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MARU ACTION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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Project Completion Report

Enhancing Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in Kasese

Funded by: Our Kids Climate - Intergenerational Climate Microgrants

Implemented by: Maru Action Development Foundation – MADF.

Grant Amount: GBP 2000

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary.

2. Introduction.

3. Background and Objectives.

4. Project Activities and Implementation.

5. Detailed Budget Breakdown.

6. Participant Feedback and Testimonials.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation.

8. Project Outcomes, Top Three Project Highlights and Learnings.

9. Future Plans.

10. Conclusion.

1. Executive Summary.

The Maru Action Development Foundation (MADF) successfully implemented the project "Enhancing Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in Kasese" with funding from Our Kids Climate - Intergenerational Climate Micrograms. The project which started 26th March and ended 30th July 2024 aimed to foster resilient communities through intergenerational engagement, sustainable agroforestry practices, and environmental consciousness. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the project's implementation, outcomes, and future plans.

2. Introduction.

As s grassroots-led nonprofit located in Kasese District of Western Uganda, the Maru Action Development Foundation - MADF envisioning; Just and climate resilient communities that proactively responds to their own needs has been actively working towards building climate-resilient communities in Kasese, Uganda. The region faces significant environmental challenges, including deforestation, soil erosion, and climate change impacts such as floods, landslides and prolonged droughts. These issues have led to decreased agricultural productivity, food

insecurity, and increased vulnerability of local communities, particularly young children who are most affected by these adverse conditions. In response to these challenges, MADF received a grant of GBP 2000 from Our Kids Climate as part of the Intergenerational Climate Microgrants initiative. This funding was allocated to implement a project aimed at enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems through a series of targeted activities, including agroforestry training, tree planting, community engagement, and environmental conservation efforts. The following sections of this report detail the background, objectives, activities, outcomes, and future plans of the project, highlighting the significant impact achieved and the collaborative efforts that made it possible.

3. Background and Objectives.

Photos 1 & 2: River Nyamwamba and Mubuku floods into communities destroying properties incl houses, gardens, bridges, roads, schools among others in Kasese District. Locals trying to reinforce the river banks on the right side.

Background Challenge.

Kasese, a district in Western Uganda, faces significant challenges due to climate change and environmental degradation. Frequent floods, landslides, and prolonged droughts have disrupted agricultural activities, leading to food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. The region's environmental degradation is exacerbated by deforestation, poor waste management, and unsustainable agricultural practices. These challenges particularly affect young children, who are vulnerable to malnutrition and displacement, and local farmers who struggle to maintain productive lands.

Objectives.

The project was designed to address these challenges by fostering resilient communities through intergenerational engagement, empowering self-sustainability, productivity, poverty eradication, and environmental consciousness. The specific objectives were to:

1. Conduct project inception meetings to engage stakeholders.

2. Identify and select 600 project beneficiaries, including 100 farmers.

3. Train young and older persons on sustainable agroforestry practices.

4. Procure and distribute tree seeds and seedlings.

5. Provide necessary tools and materials for project implementation.

6. Launch and conduct Community Climate Café Jazz events.

7. Form and strengthen environmental clubs.

8. Carry out a public waste collection exercise.

9. Monitor and evaluate project activities.

4. Project Activities and Implementation.

1. Project Inception Meetings: Conducted two meetings to engage local leaders and stakeholders, ensuring community buy-in and support.

2. Beneficiary Selection: Identified and selected 600 project beneficiaries from five different communities of Kasese most impacted by climate catastrophes, including 100 local farmers.

3. Training Sessions: Conducted three training sessions on sustainable agroforestry practices, reaching a total of 450 participants (150 men, 200 women, and 100 children).

4. Procurement and Distribution of Tree Seeds and Seedlings: Procured 1000 tree seeds and 500 tree seedlings, distributed to participants based on needs identified during training to enhance and promote agroforestry practices.

5. Procurement of Tools and Materials: Acquired necessary tools and materials including watering cans, hoes, gumboots among others for the project participants, ensuring quality and smooth project activities implementation.

6. Community Climate Café Jazz Events: Held three events in different communities, raising awareness and fostering engagement on climate change issues.

7. Environmental Clubs: Formed and strengthened five environmental clubs, promoting soil and water conservation practices.

8. Public Waste Collection: Organized a public waste collection exercise in a high-priority area of Katiri in Bulembia - Kilembe, improving cleanliness and environmental consciousness.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation: Implemented a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and outcomes.

