THE NATIONAL ACACIA PROGRAMME

REPORT ON MONITORING THE CANADIAN PHYSICIANS FOR AID AND RELIEF PROJECT (CPAR)

PROJECT NUMBER: 101210

MONITORING PERIOD: 15TH – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2004

PROJECTS MONITORED:
LIRA AND APAC DISTRICTS ICT PROJECTS

PROJECTS FUNDED BY: IDRC

MONITORING CONDUCTED BY:

Mr. Frederick K. Kintu
National Acacia Secretariat
REPORT CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TITLE PAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LIST OF REPORT CONTENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ACRONYMISATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>PROJECT DETAILS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>PROJECT PREAMBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>THE RESEARCH SYNTHESIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PROJECT RATED PERFORMANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>THE RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO IDRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>PROGRAMME SUSTAINABILITY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ACRONYMISATION**

1. CAD - Canadian Dollars  
2. CD - Compact Disc  
3. CHP - Community Health Project  
4. CPA - Concerned Parents Association  
5. CPAR - Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief  
6. ICTs - Information and Communication Technologies  
7. IDRC - International Development Research Centre  
8. IEC - Information, Education and Communication materials  
9. IGAs - Income Generation Activities  
10. LLC - Lira Learning Centre  
11. LRA - Lords Resistance Army  
12. MDD - Music, Dance and Drama  
13. NAADS - National Agricultural Advisory Services  
14. NARO - National Agricultural Research Organisation  
15. NGOs - Non Governmental Organisations  
16. NUSAFAF - Northern Uganda Social Action Fund  
17. RRC - Rachelle Rehabilitation Centre
THE CPAR PROJECT DETAILS

- PROJECT CENTRE NUMBER: 101210
- PROJECT DURATION: 2001 – APRIL 2005
- PROJECT BUDGET APPROVED: CAD $ 267,500
- PRINCIPAL PROJECT LEADER: MR. GIZAW SHIBRU
  EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CPAR UGANDA

PRINCIPAL PROJECT RESEARCHERS

1. PROGRAMME MANAGER
   Mr. Fred Owera Odom
   Lira Learning Centre

2. LEARNING CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR
   Mr. Jumar Okee
   Lira Learning Centre

PROJECT TITLE:

“STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES OF THE YOUTH, WOMEN AND WAR RETURNees IN LIRA AND APAC DISTRICTS THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES”
PROJECT PREAMBLE:

The Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief undertook to implement the project on, “Strengthening the Productive Capacities of the Youth, Women and War Returnees in Lira and Apac Districts”. CPAR was therefore charged with the mandate to plan and effectively implement this programme for the period 13th December 2001 to 26th April 2005.

However, CPAR is implementing this project alongside with other programmes which include; Natural Resource Management, Water and Sanitation, Peace Building and Land Mines Awareness, Reproductive Health, and Community Health Project. It is anticipated that with support from government, CPAR might be actively involved in the NUSAF Programme, which is the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund.

The strengthening of the productive capacities of the youth, women and the war returnees in Lira and Apac districts is implemented with the empowerment through training of these war returnees in ICT skills at the Lira Learning Centre which is primarily supported by IDRC.

The programme is implemented in a tense political environment due to the LRA infiltration and insurgencies that have disrupted programme activities from being implemented as had been planned.

Project Goal:

The Overall project goal is to improve the livelihood of war affected youths and women by building their capacity for self-reliance and making them more economically productive.

The Specific Project Objectives:

1. To assess and document the economic activities of war affected youths and women, their information and communication needs and gaps, as well as their skills and technology requirements for improving their livelihood.

2. To strengthen two community learning centres by introducing and developing information and communication technologies and systems appropriate for strengthening the livelihood capacity of the target groups.

3. To build the capacity of the target beneficiaries and those involved in re-integration activities by:
   a) Developing their IT skills
   b) Providing training necessary for content development, retrieval, packaging/repackaging and dissemination of relevant information.
4. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the already on-going re-integration activities (vocational training, counseling, peace building through the introduction of ICTs).

5. To test the use and efficacy of ICTs in improving the livelihood of poverty-stricken war affected, and to document the impact and disseminate the lessons learned.

THE RESEARCH SYNTHESIS/FINDINGS:

In the course of project monitoring of the CPAR ICT Project, the Acacia Project Officer visited 6 groups comprising the youth and women who are utilising the Learning Centre in Lira and Apac districts. The groups included;

1. ACAN GEDE YOUTH GROUP
2. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT GROUP
3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WOMEN GROUP
4. OYERE HIDE AND SKINS YOUTH GROUP
5. AGRO FORESTRY YOUTH GROUP
6. BARMONY WOMEN GROUP

The groups were interviewed to identify whether they have been utilising the ICTs at the Learning Centre effectively and how they have utilised this knowledge to improve their IGAs and socio economic welfare.

THE FINDINGS:

1. The youth, women and war returnees, in both Lira and Apac districts have been utilising the ICTs at the Lira Learning Centre as per the allocated time schedules in the course of the week. The beneficiaries/groups have been trained in computer applications like Ms Word, Ms Excel and the Internet.

2. On average, the findings indicated that it takes 2 – 3 weeks for the groups to master the computer applications.

3. The groups especially those in the trades of agriculture, agro-forestry, brick laying, retail purchasing indicated that the information obtained from the internet has been very beneficial in helping them transact business. They have been able to establish business contacts, have secured markets for produce, due to the effective utilisation of the Internet.

4. The Women in Development group have been able to access information form the Internet at the Learning Centre to enhance their socio-economic activities. They
have been actively involved with the Lira Learning Centre where they have also contributed to the formation on content for the IEC materials.

