

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

NARRATIVE REPORT QUARTER TWO, APRIL-JUNE 2024



Report prepared and submitted by: Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS)

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Report Public

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

List of acronyms

CAY	Children, Adolescent and Youth
CBA	Community Based Adaptation
CC	Climate change
CDFU	Communication for Development Foundation Uganda
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLASS	Change Lead Agency Social Support.
COC	Champion of Change
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
LCs	Local Councillors
PIU	Plan International Uganda
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
S/C	Sub county
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
T/C	Town council

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 About Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS)

Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS) is a youth-focused nongovernmental organization started by people of like-minded and zeal to do charitable work in Uganda. It is registered with URSB (**Registration Number: 80020002304277**), legally registered with Uganda National NGO Bureau (**Registration Number: INDR156284736NB**), Alebtong District Local Government (**Registration Number: ADLG/2020/147**), Amugu Sub County Local Government (**Registration Number: ASLG/CBS/001/020**) and affiliated to Lango Civil Society Network (LACSON) formerly Lira NGO Forum (**Registration Number: LF/NGO/LR/1310**), Girls Not Brides Uganda Partnership to end child marriage, National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda, Digital Rights Alliance Africa, Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO) with a permit (**Permit Number: NDP0004736NB**) to operate nationwide and with certificate from Finance Intelligence Authority of Uganda (**Registration Number: FIA-14-001137**). CLASS is currently working in Alebtong District since its inception in 2016 towards promoting the wellbeing of children and youth in the areas of education, SRHR, WASH, Food and Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, SGBV, youth participation, youth economic empowerment and climate change response.

1.2 Vision, Mission & core values

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Vision: A global centre for promoting the wellbeing of children and youth

Mission: To facilitate change for socioeconomic wellbeing of children and youth

Core values: Respect for humanity, partnership, transparency and accountability, commitment to law and justice

1.3 CLASS main objectives

- 1) To be a lead voice for children and youth.
- 2) To give chance to children/youth to participate and contribute positive advocacy for child justice and wellbeing.
- 3) To enhance Sustainable conservation and protections of environment and disaster response.
- 4) To promote access to education for vulnerable groups.
- 5) To support programs that increase access to safe, clean water and basic sanitation.
- 6) To mobilize and equip individuals on food security and nutrition.
- 7) To create gender awareness and mainstream gender in socioeconomic development.
- 8) To promote sexual reproduction health and rights, and tackle Sexual Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS.

1.4 CLASS core Programs

1. Child Development and Child Protection.
2. Youth Economic Empowerment and Participation.
3. Social norm changes and Gender transformation.
4. Climate change (emergency/disaster response program).
5. Research.

CLASS Partners

1. Plan International
2. National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders Uganda

CLASS conducted the following activities during quarter two (April to June, 2024) mainly with funding support from Plan International and technical support from partners such as Reproductive Health Uganda, LIDUPED Foundation, ACTADE, and CDFU;

- Training Out of School Children, Adolescents and Youth through Champions of change clubs (cohort 2)

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- Placement of youth for cohort three 2024 in different training centers
- Training of youth under innovation hub program on vocational/green skills, life skills and business skills
- Participation on CBA 18

Outcome 1: Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity have the support and the confidence to make informed, responsible, positive, and healthy choices about their SRHR and future

Output 1.1 Children, adolescents, and youth have improved skills and knowledge on SRHR, healthy and positive sexuality, intimate relationships, and gender roles

Progress notes and description of activities carried out

Activity 1.1.1 Training Out of School CAY through CoC clubs

CHAMPION OF CHANGE CLUB TRAINING

In the CoC clubs, 120 (60 girls and 60 boys with a total of 4 youth with disabilities) were mobilized in December 2023 and are trained on CoC modules that entails SRHR through June 2024. This was actualized through module 3 for boys (M3. Boy's champion of change) and module 2, 3, and 4 for girls (M2. Being gender aware, M3. Being body confident, M4. Being informed about Sexual and reproductive health). Through this engagement, youth have exhibited increased awareness and positive practices on SRH like making informed decision about their health, choosing the right partners, accessing SRH services without fear, discussing their SRH issues with their spouse and parents (observed through interactions and homes visits conducted). Overall, 102 youth (Abako 28 females and 23 males completed while groups in Amugu Sub County, 27 females and 24 males completed) completed the CoC training sessions while 22 dropped out.

