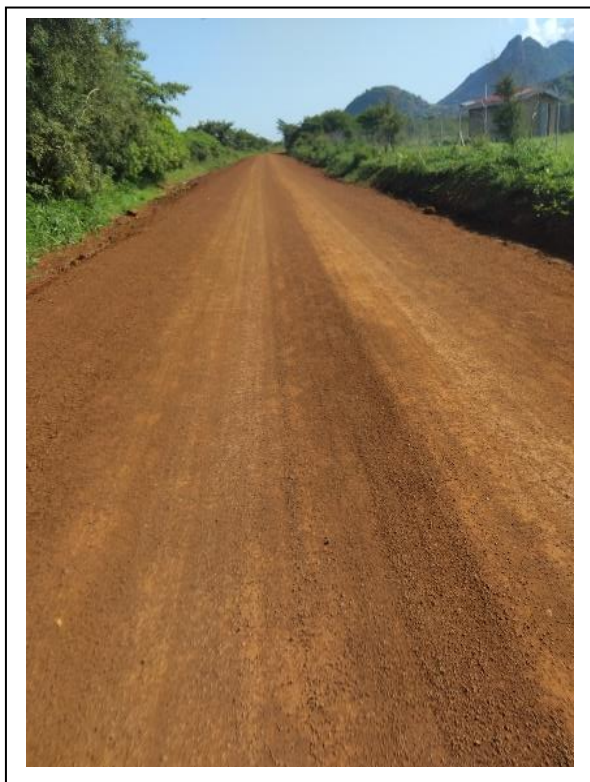


ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES (ADOL)

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Above: A neglected road by Abim District Local Government was eventually graded; Elders enforcing traditional governance system

ANNUAL 2025 REPORT

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ADOL 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

1.0. Introduction

Action for Development of the Local Communities (ADOL) is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) fully legally registered with the District Local Governments where it operates and the national NGO Bureau of Uganda, registration number MIA/NB/2001/02/3155. ADOL exists to ensure that all people in Karamoja and northern Uganda have skills, knowledge, resources and technologies to free themselves from poverty and sustainably improve their socio-economic status. Since 2003, ADOL has been implementing rural development projects in areas of Human Rights & Good Governance, Community Livelihoods and Building Capacities of local structures for continuity and sustainability of interventions. However much that ADOL is mandated to operate national wide, its headquartered in Abim district with field offices in Kotido, Napak and Nakapiripirit districts of Karamoja sub-region.

2.0. Programmes

Governance, Livelihoods and Capacity building are the strongholds of ADOL. Democratic Accountability, Civic Engagement and Rights (DACER) was the major project implemented in 2025. The rest of the activities were monitoring and strengthening of the impacts of the previous projects. DACER, which runs from 2024 – 2027 is being supported by the Royal Danish Embassy through basket funding from Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Ireland.

2.1. Project 1: Democratic Accountability, Civic Engagement and Rights (DACER), 2024-2027:

The Democratic Accountability, Civic Engagement, and Rights in Karamoja (DACER-Karamoja) Project, implemented by ADOL in partnership with ACFIM, GARD, EACIR, and ULGA, continued to strengthen democratic governance, civic participation, and accountability in Abim and Napak districts in 2025. Funded by the Royal Danish Embassy in partnership with Sweden, the Netherlands, and Ireland, the project empowers communities particularly women, youth, and marginalized groups to monitor public services, hold duty bearers accountable, and actively participate in decision-making processes.

In 2025, DACER-Karamoja interventions leveraged community-based monitoring, civic education, radio engagement, capacity building for duty bearers & Karamoja traditional leaders and experiential learning forums to address critical service delivery gaps in health, education, WASH, infrastructure, and the Parish Development Model. Through evidence-based advocacy and multi-stakeholder collaboration, communities saw tangible improvements, including repaired water sources, rehabilitated schools, improved health services, and functioning roads.

By combining citizen action with structured engagement of local authorities, DACER-Karamoja demonstrates that informed, empowered communities can drive lasting change. The project continues to promote transparency, responsiveness, and inclusive governance in Karamoja, building resilient communities capable of shaping their own development while safeguarding the political rights of marginalized groups.

The following activities were implemented during 2025;

Community-Based Monitoring of Public Services: Twenty trained community monitors tracked Health, Education, WASH, Roads, and PDM services, identifying 37 gaps, of which 18 were resolved. Actions included improving school governance, addressing health facility deficits, repairing boreholes,

completing feeder roads, and ensuring transparent PDM fund use. This strengthened citizen oversight and duty bearer responsiveness, enhanced service delivery, improved mobility, increased access to safe water and sanitation, and empowered women and youth as active monitors and advocates.

District Integrity Promotion Fora (DIPFs): Six DIPFs provided platforms for citizens to raise 37 issues with RDCs and district leaders, resolving 18 and escalating four to national authorities. These fora strengthened downward accountability, accelerated problem resolution, and validated community monitoring as a critical tool for responsive governance.

Strengthening Traditional Governance: 145 traditional leaders, women, and youth were trained on accountability, civic engagement, and community monitoring, producing eight monitoring plans. The Thur Cultural Elders' Council Convocation mobilized 850 leaders, reopened the Elders' Parliament, and facilitated evidence-based discussions with district authorities. Traditional institutions emerged as key actors in promoting inclusive, culturally grounded governance, while women and youth participation was strengthened to foster long-term community accountability.

Community Radio Talk Shows: Three radio talk shows reached over 45,000 listeners, engaging civil society, duty bearers, elders, women, youth, and monitors to discuss gaps in Health, Education, and PDM services. These shows expanded civic awareness, strengthened citizen-leader dialogue, and reinforced commitments made during DIPFs.

Civic Awareness & Media Engagement: A civic rights theme song, radio jingles, vox pops, leaflets, and an additional talk show reaching 19,000 listeners promoted awareness of citizen rights and responsibilities. These initiatives increased civic literacy, empowered women and youth to engage leaders, and prepared communities for informed participation in the 2026 elections.

