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IAPF II Midterm review Key Findings

Background and Introduction

Trócaire Uganda received funding under the Irish Aid Programme Grant II (IAPF) for a five-year programme (2017-2021) that focusses on supporting sustainable natural resource management, equitable access to natural resources, and prevention of and response to gender-based violence, in Acholi and Teso sub-regions of northern Uganda.

This mid-term review looks at progress that has been made at the mid-point of the programme and provides key findings and recommendations to support learning and programme adaptation for the remaining programme period.

Resource Use and Rights (Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2)

The long-term result under Outcome 2.1 is that: Men and women in Acholi and Teso sub-regions are sustainably using and managing their natural resources. (**Methodologies used:** *Climate Resilient Agro-Ecological Model, Community Managed Seed System, VSLA, Gender Action Learning Systems, Advocacy*)

The long-term result under Outcome 2.2 is that: Men and women in Acholi and Teso sub-regions exercise their rights to access and control natural resources. (**Methodologies used:** *Gender Sensitive Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, Advocacy*)

Purpose of the MTR

To provide findings and recommendations that support in-country learning and programme adaptation.

To provide consistent clear and credible information that will enable Trócaire to evaluate the overall IAPF II programme.

Scope/Objectives of the MTR

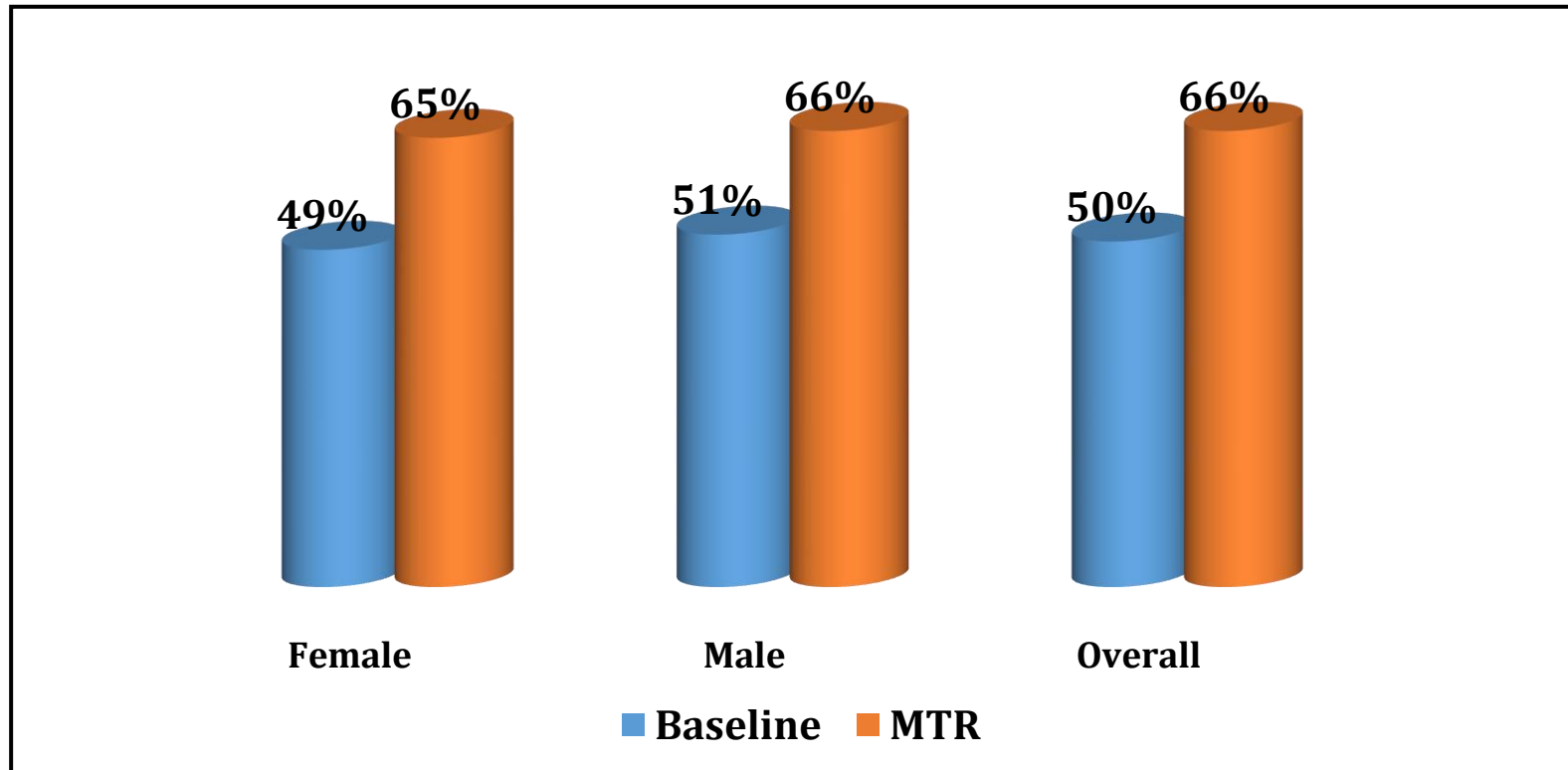
- Assess the achievements of the IAPG programme against the planned objectives, including any unexpected results.
- Assess to what extent the pathways of change identified were valid, relevant and accurate, including an assessment of unanticipated pathways and/or unforeseen factors which promoted or constrained change.
- Identify lessons learned in attempting to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Reflecting on the sustainability strategies considered during programme design, consider what adaptations (if any) have been taken and are required to increase sustainability of the programme beyond December 2021?
- What have been the benefits and challenges of integrating Trócaire's approaches (CMA, resilience, women's empowerment), to partners and communities?