Through Social mobilization using football tournament, the youth in Awaping (Abako Sub County) and Abunga (Amugu Sub County) have also been engaged in awareness creation on SRHR football where they used the event as avenue for awareness creation and increasing access to SRHR services. CLASS has enrolled a total of 120 young people (60 female and 60 male) in 4 CoC clubs (2 in Amugu and 2 in Abako Sub County) for the next 6-months engagement.

Program participants are now gender aware. Girls and boys have realized their rights, understood the different negative norms from within the community and are already challenging them e.g. they are empowered to give their views in family meetings through assertive communication.

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Boys have also realized who they are and the dangers of gender masculinity hence are promoting gender equality through sharing domestic responsibilities like helping girls in doing house chores. Both boys and girls are now making right decisions in communities and are now pursuing their life goals set during the training (CoC engagement).

The meaningful engagement of girls in CoC modules (i.e. dialoguing gender and other gender related topics) has improved their decision making skills where some of them re-joined formal education, established their side businesses, developed health seeking habits and are prepared to disseminate SRHR information to their fellow peers.

Similarly, the engagement of boys in the CoC modules and related topics have also empowered them to be advocates for gender equality. They are championing gender equality at homestead level (in their families) with very good knowledge about gender roles, gender norms, stereotypes that influence the lives and relationships between women and men.

The youth also gained knowledge on climate change, understood the linkage between climate change and SRHR, linkage between climate change and gender, climate change and violence and were able to identify hotspots within their communities where climate change impacts can be felt most.

The CoC club members also realized the significance of climate change and its resilience and they are creating awareness and practicing climate actions as a way of promoting climate change resilience. The youth in Awapiny (Abako Sub County) and Abunga (Amugu Sub County) acquired advocacy skills for climate change resilience and are practicing climate change resilience related activities i.e. 6 youth have planted a total of 59 trees (such as avocado, oranges, pine, citrus, mangoes, and jackfruit), 52 youth practicing Climate Smart horticulture (planted, egg plants, tomatoes, cow pea, wild eggplant and green paper), 42 youth adopted the use of locally modified charcoal cook stoves in their homes.

As a result of CoC engagement the youth have developed positive attitude towards persons with disabilities for instance the use of appropriate languages to refer to persons with disabilities unlike before where they used exclusive words like deaf for those with hearing impairment, mad for those with intellectual impairment. CLASS has also witnessed the increasing level of self-esteem among youth with disabilities as a result of getting to know their rights making them live free from discrimination for example, Opel Haron with visual impairment was elected as the spiritual leader of the foundation group (CoC club in Abunga parish Amugu Sub County) throughout the CoC club sessions.

There is increased active participation of youth with disabilities in community development programs and benefiting immensely for example, Adoline Atim has so far registered for Parish Development Model awaiting approval and receiving cash worth UGX 1,000,000 courtesy of

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Government of the Republic of Uganda. Some of the youth with disabilities have been supported with assistive devices like Aron Opel who received a white cane and was trained on how to effectively use and maintain it by LIDUPED Foundation.

Youth have gained knowledge on gender equality as a result of their engagement in the CoC program through dialoguing gender module. Most male youth have testified that they are now cooking and sharing other home chores/responsibilities with their sisters and mothers for example, Oweri Daudi, Ocen Nicki and Agumkom Innocent of Abunga and Awaping parishes of Amugu and Abako Sub Counties respectively.

