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FIDINAM INTERNATIONAL CHARITY FOUNDATION: MIDYEAR REPORT (2026-27, YEAR ONE OF TWO)

PROJECT:	Karamoja Resilient Livelihoods and Self-Reliance Project (K-ReLIS)
Goal	• Resilient Food Production: Sustainably increase agricultural productivity and food availability by strengthening farmer-led seed systems, scaling climate-smart and organic farming practices, and ensuring meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in agricultural production. • Financial Inclusion, Economic Self-Reliance & Market Integration: Enhance household incomes and economic self-reliance through diversified and commercialized livelihood pathways, strengthened value chains, and inclusive agribusiness systems that improve access to finance, skills, business development services and sustainable market linkages. • Health, Nutrition & Protection: Improved nutrition and health behaviors are sustainably adopted by targeted households, leading to reduced malnutrition among children under five and improved maternal nutrition.
Location	Napak, Nakapiripirit and Nabilatuk districts, Karamoja sub-region, Uganda
Project Period	March 2026 – March 2027 (Year 1 of 2)
Total Cost	$300,000 over 2 years ($150,000 annually)

OVERVIEW

During a season when prolonged drought resulted in poor harvests for farmers across Karamoja, the K-ReLIS Project, generously supported by the Fidinam International Charity Foundation, helped households strengthen resilient sources of income while bringing essential health, nutrition, and protection services to families in communities that clinics struggle to reach.

The project strengthened community seed systems and disaster preparedness structures, while savings groups, honey production, and market linkages helped households maintain livelihoods at a time when crops were failing. Integrated community and school outreaches also connected children, pregnant women, and adolescents with essential services, with women and girls participating in large numbers throughout the project.

Throughout the reporting period:

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- UGX 78.7M saved by 503 VSLA members (58% women), who also took UGX 51.9M in loans.
- 931 people trained in disaster risk reduction (62% women), forming 18 Village Disaster Management Committees.
- 2,312 kg of honey harvested by 15 apiary groups; 1,872 kg sold for UGX 15.0M.
- 1,631 children aged 6–59 months and pregnant or lactating women screened for malnutrition.
- 485 adolescents reached in schools with SRHR, nutrition and menstrual hygiene education.
- 88 district and sub-county officials engaged to build government ownership from day one.

These results emphasize the profound impact and significance of Fidinam's partnership, as well as the effectiveness of community-focused, multifaceted developmental interventions.

OUTCOME PROGRESS

1. Objective: Strengthened Food Production and Household Resilience

During the reporting period, Action Against Hunger strengthened seed systems, climate resilience, and inclusive farming across three target districts.

Output 1.1: Promote Seed Multiplication

- 15 Local Seed Multipliers (12 men, 3 women) registered to produce Quality Declared Seed (QDS) under guidelines recognized by Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).
- The community-based seed system aims to improve access to quality, affordable planting material, reduce planting costs, and strengthen food security and climate resilience.

Output 1.2: Promote Climate-Smart and Organic Farming Techniques

- 931 participants (358 men, 573 women) trained in disaster risk reduction and climate preparedness in response to prolonged drought.
- 18 Village Disaster Management Committees (VDMCs) established—six per district—and community contingency plans developed.
- Farmers gained practical skills in food preservation, water management, and pasture management to help households and livestock cope with drought.

Output 1.3: Ensure Inclusivity (Gender Inclusion)

- 46 farmers (29 women, 17 men) participated in a model-farmer learning visit.
- All 46 farmers subsequently applied at least one improved practice at household level, including row planting, quality seed use, timely weeding, or mulching.
- Peer-to-peer learning is supporting wider adoption of climate-smart and sustainable farming practices.

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2. Objective: Financial Inclusion, Economic Self-Reliance & Market Integration

During the reporting period, the project focused on three areas: connecting farmers to markets, diversifying livelihoods, and expanding access to finance. Prolonged drought limited agricultural production, so activities were adapted to reduce risk while maintaining progress where opportunities remained.

Output 2.1: Value Chain Development

Activity 2.1.1 – Strengthening market access

Despite widespread crop losses caused by drought, the project helped a model farmer in Napak sell produce from the previous season:

- 65 bags of maize sold to schools and local traders
- UGX 9,750,000 (USD 2,635) generated from sales at UGX 150,000 (USD 41) per bag
- 13 bags retained for household consumption
- 22 bags stored pending an order from Lorengechora Seed Secondary School

This demonstrated how improved farming, post-harvest practices, and market linkages can help farmers move from subsistence toward more commercially oriented agriculture.