5. The Learning Centre in Lira scheduled the periods when the groups can visit the LC for learning. The groups are allocated from 2 – 5 p.m. in the afternoons from Monday to Friday respectively.

6. The Learning Centre has developed and re-packaged information in form of brochures on agriculture and marketing skills. The brochures are also translated in “Luo” which is the local dialect of the region covering Lira and Apac districts.

7. Some women groups like the Neighbourhood Women’s Group have been empowered with basis skills in financial management which is absolutely vital for sustainability of the IGAs. Information on business management has been readily accessed from the Internet by the women groups.

8. The women and youth groups in Lira district requested to be allocated more time during the scheduled period at the Learning Centre. The groups noted that the period allocated 2 – 5 p.m. should be increased so that all the beneficiaries can enhance the related ICT skills that accrue from the Learning Centre.

9. The groups also noted that the current computer sets are relatively less than the number of trainees who visit the Learning Centre for training. The ratio is 5 trainees per computer set.

10. Most of the women and youth groups stay within the municipality of Lira district. Therefore the issue of long distances to the Learning Centre did not arise.

11. The women and youth groups have equally benefitted from the radio talk shows and the content developed there-of which have greatly enhanced their commercial activities.

12. The women and youth groups appreciated the services at the Learning Centre which have boosted their commercial activities, however they equally expressed need to be facilitated/linked to micro-finance institutions to bridge the financial needs of their activities.

13. The ICT project in Apac District is limited by the unavailability of electricity. They utilise the generators on which Laptops are connected for ICT training to the beneficiaries. Most of the information disseminated in Apac, is re-packaged to fill the needs of the beneficiaries.
CURRENT PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

In the course of project monitoring at the Learning Centre, a number of achievements for the period running to August 2004, were recorded as follows:

1. The project managed to produce a project video documentary which focused on project activities, district authorities and their input in the project, and development partners. The video documentary runs for 10 minutes.

2. There have been a number of successive radio talk shows that were conducted every Thursdays on Radio WA in Lira Municipality. This activity was successfully executed for the period January – June 2004, in as far as ICT training and sensitisation is concerned. Radio scripts were developed for radio presentation and a radio CD named “Developing Countries Farm Radio Network” was developed.

3. The Learning Centre in Lira Municipality has been frequently opened to the project beneficiaries who have included, NGOs, government department and the entire Lira Community. The services provided at the Learning Centre include a variety of; ICT services and facilities to do with computer applications training, faxing, photocopying, telephone, and Internet services.

4. Formation of technical committees to guide the project team in content development for agriculture and for the re-integration programmes in the Lira communities.

5. Production of a programme Newsletter released in March 2004, Volume 1, Issue 1 headed “BE INFORMED”.

6. The CPAR Project on ICTs has tried to network and co-ordinate its activities with NAADS, NARO, CPA and Rachelle Rehabilitation Centre in respect to re-integration process.

7. Recording of Live Radio shows was done on audiotapes for future sensitisation. These tapes are also regularly listened to by the programme beneficiaries for information dissemination, to the youth, women and the Lira community.

8. The project has established good working relations with the district authorities. They have worked very closely with the District Agricultural and Forestry Departments in presentation of radio programmes. This has greatly improved relations and it has boosted the projects potential in content development.
## PROJECT'S RATED PERFORMANCE

### PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE RATING

**PROJECT NUMBER: 101210**

**RATING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2004**

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<th>REPORT FORMAT</th>
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**HAS REPORT BEEN SUBMITTED WITHIN REQUIRED TIME-FRAME**

NO

DUE TO CORRECTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS, REPORT WAS RE-SUBMITTED IN AUGUST 2004

**REPORT FOR REVIEW:**

YES

### MILESTONE 4 ACTIVITIES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>RUNNING OF RADIO PROGRAMMES</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>ESTABLISHING LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>IDENTIFICATION OF SOFTWARE NEEDS</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT OF SOFTWARE PROGRAMMES</td>
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<td>IDENTIFICATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SECTORS AND SOURCES</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>DONE ON AGRICULTURE, PESTICIDES, OTHERS NOT YET</td>
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**MILESTONE 4 ACTIVITIES**

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<tr>
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<th>COLLECTION AND REPACKAGING OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>NOT SO MUCH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS AVAILABLE</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>ARE TO BE PLANNED WITH FINANCIAL COSTS INVOLVED. THE YOUTH AND WOMEN GROUPS WILL EXCHANGE LEARNING VISITS.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>TO BE PLANNED AS WELL WITH FINANCIAL COSTS INVOLVED</td>
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**ASSESSOR:** FREDERICK K. KINTU

**REVIEWER:** EDITH O. ADERA, IDRC
RECOMMENDATIONS TO IDRC:

➢ The programme implementers forwarded the following recommendations to IDRC:

1. There is a request that IDRC would assist and facilitate on working out procedures for continuing the life of the Learning Centre at the closure of the project. (April 2005)

2. There is also need to venture into activities geared towards funding beneficiaries’ activities (IGAs) for programme completeness and where referrals are not applicable.

PROGRAMME SUSTAINABILITY

As the programme on ICTs draws towards its winding up in April 2005, mechanisms for programme sustainability were clearly thought about by the project team as follows:

➢ The project team felt it necessary to integrate the several groups under the project into other CPAR programmes handling; re-integration, Reproductive Health and Community Health project for continuity of their activities and programme sustainability.

➢ The team also felt it necessary that the training programmes in ICTs have been very fundamental and should be continued or re-integrated in the other CPAR programmes.

➢ Connectivity of the Learning Centre ought to be maintained due to its income generating potential amongst other services and activities at the Centre.

➢ Other related ICT services and facilities at the Learning Centre ought to be maintained like photocopying and faxing since they have been attracting so many users at the Lira Learning Centre.