kakumiro and Buliisa) were identified and trained in the CVA curriculum as well as basics of nutrition and WASH. The CVA resource persons are envisaged to drive and advance local advocacy issues on WASH and nutrition emerging from dialogues with duty bearers at various levels.

THP-U and WVU Conduct DNCC functionality assessments;

In June and May 2021, WVU conducted functionality assessments for District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) in Bulisa, Kakumiro and Kamwenge. The Hunger Project Uganda (THP-U) conducted the same activity in Bugweri, Maracha, Nwoya and Kabale. Dissemination meetings were done after the functionality assessment with an aim of Enabling the key DNCC members to understand the level of their functionality in their district, deepen understanding of DNCC roles and responsibilities within the district and understanding of multi-stakeholder’s roles and responsibilities in prevention of under nutrition. A total of 42 (33 Males & 9 females) stakeholders attended.



World Vision Uganda through Right2Grow conducted trainings of Citizen Voice Action (CVA) working teams on the new CVA Curriculum.

Supporting District Nutrition Coordination Committees

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WVU supported three districts; Bulisa, Kakumiro and Kamwenge to develop District Nutrition Action Plans II (DNAP II). Right2Grow through the Office of the Prime Minister supported Districts to develop their drafts of the DNAP II as well as the Nutrition Advocacy and Communication strategy and implementation matrix. The draft documents were well aligned with the District Development Plan II and the strategic direction from the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II as well as the Parish Development model. Right2Grow facilitated the development of these plans by collaborating with the Line Ministry of Local Government and the Office of the Prime Minister. The DNAPs in these Districts are part of the District development frameworks guiding implementation of nutrition sensitive and specific interventions.

THP-U conducts VCA Training of Trainers to increase CBOs and CSOs involvement with the districts and to remain relevant and legitimate. This was done in a three-day master Vision Commitment Action (VCA) workshop from November 9 to 11, 2021. The purpose of the training was to equip participants with knowledge and skills in facilitating a 5-step VCA methodology.

VCA methodology is a process aimed at facilitating a mind shift for people to take their destiny in their own hands, from an attitude of

resignation towards one of 'yes we can' and self-reliance. The training was attended by 30 participants; 16 females, 14 males and 18 of them were youth. The participants were drawn from four Community Based Organisations (CBOs) under Movement for Community Led Development (MCLD), Local Government leaders and THP-U. The training contributed to Right2Grow programme pathway I of Community mobilization. As a result, CBOs capacity was enhanced to mobilise communities for effective mind-set change. This was especially relevant considering the Parish Development Model approach that the government is shifting to for delivery of its services with community mobilisation and mind-set change as its fifth pillar. As part of its contribution to community transformation, the facilitators were equipped with skills and knowledge to cascade the approach to the wider communities. This cohort of facilitators will further foster mind-set change and facilitate community mobilisation to address nutrition, food security and WASH concerns.

World Vision Uganda through Right2Grow conducted trainings of Citizen Voice Action (CVA) working teams on the new CVA Curriculum. The trainings were held in Kamwenge, Buliisa and Kakumiro districts respectively to build participants' capabilities on the CVA model, Right2Grow Programme and different policies around nutrition. Nutrition policies were summarised into a monitoring standard tool which the team is to use while engaging duty bearers in assessing the services being offered and ascertaining if the nutrition policies are being done at service

delivery level.

The CVA model links local level advocacy to national level by escalating advocacy issues that need to be handled at national level.

ACF and THP-U Conduct District High-level Launch Events; While advocating for food and nutrition demands, one has to go on ground and witness reality, gather evidence and deepen knowledge and understanding for strategic action. In October, November and December, 2021, ACF and THP-U conducted high level action-packed district launches in Adjumani, Yumbe, Kikuube, Kabale, Bugweri, Nwoya and Maracha. The launches were officiated by key government officials that included the Minister of Local Government, Raphael Magyezi, State Minister of Local Government, State Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Fred Bwino, State Minister of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives, David Bahati, MPs and Resident District Commissioners in the various programmes. The Chief Guest together with other participants that included district and sub-county leaders, CSOs and CBOs, religious and cultural leaders had an opportunity for field visits to directly interact with the communities as well as witness and learn from their work.

District and national leaders made commitments to implement, support and advocate for increased financing of nutrition and food security initiatives. They welcomed Right2Grow project in their areas and showed willingness to support project implementation.



Right2Grow Baseline Study

The project partners spearheaded by Action Against Hunger, conducted a baseline study in six sample districts of operation to provide an information base against which to monitor and

assess the progress and effectiveness of Right2Grow implementation. The process started with a training of 11 Enumerators (3female and 8male) by MAARIFA Consult with support from ACF MEAL Head who led the data collection exercise for two weeks from 4th October, 2021 in Adjumani, Kikuube, Bulisa, Kamwenge, Bugweri and Kabale.