Macadamia

- Phase I macadamia farms continue to benefit 150 farmers and 30 institutions.
- Prolonged drought reduced seedling survival from 90% in December 2025 to 50% in September 2026.
- Farmers received guidance on applying organic mulch to conserve moisture and reduce further losses.

Output 2.2: Strategic Diversification and Skills Development

Activity 2.2.1 – Expanding beekeeping livelihoods

To strengthen practical beekeeping skills, the project shifted from classroom training to hands-on mentorship by apiculture specialists in community apiaries.

- 15 apiary groups (450 individuals) received mentorship.
- Groups harvested 2,312 kg of honey from 261 hives.
- Despite drought-related challenges, including reduced flowering and high hive temperatures, the approach strengthened farmers' skills in hive management, pest and fire prevention, and hygienic honey handling.

This support is helping households diversify their livelihoods and build more self-reliant, commercially oriented beekeeping enterprises.

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Output 2.3: Strengthening Agribusiness Support Systems

Activity 2.3.2 – Expanding access to finance

The project provided ongoing mentorship and monitoring to 16 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs):

- 503 members: 212 men and 291 women
- UGX 78,663,500 (USD 21,260) saved
- UGX 51,880,000 (USD 14,022) disbursed in loans
    - Men: UGX 36,350,000 (USD 9,824)
    - Women: UGX 15,530,000 (USD 4,200)
- Loans supported business activities, farming, food, and medication

Financial literacy and ongoing mentorship also strengthened group governance, record-keeping, and members' ability to manage savings and credit.

Activity 2.3.3 – Strengthening honey market access

- 2,312 kg of crude honey harvested from 261 hives, equivalent to approximately 4.3% of the overall target
- 1,872 kg of processed honey sold
- UGX 14,976,000 (USD 4,048) generated for the 15 apiary groups

Drought reduced flowering and nectar availability and caused high hive temperatures, limiting honey production. In the next reporting period, the project will establish additional groups and hives and provide honey-branding training to strengthen market opportunities beyond Karamoja.

A Deliberate, Risk-Aware Approach

Given the prolonged drought, the project prioritized three value chains--maize, macadamia, and apiary--rather than expanding agricultural activities that could expose farmers to further losses. All value chains will receive support in line with the original project design during the next reporting period.

3. Objective: Health, Nutrition & Protection

During the reporting period, K-ReLIS brought integrated health, nutrition, WASH, and adolescent-friendly services closer to underserved communities through mobile and school outreaches.

- 107 children (44 boys, 63 girls) received Vitamin A supplementation.
- 526 community members (139 men, 387 women) received education on family MUAC, antenatal care, maternal and child nutrition, and WASH.
- 299 adolescents (125 boys, 174 girls) and 539 adults (161 men, 378 women) received SRHR, nutrition, GBV prevention, and menstrual hygiene education.

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- 472 community members (186 men, 286 women) participated in discussions on GBV prevention, equitable household roles, and food hygiene.
- 52 pregnant women accessed antenatal care, 25 received iron and folic acid supplementation, and 140 people (67 men, 73 women) accessed family planning.

School outreaches at Lokala and Cholichol Primary Schools further expanded access to adolescent health and protection services:

- 485 adolescents (269 boys, 216 girls) received SRHR, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, and life-skills education.
- 170 adolescents (108 boys, 62 girls) were dewormed.
- 195 adolescents (140 boys, 55 girls) participated in GBV, MHM, and SRH sessions.
- 20 referrals were made for GBV and adolescent SRH support.

Output 3.1: Strengthen Community Health and Nutrition Service Delivery

Activity 3.1.1 – Support integrated community outreaches and mobile clinics

Integrated outreaches were conducted through Lorengechora HC III, Nabilatuk HC IV, and Namalu HC III, combining maternal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services with adolescent-friendly care.