MTR Methodology

- **Evaluation design:** The MTR adopted a descriptive cross-sectional design. A mixed method approach comprising of both qualitative and quantitative participatory techniques
- **Sampling techniques:** Probability sampling (Simple random sampling, Cluster sampling) and Non probability sampling (purposive sampling)
- **Methods of data collection:** Document review (DR), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), quantitative surveys and observational methods
- **Data Analysis:** Quantitative data (Excel and SPSS V24); Qualitative data (QDA Miner Lite)

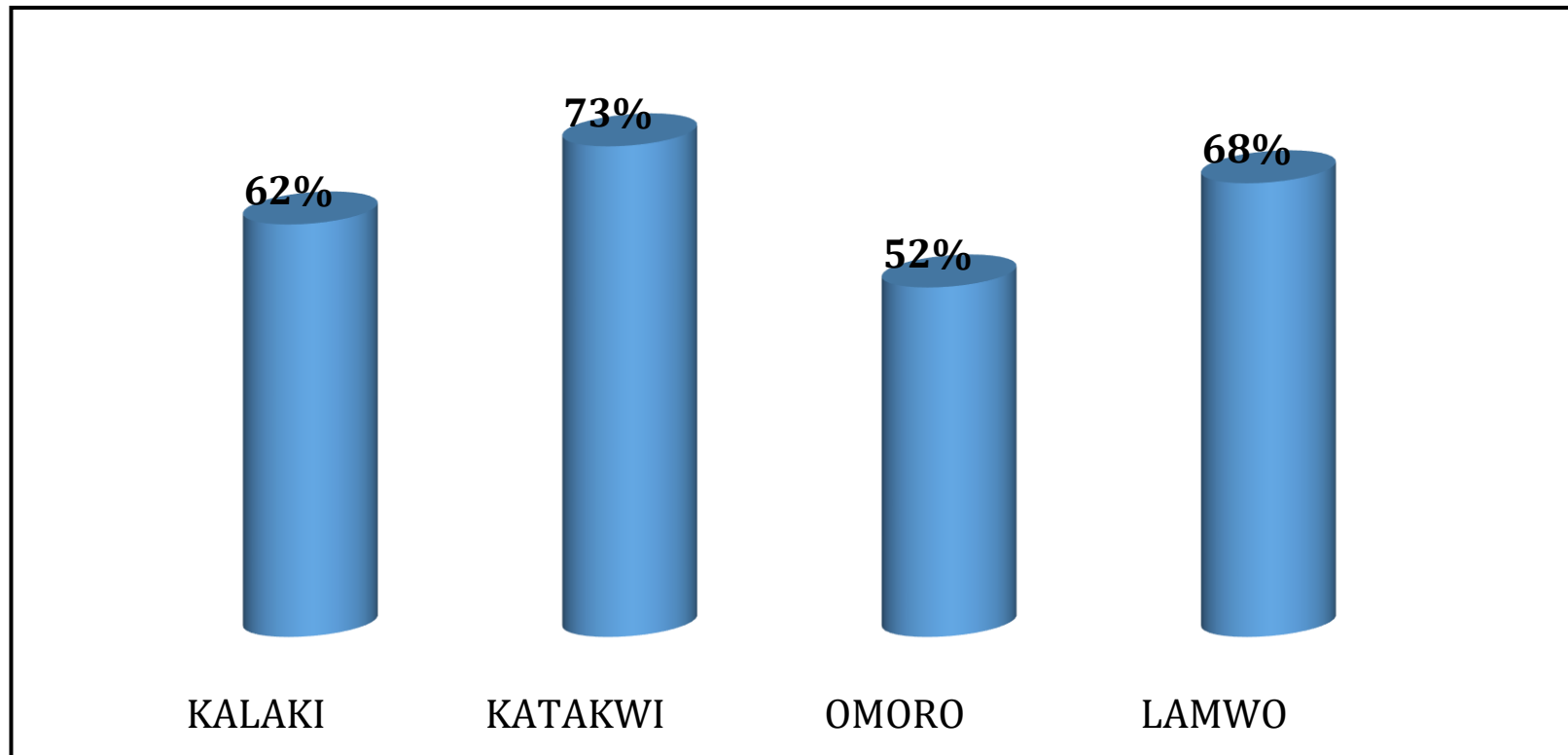
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Sustainable use and management of natural resources



