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MARU ACTION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (MADF)

Quarterly Project Reports Overview: January – September 2024.

1. Executive Summary.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by the Maru Action Development Foundation (MADF) from January to September 2024. The foundation has focused on empowering communities in Kasese Municipality, Kasese District, Western Uganda, to become more climate-resilient while promoting environmental sustainability, health, and economic well-being.

Key projects during this period included Tree Planting Initiatives, Community Education Programs, Youth Engagement, and Sustainable Waste Management. The foundation's major ongoing projects include the Sustain Rise: Building Resilient Communities, Integrated Action 2 Million Trees Initiative, Compassion in Action: Nurturing Health, Protecting Nature & Empowering Communities, and Climate Café Jazz Sessions. These initiatives have created significant positive impacts by strengthening community engagement, fostering environmental protection, and addressing the impacts of climate change.

2. Project Objectives.

The overarching goals of MADF's interventions are to:

a. **Enhance Climate Resilience:** Build local capacity for disaster preparedness and environmental sustainability, especially among vulnerable populations, such as women, youth, and people with disabilities.

b. **Promote Environmental Stewardship**: Encourage eco-friendly practices such as tree planting, waste recycling, and sustainable resource management within communities.

c. **Foster Community Health & Well-being**: Address the intersections of health and environmental issues through comprehensive community-based projects aimed at improving living conditions and mitigating the impacts of climate-related disasters.

d. **Support Economic Empowerment**: Provide employment opportunities and skills development through eco-friendly enterprises and local engagement in waste management and environmental projects.

3. Key Projects and Activities by Quarter.

a. January to March 2024.

i. Sustainable Waste Management and Employment Opportunities Initiative

This project targeted women and unemployed youth by providing training in waste management, recycling, and upcycling. During this quarter, MADF partnered with local businesses and artisans including from Nyakabingo – Katadoba among other places to create value from environmental waste materials. Youth and women participants were trained on how to collect, sort, and transform waste products into usable items, such as bags, mats, and building materials. This initiative not only addressed the growing waste management challenge but also created employment opportunities for vulnerable populations. As a result, 50 women and youth were engaged in regular waste management activities, helping reduce littering and promoting environmental cleanliness in the Kasese's urban areas.

ii. Community Clean-up Campaigns.

MADF participated in joint community-led clean-up activities in the Kasese Municipality. These campaigns aimed to address the rising challenges of waste management in the Municipality. The events brought together youth, community leaders, and volunteers to clean public spaces, streets and markets, promoting a culture of environmental hygiene. These clean-up drives also served as platforms for sensitizing the public on waste reduction and recycling practices.

iii. Youth Leadership in Climate Resilience.

This initiative focused on enhancing youth involvement in climate action. MADF held several capacity-building workshops targeting young people in schools and community groups. These sessions were designed to foster climate justice advocacy, with youth participants leading campaigns on waste management, water conservation, and tree planting. Additionally, the foundation introduced eco-friendly enterprises for income generation, such as using recycled materials to create new products.

iv. Enhancing Resilience of Communities & Ecosystems in the face of a changing climate.

This project builds on key components including Climate Action, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate & Waste Management.

"Intergenerational Solidarity; Young people uniting for a healthy planet"
Strengthening Community and Ecosystem Resilience in Kasese
MADF
More Actions, Real Change
OUR VISION:

"Intergenerational Solidarity; Young people uniting for a healthy planet"
Strengthening Community and Ecosystem Resilience in Kasese

Engaging young and older persons including farmers from disaster-prone communities in Kasese Municipality, this project was built on a gap to bridge cross information sharing and intergenerational solidarity in Kasese District. With activities including planting over 500 indigenous trees, conducting environmental talks, implementing recycling and waste management initiatives, and promoting renewable energies at household level.

this project aimed to address the environmental degradation and climate vulnerability in Kasese District by empowering at risk communities through sustainable agriculture and environmental management practices, leveraging an Intergenerational lens.

Before this project, benefiting communities faced frequent disasters and environmental degradation. During implementation, we continue to see awareness raising and adoption

of sustainable practices increasing, thus leading to reduced vulnerability and improved environmental health most especially among young children.

b. April to June 2024.

i. Integrated Action 2 Million Trees Initiative.

In response to the increasing deforestation and land degradation in Kasese Municipality, Kasese District, MADF scaled up its tree-planting campaign, targeting at risk communities. Over 10,000 tree seedlings, including fruit trees and indigenous species, were distributed to schools, farmers, and community groups. This initiative with collaborative support of Young Agro Green Africa Network (YAGANET) is part of a larger effort to restore ecosystems, reduce the impacts of floods and landslides, and contribute to carbon sequestration.

ii. Climate Café Jazz Sessions.

These monthly/quarterly events are an innovative approach to community engagement on climate change issues. The sessions provide a space for open dialogue on local climate action, cultural collaboration, and environmental knowledge exchange. Community members of all ages come together to share their experiences with climate change and

propose local solutions. The April to June sessions focused on raising awareness about climate-smart agriculture and disaster risk reduction. This initiative is being hosted through a joint partnership with Young Agro Green Africa Network (YAGANET).

iii. Climate Education Promotion.