- 107 children received Vitamin A supplementation.
- 526 community members received health and nutrition education.
- 299 adolescents and 539 adults received SRHR, nutrition, GBV prevention, and menstrual hygiene education.
- 472 community members participated in discussions on GBV prevention, household responsibilities, and food hygiene.
- 52 pregnant women attended focused antenatal care and 25 received iron and folic acid supplementation.
- 140 people (67 men, 73 women) accessed family planning.
- 15 adolescent girls received HPV vaccination.
- 12 adults (6 men, 6 women) received HIV testing; all tested negative.
- 8 adolescents (4 boys, 4 girls) received rapid HIV testing.
- 19 adolescents (6 boys, 13 girls) were screened for sexually transmitted infections.
- 44 adolescents (18 boys, 26 girls) were referred for additional SRH and nutrition counselling and treatment.

Activity 3.1.2 – Deliver Health, Nutrition, WASH and SRH Services at Community Level

Age-appropriate sexuality and life-skills education

School outreaches at Lokala and Cholichol Primary Schools provided adolescents with age-appropriate education on SRHR, nutrition, HIV, menstrual hygiene, sexuality, life skills, and GBV prevention.

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- 485 adolescents (269 boys, 216 girls) received integrated health, nutrition, and SRHR education.
- 170 adolescents were dewormed.
- 3 adolescent girls received HPV vaccination.
- 38 adolescents were tested for malaria; 32 tested positive (84%), highlighting the continued need for malaria prevention and treatment.
- 32 adolescents with health and nutrition concerns were referred for care, contributing to 82 total adolescent referrals during the period.
- 105 adolescents received dedicated sexuality and life-skills education focused on healthy behaviors, relationships, personal protection, and informed decision-making.

Schools provided an effective platform for reaching adolescents with sensitive health messages. Key priorities going forward include strengthening malaria prevention and improving communication equipment to help health workers reach all students.

Menstrual Hygiene Management, GBV Awareness and Referral Pathways

GBV prevention and menstrual hygiene were integrated into community and school outreach activities.

- 195 adolescents (140 boys, 55 girls) participated in school-based GBV, MHM, and SRH sessions.
- Sessions promoted GBV prevention and response, available support services, menstrual health, and the importance of maintaining girls' school attendance during menstruation.
- 20 GBV and adolescent SRH referrals were made through established referral pathways, connecting adolescents and other vulnerable individuals to additional health, protection, and counselling services.

CHALLENGES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Challenge	How the project responded
Prolonged dry spells, recurring every year in Karamoja, led to low germination, lower yields and the drying of water sources, with most permanent sources far from homesteads.	Action Against Hunger captured runoff water from collection points and channelled it to nearby gardens using treadle and solar pumps, as part of mitigating climate shocks.
Some farmer-group members migrate for long periods to distant farmland, making it difficult to engage them in group activities.	Agricultural extension workers are identifying and working with active group members to ensure verifiable results, and migrating farmers are being re-trained to maximise their participation.

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A lack of public address equipment during school outreaches made it hard for health workers to communicate with large groups of learners.	Learners were organised into smaller groups to improve communication and understanding.
Cases of acute malnutrition identified among children show continuing nutrition vulnerability in the project area.	Timely referral, treatment and follow-up remain core components of the intervention.

IMAGES:



Women farmers bagging maize grain for storage and sale



A woman farmer protecting her crop with a knapsack sprayer



A farming couple with freshly harvested green peppers



Phase II inception meeting with government stakeholders in Nabilatuk district

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Mario (far right), an apiary farmer in Lorengechora, with buckets of honey ready for processing



1. Harvest



2. Straining



3. Ready for market

THANK YOU

As the Karamoja Resilient Livelihoods and Self-Reliance (K-ReLIS) Project moves into its next phase, we extend our sincere gratitude to the Fidinam International Charity Foundation for your continued partnership and commitment.

Together, we are helping communities build lasting resilience in the face of ongoing challenges. Families are strengthening their incomes, improving their diets, and building more secure futures for their children. These efforts are laying the foundation for sustainable, community-led solutions that can continue to benefit families well beyond the life of the project. In the next reporting period, the project will train 660 farmers in drought-adaptive and climate-smart practices, plant 150 acres for seed multiplication using NARO foundation seed, establish two grain and honey value-addition centers, and scale up community nutrition screening to reach 4,558 people, alongside MIYCAN peer-caregiver support.

Thank you for your generosity, continued trust, and commitment to advancing sustainable solutions to hunger. We look forward to building this progress together and reaching even more families in the next phase.

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