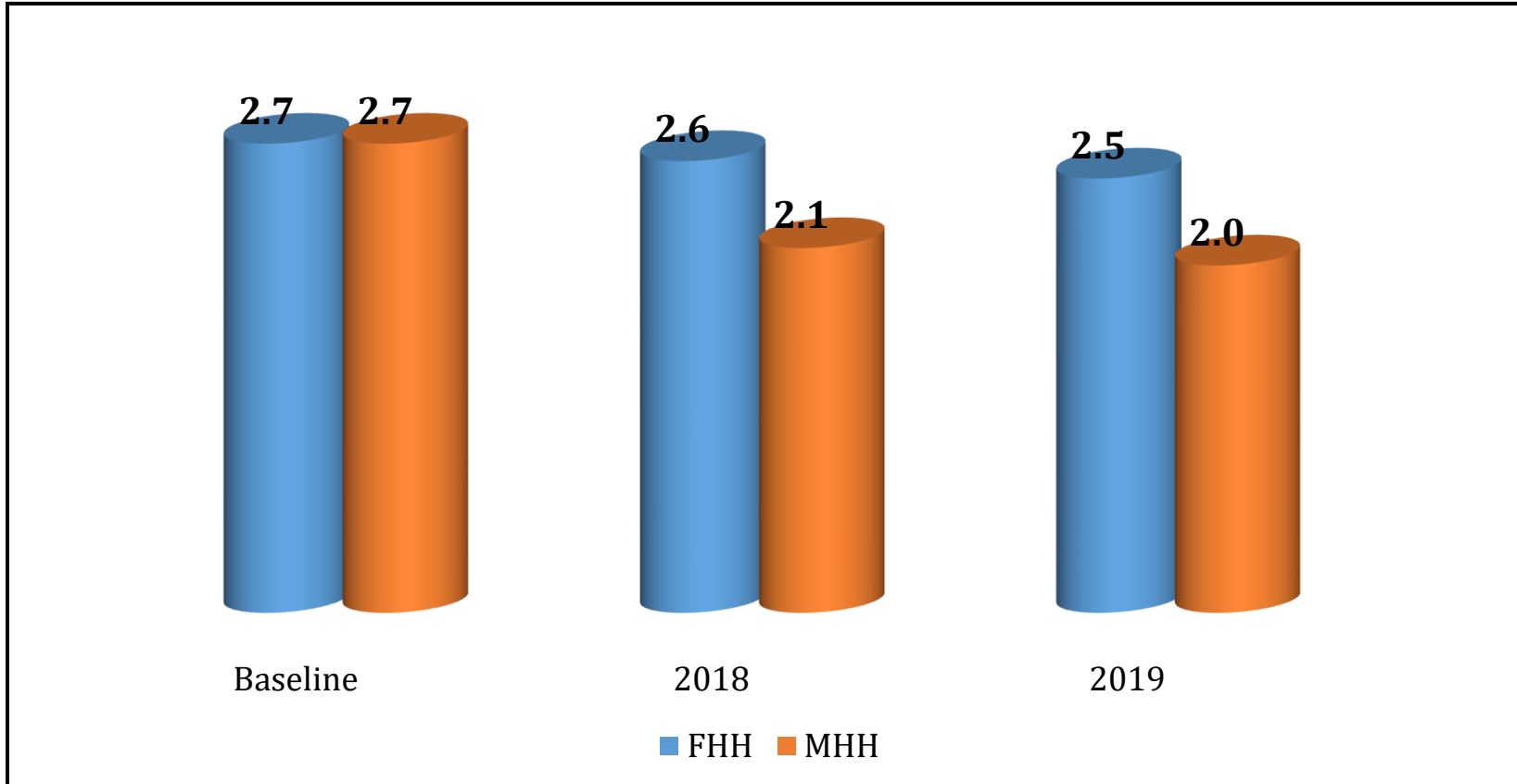
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Sustainable use and management of natural resources by district at MTR