Annual Experiential Learning Seminar: 35 LGPAC members and duty bearers were trained on accountability, audit follow-up, and citizen engagement. The seminar fostered peer learning, cross-district collaboration, and established a regional community of practice, enhancing oversight capacity and transparency in public service delivery.

Overall Results: Through integrated community monitoring, traditional governance strengthening, media engagement, and duty bearer capacity building, the DACER-Karamoja Project enhanced transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in public services. Citizens, particularly women and youth, were empowered to monitor services, engage leaders, and advocate for sustainable, culturally grounded governance, laying a strong foundation for inclusive local development and active participation in the 2026 elections.

2.2. Project 2: Agriculture Market Support (AMS):

ADOL in partnership with ACORD Uganda, implemented the Agriculture and Market Support (AMS) programme funded through a Field Level Agreement (FLA) with the World Food Programme (WFP). This initiative aligned with strategic outcome four of the WFP Uganda Country Strategic Plan 2018-2025, which aims to enhance the resilient livelihoods of smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas by 2025. The project operates within the districts of Napak, Nakapiripirit, and Nabilatuk in the Karamoja Sub-region of Uganda.

The AMS programme focuses on increasing marketing opportunities for smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, with an estimated 18,100 beneficiaries. These farmers face challenges such as limited access to land, finance, water, quality seeds, fertilizers, gender inequality, and inadequate agricultural

technical services and markets. The project contributes to ADOL's strategic objectives of fostering sustainable livelihoods, enhancing climate change resilience, and improving natural resource management.

Key objectives of the project include:

- Improving production and quality of targeted crops, post-harvest management (PHM), and food safety among women, youth smallholders, micro and small enterprises (MSEs), and aggregators.
- Increasing demand for and supply of agricultural services.
- Enhancing pro-smallholder marketing among smallholders, especially youth and women.
- Strengthening national and sub-national institutions to support pro-smallholder policies and programs.

Cumulative number of Farmer Groups and Farmer Organisation trained in Quarter two (2)

District	Farmer organisation	No. of farmer groups	Training Module
Training on group governance, business, entrepreneurship			
Napak	NADIFA	23	Group governance, business and Entrepreneurship
	(POLOFA)	30	
	Nabwal United Farmers Association	46	
Nabilatuk	Nabilatuk Farmers Forum	23	
Nakapiripirit	Moruita Farmers Association	20	
	Nakapiripirit Town Council Farmers association	16	
	Total	132	
Sensitize TTC group leaders and MSE leaders on Access to Finance and agro - insurance			
Nakapiripirit	Namalu Farmers Association	78	Knowledge and skills necessary to access financial services from financial institutions.
	Moruita Farmers Association	10	
	Tokora Farmers Association	28	
	Nakapiripirit Town Council Farmers Association	29	Knowledge on access to agriculture insurance.
	Loregae Farmers Association	30	
	Kakomongole Farmers Association	29	Actions points from group leaders.
	Total	204	
Nabilatuk	Nalachat Farmers Network	39	
	Nabiltatuk Farmers Forum	61	
	Total	100	
Napak	Napak District Farmers Association	47	
	Poron-Lelongochola Farmers Association	44	
	Nabwal United Farmers Association	60	
	Apeitolim Farmers Association	50	
	Total	201	
	Grand total	504	
Training farmer groups and associations in Collective Marketing			
Napak	Lorengochola Farmers Association	13	Grain standards,
	Poron Farmers Association	21	
	Napak District Farmers Association	33	Process of aggregation collective marketing,
	Nabwal United Farmers Association	84	
	Apeitolim Farmers Association	26	Advantages of collective marketing,
	Sub Total	177	
Nabilatuk	Nabilatuk Farmers Forum	44	Success factors in collective marketing,
	Lolachat Farmers Network	12	
	Sub Total	56	
Nakapiripirit	Namalu Farmers Association	22	Support services in marketing of
	Kakomongole Farmers Association	18	

	Tokora Farmers Association	30	grains, pulses and oil seed crops.
	Moruita Farmers Association	52	
	Nakapiripirit Town Council FA	26	
	Loregae Farmers Association	11	
	Sub Total	159	
	Grand Total	392	

Table summary of agro inputs purchased by farmers

S/N	ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT	No OF FARMERS
1	Sukuma wiki	21 tins	8,000	168,000	8
2	Sukuma wiki	13 sachets	3,000	39,000	5
3	Onions	12 Sachets	5,000	60,000	7
4	Tomatoes	9 tins	15,000	135,000	7
5	Maize (Bazooka)	12 kgs	10,000	120,000	4
6	Pesticides (Rocket, striker & anti-killer)	16 bottles	8,000	128,000	9
7	Fungicide (Rindomil Gold)	1 sachets	20,000	20,000	1
8	Herbicide	1 bottle	35,000	35,000	1
9	Termite Killer (No Worry)	26	9,000	234,000	26
10	Dudu cyper	4	8,000	32,000	2
11	Champion (Folour fertilizer)	1	10,000	10,000	1
12	Sicozeb Fungicide	1	6,000	6,000	1
	Total			993,000	

Programme Key Outcomes

Over the three years of the project, it is anticipated that small holder famers and in particular women and youth will realize benefits from the project through the following anticipated outcomes;

- Reduction in post-harvest losses and improved quality of the targeted crops.
- Increase in the value and volume of sales of the target crops.
- Improved employment opportunities along the project targeted value chain.
- Better inclusiveness of marginalized groups in agricultural value chains
- Enhanced value chain efficiency for young people, in particular women.

ACTIVITY PICTURES



Figure 3: An Enumerator Conducting Farmer profiling in Nakapiripirit district.

Photo credit: E



Figure 4: Group executives during the group governance, business & entrepreneurship training in Moruita Farmers Association during the focus group discussions on governance

Photo credit: Susan Hilda GY&IO

Fig. 5: Display of PHM equipment for exhibition during TOT on PHM in Moroto resort hotel June 2024.



