ADAPTATION FUND

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Strengthening Resilience of Women to Climate Risks in Rural Communities of Uganda

Country: Uganda

Thematic Focal Area: Food Security, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation

Type of Implementing Entity: National Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

Executing Entity: Climate Change Adaptation Innovation (CHAI)

Amount of Financing Requested: $5,500,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☒ No ☐

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: $126,864 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☒ This concept has been submitted before

Latest re-submission date: **2nd July 2026**

☒ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 2/7/2026

Project Background and Context

Uganda experiences moderate temperatures throughout the year, around 22.8°C, with monthly temperatures ranging between 21.7°C (July) and 23.9°C (February). During this period, total annual average precipitation is 1,197 mm and mean monthly precipitation of the country varies from 39.6 mm in January to 152.7 mm in April. Projections indicate that Uganda's temperature could rise by up to 1.5°C in the next 20 years and up to 4.3°C by the 2080s (World Bank, 2021). According to the World Bank Uganda Country Climate and Development Report (2025), unmitigated climate variability poses an escalating threat to rural livelihoods, where smallholder agricultural systems remain overwhelmingly rain-fed and vulnerable to shifting seasonal rainfall.

By 2080, temperatures are expected to increase between 1.5°C and 3.5°C. Compared to pre-industrial levels median climate model temperature increases over Uganda amount to approximately 1.4 °C in 2030, 1.7 °C in 2050 and 1.8 °C in 2080 under the low emissions scenario RCP2.6 (GIZ, 2021). Projections further indicate changes in rainfall patterns with an expected increase of about 10% to 20% over most parts of Uganda, except for a decrease in semi-arid regions like the cattle corridor (UNFCCC,2009).

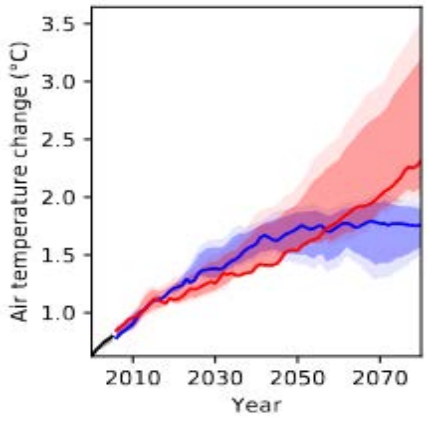


Figure 2: Air temperature projections for Uganda for different GHG emissions scenarios

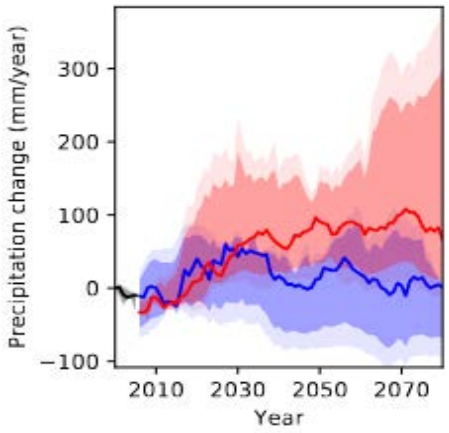
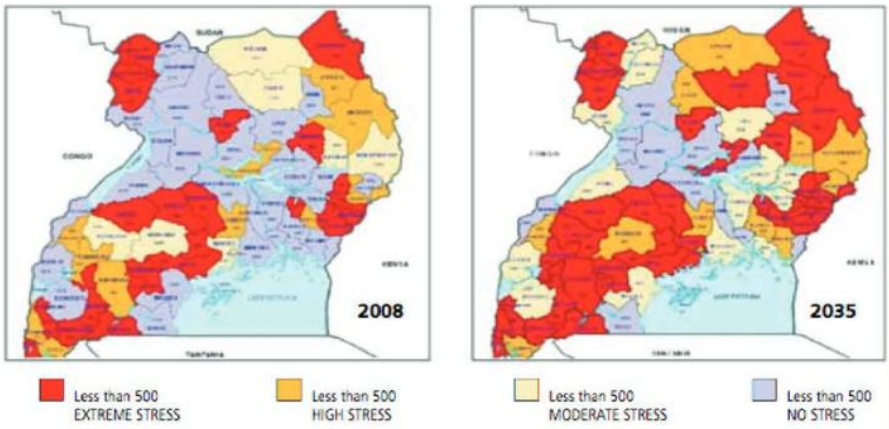