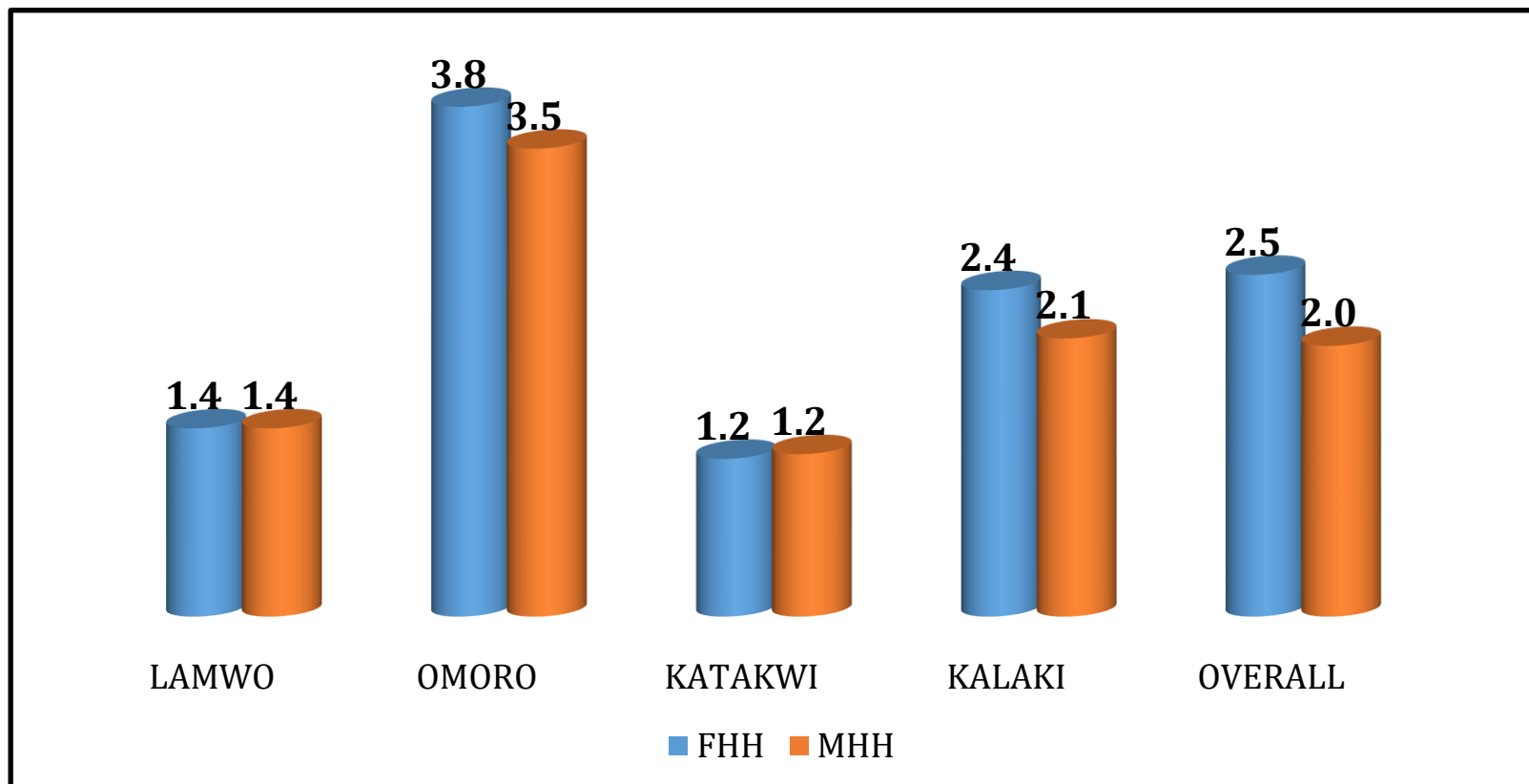
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Adoption of sustainable livelihoods coping strategies (LBCSI)