Right2Grow Consortium members (ACF, THP, FRA, CIDI and WV) were at the forefront of this process to ensure its success and effectiveness especially on the direct involvement of communities.

Evidence generation and packaging was conducted in the districts of Kyangwali and Nwoya lead by CIDI through a rapid

assessment survey to ascertain the WASH and nutrition statuses in the two districts so as to gather information that informs interventions. This evidence has been used for advocating for multi-sectoral approach in nutrition in various national and global spaces.

Right2Grow programme led by CSBAG conducted five joint Initiatives between CSOs and government agencies in 2021. The focus of these multi sectoral initiatives were aimed at amplifying debate and influencing budget allocations for food security, nutrition and WASH in Uganda. For instance, CSBAG collaborated with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on WASH on October 12, 2021 to orient Members of Parliament on WASH financing. During the meeting, CSBAG presented a paper entitled “Budgeting for WASH in Uganda” which focused on the status of WASH and financing in Uganda and what needs to be done to address the gaps.

Civil Society Organisations convened by Food Rights Alliance (FRA) together with Action Against Hunger Uganda through Right2Grow Uganda programme reviewed the National Nutrition Planning Guidelines. The guidelines were adopted in 2015 and were being reviewed by the government of Uganda. Participants engaged directly with the government consultant who incorporated their contribution in the final guidelines.

ACF Facilitates CSO's Consultative Workshop On Nutrition Planning Guidelines

THP-U and WVU participated in validation of the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the National Nutritional Policy and its attendant implementation strategy (UNAP II). In addition, Right2Grow participated in the validation of the Communication Strategy for UNAP II and its attendant training packages. District Nutrition Action Plans directly support multi-sectoral mechanisms for food and nutrition security in

Uganda in alignment with the UNAP II thus working towards civil society empowerment.

THP-U, ACF and WVU participated in the review, planning, and validation workshops for the UNAP Advocacy Strategy organized by the Office of the Prime Minister for the multi-sectoral nutrition technical committee. The purpose of the workshop was to create awareness on UNAP, assess partners' readiness to implement the UNAP, and develop MDAs Joint Annual Work Plan with UNAP11, NDP111, and PAIPS properly aligned. Right2Grow partners' provided technical support towards the development of the Joint Annual Work Plan with key Right2Grow Activities incorporated as well as other Activities geared towards the reduction of stunting in Uganda.

At District level, ACF provided Technical Support to Yumbe District Local Government towards the development of the District Nutrition Action Plan-DNAP for the inclusion of the multi-sectoral nutrition activities for refugees and host communities.

ACF organized nine roundtable lobby and advocacy meetings in the three Right2Grow supported districts to create awareness on R2G, lobby for district support towards Right2Grow work, and influence increased investment for nutrition, WASH, & FSL. These meetings were attended by district chairpersons, members of the council executive, Chief Administrative Officers, District Health Officers, District Production Officers, Nutrition Focal Points, RDCs, & area MPs. This resulted in the Right2Grow district chairpersons pledging their total commitment to increased budget allocation for nutrition, WASH, & FSL in the 2022/2023 District Budget and Action Plans as well as continued strategic partnership with ACF. Kikuube DLG requested for technical support towards the recruitment of a Nutrition Officer, constitution of the DNCCs, and enactment of nutrition ordinances.

ACF in the three districts of Adjumani, Kikuube and Yumbe mobilised representation of farmers and mother care groups, traditional and religious leaders, CBOs, political leaders from village, parish, sub-county, and district level on Right2Grow aspirations. This resulted into the traditional, religious & political leaders pledging to mobilise communities towards the adoption of nutrition, WASH, & FSL Services and donating land for nutritious food crop demo gardens and commercial climate smart and nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Right2Grow programme held media engagements including a press conference entitled 'Feeding the Vulnerable beyond the cash transfer'. This was intended to discuss the impact of government cash interventions to the communities on the economy, nutrition, small-scale farmers, business, and trade. Some of the key points noted were that the government financial support to the communities was timely and therefore it will go a long way in supporting communities to deal with a variety of needs which include



food, water, menstrual hygiene, and other utilities.

THP-U held a meeting with UNICEF Nutrition team and explored possibilities of collaborating to improve nutritional governance in selected districts of Right2Grow implementation.