Photo credit: Grace, Project Coordinator



Figure 6:
A private sector actor dealing in PHM equipment demonstrating the use of fabricated manual groundnuts sheller to the participants during PHM TOT in Moroto;

She says;” hires the manual sheller to other farmers at the cost of 2000 per 100kg of groundnuts shelled and employees 2 -5 youth to operate the sheller



Figure 7, 8 & 9: Farmer leaders during group work on relevancy of Collective Market and challenges they face when conducting collective market in Nabitatuk District (NAFF & LOFNET)

Photo credit: Deus, VCS, AMS ACORD



Figure 10: Activity:

Gap training;
demonstration of the
procedures to follow
while spraying
pesticides

Location: Loregae
Sub-County, Nakapiririt
district



Figure 11: Activity; Skilling of the village agents by Grain Pulse
Location: Nakapiririt Town Council

Accountability Action (2020-2022):

In 2020, Government of Uganda in conjunction with European Union supported ADOL and successfully implemented a Karamoja Good Governance and Accountability (KAGGA) Action/project in Abim and Nakapiririt districts of the Karamoja sub-region, northeastern Uganda. The Action worth Eur235,362 from EU was supplemented with more Eur118,540 (Eur58,540 & Eur60,000) by United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Trafficking (UNVTF) eventually totaling to Eur353,902. The core objective of the contract was to strengthen capacity, gender-responsive good governance (core mandate and general broad mandate) and the rule of law at the level of local government authorities and empower communities to participate in improved local service delivery. The project targeted youth and women as primary impact groups while District Executive Committees, District Technical Planning committees, Planning Units, Revenue Offices, District land Boards, Area Land Committees and Parish Development Committees were the secondary targeted groups.

After analysing the activities implemented and interacting with the target groups and institutions, the following results were derived, which required sustaining;

Initially, 55% and 63% citizens of Abim and Nakapiripirit respectively never participated in planning and budgeting as essential in ensuring their priorities in service delivery are incorporated in District development plans. KAGGA built the capacities of PDCs, councillors, youth and women groups in local government planning and budget cycles. As a result, over 72% in Abim and 68% in Nakapiripirit citizens participated in the budget processes during the FY2022/2023. Gender Responsive development priorities were discussed at community level and presented to council and incorporated in the District Development Plans.

83% in Abim and 78% in Nakapiripirit revenue releases and collections are displayed for public consumption. Data of central government funds releases and local revenue collections from CAO and CFOs offices were matched against those displayed in various notice boards at sub-county level. This was also confirmed in the public accountability (Baraza) reports. Thus, the level of accountability for public spending and communities' participation in budget monitoring has tremendously improved.

Local revenue bases have increased by 30% in Abim and 18% in Nakapiripirit. 13 New local revenue opportunities in Abim and 5 in Nakapiripirit were identified and blessed by the respective District Executive Committees. However, enforcement of the implementation of these opportunities are still wanting due to political interest. The local councillors who should work together with the Revenue Officers are declining because of losing votes. KAGGA team popularized the local revenue opportunities and have been embraced by the would-be benefiting communities. We hope that the sustainability phase would oversee its implementation.

Integrating gender issues in the district development plans have increased from 37% to 76% in Abim and 45% to 78% in Nakapiripirit. KAGGA engaged the district authorities towards the implementation of National Gender Policy thus special interest groups like women, youth, older persons, PLHIV, PWDs interest and development priorities were integrated in the district development plans and service delivery. They were introduced to criteria of benefiting from government programmes like NAADS, NUSAF, OWC, YLP, Emyoga, WEP and PDM.

Over 58% communities in Abim and 45% in Nakapiripirit are vigilant on corruption. Transparency in awarding contracts, coordination between PAC-District, IGG-Moroto and police have improved. There are testimonies and protests witnessed in Abim and Namalu over diversion of project sites, shoddy work and recruitment of district staff. The whistle blowing in Abim has resulted to the interdiction of the Procurement Officer and Chief Finance Officer. The following roads construction; Abuk-Awach road under UNCDF and Abuk-Rack-koko under Abim District Local Government are being investigated by the IGG.

Area Land Committees and District land Board's capabilities were built on land governance. As a result, registered land conflicts reduced from 45% to 18% in Abim and 35% to 12% in Nakapiripirit district as per records of the Area Land Committees and District Land Boards. ALCs and DLBs were facilitated with working tools like Community Land Disputes and Resolution Track form and Land Registration

Form/Records. These tools guided on land registration for titling and conflict resolutions/dialoguing. From the ALCs and DLBs, 56 land disputes were identified, 33 (59%) cases were resolved by the committees, 11 (20%) cases were pending waiting for verification while 12 (21%) cases opted for courts of law. The evaluation established that over 245 land owners have filled land registration forms for legal ownership of their land, while 46 (19%) have already obtained their land titles. The land titling faces two challenges of high costs and bureaucracies between ALCs, DLBs and the Moroto Lands Office or Entebbe Land Office. The valuation of Lira-Abim-Kotido road for tarmacking has intensified communities' interest towards acquiring land titles for appreciating their land.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with governance related interventions in Abim and Nakapiripirit districts constituted themselves into CSOs Coalition Advocacy on Governance Group (1 per district). They periodically mapped out service delivery gaps in their respective areas of operations, discussed those gaps and presented them to duty bearers for actions. The CSOs also assessed the level of Local Government performance and satisfaction of the beneficiaries. A number of women and youth acknowledged presence of governments programmes but 40% had adequate knowledge on how to benefit from them. The establishment of Service Delivery Monitoring Committees coupled with the strengthening of women and youth councils at sub-county level, had over 50% of the communities satisfied with implementation of government and CSOs programmes in both Abim and Nakapiripirit districts.