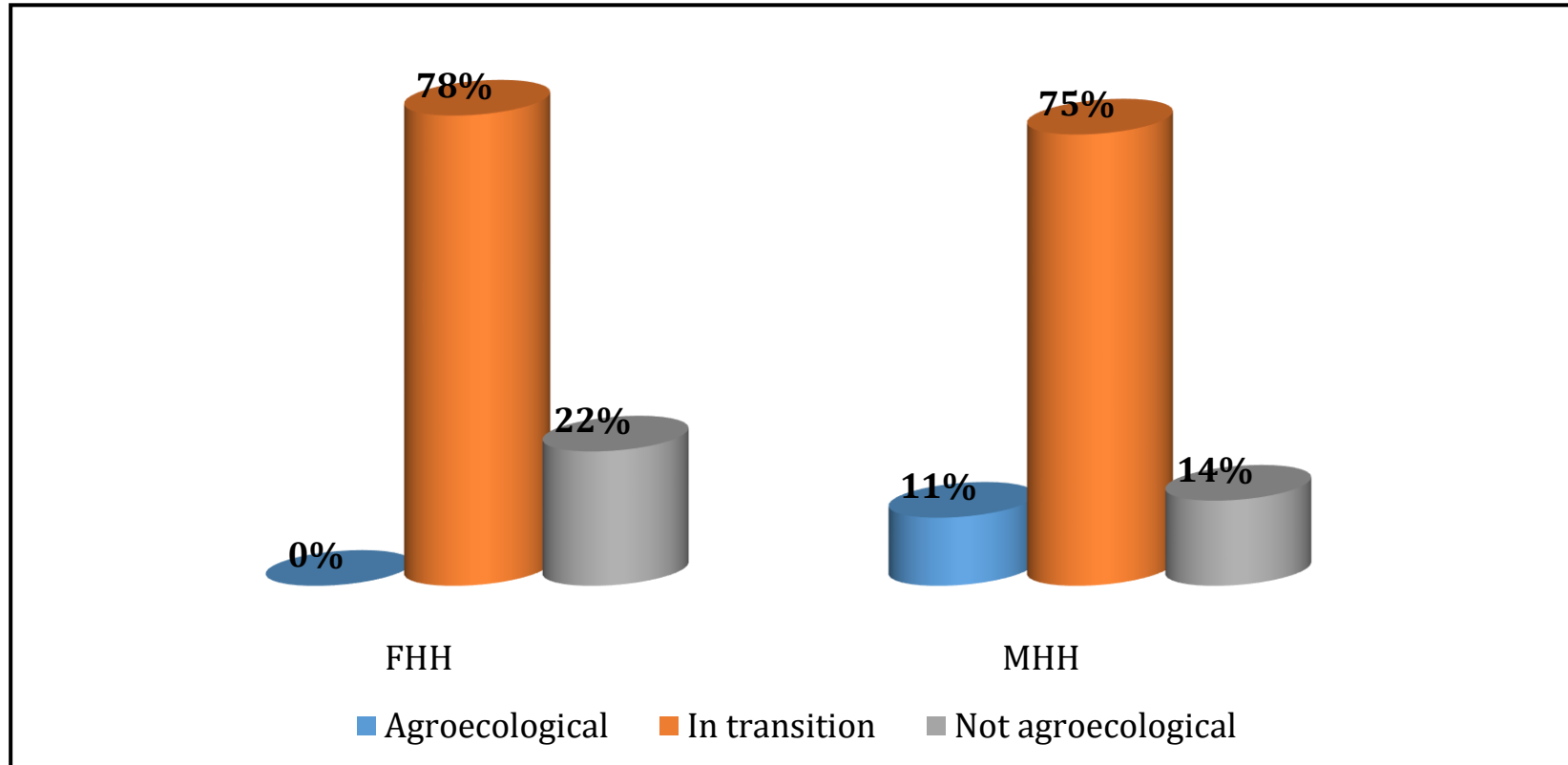
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Adoption of sustainable livelihoods coping strategies by district at MTR



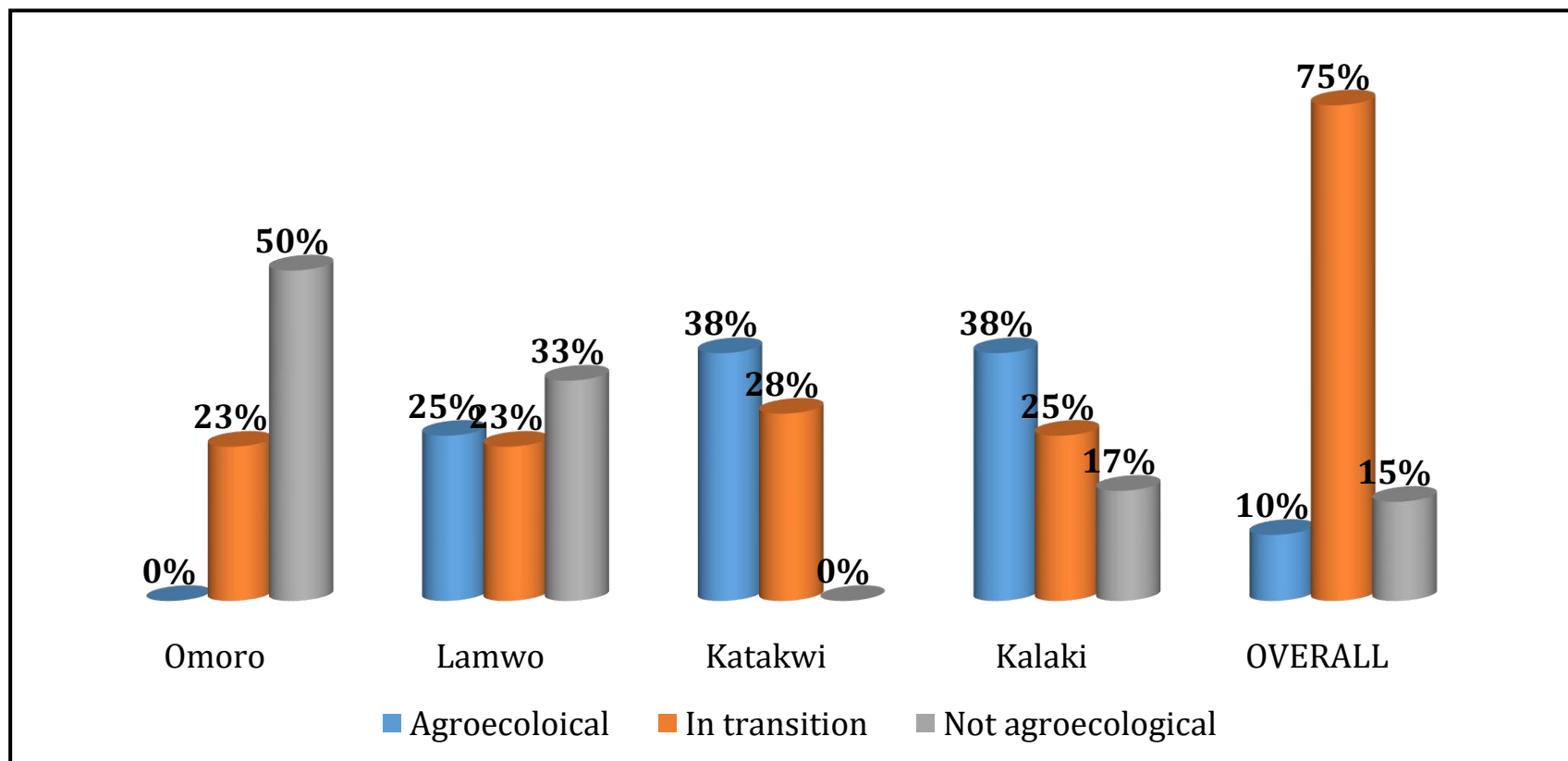
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Adoption of agroecological practices at MTR