Figure 3: Annual mean precipitation for Uganda for different GHG emissions scenarios relative to the year 2000

The precipitation trends remain uncertain with potential increases or decreases depending on the region (GIZ, 2021). However, over 72 % of the population is engaged in smallholder farming, heavily relying on agriculture for food security and livelihoods. Women contribute the highest percentage of smallholder farmers. Agricultural production in Uganda is primarily subsistence-based and rain fed. However, the length and intensity of the rain season is becoming increasingly unpredictable. Smallholder farmers suffer from the impacts of climate variability such as droughts, pests, and diseases affecting crops like maize, millet, and sorghum, reducing food supply and increasing the risk of hunger and poverty. Major export crops like coffee and tea have reduced in yields leading to combined economic losses of about US$1.4 billion (ACODE, 2021; USAID, 2022). Furthermore, Per capita water availability is projected to decline significantly by 2080 mainly due to population growth rather than climate change itself (GIZ, 2021). In Uganda, female-headed households tend to be more vulnerable than male-headed ones due to limited asset ownership and adaptive capacity disparities (ACODE, 2021). The Youth face heightened vulnerability due to factors like poverty, unemployment, inadequate sanitation, which erode their resilience against climate impacts (CGIAR, 2023). Climate disaster risks in Uganda are significant and multifaceted, involving



Distribution of water stress in Uganda for 2008 and projected for 2035.
(Source: World Bank Knowledge Portal)

various types of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change. These include Flooding that have increased due to heavy rainfall that have increased the frequency and impact of floods, affecting nearly 50,000 people annually and costing over $62 million in losses (Relief Web, 2020a). From 1900 to 2018, the country encountered 20 floods, 40 epidemic, 9 drought, and 5 landslide events. The accumulative damages caused by those natural disasters amounts to over 200,000 deaths and at least $80 million economic loss (World Bank, 2021).

In the Eastern Region, heavy rainfall has led to frequent flooding and landslides leading to extensive damage. In 2022, severe floods affected districts like Mbale, Kapchorwa, Sironko, and Bulambuli due to heavy rainfall causing rivers like Nabuyonga and Namatala to overflow (World Bank 2020, IOM). These floods resulted in significant casualties (at least 29 deaths) and damage to infrastructure such as homes (over 4,000 affected), education centers (9 damaged), bridges (14 damaged), with thousands displaced (World Bank, 2020).

In Western Region, heavy rainfall has led to flash floods and mudslides. In September 2022, Bundibugyo District experienced flash floods resulting in fatalities and displacement. Several people were reported missing or dead with houses destroyed across Bundibugyo District (Relief web, 2020a). In the Northern Region, areas like Gulu District are prone to flooding during rainy seasons. This often leads to economic and social destruction due to infrastructure destruction affecting access to health facilities and schools (World Bank, 2020).

On the other hand, Karamoja Sub-region (North-Eastern) is highly susceptible to droughts due to its arid conditions. Over the past decades, it has experienced frequent drought events impacting agriculture significantly (World Bank, 2020). Droughts here lead to severe water shortages affecting both human consumption and agriculture.

The household structure in these areas consists of 41.7% children, 55.2% youth and adults, and 3.7% elderly. Under normal circumstances, this meant that the children and elderly (44.8%) depend on adults and youth as their labor force. Women and girls bear the burden of fetching water for their families, and spend significant amounts of their daily time hauling water from distant places. Thus, women and girls are more vulnerable to climate change impacts in the rural areas of these regions (Nagasha. J., et al, 2019).

To reduce on the climate change impacts, climate change adaptation is key. However, Climate change adaptation is challenging for rural populations in Uganda due to several factors including the following:

- **Limited Access to Information**: There is a general lack of knowledge among rural communities about climate change causes, effects, and adaptation measures. This limits their ability to implement effective strategies (Arkleton Trust).

- **Dependence on Agriculture**: The economy of rural areas heavily relies on agriculture, which is highly vulnerable to climate variability such as droughts and floods. This makes it difficult for communities to maintain stable livelihoods (FAO, IOM).