Since August, 2022, ADOL has to a larger extent sustained the impact of KAGGA by continuously mobilizing communities for their Increased participation in planning, budgeting and monitoring; the bottom to top approach is key in planning from village level to the district level. More capacity building initiatives targeting Revenue Officers, Sub county technical officials and the Parish Development Committees were prioritized and being strengthened.

- Community dialogues through Barazas registered tremendous impact, and now replaced with government programmes gatherings like PDM, Emyoga, NUSAF, YLP, WEP, OWC among others which the communities are using to hold their leaders accountable. This can be reinforced with public information on notice boards for information sharing.
- ADOL has continued to make follow-ups on citizen participation in Local governments planning through strengthening the capacity of PDCs so that they are more sensitive to local needs during the planning process. ADOL staff usually reinforce technocrats at the District level as facilitators or as observer's sessions of PDCs during the planning process.
- ADOL has kept its feedback mechanisms through communication channels like Radio talk shows to solicit for any information from public in regard to accountability issues and educate the public on the benefits of participating in local government planning and budget cycles through radio jingles.
- The Area Land Committees and District land Boards have been strengthened, still being retooled with working facilities. However, the District Land Boards require computers and land titling equipment, which ADOL cannot provide now. Other working tools like photocopying land registration forms, typing land registration reports and minutes of the ALCs are being performed by ADOL.
- ADOL has continued to monitor the performance of newly identified local revenue sources, public markets, businesses, which were registered for increased revenue collection in the districts. ADOL staff occasionally visits public markets and interact with vendors on revenue collections to ascertain any anomalies.

- ADOL has maintained the operation of CSOs Coalition Advocacy on Governance Group. Civil society has proven ability to mobilize locals for change and direct access to local government leaders. Building their capability is an important way to sustain social accountability at the grass root level.



Caption: Reviewing outcomes of KAGGA Projects

2.4. Project 2: Sustainable Life Options for Karamojong Girls Victims of Trafficking: This project being supported by United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) rescued 25 trafficked girls from the streets and slums of Kampala and repatriated them back to Napak district. These girls were trained in business enterprises, medically screened of ill-health, provided with clothing, food, medical care, legal protection and trained in vocational business life-skills. The girls were provided with business start-up capital.

The groups below were provided with business capital for project sustainability.

Group Name	Business Type	1st Capital	2nd Capital	Business Status
Lorunget young entrepreneurs (3 members)	Food produce	750,000 \$204.918	2,250,000 \$627.615	Stable
Kailikong lolet young Entrepreneurs (7 members)	Selling produce	1,750,000 \$478.142	5,250,000 \$1,464.435	Stable
Kailikong Toyiwunae Young Mothers (5 members)	Selling clothes and other food items	1,250,000 \$341.530	3,750,000 \$1,046.025	Stable, occasionally disrupted by rain
Kakutalem Young Sellers (5 members)	Selling clothes and other food items	1,250,000 \$341.530	3,750,000 \$1,046.025	Stable, occasionally disrupted by rain
Kakutalem Tolemarae Ngichan Young Entrepreneurs (5 members)	Selling of Karamojong cultural materials	1,250,000 \$341.530	3,750,000 \$1,046.025	Stable



Caption: L-R: Girls receiving Business Start-up Capital being witnessed by Napak District officials

Impact So far:

- i) The girls have had mind set change to think of life outside begging on the street of Kampala and other urban areas as well as doing shoddy exploitative work in the city.
- ii) The local community, its leaders and the technical staff from the district and sub county local government are supportive of the project and the girls in order to prevent re-trafficking of the same girls in future.
- iii) Improved health and better productivity of the 25 girls.
- iv) The majority of the 25 girls have had violations of their human rights re-dressed
- v) 70% of the 25 girls are aware of their human rights and can now defend them with dignity and self-esteem.
- vi) 25 girls in 5 groups are now running viable and profitable enterprises.

2.5. Project 3: Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Awareness and Access:

The project was intended to Raise awareness about SRHR rights, responsibilities, and available services through targeted community campaigns, workshops, and informational materials; Conduct comprehensive educational sessions in schools, community centers, and healthcare facilities to empower individuals with accurate and evidence-based SRHR information; Collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure the availability of quality SRHR services, including contraceptives, family planning, and sexual health consultations; Address social and cultural stigmas related to SRHR through advocacy, dialogue, and community engagement; Establish youth-friendly spaces to encourage open discussions about SRHR topics and provide a platform for young people to voice their concerns.

The project was implemented for 3 years in the sub-counties of Kiru Town Council, Orwamuge Sub-county (Abim District); Panyangara sub-county (Kotido District); Sub-counties of Matany, Lokopo, Lopei, Iriiri (Napak District) and sub-counties of Moruita, Kakongole, Namalu of Nakapiripirit District. The project Engaged local media (NBS-Moroto based, New Vision, FM Radio) and conducted workshops to disseminate SRHR information, focusing on rights, responsibilities, and the importance of informed decision-making. Also collaborated with 2 primary and 1 secondary schools (per district) and community centers to organize interactive sessions on topics like puberty, safe sex, family planning, and STD prevention. Conducted training sessions for 50 healthcare professionals (Abim-10, Kotido-5, Napak-15, Nakapiripirit-20) to improve their skills in providing sensitive and non-judgmental SRHR services. Engaged district authorities to establish mobile clinics in underserved areas, providing free or low-cost SRHR services to those with limited access to healthcare facilities. Created youth-led discussion forums and art-based initiatives to encourage young people to express themselves and engage in SRHR conversations. Set up confidential counseling services to provide personalized support to individuals with SRHR concerns or questions.



Above: Sexual Reproductive Health Rights activities in schools and communities

Outcomes and Impact:

Increased Awareness: The awareness campaigns reached over 12,500 individuals, leading to a significant increase in knowledge about SRHR rights and services.

Educational Empowerment: Educational workshops reached more than 10,000 students and community members, equipping them with accurate information to make informed decisions.

Enhanced Access: Institutional deliveries registered approximately 265 (Abim-87, Kotido, 31, Napak-102, Nakapiripirit-45) mothers, ensuring access to essential SRHR services in remote and marginalized areas.