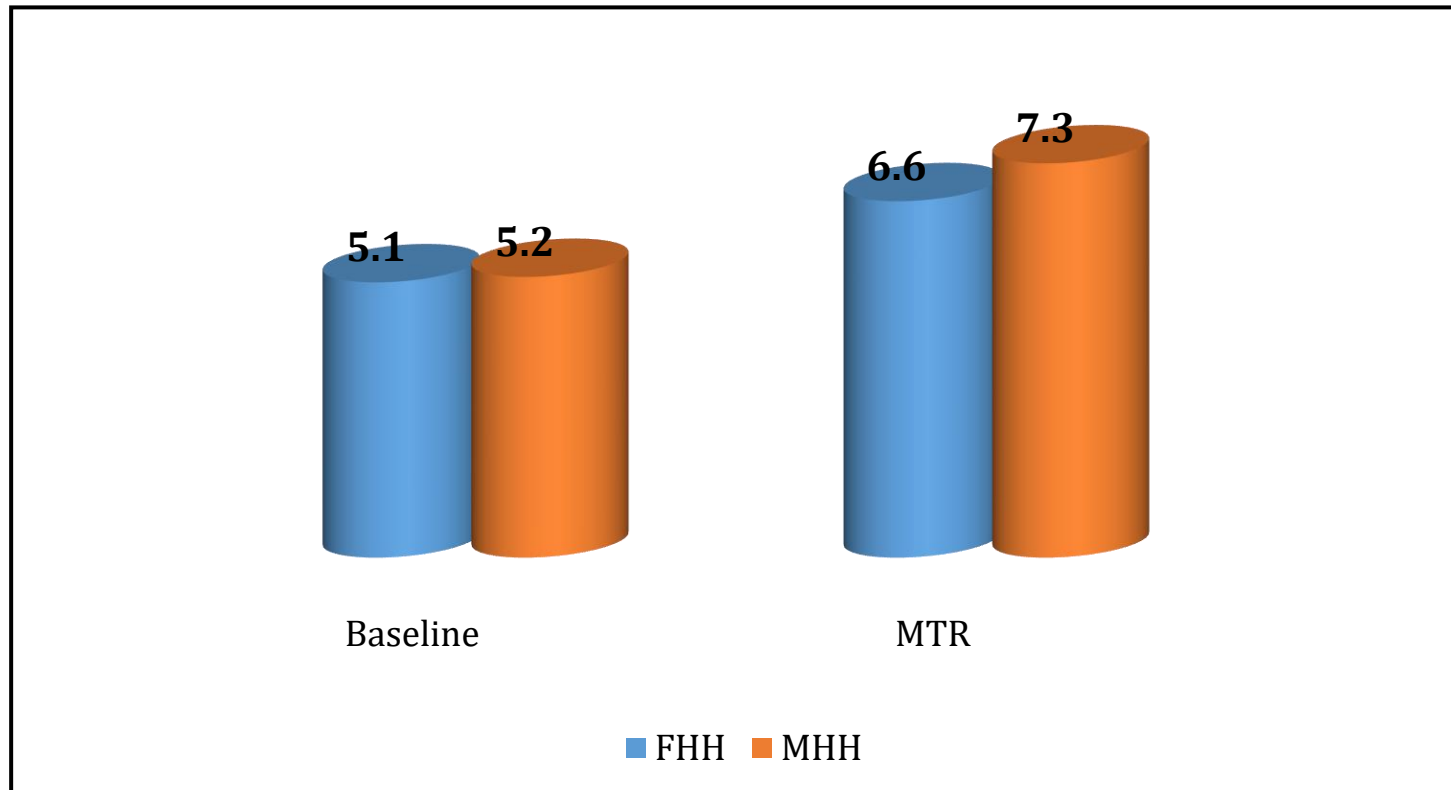
Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Adoption of agroecological practices by district at MTR