Activity 1.1.1.5 Support CoC Group Activities and Functionality

Under Activity 1.1.1.5 Support CoC Group Activities and Functionality, young people in the CoC clubs were supported by CLASS to raise awareness on SRHR through champion of change football tournament.

This activity targeted 120 youth (CoC groups) from Abako and Amugu Sub Counties hosted in Aput ECCD center-primary school in Amugu.

The purpose of the activity was to mobilize community members particularly the youth to have access to SRHR information and services.

During the activity, the CoC club members were able to disseminate SRHR and Climate change information to other fellow peers reaching out to more than 900 male and 1,000 females through public address system commentary blended with SRHR/climate change, during the official opening and closing of the football match/tournament.

The community members were also reached with information on gender equality and for that, girls participated in the football competition. The community members/spectators were happy to see young women and girls participating in football match, a type of games/sport stereotyped as male reserve hence challenging the community to develop positive attitude towards promoting gender equality for all.

A total of 123 (98 female and 25 male) youth received SRHR services i.e. HIV Counselling and testing 109 youth, STI management 6 youth, STI/D testing 68 youth, family planning packages/contraceptives 54 youth provided by RHU during the football tournament.

Acanagene CoC group trained under cohort one (of 2023) and started VSLA activities on 27th June 2023 as a strategy of building resilience against shocks and stresses resulting from climate change have successfully shared out the saving in June 2024. Overall, 43 out of 60 members managed to complete VSLA cycle one. A total of UGX 1,058,000 was saved throughout the year with a total profit of UGX 555,900 realized. During the share-out, a member who received the

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highest was a girl who was given UGX 121,5000 followed by a boy who got UGX 79,000 in their first life.

Majority of the youth testified that it was their first experience saving money in VSLA group and during the course of the event, they were able to borrow money to finance their small businesses, met their own basic needs using welfare funds and others established small scale business like selling pan cakes, vegetables and other small merchandise in the nearby trading centers. When interviewed, many participants said that they would use their saving of money to invest in local chicken rearing, obtain their basic needs and help their parents in running their family affairs.

Selected activity photos



Participants attending Economic Empowerment Module in Omee Parish, Amugu Sub County

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Health worker training CoC members on STI/STD prevention and treatment in Omee Parish, Amugu Sub County

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A Participant (PWD) giving a closing prayer during the CoC sessions

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Health worker training CoC members on Reproductive System in Omee Parish, Amugu Sub County

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Chairperson deliberating on communities' expectation regarding boys' behaviour in Abako sub-county

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A male participant displaying his group discussion results to his fellow peers in Abako Sub County

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Participants presenting on shared identity, Abako Sub County

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Participants deliberating on importance of sexuality among the youth in Abako Sub County

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A CoC member displays their response on myth buster game in Abako Sub County

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A CoC facilitator leading a discussion on relationships in his sub group in Abako Sub County



Participants during awareness through football tournament in Amugu Sub County

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Output 1.3: Adolescents and young people, especially adolescent girls most at risk, have skills and increased links to pursue economic opportunities including alternative livelihood opportunities and green solutions

Progress notes and description of activities carried out

Activity 1.3.1: Life Skills training through Innovation Hub

Life Skills training through under CLASS innovation Hub

A total of 20 youth (11 Males and 09 Females) under cohort three 2024 participated in this training.

Core courses covered include; SRHR, climate change (basics about climate change, recycling and solar installation, renewable energy), gender, disability inclusion, relationship, menstrual health hygiene management.

Life skill sessions. Topics covered include; communication skills, effective decision making, interpersonal relationship, self-awareness, stress management, conflict resolution, negotiation, powerful people and etiquette.

SRHR sessions covered topics such as Relationships, menstrual health and hygiene management, body development and growth.

Climate change sessions included; basics about climate change, recycling and solar installation, renewable energy.

Gender sessions included; Gender norms, gender stereotypes, roles, equality, and equity.

Disability inclusion covered the types of disability, understanding disability.