Stigma Reduction: Community dialogues and advocacy efforts led to a noticeable reduction in stigma associated with SRHR topics, facilitating open conversations.

Youth Engagement: Youth-led initiatives engaged over 600 young people (Abim-210, Kotido-72, Napak-189, Nakapiripirit-129), providing them with a safe space to discuss SRHR and related concerns.

However, the project experienced the following challenges:

Cultural Sensitivity: Adapting messaging and services to respect cultural norms and values was crucial in gaining community acceptance.

Sustainability: Ensuring the project's long-term impact required collaboration with local organizations and stakeholders invested in SRHR.

Addressing Resistance: Overcoming resistance to SRHR discussions necessitated persistent advocacy and a patient, respectful approach.

2.6. Project 4: Family Planning Project: The Family Planning Project aimed to promote awareness and accessibility to family planning services in the target community. The project was executed over a period of 12 months and focused on Kiru Town Council and sub-counties of Alerek, Morulem and Orwamuge. It successfully achieved its objectives by implementing various strategies, including education, healthcare services, and community engagement. This report provides an overview of the project's goals, activities, outcomes, challenges faced, and recommendations for future initiatives.

The main objectives of the project were to Increase awareness about the importance of family planning and reproductive health; Improve accessibility to a variety of contraceptive methods; Provide accurate information about contraceptive options and their proper usage and Reduce unintended pregnancies and maternal mortality rates.

Activities: A number of activities were conducted including: Organized informational workshops and seminars on family planning and reproductive health; Established and equipped local health clinics to provide a wide range of contraceptive methods; Distributed educational materials, including brochures and posters, to disseminate accurate information; Trained healthcare professionals to offer family planning counseling and services; Conducted community outreach programs to engage with local leaders and dispel misconceptions about family planning.



Above: Families empowered on honey consumption as nutrition security at HHs

Below: Communities for project launch



Outcomes:

The following results were registered:

Increased awareness: A notable percentage of the target population demonstrated improved understanding of family planning methods and their benefits.

Enhanced access: The establishment of local health clinics led to increased access to a variety of contraceptives.

Decreased unintended pregnancies: The project contributed to a reduction in unintended pregnancies and subsequently lowered maternal mortality rates.

Community engagement: Community involvement increased, fostering a more supportive environment for family planning discussions.

However, the project encountered the following challenges:

Cultural resistance: Deep-seated cultural beliefs and norms posed resistance to accepting modern family planning methods.

Limited resources: Budget constraints occasionally hindered the expansion of project activities and reach.

Sustainability: Ensuring the project's long-term sustainability beyond its initial duration required strategic planning.

The project team therefore recommended the following for future interventions: Maintain and expand educational initiatives to overcome cultural barriers; Collaborate with local community leaders and organizations to enhance outreach efforts; Tailor interventions to engage young people and empower them to make informed choices; Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and identify areas for improvement; and Develop strategies for sustained funding and support to ensure the project's ongoing impact.

2.7. Project 5: Sustainable land and water management for climate change mitigation in Nakapiripirit District: The project in Nakapiripirit, was supported by UNDP through Institute of Cooperation and Development (C&D). It was implemented in Moruita Sub-county. This sub-county had been faced with massive degradation of land through soil erosion and poor Agricultural Practices and as a result of increasing population.

As a result of poor farming methods, the community suffered acute soil erosion leading to soil fertility loss. This in turn affected crop yields and consequently led to food insecurity and poverty. Due to land degradation and inadequate tree cover in the sub county, the area was experiencing, ever widening deep galleys of 15 feet deep and 25 feet wide as long as two kilometres. According to the observation these galleys were a potential for a landslide. The proposed project areas were also water stressed, which were mainly sandy with stony hills. This intervention was to reinforce the previous attempts by other partners to reverse the trend and to increase the resilience of communities to effects of climate change.

The goal of the project was to reduce land degradation trends through improved and sustainable soil fertility practices using smart agriculture to mitigate climate change effects and increase food and nutrition and improved family planning. Specifically, the project was to transform degraded land, forests and use & manage in a manner that is sustainable and contributing to growth and poverty reduction; and to integrate promoting reduction of post-harvest losses and improving food security.

Three activities including inception meetings, establishing climate smart agriculture gardens, reduction of post-harvest losses, monitoring and evaluation were conducted. 3 inception meetings were conducted for district and sub-county leaders, beneficiaries and donor. The inception meetings discussed the project objectives, expected outcome/results and roles of various stakeholders. Training in Climate Smart Agriculture, establishment of nursery beds and planting of trees were also conducted. Training in post-harvest handling and marketing techniques were also conducted. Monitoring and evaluation of progress and reporting on a quarterly basis was conducted.

As a result, 9 out of 12 planned Climate Smart Agriculture Gardens established; 12 Manyattas fenced permanently with 8,426 Kei-Apples (approximate 0.936 kms). The project didn't achieve 100% (only 9 CSA gardens out of 12) because most communities still had crops in their gardens, which could not be destroyed to enable live fencing; 20% improvement of food security through vegetable gardens; 20% increase of availability of sorghum for food and market through skilled post-harvest handling; 15% improvement of the marketing networks with the neighboring sub-counties and districts. 100% quarterly reporting achieved outlining critical successes, lessons learnt and mitigation measures. All the performances were based on project start-up baseline values against project-end values. At the start of the project, only 12 households (5%) out of 240 had food in their stores and mainly sorghum. However, towards the end of the project, at least 60 households (25%) out of 240 had food in their stores. Whereas none of the 240 households (0%) was involved in marketing at the beginning of the project and now at least 36 households (15%) are involved in marketing of their bumper harvest because of poor productivity. Success stories demonstrated as illustrated in the end of project report.