Key MTR findings (Outcome 2.1)

Utilisation of wild and traditional foods by communities (HDDS)



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Key advocacy successes (2.1 and 2.2)

- Establishment of community bylaws against unsustainable use and management of natural resources (Lokung and Paloga)
- Increased enforcement at community level of existing and established policies, laws and bylaws by local authorities
- Bukedea district now has a District Lands Officer, District Environmental Officer (Acting as District Natural Resource Officer)
- In Bukedea, 3.8M has been allocated for demarcation of wetlands

Key advocacy successes (2.1 and 2.2)

- In Bukedea, a critical mass for sustainable use and management of wetlands has been created at community level through awareness raising by community monitors
- Contributed to the finalisation of the national irrigation policy
- Contributed to the development of irrigation master plan
- Created an influencing group- Community of excellence on integrated water resource development
- Created strategic spaces for engagement e.g the annual water and environment week, Agriculture sector review, water for agriculture production has gained a lot of prominence

Key advocacy successes (2.1 and 2.2)

- Key issues in the irrigation master plan have been included in agriculture investment plan
 - Succession amendment bill- The first reading of the bill before Parliament has been completed, and Parliament has referred the bill to the legal committee of Parliament for review
 - National seed policy was passed
 - National Organic Agricultural Policy was passed
 - Work on the Agroecology strategy is ongoing
 - National strategy for scaling up agroecology- in the pipeline
 - Ministry of Water and Environment has now prioritised demarcation and restoration of the wetlands
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MTR findings (Outcome 3.2)

No acceptance of gender inequality, women are mostly to blame for bring HIV into the household and participation in decision making processes by district

	KALAKI		BUKEDEA		KATAKWI		OMORO		LAMWO		OVERALL	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Proportion of women and men who do not accept gender inequality or behaviours leading to IPV	11	10	5	2	56	56	2	2	19	10	93	80
Proportion of women and men who believe that women are mostly to blame for bringing HIV to the household.	11	6	30	44	1	0	4	7	35	62	81	119
Proportion of women who have a say in making key decisions at family level in the 2 domains: their own health and visiting relatives	9	NA	13	NA	18	NA	1	NA	35	NA	76	NA
Total number of respondents interviewed	62	62	63	62	62	62	20	20	134	132	341	338

Key advocacy successes (3.2)

- Advocacy group members now engage in monitoring and following up duty bearers' delivery of commitments related to SGBV prevention and response. Several results from this work, including securing budget allocations for SGBV in Kalaki (UGX 200,000) and Bululu sub-county (UGX 500,000); Police Form 3 for reporting sexual assault incidents are available and allocating a female police officer to the Child and Family Protection Unit in Koro sub-county.
- Due to the efforts of partner CSBAG, with support from Trocaire and other advocacy stakeholders, a position paper was developed and UGX 27.6 million (approx. €6,700) has been allocated for the fiscal year 2019/2020, up from no allocation in previous years.
- ACFODE has continued to engage with key Parliamentarians from Acholi and is raising awareness on issues from the region using the MCJL citizen monitoring reports and Accountability Forum reports.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- NRMCs have been very effective in supporting communities' natural resource management; community ownership and buy-in is high as strategies are based on community-developed action plans.
- Results for improvements in the LBCSI vary by district. There is a need to support partner capacity in districts where results are weaker to achieve parity of outcomes across programme areas.
- Qualitative data suggests that membership of a VSLA in addition to support to adopt agro-ecological approaches is a key determinant in improved livelihood outcomes. It will be important for the programme to have proactive strategies to encourage FHH to join the VSLAs.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- Strategies to support women's empowerment have been successful in supporting women's participation in programme activities, which is reflected in positive programme results for women's participation in NRM and agro-ecological activities, and increased economic empowerment.
- For the GALS approach to be successful it is essential for male spouses/partners to be involved as well as women household members.
- Programme results for FHHs were lower for all outcomes, indicating that additional and specific support is needed to ensure that FHHs are able to participate in and benefit from programme interventions.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- Progress with wetland demarcation has been positive, but there is significant resistance to it due to the potential economic gains associated with cultivating wetlands. Continued support is needed to build and maintain political buy-in to protect and increase gains, and to protect partners and community activists and members advocating for wetland demarcation, as opposition can in some cases be violent.
- Community buy-in to ADR mechanisms because of the perception that ADR respects cultural standards and beliefs, and because it is cheaper and more efficient than the court system. However, there are challenges to the process, including political interference, corruption among mediators, weak clan system and the risk of backlash from opposing parties. On-going support is needed with capacity building and sensitisation to ensure the sustainability of the intervention, and to monitor resolved cases to ensure that there is no backlash from dissatisfied parties.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- There is a need to ensure consistency in the ADR process across communities and to ensure that the key justice principles are maintained, especially for vulnerable women.
- Tailored strategies to ensure that women have access to information on their resource rights and the processes through which to claim them have a direct impact on women's use of these processes, which in many cases have resulted in women successfully claiming their land rights.
- Documentation of cultural laws creates a pathway to accessing resource rights by providing a legal framework.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- Supporting communities to take proactive responsibility for their resources is key to ensuring their access and control over them. This includes providing relevant practical skills and access to information about resource rights, and providing support to identify and advocate to duty bearers to protect community-level resources.
- Building capacity of leaders at local and sub-county level supports strengthened, gender-sensitive ADR processes and increased knowledge of natural resource rights, especially for women.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 2.1 and 2.2

