

The Monthly Digest



Some of the stakeholders present during the OPM Breakfast meeting on Localization in Kampala.

A GATHERING OF MINDS: ADVOCATING FOR LOCALIZATION

The Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Secretariat, convened the Charter for Change (C4C) steering group (comprising of CARE International in Uganda, DanChurch Aid, OXFAM, FinnChurchAid, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children and World Vision) in a significant breakfast meeting conducted in Kampala on 11th October, 2023. The primary objective of the meeting themed; "Situating the Localization: From Rhetoric to Practicalities," was to facilitate the exchange of experiences and perspectives regarding the Localization Journey.

Several speakers shared their experiences regarding what is effective, the challenges faced, and the risks involved. It became apparent that localization has become the prevailing norm for international humanitarian and development organizations.

Apollo B. Gabazira, the Country Director, CARE in Uganda, the Coordinating INGO/C4C Signatory articulated a crucial perspective on localization. He emphasized that true localization goes beyond financial support; it's about bestowing power, voice, and influence upon national actors. "

|| If we provide funding to local entities but retain control over power, voice, and influence, then we haven't localized.

We are not scared of localization," he affirmed, "and have committed to transferring 50% of our resources to national entities by the end of this year."

50%

Percentage of resources committed to national entities by the end of this year.

Naomi Ayot, the Chairperson of the Charter for Change (C4C) working group, delivered a compelling account of her transformative journey before a diverse audience. Her resounding words resonated with the unwavering belief that the pursuit of localization is not a fleeting occurrence, but rather an enduring movement, akin to a progressing bus. Ayot's story https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktohp_nEf38 was a compelling tale of transformation showcasing the immense potential that communities possess, which can be harnessed and elevated through localization initiatives.

The CRRF Secretariat joined the chorus of commitment. The Executive Director Helen Bugaari pledged unwavering support to ensure the seamless integration of localization within the refugee policy. "As government, we are committed to including Localization in the refugee policy to ensure its implementation and this will be part of the innovations to sustain localization." She said. This bold step recognizes localization as a cornerstone for sustainable change.

Even after the conclusion of the meeting, it remains evident that promoting the localization agenda following the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, is the most viable approach. The commitment of various stakeholders to swiftly adapt, akin to a moving bus, underscores the necessity for government support and, notably, the Certification and Operationalization of the Quality Assurance Mechanism by the Uganda National NGO forum for the collective benefit of both national actors and international organizations.

NURTURING CARE AMBASSADORS

On 3rd October, an event dubbed CARE's Ambassadorship training united the senior staff and specialists across CARE International in Uganda's country office transcended the boundaries of a mere workshop; it symbolized commitment to empower a cohort of ambassadors for CARE in Uganda. What a timing, when CARE has redefined her critical mandate and is seeking role models to live, act and preposition CARE in the new dawn.

Esther Nampijja, the Human Resource Manager began with an introspective exploration of what CARE's brand is. During the workshop, Esther, Micheal Opio, the Program Director and Michael Tugyetwena the Operations Director delved into the core of ambassadorship. In all sessions, they echoed for the latter to serve as guiding lights for CARE's values and principles. The discussions went beyond mere representation and explored the crucial aspects of safeguarding organizational interests and passionately advocating for CARE's essential mission and mandate.

Micheal Opio summed the ambassadorship in three parts: Representing the values, Defending the interests of women and girls and the promise to advance the critical mandate of Locally led, gender equal and globally scaled. "As an ambassador, create a life- work harmony. Harmonize your personal life with the brand; mirror your personal life and how you relate with partners. There is going to be a sacrifice and the first measure of success is for you to breath and live CARE's values. For many, its process but we should allow ourselves to adjust and recalibrate." Said Opio.

"The bus has moved: we need to be open minded and there are a number of opportunities in this Localization agenda which requires aligning with new skills to ensure you are a new fit. Ask yourself, do I have what it takes to be a future fit or what should I do?" challenged Tugyetwena in his session where he unpacked what being locally led, gender equal and globally scaled means under the new direction. He said to CARE, this means giving local actors power, voice, influence, and resources.