However, the project experienced some challenges. One of them included pressure from non-benefiting parishes to be part of the project. This was mitigated through an explanation that the project would be implemented in phases with an assurance that they would benefit indirectly through seedlings and shared knowledge or be involved in the next round of the project. Land acquisition for garden tree establishment proved difficult since most crops took long to be harvested in order to allow for garden clearing. Also, the local materials like grass and poles were difficult to obtain. Women had to travel long distances to obtain grass. However, the project management team negotiated with the communities for unoccupied land for the project.

Domestic animals (cows, goats, sheep, donkeys, etc) underscored our success as they roamed all over the demonstration gardens and destroyed some of the planted vegetables and trees. The project committees held several mitigation measure meetings with the communities to control the movement of their animals with little success. Further, either too much rain or drought was a menace. Some seedlings soaked in water during too much rain while others dried up during dry spell. However, the project team mitigated this by tasking each group member to be responsible for at least 5 plants (K-Apple) and 15 vegetables (onions, tomatoes, cabbages). They closely monitored the survival of the respective plants and the dried ones replaced immediately.

Some group members misused some project tools like Tarpaulins and PICs bags as they turned them to beddings while other garden tools were either hidden away/sold off/lost. The monitoring visits introduced access through signing approach. Also, most local leaders demanded for facilitation for any involvement in the project cycle like monitoring of the F-SURE project, which made it difficult to involve them in each step of the project implementation.

On sustainability, the project adopted a participatory approach. The inception meeting shared the project details with designated roles where a project committee was established, which ensured continuity and sustainability. Training in Climate Smart Agriculture techniques, soil and water management, post-harvest handling and marketing techniques enriched the beneficiaries with knowledge and skills for continuity and sustainability. Training manuals were produced, which will be a point of reference throughout the sustainability phase. The sale of seedlings, vegetables and sorghum and reinvesting the proceeds in VSLA will ensure financial sustainability. It is also envisaged that the project tools will be hired out to non-group members at a fee thus financial sustainability. Vegetable selling Kiosks have been established in the trading centres to allow easily accessible of the project products. Seeds multiplication gardens were established to produce more seeds. ADOL team has continuously helped the groups to widen their market base of their products.

During the exit meeting, the project was handed over to the sub-county for integration into the Sub-county and District Local Government Environmental Conservation programmes. Therefore, the project will continue to utilize the district extension staff who will continue providing services even beyond the funding phase. The project has been linked to government programmes like Operation Wealth Creation, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, Youth Livelihood Programme, among others for continuity and sustainability of the actions.

3.0. Programmes Impact and Sustainability:

The following are the impacts of the projects so far:

3.1. Good Governance and Accountability

These impacts contribute to achieving national development goals and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, while also supporting progress toward goals on poverty reduction, quality education, gender equality, decent work, and reduced inequalities.

- Increased public confidence in government institutions.
- Reduced poverty through more effective and equitable service delivery.
- Strong democratic institutions and active civic engagement.
- Greater respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Inclusive and sustainable national development.
- Improved quality of life for all citizens.

3.2. Livelihoods for Enhanced Income at Households

A well-designed livelihood project contributes directly to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Sustainable household incomes and reduced poverty.
- Improved food security and nutrition.
- Increased employment and entrepreneurship.
- Stronger resilience to climate and economic shocks.
- Greater gender equality and youth inclusion.
- Sustainable management of natural resources.
- Strong local economies and vibrant rural development.
- Enhanced community self-reliance and reduced dependence on humanitarian assistance.

4.0 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

DACER has established strong working relationships with Local Governments in Abim and Napak, civil society organizations (CSOs), PACER partners, media, and the private sector, fostering collaboration to improve governance, accountability, and service delivery.

1. Partnership with Local Governments: DACER signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Abim and Napak districts, sharing project plans with the District Chairperson, CAO, DCDO, District Planner, and RDC. District leadership actively participated in meetings, trainings, reviews, and follow-ups. This engagement strengthened coordination, facilitated participation in budget conferences, and enhanced alignment of project interventions with local priorities.

2. Partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): DACER supported the formation of the Karamoja Regional Accountability Forum, engaging CSOs including RIAMIRIAM, ADYOFU, MADEFU, KAAC, MUCCOBADI, AWOTID, and ATEDO. Coalition members conducted research on service delivery gaps, presented findings, and submitted recommendations to the District Executive Committee. This partnership strengthened networking, collaboration, and collective advocacy in Abim and Napak districts.

3. Partnership with PACER Partners: DACER collaborated with ACFIM, ULGA, GARD, UNGOF, EACIR, KAAC, and MUCCOBADI on regional engagements, capacity building, and experiential learning initiatives. The project strengthened Service Delivery Monitoring across WUCs, HHMCs, PDCs, SMCs, PTAs, and facility heads, enhancing oversight and accountability. These collaborations improved citizen engagement, transparency, and alignment of activities with community and district priorities.

4. Partnership with Media and Private Sector: DACER partnered with media outlets including Karibu FM, Heritage FM, NBS Television, Ethur TV, Twitter/X, and Tunchi Communications to reach over 50,000 beneficiaries, supported by a WhatsApp group for continuous information sharing. Private sector partners included DFCU Bank and HABS & Family for financial services, ALMERT Auto Services and Bling Power Ltd for fuel, lubricants, and transport, and CHOPAH Enterprises for logistics. These collaborations amplified community voices, disseminated project activities in real time, and enhanced service delivery in Health, Education, WASH, and Infrastructure, strengthening transparency and responsiveness.

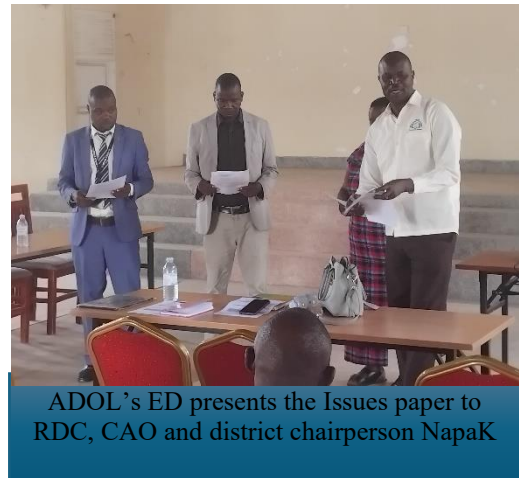
Through these multi-level partnerships, DACER strengthened collaboration, enhanced citizen engagement, and promoted accountable, responsive, and community-aligned service delivery in Abim and Napak districts.