CSBAG together with CEGAA on April 27, 2021 made a presentation focused on budget monitoring and expenditure tracking - the Uganda Experience, during the Global WASH cluster 25th Annual meeting. The meeting was co-convened by the government of the Netherlands and the Dutch Surge Support (DSS), with technical support from Ministry of Water and Environment. The event brought together 72 WASH partners, national cluster coordination platforms, academia, and national governments from around the globe and provided an opportunity for dynamic discussions that reflected upon sectoral strategies, coordination, partnerships, and leadership by reviewing progress to date, identifying gaps, priorities, and key recommendations. This provided valuable insight to drive the GWC's Strategic Plan 2022/2025 and to shape the future of coordination.

Right2Grow partner, CIDI in the year 2021 was elected as a CSO alternate partner for Uganda working with Sanitation for All and this space provides an opportunity to influence sector ministries especially Ministry of Water and Environment and Ministry of Health together with the donor community, UN

agencies, WASH sectors internationally on the WASH and nutrition issues. This will be a good platform for CIDI as the WASH lead in the Right2Grow consortium to deliberate on the WASH advocacy issues from the different districts of operation.

Right2Grow partners WVU and ACF are members of the Refugee INGO Forum (RINGO) which focuses on humanitarian and development response emerging issues and concerns. These partners participate at leadership level through their respective country directors and within the Advocacy Working Group to help set agendas and shape strategic direction, RINGO has two representatives in the monthly Refugee Humanitarian Partner Group (consisting of UN agencies and donors, including BPRM, ECHO, European Union, JICA, FCDO, USAID, World Bank, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden) who are able to present concerns or opinions, and report back to other NGOs. This is a potential space for engaging further the international development actors to coordinate and collaborate along the humanitarian-development nexus to address the underlying determinants of under nutrition.

Commemorating International and National Events

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

On July 12, 2021, The Hunger Project through Right2Grow joined the rest of the world to celebrate the International Youth Day through a twitter chat on the “Role of Youth in Realization of sustainable food systems in Uganda” this

aimed at highlighting the contribution of youth in creation of sustainable food systems. A youth farmer shared her experience and there were great insights by panellists from World Vision, Food Rights Alliance and CSBAG.

World Breastfeeding Week

WBW was celebrated from August 1 – 7, under the theme: “Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility” The theme was aligned with thematic area II of the WBW-SDG 2030 campaign which highlights the links between breastfeeding and survival, health and wellbeing of women, children and nations. To contribute to objective one of the week on informing people about the importance of protecting breastfeeding, but also to anchor breastfeeding support as a vital public health responsibility, Right2Grow designed and shared at least two messages per day on breastfeeding in relation to nutrition.

Global Hand Washing Day

The Global Hand Washing Day was commemorated on October 15, 2021. CIDI as a lead partner on WASH and other Right2Grow partners used this platform to sensitise the public on proper hand washing practices as well as the benefits and dangers associated with poor hygiene practices like malnutrition, stunting and diarrhoea. A press conference was conducted calling to action different stakeholders like the Ministry of Water and Environment to prioritise funding for institutional sanitation for health care facilities, schools, private sector, media fraternity, NWSC to reduce the water tariffs, cities and urban growth centre administrators to reduce fees for public toilets, hence reduction in open defecation.

World Food Day

Media campaign on nutrition, food security and WASH

As Winston Churchill said, “Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.” A healthy population is one of the key results that Right2Grow intends to achieve. We believe that the food we choose to eat and the way we consume it affects our health and that of our planet. To honour our food champions as well as raise awareness and call for increased action on financing and implementation of food security, nutrition and WASH initiatives, The Hunger Project Uganda partnered with Uganda Broadcasting Cooperation (UBC) to run an awareness campaign on nutrition, food security and WASH to educate communities, CSOs, governments and decision makers about malnutrition in all its forms but most importantly call upon all stakeholders to create better policies, budgets and build a favourable environment for the healthy growth of all children. The campaign ran for six days; 14th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd October, 2021. Fifteen people directly participated as panellists including 10 females and 5 males from Right2Grow partners. WVU also facilitated a radio talk show on food security and nutrition.

Participation in the Uganda Water and Environment Week

CIDI and other Right2Grow partners participated in the Water and Environment Week, and it specifically drafted a press statement that was presented to the public/stakeholders calling for address of the various issues of concern in the WASH and nutrition sectors with emphasis on the budgetary increment to cater for easier accessibility to WASH. Right2Grow partners led by CIDI also participated in the commemoration of the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. There were different sessions conducted and one of them was about the reinforcement of the nutrition and WASH nexus where the WASH and nutrition statuses were presented from the project coverage areas with vivid illustrations. The stakeholders were called upon to address the WASH and nutrition issues of concern that were highlighted and some of the stakeholders present were UN agencies, different organisations, government officials from the line ministries of Health and Water among others.



Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.”



Meet Right2Grow Champion

Hon. Milton Muwuma Kalulu

He is the outspoken energetic MP for Kigulu South Constituency in Iganga District. He is the kind of person that does not wait for problems to be solved but takes lead in resolving them. He is serving his third term in the Parliament of Uganda, where he chairs

the Parliamentary Food and Nutrition Alliance and is a member of the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Food Security and Development. He envisions and works towards a Uganda where all children have access to nutritious food and do not suffer from hunger.

Do you think Uganda is on the right truck in policing and financing of food security, nutrition and WASH?

Uganda has made strides in ending hunger and malnutrition but still grapples with poor/less implementation of commitments and strategies like the Maputo Protocol commitment of allocating 10% to the agriculture sector. I appreciate different government ministries like Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Sports which runs a campaign to ensure that all

children below 6 months are not given any other food apart from breast milk. Some gaps like unfavourable workplace policies which do not support mothers to breastfeed or even have time for their children still exist. Uganda needs to create and enforce a law on maternal and paternal leave for children to be healthy and be able to reach their full potential. A child who is not fed well in the infant stages, will be affected in future, there should be a deliberate effort to ensure that our children get what is due so that their brain development is enhanced without any gaps.

What do you think should be done in regard to policy and financing of nutrition and WASH in Uganda especially in this pandemic period?

The 9th parliament initiated the Food and Nutrition bill that is not yet passed due to a lot of blinkering among the ministries on who should take lead. I requested the Minister for General Duties Rt. Hon. Kasule Lumumba during the Right2Grow Launch to support this process. I am optimistic that she will push this through especially creating harmony at cabinet level on who should take lead. Such supportive instruments should be passed for effective implementation of nutrition initiatives. As an alliance, we are focused on ensuring that the government offers more support especially now that COVID-19 has had a great effect on the agriculture sector.

What can the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security (UPA-FNS) do to ensure there is improved financing to nutrition sensitive and specific interventions?

The budgeting cycle has started; the alliance will bring more members on board to appreciate the gaps that exist in society so that they deliberate from an informed point of view. With support from development partners, the alliance will orient the new members of parliament and disseminate statistics to support their deliberations. We will also continue involving government on implementation of the already existing laws.

As the Chair of the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security (UPA-FNS), what is your commitment in relation to budget appropriation in parliament?

Being a senior member of parliament, I am conversant with the budget cycle and I always speak on such matters with confidence. I will ensure that issues of nutrition are prioritised. With support from our partners, I want to build numbers and orient them for a greater impact on the floor of parliament and influence on the budget process. My commitment is to offer leadership with the support of other players including the development partners.

What is your message to Ugandans?

Uganda is gifted by nature with fertile soils, friendly climate, is strategically located and we need to tap into these features to conserve the environment and minimise effects of climate change to ensure that whatever we grow yields well. I appeal to Government to create an enabling environment for everyone to participate in production with a reduced tax burden.

Main Advocacy Actions And Achievements

Establishment And Capacity Building Of The Citizen Voice And Action (CVA) Community Resource Persons

Citizen Voice and Action is the Right2Grow advocacy model. It is a local level advocacy and social accountability approach that facilitates dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services that impact the daily lives of children and their families. Through the CVA model, CVA resource persons per sub-county including 9 females and 9 males (108 CVA members in the six sub-counties from the three WVU supported districts of Kamwenge, Kakumiro and Buliisa) were identified and trained in the CVA curriculum as well as basics of nutrition and WASH. The CVA resource persons are envisaged to drive and advance local advocacy issues on WASH and nutrition emerging from dialogues with duty bearers at various levels.

Organising and convening UNFSS district independent dialogues

To enable systematic and inclusive opportunities for all the indigenous stakeholders in the food system and to contribute to the food systems summit process, the Uganda programme in collaboration with OPM trained curators, conveners, and facilitators to organise and convene District Independent Food Systems Dialogues (DIFSD) in all 10 target districts.

The DIFSD provided opportunities for grass root Ugandans to engage directly in proposing pathways towards sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaboration in the entire food system.

The outcomes of these engagements informed the national dialogue where community voices also highlighted gaps in the food system that can act as evidence for nutrition advocacy.

Advocacy and policy engagements.