CARE's Regional team led Jeremy Robinson, the Supply Chain Transformation Director presented a visual journey on Supply Chain Management that could be a breakthrough for the country office to harmonize with the regional procurement system and turn around Uganda's procurement in a seamless manner.

Participants engaged in lively discussions, sharing personal anecdotes of how these values resonated with their own experiences. The exchange of perspectives created a tapestry of understanding, knitting individuals together into a unified force.



"For me as someone who just joined CARE, it opened my mind on how to represent and promote the image of CARE. I was more empowered to defend and promote the values , mandate and interests of the organization. Nampijja Mary Immaculate, the Senior Initiative Manager - CLIRK Project.

Daisy Yossa immaculate- the Senior Initiative Manager CAS-CADE said; "It was a reminder to us all to be front runners in flying the CARE brand high.

Godfrey Omyoni, Senior Initiative Manager FFBS Project said, "It's important when your personal values align with the organizational values which makes life easy. This year's ambassadorship event was taken to the next level. If we can keep the momentum, hold ourselves accountable to what we have pledged today, then definitely we shall see the change".

Ambassadorship sessions made me deeply ponder on all the reasons I joined CARE and more so the many ways in which my values align with those of CARE, serving with Integrity, equality and transformation. The reason to wake up and serve knowing the greater good for which I wake up to offer what I offer to CARE. I was able to affirm my allegiance to CARE as I see myself grow with it in all ways.

The CARE Ambassadorship Workshop was happening for the second time however this was not just an event: it was a catalyst for change. It birthed a new wave of empowered representatives, ready to defend CARE's interests and promote its invaluable mandate under the Localization agenda. As they return to their respective roles, they carry with them a shared vision – CARE being locally led, gender equal and globally scaled.



The ADA team with some of the WAYREP Project participants display their products during a courtesy visit by the ADA team and CARE Austria.

JOINT PARTNERSHIPS INSTRUMENTAL IN TACKLING GBV IN ARUA

Since the onset of January 2023, the Arua police station has witnessed a concerning surge in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, with the tally now exceeding 400. This unfortunate reality positions Arua as the second-highest in the country for reported GBV incidents. The Arua Superintendent of Police and West Nile GBV focal person, Anguyo Jimmy, revealed this alarming trend.

Anguyo, speaking on this disconcerting shift, emphasized that GBV encompasses far more than defilement and rape. He noted that cultural norms had previously deterred men from reporting cases of domestic violence. However, this paradigm is evolving, “Previously, we had few cases of domestic violence reported by men because of the culture, however men are now reporting cases against women who have violated their rights. I want to thank CARE for supporting the police because police can never work alone. We need the cultural institutions, local leadership, and everyone to be allies in fighting GBV.” Said Anguyo.

The Prime Minister of Lugbara Kari, Tuku Ismael, echoed Anguyo sentiments, commending CARE’s collaboration with the Lugbara. “I want to thank CARE for partnering with the Lugbara. We have already registered positive results from the community.

|| We have very sticky cultural norms that aggravate GBV but CARE has enabled us to reach the grass roots, something we wouldn’t have done on our own.

The dedication of CARE and CEFORD staff in enhancing their skills and knowledge during the implementation of initiatives like SASA (Start, Awareness, Support and Action) was recognized by Ismael, who praised them for their role.

Dr. Katja Yvonne Kerschbaumer underscored the importance of inclusive partnerships, emphasizing the involvement of stakeholders such as the court and prisons in providing timely justice for both perpetrators and victims. “Perpetrators and victims need timely justice because they cannot come to courts after five years”. This holistic approach, she emphasized, is essential in addressing GBV comprehensively, ensuring that justice is not delayed for the years to come.