- Land conflict is often accompanied by GBV, but the people mandated to conduct ADR for land may not have the skillset to deal appropriately with GBV issues that arise. There is a need to monitor how cases are being handled and build the capacity of clan leaders on how to handle cases related to GBV during ADR.
- Increasing women's knowledge and understanding of their rights leads to women asserting their right to use productive land and has a positive knock-on effect on the level of agricultural production.
- National-level advocacy is crucial to ensuring an overarching legal framework in support of equitable access to resources; however, to maximise success a clear strategy is needed that includes identification of stakeholders, a harmonised approach across partners and appropriate and timely budget allocation.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 3.2

- The process of changing attitudes and perceptions is slow, and slower among women than men. Specific, targeted efforts are needed to effect and sustain change, with a focus on methods that are effective in increasing women's 'power within' so that they are more receptive to programme messaging.
- Results for the three indicators related to women's 'power within' (women who do not accept gender inequality, proportion of women who believe that women are mostly to blame for bringing HIV in to the household and level of women's participation in household decision-making) have got worse over the past year, indicating that sustained efforts are needed to maintain positive change. There is also need to see how behavioural change normally presents itself over time.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 3.2

- Delivering GBV prevention messaging through faith structures and actors is very effective in reaching faith communities but measures should be taken to monitor whether the approach is excluding people of other faiths.
- Religious leaders can and do play an important role in the referral pathway, but are not the only actors involved; it is necessary to identify and support other actors, including duty bearers and service providers, to ensure that the referral pathway functions appropriately for survivors.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 3.2

- The quality of capacity building of service providers should be monitored, both from the perspective of the service providers themselves and from the experience of users, ensuring that data collection is ethical and in line with global standards (GBVIMS).
- The LC1 structure is mandated to receive GBV cases under the Domestic Violence Act and survivors often report to their LC1 Chairperson, however their capacity, knowledge and skills to handle cases is low.
- Repeated changes of duty bearers has a detrimental impact on programme results. Strategies are needed to mitigate against staff turnover at local and sub-county and district level.

Lessons learnt: Outcome 3.2

- Targeting at sub-county level on issues of resourcing has limited effect as they have a small pot from which they can allocate. It must be accompanied by regional and national level efforts, where more of the decisions are taken.
- Advocacy efforts should continue to focus on key Parliamentary Committees (e.g. gender) and the MPs who represent the sub-counties where the programme is operational.
- The programme needs to be clear as to what success outcomes look like at National level.

Sustainability approaches (2.1 and 2.2)

- CRAEM uses local knowledge and locally available resources and limits the need for outside resources, and the VSLA methodology was selected based on research on economic empowerment strategies from Ethiopia, specifically because it does not require any external inputs and is owned by the community members, who decide each year whether or not to continue their group.
- Another key factor supporting the sustainability of the agro-ecology approach was the selection of PELUM, a technical partner at national level that advises and builds capacity on agro-ecology throughout the programme.

Sustainability approaches (2.1 and 2.2)

- Integrating GALS in to the VSLA component was intended to support women's empowerment, but also the sustainability of this component in terms of mitigating against the risk that lack of social empowerment would have a negative impact on women's opportunity to participate in economic empowerment activities.
- For the work on resource rights a decision was taken to focus on community level rather than pursuing a formal, legal route because of the huge costs involved and because this would support building capacity within communities to identify and prioritise their own issues. This outcome also has a strong emphasis on capacity building and accompaniment of local government leaders.

Sustainability approaches (3.2)

- SASA! Faith is an established methodology with a strong focus on sustainability rooted in the approach of working through existing faith structures and building capacity of people within communities.
- There has also been a strong emphasis on CMA for this component from design stage, focusing on supporting changes at community level through working with the relevant local and national structures, including for financing.

Thank you