During this reporting period, Right2Grow partners and other like minded CSOs jointly participated in advocacy spaces that aimed to improve the status of nutrition and WASH, some of these include,

providing technical guidance to the development of new nutrition planning guidelines, participating in the 10th Africa Wide Agricultural Extension week, and in World Food Day. In all these engagements, The Right2Grow Uganda programme made cases for Nutrition and WASH to duty bearers as well as gathering support from like-minded organisations and individuals to present a formidable force that will influence inclusion of nutrition and WASH issues in government planning frameworks

Linking & Learning

During this reporting period, Right2Grow consortium partners provided various linking and learning platforms; these ranged from formal to informal platforms. All partners participated in activities including virtual and physical meetings that were used to link and learn from each other's capabilities and functioning as well as sharing how they go around barriers to delivering the intended project results. These include, quarterly planning and reporting meetings, annual partners' meetings. Further, all partners interacted with the global team on how to set viable learning questions on August 12, 2021, with the support of lobby and advocacy lead, the consortium undertook a learning reflection meeting on how food systems dialogues were held at both local and national levels.

Subsequently, the consortium, set learning topics as; what does gender equality and inclusion mean under Right2Grow? Identify the existing strategies towards promoting gender equality and inclusion in Right2Grow implementation. How can we address gender issues as we implement the Right2Grow programme? How can we collaborate towards enhancing gender equality and inclusion?

Subsequently, using different programme activities we got all partners to appreciate the value of linking and learning, differentiating it from mutual capacity development and started integrating it in their implementations. This has strengthened collaboration among partners, other stakeholders working in the nutrition and WASH sectors as they from time-to-time benchmark on good practices of others while endeavouring to sell out their good practices which are responses to some of the challenges faced by different stakeholders.

Further, we have developed common definitions of key terms like gender inclusion and equality as all partners had their own before, drafted and agreed on uniform methods of gender inclusion, developed and all partners adopted a reporting tool on gender inclusion as well as integrating gender in their activities.

To appreciate the impact of gender to programme inspirations further, we agreed to undertake a study on how gender influences access to WASH and nutrition services. The results will be used to inform policy advocacy at all levels on the impact of neglecting gender issues in the design and implementation of these policies.

The Right2Grow Uganda programme will hugely benefit from the current enabling policy environment instituted by the government of Uganda and coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister. The second Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAPII) was approved by the Government on 22nd September 2020 as the country's

strategic framework for scaling up nutrition during the period 2020- 2025. Alongside the development of UNAPII, the Communication Strategy for UNAPII was developed and its attendant training packages (Nutrition Advocacy and Social Mobilization and Behaviour Communication) validated In December 2021. A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the draft National Nutrition Policy was validated by nutrition actors and all line ministries in November 2021. Right2Grow Programme and its ToC is well aligned to the 3 objectives of UNAPII, and it is envisaged this will enhance delivery and access WASH, nutrition and food security services. It also provides an enabling policy environment for the Right2Grow Uganda programme. The programme will also be aligned to the Parish Development Model specifically contributing to pillars one, four, five and seven and will have all its operations cascaded to parish level.

Interventions In Child Stunting

A Active involvement and participation of relevant stakeholders – local community, technical, and political arms of sub-national and national governments – resulted into two target districts (Adjumani and Yumbe) identifying and offering land for nutritious food crops, demo gardens and constitution of two

technical working groups to advance the positioning of the Right2Grow Program in the District Development Agenda. Right2Grow Partner-ACF convened relevant nutrition stakeholders in the two target districts and raised the need to support nutrition services for both refugees and host communities. The demonstration gardens are on government land but serving both refugees and host communities.

The programme supported three District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCC) in Buliisa, Kakumiro and Kamwenge to develop District Nutrition Action Plans II (DNAP II). Right2Grow through the Office of the Prime Minister supported districts to develop their drafts of the District DNAP II as well as the Nutrition Advocacy and Communication strategy and implementation matrix. The draft documents were well aligned with the District Development Plan II and the strategic direction from the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II as well as the Parish Development model. Right2Grow facilitated the development of these plans by collaborating with the Ministry of Local Government and the Office of the Prime Minister. The DNAPs in these Districts are part of the District development frameworks guiding implementation of nutrition sensitive and specific interventions.

Four Districts; Kabale, Maracha, Bugweri and Nwoya conducted DNCC functionality assessment checking parameters like nutrition governance capacity, planning, resource mobilisation, financing and tracking of nutrition investments, nutrition evidence and knowledge management capacity and institutional and technical capacity of scaling up nutrition actions. This activity provided an opportunity for the DNCCs to meet, self-evaluate, identify gaps and come up with their own recommendations and actions on how to improve their performance in light of the identified gaps to deliver improved nutrition services. The Right2Grow programme facilitated functionality assessments in the four Districts.