MONTHLY GENDER CONVERSATIONS



Dr. Madanda Aramanzan, the Senior Gender Technical Advisor, along with the Gender Technical Working Group, has been organizing monthly gender conversations at the CO since August this year. The purpose of these conversations is to facilitate, enhance, and establish gender transformation as an integral part of the gender Transformation Plan. The theme for the October monthly gender conversation was: “A Crisis of Masculinity in CARE- Key Question: Are men in CARE Really Marginalized or is it a sign of shading crocodile tears amidst male privileges” ?

You can access the recorded conversation here: 

BUILDING A FUTURE WHERE EMPOWERMENT HAS NO BOUNDS

The incredible journey of Claudine and Jean



Claudine (Third left) teaching her group members in her backyard garden.

Claudine and Jean were compelled to individually flee their homeland in DRC-Congo following the tribal conflict in 2013 and 2015 respectively. Fortunately, they were reunited and relocated to Kyaka II settlement in southwestern Uganda. CARE in partnership with JESE have successfully facilitated the transformation of their lives. Their journey towards this blissful state commenced in 2020 when they embraced change through the STRENPO project.

“I got to know CARE/JESE through my savings group in 2020. Our main activity in the group was just saving and sharing out at the end of the year. By then, we had a lot of land for farming since we were few refugees in Kyaka and the World Food Programme was giving us “Mupokelo” (meaning food rations) which complemented food crops from our gardens. Unfortunately, as the war persisted, more refugees kept coming and resettled here, occupying more land and reducing what we were farming on - life became hard.

However, when CARE/JESE came, they taught us how to preserve the environment, acquire assets and improve our lives. When we shared out that year with the knowledge I had received, I bought a goat, which reproduced. I later sold the kids and got startup capital of UGX 200,000 which I used to buy 10 chicken. This motivated my husband to also join a saving group. However, I spent all the profits on buying clothes for my children, husband and myself because of poor planning and budgeting”. Narrates Zawadi.

The Fill the Nutrition Gap project, a pilot initiative implemented by CARE in partnership with JESE funded by the Latter Days Saints, has successfully revitalized, and sustained the role model couple in Kakoni A, Kyaka settlement. Claudine, a community-based facilitator (CBT), and her husband, serving as the chairperson in his group, are thriving thanks to this project.

“My group members trusted me and elected me as their CBT to go and learn and then come back to train them in April 2023. We were trained in constructing backyard gardens, making composite manure, growing vegetables, gender and savings. Right now, I have received several trainings from CARE/JESE which have taught me how to become self-reliant. I did not know how to grow vegetables using backyard gardens, but I learnt and came to teach my group members. I couldn’t stand and speak in front of people but right now I can speak and train them”.

The skills in backyard gardening have been fundamental in building resilience and improving the livelihoods of 40 groups currently being supported by the Fill the Nutrition Gap project amidst the food cuts (40%) by the WFP in the settlement.

“When they (WFP) reduced on ‘Mupokelo’, we had already acquired the skills on how to grow vegetables. With these gardens we can now grow vegetables throughout the year to feed on, and sell in the market to acquire basic items, save and pay school fees. Buying salt, soap and cooking oil is no longer a challenge. We are forgetting the food cuts and life is moving on because of the trainings by JESE and CARE. There is a big change in our house. I previously thought that all the housework was meant for a woman while the man’s job was to just go to the garden. In the past, my husband would wake up go to the garden, while I do house chores and then follow him later to join in the digging. When we returned, I would continue to cook, take care of the crying children, carry water for him to the bathroom and incase lunch was delayed, he would start quarrelling. Right now, my husband helps to wash utensils, take care of the children and washing all our clothes. Actually, in my life I had never eaten food prepared by a man but I have started eating it since this year began and I want to thank CARE and JESE.

Jean -Marie, the husband of Claudine, found the training in gender and social norms was a pivotal moment in his ability to shed his preconceived notions of socialized gender and norms from DRC-Congo. Despite the daunting nature of this task, he was able to make significant progress thanks to the training.

“I entered the group after seeing the items that my wife had bought from ‘sharing out’ and also the responsibilities she had in a group. I did not know that a woman could lead. I wanted to join her group but it was full, so I joined another group. Back home in Congo, women do everything including carrying my hoe while we are leaving the garden irrespective of the load she is carrying but trainings by CARE and JESE, have changed our mindset. I now support her in house chores and also the chicken business”.