Annex 1: Summary of activities with Sampled Photos

1. COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING OF PUBLIC SERVICES

In 2025, 20 community monitors were trained and deployed across Health, Education, WASH, Infrastructure (Roads), and the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Abim and Napak districts. Monitors documented 37 key issues, resolving 18, while 15 remain under ongoing community-led follow-up. Resolved actions included addressing medicine stock-outs, repairing 17 boreholes (8 by districts, 9 by communities), completing unfinished roads, and resolving delayed PDM fund disbursements.

Strategic policy issues identified for government intervention included understaffing in health and education, poor infrastructure at Abim General Hospital and lower-level health facilities, dilapidated classrooms, limited ambulance services, and delayed road projects. Evidence generated through monitoring guided actionable decision-making, promoted transparency, and strengthened citizen participation especially among women and youth enhancing accountability and responsiveness in public service delivery.



ADOL's ED presents the Issues paper to RDC, CAO and district chairperson NapaK

1.1 Education

ADOL facilitated community-based monitoring across 18 primary schools, engaging SMCs, teachers, parents, and students to track teaching, governance, infrastructure, and sanitation. Achievements included improved teacher attendance, active and transparent SMCs, renovated dormitories, fencing, water connections, and enhanced hygiene benefiting girls and pupils with disabilities. Schools maintained teaching and co-curricular activities despite resource constraints. Challenges persist, including teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, limited learning materials, weak parental engagement, and unresolved land disputes. Nevertheless, DACER interventions strengthened community oversight, transparency, and accountability, improving educational quality, equity, and access across Abim and Napak.



L-R: Congested classrooms in Kiru p/s and additional desks procured after the monitoring

1.2 Health

Community monitors tracked health service delivery in hospitals and lower-level health facilities. Evidence presented at District Integrity Promotion Fora (DIPFs) prompted resolution of operational gaps such as sanitation, water access, facility lighting, HUMC governance, and selected medicine stock-outs. Systemic issues understaffing, infrastructure deficits, limited ambulance services, and wage



constraints were escalated for government action.

Overall, monitoring enhanced transparency, citizen

participation (especially women and youth), and responsiveness, contributing to improved accountability and health service quality in Abim and Napak.

L-R: Well organized maternity ward in Alerek HCIII and drug stock in Nakichumet HCII in Abim & Napak

1.3 Parish Development Model (PDM)



PDM beneficiary displays his cow acquired with PDM funds in Aridai,

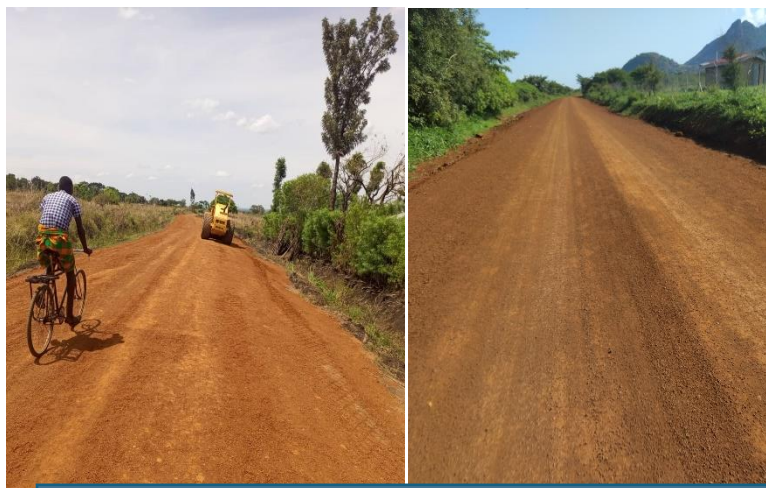
Monitoring across all 8 project sub-counties assessed fund utilization, beneficiary participation, and community awareness. Positive outcomes included productive use of funds in Orwamuge, Atunga, Cholichol, and Kanaura for small businesses and agriculture. Challenges included fund diversion, limited beneficiary selection and repayment confusion/uncertainty.

The initiative strengthened community engagement, transparency, and accountability, empowering citizens particularly women and youth to track activities, report irregularities, and advocate for equitable access, reinforcing effective PDM implementation.

1.4 Public Infrastructure (Roads)

Monitors tracked construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of priority roads such as Ongene-Omoru (3 km), Kiru Seed SS (1.2 km), Gangming-Abuk (7 km), Orwamuge-Awach (7.5 km), Apok (3 km), Atwilo (3.2 km), Lorengechora-Namendera (3 km), and Miligan (3.6 km) among others.

Monitoring ensured completion of critical feeder roads, improved access to schools, markets, and health facilities, and facilitated timely repair of damaged sections. Community engagement strengthened transparency, accountability, and citizen oversight, enabling local advocacy for economic activity, social service access, and sustainable infrastructure development.



L-R: Community Access roads rehabilitated in Lorengechora & Orwamuge

1.5 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Monitors tracked water supply and sanitation services across all sub-counties, documenting gaps, engaging authorities, and promoting community-led solutions. Interventions led to repair of 17 broken boreholes, rehabilitation of Kanaura piped water system, establishment of washrooms



A community borehole rehabilitated in Lokopo sub county,

and bathrooms, and fencing of 6 water sources. Schools such as Kiru Primary now have reliable water access, while functional latrines and handwashing stations improved hygiene practices.

Monitoring strengthened community participation, transparency, and accountability, empowering citizens particularly women and youth to advocate for sustainable WASH services. Outcomes include improved hygiene, reduced health risks, and enhanced equitable access to safe

water across Abim and Napak.