5

Progress Points Made So Far

- 1. The establishment of CVA teams in all six sub-counties and three Districts by WVU**
- 2. Functionalisation of DNCCs in seven Districts by WVU and THPU and drafting of DNAP II in 4 Districts by WVU and ACF**
- 3. Organising and convening of UNFSS District Independent Dialogues.**
- 4. Establishment of Nutrition Actors Platforms in 3 districts by WVU**
- 5. There was joint implementation of some activities like baseline study and programme launches in the districts. This provided an opportunity for partners to learn each other's work and networks and appreciate individual partner strength and comparative advantage in the program.**

2022

Right2Grow 2022 Update and Achievements

01

L and A Agenda

Through a consortium-wide consultative process, the R2G Uganda programme drafted the L&A agenda, plan and strategy for 2022 that articulates priority activities of focus to deliver the L&A country aspirations.

02

Parliamentary Alliance

The programme formed a collaborative arrangement with different entities such as the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition (UPA-FSN) specifically to advance the R2G parliamentary agenda in parliament. The overall objective of this MoU is to raise the profile of the Multi-sectoral approach in addressing undernutrition through unified financing and policy action in Food Security, Nutrition & WASH at National and District level.

03

MOU's signed

The programme signed MoUs with the district local governments as well as CBOs in the program districts of operation.

04

District Councils

At District level, the programme engaged District councils through the District Nutrition Coordination Committees and CSO Nutrition platforms to raise issues of nutrition, WASH and food security.

05

Civic Spaces

The programme supported functionalization of community advocacy structures and District advocacy structures to navigate civic spaces to advance issues of nutrition in various Districts of operation.

06

District Leadership

R2G Uganda engaged various District leaderships through various advocacy and lobby engagements to recruit dedicated human resources for nutrition in compliance with the objectives and aspirations of Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) two.

07

DNAP

The program supported the development and review of DNAP in the districts of operation

08

Jakarta Meeting

R2G Uganda programme partner, CIDI represented by Hellen Kasuja participated in the Sector Ministers Meeting in Jakarta who called on Ministers to prioritize investment in WASH services in schools and Health Centers to ensure that health and education services are safely delivered.

09

Day of the African Child

The R2G Uganda Programme in collaboration with UPA-FNS, commemorated the 16th June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa, where students who marched in protest against apartheid-inspired education, were brutally murdered. Building on the momentum set by the African Union and its Member States to observe the Day of the African Child (DAC) every year on 16 June, R2G Uganda marched on the streets of Kampala with MPs to Parliament of Uganda and held a press conference to draw light to the harmful practices affecting children's Nutrition and WASH and made a call to action to address the existing policy and financing gaps.

10

Nutrition Awareness

The program also implemented activities to celebrate the World Food Day and World Breastfeeding Week and raise awareness on issues of nutrition and food security

11

CSO Review Process

The programme participated in the CSO review process of National Agriculture Extension Strategy. FRA was also able to document key issues from the community on diverse diets, food handling and food safety which enabled us to influence the on-going development of the National Agriculture Extension Strategy 2021/22-2026/27. Relatedly, verbal commitments were made by FAO representative and District Local government officials to support the adoption of nutritious dietary intake at community level.

12

Good Food Camp Buikwe

R2G Uganda partners in partnership with Slow Foods Uganda, organized the good food camp in Buikwe district under the theme "Youth Reconnection for Food Systems Transformation". The activity was conducted to awaken the consciousness of youth, women and men on sustainable, safe and diverse dietary intake

13

Social Communique

R2G partners in collaboration with other CSO actors and alliances participated in various media spaces to further advance the agenda of food and Nutrition in Uganda. These included radio talk shows on various topics for community sensitization and on the impact of rising fuel prices on food and nutrition security, the cost of living on Radio one and Radio Two. As a result, these triggered public debates on the effect that the high cost of living has on adequate nutrition and called upon duty bearers to address such issues.

14

Women's Day 2022

Two press conferences were held on the NBFP FY2022/23 and the commemoration of the International Women's Day 2022 at FRA secretariat. The media activities gave R2G programme an opportunity to create awareness to a wider audience on food and Nutrition and the recognition of the role of women in advancing food nutrition in the country.

15

FRA lobbies Government

R2G partner, FRA publicly advocated and lobbied government through position papers to allocate finance to the agenda of food and nutrition in the country and further called upon government to enhance women's inclusion in market access so that they are able to feed themselves

16

MOH Public Campaign Strategy

The programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) nutrition division developed Public Campaign Strategy: Zero Stunting among Children below Five Years. The goal of the campaign is to contribute to the reduction of stunting among children under 5 years in from 29% to 19% by 2025. While the objective is to mobilize the communities and increase uptake and coverage of nutrition services among children under 5 years.