From the training the youth are now able to make informed decisions about their lives, are able to nurture relationships, manage conflicts that arise among them and other people around them (developed positive attitude towards conflicts and its management) and are able to protect their environment by keeping it clean for example, a participant testified that he used to dislike sweeping their compound from home but now it is his routine to sweep to keep their work place clean something he had not taken to be important, another participant also mentioned that nowadays the youth are aware of the different STI/Ds and how to protect themselves from it through use of condoms, they used to think that family planning are for married people but now the training has opened their eyes and they now know that it can be used by even people who are not married.

The life skills session made the youth to initiate positive relationships through introductions and understanding rules of conduct at the innovation hub and they each know one another into details. Equally, participants acknowledged the fact that they will start to develop positive

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attitudes towards overcoming specific problems that come their way. The youth acknowledge that promoting gender equality is only viable when boys and girls join hands together. They also acknowledged the significance of disability inclusion into community development programs.

Business skills training

A total of 20 youth (11 Males and 09 Females) enrolled at the innovation hub cohort 3 benefited from business skills sessions (i.e. session 1: What is a business? And session 2: Profit and Loss). The overall goal was to help young people start up a business, or improve their existing business, by taking them through core business skills. The youth were able to understand what a business is, how the basic process of buying and selling works. They are employing the knowledge on business skills got in protecting their businesses and handling their daily tasks like protecting their business and companies against loss, and maximizing their profit.

Activity 1.3.2: Vocational/Green Skills training through Innovation Hub

Vocational/Green skills training

At CLASS innovation hub, a total of 42 youth (26 boys, 16 girls) enrolled in November 2023 have benefited from vocational skills training (20 male youth in MCR, 8 female youth in hairdressing, 9 youth (8 males, 1 female) for welding, 5 youth (1 male, 4 females) in bakery). After successful completion of 6 month vocational training in various courses in April 2024, they have now started joining the world of work through job linkages by mentors for example, one girl skilled in metal work is working in Otuke Town with a metal fabrication workshop, 2 boys working in Alebtong town with a welding workshop, a male youth skilled in metal fabrication is working in Corner Kamdini Oyam District, 3 male youth skilled in motorcycle mechanic are working with BOV motorcycle garage Alebtong Town, Corner Aloj-Alebtong road, Labor line in Lira city East, a male youth skilled in bakery has been retained at Alebtong innovation hub-bakery, 6 female youth skilled in hairdressing working in various places including Agwata Sub County Dokolo district, Nakasongola district, Alebtong Town, Lira city, Corner Aloj, and Mukono district.

Placement of youth for cohort three (3rd cohort 2024) in their different training centres

This activity took place on the 08/4/2024 targeting 30 youth (19 boys and 11 girls) enrolled for different vocational courses i.e. 15 male youth in Motor Cycle Repair (MCR), 6 Females-Hair dressing, 4 youth (3 males, 1 female) in Welding and Metal Fabrication and 5 youth (1 male, 4 female) in fashion design at CLASS Innovation hub Alebtong District.

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The purpose of this placement was to economically empower Children Adolescents and Youth (CAY) in order to enable them have access to SRHR services and build resilience to climate change shocks and stresses through equipping them with diversified employability skills.

The milestones achieved per vocational courses are as below;

Motorcycle repair and maintenance, most of the youth have knowledge on tools and equipment for repairing motorcycle. They have knowledge on some of the major parts of motorcycle and their uses. Areas like wiring, chain repair and tube fixing have been mastered by most of the youth.

Welding and metal fabrication, most of the youth now know how to operate some of the tools, they are aware of the safety measures and safe space for work, fabricating some of the products such as metal box, cooking stoves, sharpening tools like axes, panga, hoes, and knives.

Hairdressing, the youth at hair dressing have learnt different fashions and their names. They know different equipment, tools and materials, and products used in hairdressing for example braids, threads, chemicals, oils and how to use them. They are practicing plating different hairstyles.

Outcome 3: Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity live in safe and supportive communities that transform gender roles and challenge harmful social and gender norms and stigma around SRHR.