2. DISTRICT INTEGRITY PROMOTION FORA (DIPFS)

6 DIPF meetings convened, providing a platform for citizens to raise 37 service delivery issues with RDCs, district leaders, and department heads. 18 issues were resolved, including medicine stock-outs, borehole repairs, road completions, and delayed PDM fund disbursements. 4 policy/critical issues requiring national-level intervention were identified. DIPFs enhanced transparency,



L-R: One of the DIPF Sessions & ED Presenting the issues paper to the CAO

accountability, and citizen empowerment, demonstrating the value of the community-led monitoring in achieving systemic improvements.

3. STRENGTHENING TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE

3.1 Capacitate the Karamoja traditional system of governance on accountability

ADOL conducted capacity-building trainings for traditional governance structures in Abim and Napak under the DACER–Karamoja Project. A total of 145 participants 65 elders (Akirikets), 40 women leaders (Eritei), 35 youth (Karacunas), and 5 community members were trained on accountability, civic engagement, and community monitoring. Participants developed 8 community monitoring plans, adopted a monitoring checklist, and strengthened women and youth participation,



Training for Akirikets, Eriteis and Karachuna ,

positioning traditional structures as key actors in promoting transparency and inclusive governance.

3.2 Facilitate Thur Cultural Elders’ Council Convocation (Othem Abiro)

ADOL convened over 850 cultural leaders including 500 elders, 150 clan leaders, and 200 youth representatives at Kulo Akado Elders’ Shrine, Abim District, for the Thur Cultural Elders’ Council Convocation (Othem Abiro). The forum re-opened the Elders’



Ethur Council of Elders Convocation at Kulo Akado 2025,

Parliament and facilitated evidence-based discussions on health, education, water and sanitation, roads, and citizen participation. The event strengthened intergenerational collaboration, positioned the Thur cultural system as a recognized accountability actor, and empowered leaders to engage district duty bearers, demand transparency, and promote peaceful, community-driven governance ahead of the 2026 elections.

4. COMMUNITY RADIO TALKSHOW

4.1 Organize and Broadcast Regular Community Radio Talk Shows to Promote Civic Engagement

In 2025, the DACER–Karamoja Project organized and broadcasted 3 community radio talk shows, reaching an estimated over 45,000 listeners. The shows featured 5 civil society leaders, 7 political representatives, 9

civil servants, 4 community monitors, 3 elders (Akirikets), 6 women leaders (Eriteis), and 4 youth representatives (Karacunas), providing a platform to discuss service delivery gaps in Health, Education, and the Parish Development Model (PDM). During the shows, duty bearers used the occasion to provide clarifications to the public,



Radio Talk show in Karibu FM, Abim

amplify commitments previously made during the District Integrity Promotion Forum (DIPFs), and respond directly to questions raised by citizens via SMS and live phone-ins. The activity enhanced awareness of civic rights and responsibilities, strengthened public dialogue, empowered women and youth to participate in decision-making, and improved community capacity to monitor public services and demand accountability, contributing to inclusive and culturally grounded civic engagement in

preparation for the 2026 general elections as well

5. CIVIC AWARENESS AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

5.1 Promote awareness about civic rights



Under Activity 2.2.1, the DACER–Karamoja Project leveraged cultural and media approaches to educate communities in Abim and Napak on civic rights, responsibilities, and monitoring of government projects, in line with Uganda’s Constitution (Chapters 3 and 4). A local musician composed a civic rights theme song, complemented by 2 radio jingles and 2 vox pops aired across FM stations.

Additionally, one radio talk show reached approximately 19,000 listeners, while 200

leaflets reinforced key messages. These activities enhanced understanding of civic participation, strengthened engagement with duty bearers, and empowered women and youth

Civic education session ongoing in Lorengechora subcounty

to actively monitor public services. Collectively, this culturally grounded approach laid a strong foundation for informed and meaningful participation in the 2026 general elections, demonstrating the effectiveness of media-driven civic education in promoting democratic accountability.

5.2 Capacity of Duty Bearers to Deliver on Their Mandate Built

Annual Experiential Learning Seminar



In 2025, the DACER–Karamoja Project conducted one Annual Experiential Learning Seminar in Kotido, bringing together 35 participants, including members of Local Government Public Accounts Committees (LGPACs) from Kotido, Kaabong, Abim, and Napak districts. The seminar was facilitated by experts from the Ministry of Local Government, Office of the Inspectorate of Government (IGG), Office of the Auditor General, UNGOF, and DACER implementing partners.

The forum provided a dynamic platform for peer learning, knowledge exchange, and networking, enabling duty bearers to critically examine persistent accountability challenges such as weak citizen engagement, corruption risks, and limited follow-up on audit recommendations. Through guided discussions and practical exercises, participants identified actionable, context-specific solutions and strengthened collaboration across districts. The seminar contributed to the formation of a community of practice among accountability actors, enhancing their capacity to promote transparency, responsiveness, and effective public financial oversight in local governments across Karamoja.



Annex 2: List of Staff and Volunteers

No.	Name	Position	Contact
1	Lorika Darlington	Executive Director	0782587272
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9	Lopuko Moses	CBM/CM	0773656336
10	Okidi Lamsa Collins	CBM/CM	0772438846
11	Odongo Richard	CBM/CM	0770565219
12	Akine Wilfred	CBM/CM	0771421891
13	Teko Abraham	CBM/CM	0777542524
14	Eyalu Abraham	CBM/CM	0775416982
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17	Macar Susan	CBM/CM	0768497824
18	Alinga Florence	CBM/CM	0787787242
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22	Okot Felix	CBM	0792402729
23	Toye Regina Mwemba	CBM	0780438653
24	Lomakol Betty Grace	CBM	0785681600
25	Akello Sunday Florence	CBM/CM	0771995363

- CBM _ *Community Based Monitor*
- CM _ *Civic Mwalimu*