MADF organized a series of educational workshops in collaboration with local schools and community centers. These workshops were aimed at improving climate literacy among students and educators. Key topics covered included sustainable land use, conservation of natural resources, and climate adaptation practices. The initiative also promoted hands-on activities, such as composting, rainwater harvesting, and tree planting, to equip participants with practical skills.

c. July to September 2024.

i. Sustain Rise: Building Resilient Communities.

This ongoing project, targets local communities vulnerable to climate disruptions. The project's primary objective is to increase local capacity to adapt to climate change impacts through practical skills training and knowledge-sharing sessions. During this quarter, MADF conducted workshops focusing on climate resilience and disaster preparedness. Participants, including youth leaders and women's groups, were trained in the application of adaptive strategies for farming, flood prevention, and early warning systems for natural disasters. The major components of this project are early warning dissemination gadgets including megaphones, fm radios and mobile phones for lower local units.

ii. Compassion in Action: Nurturing Health, Protecting Nature & Empowering Communities.

Launched in September, this project aims to address the intersection of community health and environmental conservation. The project focuses on reducing climate-related health risks, such as animal agriculture and environmental depletion, while simultaneously promoting sustainable land use and environmental protection. Activities planned under this project include the establishment of community gardens, advocacy on promotion of plant-based diets, and climate education. The project has also prioritized creating awareness around health issues linked to environmental degradation, such as respiratory diseases caused by pollution.

iii. Continue Implementation of Sustain Rise: Building Resilient Communities.

The ongoing activities under the Sustain Rise project included more community-based capacity-building workshops, disaster preparedness-early warning dissemination gadgets distribution including megaphones, fm radios and phones to community-based disaster management committees, and the distribution of tree seedlings to households. The project also introduced new measures for improving water management practices, especially in areas prone to flooding. Local farmers received training on soil conservation techniques to prevent erosion during the rainy season. These interventions have helped strengthen the community's ability to adapt to climate change and protect their livelihoods.

4. Project Outcomes and Impact.

a. Tree Planting and Ecosystem Restoration.

Through the 2 Million Trees Initiative, MADF has made significant progress in rehabilitating degraded landscapes across Kasese District. The distribution of over 10,000 tree seedlings planted has helped reduce the risk of landslides and floods, while also enhancing biodiversity and providing a source of food/income for local farmers in Kasese Municipality. Areas including schools (Worth A Haaven Primary School etc., in Nyakabingo 2, Kirembe Ward among others within the Kasese Municipality have benefited.

b. Women and Youth Empowerment and Economic Opportunities.

The Sustainable Waste Management Initiative provided training and employment for over 30 women and youth, creating jobs through recycling and upcycling. This has not only improved the environment but also enhanced economic resilience among vulnerable populations. Women and youth groups in Nyakabingo 2 and Kirembe Wards have been engaged in this initiative.

c. Climate Education and Knowledge Sharing.

The Climate Café Jazz Sessions and Climate Education Promotion initiatives have increased climate literacy among community members and students. These platforms have fostered greater understanding of local climate risks and the adoption of sustainable practices at both household and community levels. Over 100 community members including youth and those with disabilities from around the Municipality have been engaged in these educational gatherings, sharing and informing climate action initiatives.

d. Improved Community Health and Disaster Preparedness Capacities.

The launch of the Compassion in Action project has begun addressing the link between animal rights, environmental conservation and community health, particularly in areas affected by climate-related disasters and animal farming. This integrated approach is expected to improve the overall well-being of the community by addressing animal cruelty, malnutrition and environmental challenges. So far, over 100 community members including schools like Kirembe Primary have been engaged.

Strengthened the capacities of 2 community-based disaster management committees in Nyakabingo 2 - Katadoba and Kirembe Wards by respectively receiving early warning dissemination gadgets including megaphone, fm radio and a phone to each to enhance their community-level preparedness.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned.

a. Financial Constraints.

Despite the successes, limited funding has been a significant challenge, particularly for scaling up projects such as the 2 Million Trees Initiative and waste management programs. MADF continues to seek additional funding from donors and partners to expand its reach.

b. Climate-Related Disruptions.

Adverse weather conditions, such as floods and landslides, have delayed some planned activities, particularly those related to tree planting. Future interventions will need to incorporate more flexible timelines and contingency plans to account for these disruptions.

c. Community Participation.

A key lesson learned is the importance of strong community participation. Projects that involved local leaders, women's groups, and youth organizations saw higher levels of success and sustainability. Empowering community members to take ownership of projects is critical for long-term impact.

6. Conclusion and Way Forward.

In conclusion, MADF has made significant progress in promoting climate resilience, environmental conservation, and economic empowerment in Kasese Municipality, Kasese District during the period from January to September 2024. The foundation's projects have created lasting impacts by engaging communities in tree planting, waste management, and climate education.

Moving forward, MADF aims to scale up these initiatives, secure additional funding, and strengthen partnerships with local and international organizations. The next steps will focus on the continued implementation of ongoing projects, with an emphasis on expanding tree planting efforts, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and integrating health and environmental protection initiatives.

This report highlights MADF's commitment to building climate-resilient and sustainable communities. The foundation remains dedicated to empowering vulnerable populations and ensuring that local solutions are at the forefront of environmental and climate action.

Signed by:

FRED MARULE.

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