5. Detailed Budget Breakdown.

No.	Activity	Amount in GBP	Amount in UGX.
1	Project Inception Meetings.	214.59	987,972.36
2	Beneficiary Identification and Selection.	107.30	494,009.2
3	Training Sessions.	321.89	1,481,981.56
4	Procurement and Distribution of Tree Seeds.	536.48	2,469,953.92
5	Procurement of Tools and Materials.	289.70	1,333,778.8
6	Community Climate Café Jazz Events.	193.13	889,170.52
7	Formation and Strengthening of Environmental Clubs.	118.03	543,410.12
8	Public Waste Collection Exercise	118.03	543,410.12
9	Monitoring and Evaluation	100.86	464,359.44

7. Participant Feedback and Testimonials

Participant Testimonials:

Mr. John Mugabi, a local farmer: “Before this project, I struggled to keep my farm productive including the application of chemical pesticides due to soil erosion and unpredictable weather. The training on sustainable agroforestry practices has been a game-changer. Now, I see a future where my children can thrive without the constant worry of losing our crops to the elements. This project has brough hope to our community."

“Before this project, I didn’t know much about climate change or how I could help. Through the community climate café jazz events and joining the environmental clubs at my school, I have learned so much. Now, I feel empowered to make a difference. It’s amazing to see our community come together to protect our very own environment, and I am proud to be a part of it," said **Biira Jaylar** (she/her), 12 years old and a pupil.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation.

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework was implemented, including regular data collection, progress tracking, and impact assessment. Key performance indicators were established to measure the effectiveness of project activities, including the number of participants trained, trees planted, and community engagement levels.

Monitoring Activities:

Baseline Survey: Conducted before project implementation to assess initial conditions.

Progress Reports: Regular updates on activities and milestones achieved.

Final Evaluation: Comprehensive assessment at the end of the project to measure impact and outcomes.

Evaluation Results:

Increased Awareness: Over 80% of participants reported increased awareness of climate change and environmental conservation.

Adoption of Practices: 70% of trained participants adopted new agroforestry techniques.

Community Engagement: High levels of community participation in Climate Café Jazz events and environmental clubs.

8. Project Outcomes

Increased Environmental Awareness: Raised awareness on climate change and environmental conservation among 600 community members.

Enhanced Agroforestry Practices: Trained 450 participants on sustainable agroforestry practices, leading to improved farming techniques and environmental stewardship.

Tree Planting: Distributed 1000 tree seeds and 500 seedlings, contributing to reforestation efforts.

Community Engagement: Successfully conducted three Community Climate Café Jazz events, fostering dialogue and community action.

Environmental Clubs: Established and strengthened five environmental clubs, promoting ongoing environmental initiatives.

Top Three Highlights and Learnings:

- **Empowering Youth and Community Members Through Education:**

One of the most significant highlights of this project has been the successful integration of educational components aimed at both young and older community members. The training sessions on sustainable agroforestry practices and the Climate Café Jazz events have not only increased awareness about climate change but also provided practical skills that participants can use to enhance their resilience. Learning how to adopt sustainable practices has empowered individuals to make informed decisions that positively impact their environment and livelihoods. This educational approach has fostered a sense of agency among the community members, particularly the youth, who are now actively participating in conservation efforts.

- **Strengthening Community Engagement and Collaboration:**

The formation and strengthening of environmental clubs and the organization of community-based activities, such as public waste collection exercises, have highlighted the power of collective action. By working with local government leaders, CBOs, and community-based volunteers, the project has demonstrated the importance of collaboration in achieving environmental goals. These partnerships have facilitated the effective implementation of activities and increased community buy-in. The active involvement of various stakeholders has also ensured that the project addresses local needs and leverages diverse expertise, resulting in a more comprehensive and impactful approach to environmental conservation.

- **Enhancing Long-Term Sustainability Through Integrated Approaches:**

A key learning from the project has been the effectiveness of integrating environmental conservation with livelihood improvement. The introduction of sustainable livelihood programs,

such as eco-friendly businesses and agroforestry practices, has not only promoted environmental sustainability but also contributed to the economic well-being of the community. By linking environmental goals with income-generating activities, the project has created a model for long-term sustainability. This approach has shown that addressing environmental challenges while simultaneously enhancing economic opportunities can lead to more resilient and self-sustaining communities.

These highlights underscore the project's success in fostering environmental awareness, building community collaboration, and creating sustainable solutions that address both ecological and economic challenges.

9. Future Plans

I. Scaling Up: Expand successful initiatives to additional communities in Kasese.

II. Sustainable Livelihood Programs: Introduce new eco-friendly businesses and workshops on sustainable practices.

III. Strengthening Partnerships: Enhance collaborations with local government, NGOs, and community organizations.

IV. Advanced Monitoring and Evaluation: Refine data collection methods and conduct in-depth impact assessments.

V. Community Feedback: Continue gathering and incorporating feedback to improve and adapt project activities.

10. Conclusion

The project "Enhancing Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in Kasese" successfully met and exceeded its objectives, thanks to the generous support of Our Kids Climate, the dedicated efforts of the Maru Action Development Foundation team and all stakeholders. The project's positive impact on environmental awareness, community resilience, and sustainable practices will continue to benefit the Kasese community for years to come.

More project photos:

"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

Report compiled and approved by;

Fred Marule.

On behalf of The Maru Action Development Foundation - MADF.