- **Poverty and Resource Constraints**: Rural households often lack the financial resources needed for implementing climate-resilient practices like irrigation systems or agroforestry methods (Arkleton Trust). Most women in rural areas of Uganda are unable to access financial credit from banks and other institutions because they do not have security for the loans. They are small farmers who own small businesses who are unable to qualify for financial credit. Northern and Eastern Regions of Uganda have the highest population living under poverty. Karamoja has the highest levels of multidimensional poverty, with an MPI of 0.58 and a poverty incidence of 85%. Poverty rates in Karamoja are extremely high across its sub-counties, with many exceeding 60%. The Eastern region has the highest overall poverty rate at 35.7%, significantly above the national average. Districts like Butaleja have particularly high poverty rates, reaching up to 48% for the general population and 51% for children (UBOS, 2019).

- **Environmental Degradation**: Deforestation and land degradation are common due to agricultural expansion and firewood demand, exacerbating vulnerability to landslides and floods (World Bank knowledge portal).

Geographic Focus: The project targets 12 districts strategically selected to represent the diverse climate vulnerabilities across Uganda's four administrative regions. These include Gomba, Kiboga, and Nakaseke (Central); Kween, Serere, and Buyende (Eastern); Koboko, Nwoya, and Agago (Northern); and Kisoro, Kamwenge, and Rukungiri (Western). These districts encompass

a range of ecosystems – from the water-stressed Cattle Corridor to mountainous regions prone to landslides – providing a comprehensive landscape for testing and scaling gender-centered resilience models.

PROJECT RATIONALE

The prevailing climate-related hazards and disasters in Uganda, particularly in rural areas, have devastating impacts on the livelihoods of rural women. The increasing frequency and severity of floods, landslides, and droughts exacerbate the existing vulnerabilities of rural women, including limited access to climate-resilient technologies and practices, restricted mobility, and inadequate access to climate information and early warning systems. The lack of climate-resilient agricultural practices, inadequate disaster risk reduction measures, and limited alternative livelihood opportunities further compound the vulnerabilities of rural women. This perpetuates a cycle of poverty, food insecurity, and economic inequality, undermining the resilience and well-being of rural women.

In order to break this cycle, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach that addresses the interconnected challenges faced by rural women. This project aims to provide rural women with the necessary support, skills, and resources to enhance their resilience to climate-related risks and impacts. By promoting climate-resilient agriculture, strengthening disaster risk reduction measures, and empowering rural women entrepreneurs, this project seeks to improve the food security, economic well-being, and adaptive capacity of rural women in Uganda.

The project will be implemented in 12 districts across the 4 regions of Uganda, with 3 districts selected from each region. These components are designed to promote climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and economic empowerment among rural women in Uganda.

Component 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Improved Livelihoods

This component aims to enhance the adaptive capacity of rural women in Uganda by promoting climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies such as portable irrigation systems, nature-based initiatives including Agroforestry, Intercropping and Silvopasture, and other sustainable agricultural practices that improve crop yields, reduce water scarcity, and promote environmental sustainability. By adopting climate-smart agriculture practices, rural women will be better equipped to manage climate-related risks and improve their livelihoods.

Component 2: Disaster Risk Reduction and Capacity Building

This component focuses on strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural women in Uganda to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Key interventions include capacity building, training, and awareness-raising on disaster risk reduction, dissemination of early warning systems information, and emergency response. By empowering rural women with the knowledge and skills to manage climate-related risks, this component aims to reduce vulnerability, improve emergency response coordination, and minimize loss of life and property during disasters.

Component 3: Alternative Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

This component aims to empower rural women entrepreneurs in Uganda with alternative livelihood and value addition solutions. Key interventions include providing access to a revolving fund, business support services, and training in agro-processing, eco-friendly product development, and small-scale manufacturing. By promoting alternative livelihoods and economic empowerment, this component aims to improve the socio-economic status of rural women, enhance their resilience to climate-related shocks, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Learning (KM&L)

This component aims to directly address information asymmetry, operational gaps, and accountability risks by promoting systematized knowledge capture and participatory learning practices among rural women. Key interventions include establishing a participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework, conducting bi-annual community feedback loops, and operationalizing transparent district-level grievance redress mechanism pathways. By providing reliable feedback channels and improving safeguard tracking, this component aims to improve local governance, secure operational transparency, and generate evidence-based lessons to scale up climate resilience models nationally.