Output 3.2: Parents, caregivers and communities have capacities and positive coping strategies to overcome shocks and stresses

Progress notes and description of activities carried out

Activity 3.2.1.1: Parents' Engagement through Village savings and loan association (VSLA).

Identification of parents' groups and enrolment of building bridges curriculum

This activity was conducted in Abunga and Awaping Parishes-Amugu and Abako Sub County respectively targeting 60 parents (30 each).

The purpose of this engagement was to enrich parents with knowledge and skills on how to engage and support their children with sexual reproductive health information and service access.

During this activity, two parents' groups were registered i.e. with Gen Kiti VSLA Amugu having 56 members (16 Males and 40 females) and Okany Can VSLA group in Abako having 30

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members (14 Males, 16 Females). The parents were very proactive during the group registration exercise and are willing to actively participate in the training of building the bridges.

CLASS adapted the dissemination of building bridges through VSLA group. In addition, the application of disability inclusion model to enhance awareness creation on disability inclusion and the introduction of Climate Change module will enable parents understand the effects of climate change on SRHR of young people including those with disabilities and how to build more resilience.

It has been observed that the number of participants is increasing because the parents undergoing training sessions are spreading the gospel about the important of building bridges curriculum to other fellow parents outside the group hence reaching many children beyond the VSLA groups. For example, some of the parents like a 49-year-old member have testified that he was very aggressive to his children but has started to make himself approachable by his children through story telling every evening as a way of nurturing good relationship after attending a session on parenting an adolescent.

One male engagement group has been identified by CLASS in Amugu Sub County and the ring leader has already been trained by CDFU.

Outcome 4: Children, adolescents, and youth in all their diversity participate and benefit from a vibrant civil society that advocates for increased public investment and improved SRHR policy and promotes equality for and agency of girls

Output 4.1: CSOs have improved their capacity to influence ASRHR and gender equality for CAY in all their diversity and advocate for their rights

Progress notes and description of activities carried out

CLASS' participation in Community Based Adaptation (CBA) Conference in Arusha-Tanzania

Community based adaptations was organized IIED in Arusha Tanzania for 4 days from 6th-9th May 2024. The conference was targeting more than 300 participants from 50 countries across the world, in particular from developing countries and small island developing states (SIDS), and from civil society, research, government, and the donor community, to discuss how community based and locally led adaptation can contribute to a climate resilient future.

The conference was facilitated by Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld, co-founder and CEO of Tanzania people and wildlife, IIED Executive Director Tom Mitcheli, the district commissioner for Arusha, Felisian Mutahengerwa and guest of honor Mr. Khamis Hamza Khamis, deputy minister, office of the vice president (union and environment) speaking on behalf of the minister of state.

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During the Conference, the Director Commissioner, the Deputy Minister and other facilitators both delivered part of their speeches stressing the importance of the CBA18 Conference, and the need to develop adaptation techniques together.

Day two started with breaking the silos: co-creating local solutions for decolonizing climate action, through an inspire session speakers delivered quick-fire comments on what they have learned about getting climate finance to the local level. They use lots of different culture-based approaches to map the communities around heritage sites face, many of which were the transferable across projects and communities.

Day three facilitation focused on bringing the private sector into climate-resilient development. Participants expressed frustration with the way the private sector engage with the organizations but by the end of the discussion they decided that there is a greater need to understand how the sector works and to speak its language.

The participants emphasized short films to be the most powerful tool or way to show the nuances and lessons of locally led adaptations.

The participants got the knowledge on CBA18 and gaining a better understanding of how to communicate about communities need at home and at the climate negotiations.

CLASS' participation in the Conference gave an insight on climate change adaptation activities conducted in Alebtong district northern Uganda. It also opened an opportunity for resource mobilization through Pitching on climate change adaption interventions/initiatives to fund climate change related activities in northern Uganda and Uganda at large. The Conference also initiated opportunity through networking and sharing experiences on climate change resilience and locally led adaptation.