We are rearing chicken but because I never went to school like my wife, we divided the roles. I rear the chicken home while she goes to the market to do the buying and selling because I don’t understand finance issues the way she does. When she returns home, she puts all the money on the table and we decide what to keep and what to reinvest”. Reports Jean-Marie

Today, the couple makes a profit of UGX 100,000 weekly from their chicken business with hopes of expanding their business and living large in the settlement. The Fill the Nutrition Gap project aims to build sustainable food systems by addressing imbalances and injustices faced by the marginalized groups and promoting greater equality in the refugee settlement.

STAFF ENGAGEMENT ON THE LOCALLY LED DISCOURSE

Localization, once a niche concept, has rapidly emerged as a focal point of interest for organizations across various sectors. This dynamic shift represents a fundamental reimagining of how humanitarian and development efforts are conducted. Organizations are not merely adapting to this agenda; they are wholeheartedly embracing it, weaving it into the very fabric of their operations.

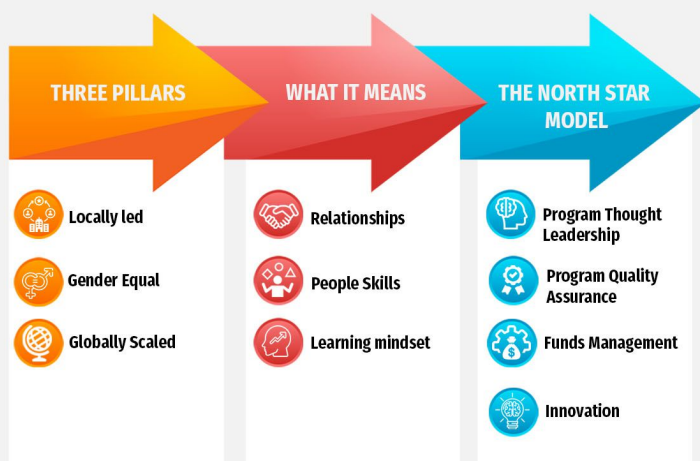


For CARE, Localization transcends mere fragments; it signifies a transformative journey encompassing three fundamental pillars: local leadership, gender equality, and global scalability.

This shift however necessitates that the Labor force possesses not only technical expertise but also cultural awareness, proficiency in navigating intricate local environments, and proficiency in promoting significant community involvement.

This month, Apollo B. Gabazira, CARE's Country Director, spearheaded pivotal internal dialogues on locally led with staff across CARE's operational areas over the last two weeks and concluded the sessions with the Kampala, Kamuli and Kotido staff on 30th October 2023. The objective was to support CARE staff understand the profound implications of this agenda on CARE's operations and support staff alignment with CARE's current reposition.

CARE'S LOCALLY LED TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY



CARE'S LOCALLY LED TRAJECTORY



CELEBRATING OCTOBER WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Otim Robert
5 Years

David Walugunga
10 Years

Otim joined CARE International in Uganda on 1st October 2018 as the MEAL specialist for Women Empowerment in Natural Resources Governance Program and later worked as the MEAL Advisor for Climate Justice Programme before joining CARE Netherlands in September 2022 on secondment as the MEAL Lead for CARE Climate Justice Centre.

"I am so grateful to CARE and every one of you that have worked closely with me over the last 5 years. These years wouldn't have been possible with your unwavering support. CARE provides a huge opportunity to learn and upskill yourself." Says Otim

Walugunga joined CARE Uganda on 1st October 2013. He has been diligent in his service and taken on additional responsibilities including coordinating the country program weekly movement plan and coordinating the work of On Call Drivers.

"Working with your supervisor can be a highly rewarding experience. While you may encounter challenges, take the time to understand them and learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate. This will pave the way for a productive and harmonious working relationship - the way I am enjoying working with my supervisor." Says Walugunga