PROJECT SCOPE

Geographical Scope: The project will be implemented in 12 selected districts in the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western regions of Uganda. 3 districts will be selected from each region, informed by a thorough analysis of relevant data, including climate vulnerability indices, poverty rates, and agricultural productivity indicators. The specific project districts will be selected based on a set criterion, prioritizing districts that:

- Align with the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) target districts
- Exhibit high levels of vulnerability to climate-related hazards and disasters
- Have significant populations of rural women engaged in smallholder farming and climate-sensitive livelihood activities
- Demonstrate limited access to climate-resilient technologies and practices
- Show potential for scalable and sustainable project impacts

Contextual Scope: The project will focus on rural women, particularly those engaged in smallholder farming, livestock keeping, and other climate-sensitive livelihood activities. The project will also engage with local communities, community-based organizations, and local government authorities to ensure the project's interventions are context-specific and effective.

Time Scope: The project will be implemented over a period of 5 years, from July 2027 to June 2032. The project timeline will be divided into three phases:

- Phase 1 (Year 1-2, July 2027 - June 2029): Project inception, baseline studies, and establishment of project structures and partnerships
- Phase 2 (Year 3-4, July 2029 - June 2031): Implementation of project activities, including capacity building, climate-resilient agriculture, disaster risk reduction, and alternative livelihoods
- Phase 3 (Year 5, July 2031 - June 2032): Project scaling up, consolidation, and exit strategy

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The vulnerability of rural women in Uganda to climate-related hazards and disasters, coupled with their limited access to climate-resilient technologies and practices, necessitates a comprehensive approach to strengthen their resilience. To address these challenges, this project aims to strengthen the resilience of rural women in Uganda to climate-related risks and impacts, enhancing their adaptive capacity, food security, and economic well-being.

The specific objectives of the project are;

1. To promote climate-smart agriculture practices through establishment of portable irrigation systems and nature-based initiatives.

2. To enhance women's resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters through capacity building programs.

3. To empower women entrepreneurs with alternative livelihoods and value-addition opportunities through a revolving fund and business support services.

4. To institutionalize an integrated Knowledge Management and Learning (KM&L) framework that captures gender-responsive lessons and secures community-led accountability.

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND FINANCING

Target Distribution

The project adopts a data-driven approach to targeting, specifically focusing on registered women's groups within the UWEP framework. By selecting 12 districts across the four regions, Central, Northern, Eastern, and Western, the initiative addresses the specific climate vulnerabilities of approximately 81% of the available groups in these locations. This distribution ensures that resources are allocated proportionally to the existing group density, providing a verifiable foundation for the measurable outputs and financing detailed in the subsequent section.

Distribution of Target Groups by District and Intervention

Region	District	Total Groups	Component 1 Target (CSA)	Component 2 Target (DRR)	Component 3 Target (Economic)	Component 4 Target (Knowledge)
Central	Gomba	60	40	49	49	49
	Kiboga	107	40	50	86	86
	Nakaseke	81	40	50	65	65
Northern	Koboko	152	40	50	123	123
	Nwoya	77	40	50	62	62
	Agago	71	40	51	55	55
Eastern	Kween	109	40	50	84	84
	Serere	88	40	50	71	71
	Buyende	117	40	50	95	95
Western	Kisoro	167	40	50	135	135
	Kamwenge	99	40	50	80	80
	Rukungiri	109	40	50	95	95
Total		**1,237**	**480**	**600**	**1,000**	**1,000**

Components and Financing

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (USD)
Component 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Improved Livelihoods	**Output 1.1:** 480 portable irrigation systems (micro-solar and treadle pumps) distributed to UWEP groups. **Output 1.2:** 480 UWEP groups trained in the operation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation technology. **Output 1.3:** 40 Water User Committees (WUCs) formed and operational to manage shared assets. **Output 1.4:** 600 UWEP groups trained in nature-based practices including agroforestry, intercropping, and silvopasture. **Output 1.5:** 24 community-managed tree nurseries established (2 per district) and producing viable seedlings. **Output 1.6:** 1,200 hectares of group-managed land physically conditioned and restored through soil conservation structures, organic soil amendments, and multi-season climate-	**Outcome 1:** Increased agricultural productivity and stable water management through the adoption of portable irrigation and nature-based practices by UWEP groups.	**Output 1.1:** 720,000 **Output 1.2:** 180,000 **Output 1.3:** 100,000 **Output 1.4:** 250,000 **Output 1.5:** 350,000 **Output 1.6:** 400,000 **Sub- Total: 2,000,000**