17

First consortium level MCD activity

The Programme conducted the first consortium-level MCD activity aimed at developing the capacity of consortium partners in using different communication channels and tools to timely and effectively communicate about their different activities with all the relevant stakeholders

18

Understanding Gender Issues

The R2G country programme with support from Global L&L, L&A and MCD, are implementing locally led research project driven by the Trio Fantastico. The study will contribute to improving CSOs capacity in terms of understanding gender issues and how they influence access to Nutrition and WASH services. This is the skill R2G partners in Uganda will employ to review and input in the draft food and nutrition bill, review the Food and nutrition policy, the Maternal Infant Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition (MIYCAN) Action Plan, annual ministerial policy statements to confirm if they have adequately planned to cater for gender dynamics in their plans to improve access to nutrition and WASH services.

19

Every Child Has A Right To Meet Their Full Potential

The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) in collaboration with CEGAA and Right2Grow Uganda partners held a public dialogue on the theme “Every child has a right to meet their full potential” on 17th May 2022. The overall objective was to discuss and generate policy alternatives for improved public financing for

Food Security, Nutrition and WASH in Uganda. It attracted participation from Members of Parliament, Government Technocrats, CSOs and the media. From the dialogue, CSBAG was able to get Commitments from Members of Parliament from the Uganda Parliamentary Alliance on Nutrition to fast track and table the pending bills and policies on the floor of Parliament especially the Food and Nutrition Policy

20

Participation In Local Government Budget Conferences

The program has also participated in Local Government budget conferences especially through the CSO Nutrition platform that took lead in the development of position papers that were presented with key recommendations. Among the recommendations, the District in Nwoya agreed to allocate 1% of the budget towards nutrition both at district and sub county levels.



Mother sharing experience raising malnourished children

Right2Grow Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Enabling Every Child In Uganda Reach Their Full Potential 2021-2025

The Hunger Project. UGANDA

World Vision

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

EGAA

CSBAG

FRA

CIDI Community Integrated Development

VOICE OF THE CAREGIVER



ALL ABOUT

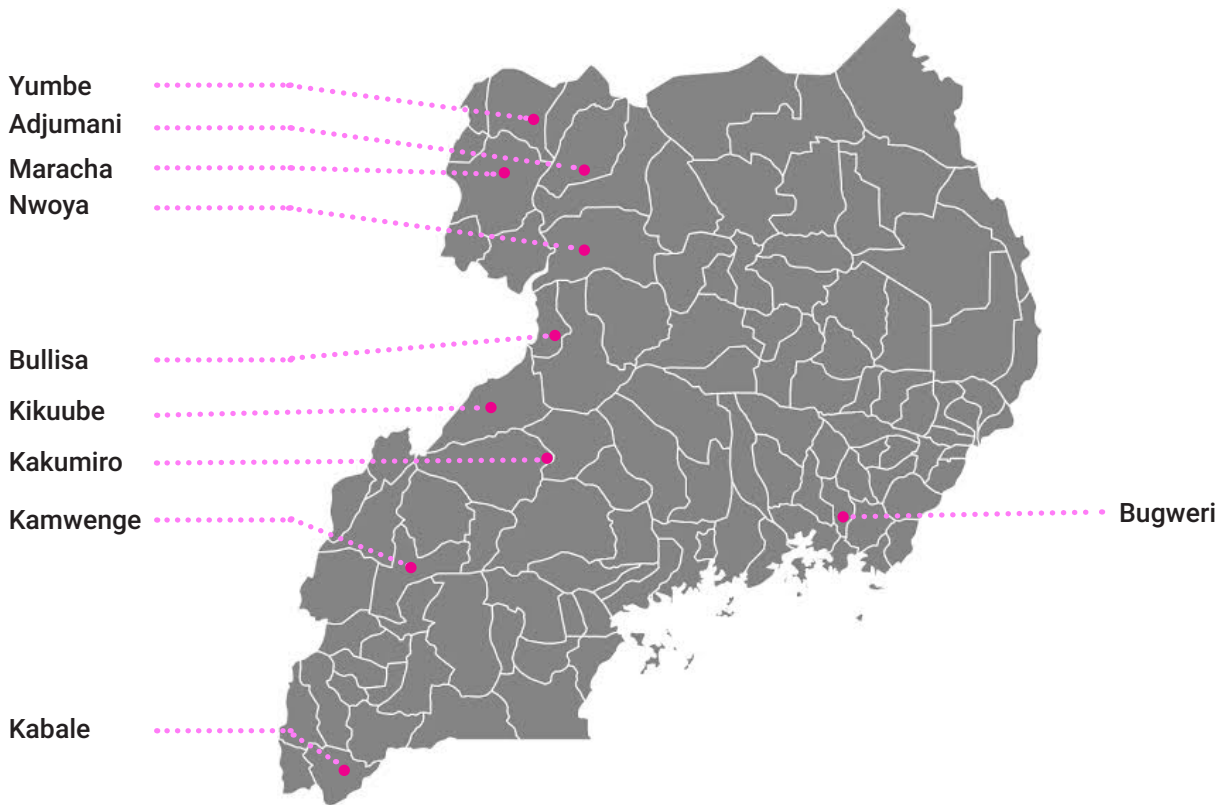
Right2grow engaged communities across the country speaking to all stakeholders, delivering on a mission to promote good child development from an early age