Selected activity photos

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The participants who were for pitching in Arusha, Tanzania.

Output 4.2: Policymakers and decision-makers at local and/or national level (government/ministries/local bureaus of education, health, and social affairs) have improved understanding of CSE, AYFS and ASRHR

Progress notes and description of activities carried out

Sub county Leaders' Engagement

Young people were able to present their concerns to LCIII chairperson and parish chief following the identification of the below issues;

- The bad road with collapsed bridge hindering their access to SRH services
- The long distance to reach the health center hindering them from accessing SRH services.
- Lack of knowledge of existing government programs that has made youth in Abunga Parish Amugu Sub County not benefiting compared with their colleagues from other locations.

The LCIII chairperson committed to assessing the status of the road and discussing further with the council so as to work out a better solution. As per the issue of youth not benefiting from government program, the parish chief promised to visit the various CoC clubs and provide technical guidance on how they can organize themselves to have these programs especially Youth Livelihood Program and Parish Development Model.

Learnings

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Major reasons hindering young people access to SRH services were; Lack of information on SRHR to youth, Stigma among youth, inadequate commodities, Lack of confidentiality and trust from the health workers. The youth do not want others to know about their status. Follow up on parents through parents' group to support their children especially those who are CoC club members.

Most youth have low level of control over their agency especially girls due to negative socio-cultural norms and inadequate knowledge about their rights for example girls should not be given land since they are always married off yet it is an important resource helping them achieve their set goals. Follow up on parents through parents' group to support their children especially those who are CoC club members.

Communities still have very little knowledge about climate change but are willing to carry out climate action related activities. More awareness raising need to be done by young people and CLASS to support them to achieve that.

Inadequate knowledge about climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights to parents in the community of Abako and Amugu sub county Alebtong district. CLASS will embark on more awareness.

PWDs have gained the courage to participate in community development fora, gained confidence to express themselves in public and the youth appreciated the importance of disability inclusion hence are relating freely with PWDs. CLASS will meet these youths to assess their level of participation and the government program they have benefited.

Locally led adaptations to climate change are more viable and practicable in promoting climate change resilience within communities for example, indigenous tree species planted, use of locally modified charcoal cook stoves, climate smart horticultural farming. Document and replicate best practices during home visits.

The misconceptions and myths about Sexual and reproductive health is still reflecting strongly within the community of Awaping and this is attributed to inadequate knowledge about SRH especially by the youth and community members not engaged in CoC club activities. Those who have some little knowledge may not have accurate information regarding SRHR hence misleading their fellow peers. Organise community awareness activities and deploy the CoC club members to do peer to peer mobilization and sensitization.

Challenges encountered during the quarter

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- Unpredictable weather changes has been a challenge and it affected the training so much since most of the participants were coming late and others could absent themselves in disguise to rain.
- Inadequate fuel to support field activities.
- Lack of scholastic materials like flipcharts, markers among others that made the knowledge dissemination difficult to the CoC members during the daily sessions.
- Poor time management by the participants. This should be improved through regular followups by the facilitators to ensure that the participants reach in time and are present for the sessions.

Recommendations

- CLASS should prioritize proper timing of champions of change sessions by adjusting meeting time to avoid disruption by weather changes.
- CLASS to identify and link partners offering other services that addresses the expectations of material things like food to be integrated into CoC activities and other community engagement.
- CLASS should consider the need for parents to be reoriented by way of conducting home visit where possible, the roll out of building bridges curriculum for parents' groups needs to be quickened to give parents more insights on how to support and engage their children on issues related to their SRHR services and information access.

Compiled by: Akello Nancy, Program Manager

Date 15/10/2024 **Sign:**

Checked by: Omara Moses, Executive Director

Date 16/10/2024 **Sign:**

Reviewed and approved by: Assoc.Professor Mary Ejang, Board of Director **Date** 25/10/2024 **Sign:**