Right2grow | Uganda





OPPORTUN





BY THE NUMBERS



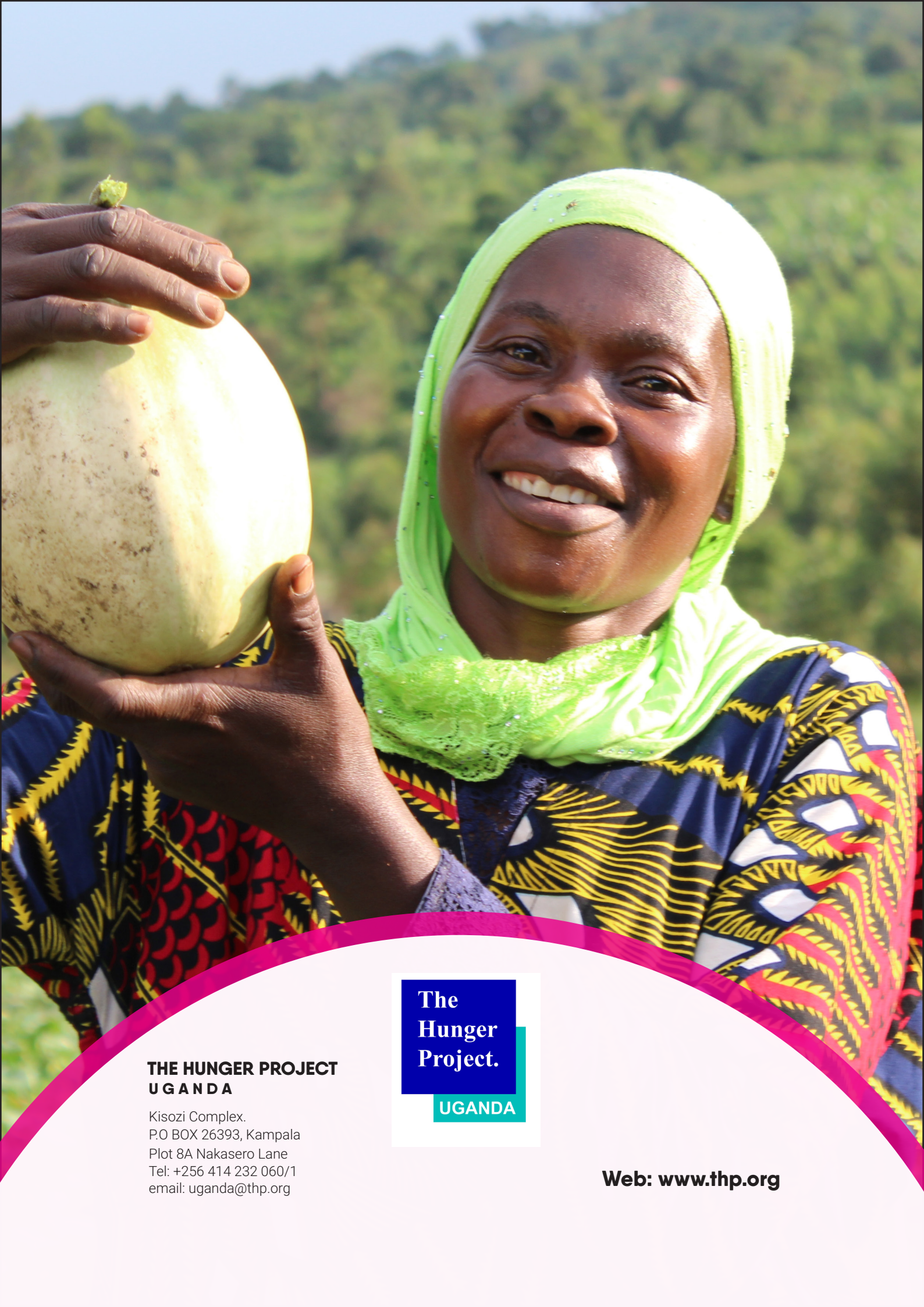
42,700,000
Population of Uganda (UNICEF 2019)



7,500,000
Population under 5 years (UNICEF 2019)



33 percent
Prevalence Of Stunting Among Children



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