	resilient seed inputs.		
Component 2: Disaster Risk Reduction and Capacity Building	**Output 2.1:** 600 UWEP groups complete comprehensive training in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. **Output 2.2:** 48 community-based adaptation plans (4 per district) developed, endorsed by local government, and implemented. **Output 2.3:** 120 sensitizing and training women on how to access, interpret, and utilize seasonal and daily weather alerts generated by the Department of Meteorological Services (DMS) through existing Early Warning Systems (EWS). **Output 2.4:** 12 district-level knowledge-sharing forums organized to exchange best practices.	**Outcome 2:** Enhanced adaptive capacity and preparedness for climate hazards through community-led adaptation planning and improved use of climate information.	**Output 2.1:** 350,000 **Output 2.2:** 287,559 **Output 2.3:** 300,000 **Output 2.4:** 150,000 **Sub- Total: 1,087,559**
Component 3: Alternative Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment	**Output 3.1:** A revolving fund legally established, capitalized at $1,000,000, and fully operational through District local government structures. **Output 3.2:** 1,000 UWEP women groups receive micro-loans from the revolving fund to initiate resilient enterprises. **Output 3.3:** 500 new, viable alternative livelihood enterprises (e.g., beekeeping, briquette making) initiated and supported. **Output 3.4:** 1,000 UWEP groups trained in financial literacy, business planning, and enterprise management. **Output 3.5:** 60 new market linkages formally established for products from group enterprises.	**Outcome 3:** Sustainable economic empowerment and financial independence through diversified income sources and increased access to capital for women-led enterprises.	**Output 3.1:** 650,000 **Output 3.2:** 50,000 **Output 3.3:** 120,000 **Output 3.4:** 130,000 **Output 3.5:** 50,000 **Sub- Total: 1,000,000**
Component 4: Knowledge Management and Learning	**Output 4.1:** Participatory adaptation learning modules	**Outcome 4:** Systematized	**Output 4.1:** 150,000

	and community resilience toolkits deployed across 1,000 UWEP groups. **Output 4.2:** Bi-annual community feedback loops and local review sessions conducted with 1,000 UWEP groups to refine field adaptation practices. **Output 4.3:** 12 community-led safeguard and grievance oversight committees established and trained to secure equitable asset distribution and access rights. **Output 4.4:** Knowledge products, including 24 gender-responsive case studies and locally-led adaptation briefs, generated and shared on national and global platforms.	tracking, generation, and sharing of adaptation knowledge, gender-disaggregated lessons, and community feedback to improve local governance and scale up climate resilience models.	**Output 4.2:** 120,000 **Output 4.3:** 130,000 **Output 4.4:** 100,000 **Sub- Total: 500,000**
Total component cost			**4,587,559**
Project Execution Cost			481,566
Total Project Cost			5,069,125
Project Cycle Management Fee (8.5%)			430,875
Amount of Financing Requested			**5,500,000**

Projected Calendar:

The following are proposed dates which are subject to change depending on the project start

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	**July 2027**
Mid-term Review	**January 2029**
Project/Programme Closing	**June 2032**
Terminal Evaluation	**June 2032**

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

OVERALL PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The proposed project intends to improve the ability of women from rural vulnerable communities in Uganda to address the social and environmental threats posed by climate change to water security, food security, ecosystem services, and economic stability. The project will pick on the best practices from tUWEP, an economic intervention programme targeting rural women empowerment to integrate climate resilience knowledge and coping with the impacts of climate change affecting the target population. The project components align with Uganda's climate change policies, strategies and plans. The development of this proposal was initiated by the identification of key climate change issues and barriers that are evident in communities, which have been noted by local communities and organizations through Community Development Officers (CDOs) in their respective districts. In response to the identified climate-related challenges, the proposed project - **Strengthening Resilience of Women to Climate risks in rural communities of Uganda**, aims to:

- To promote climate-smart agriculture practices through establishment of portable irrigation systems and nature-based

initiatives

- Enhance women's resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters through capacity building programs.
- Empower women entrepreneurs with alternative livelihoods and value-added opportunities through a revolving fund and business support services.
- Institutionalize an integrated KM&L, MEL, and GRM framework that captures gender-responsive lessons and secures community-led accountability.

CRITERIA FOR DISTRICT SELECTION

The 12 districts were selected based on a multi-criterion scoring system to ensure the project reaches the most vulnerable populations while maintaining high potential for successful implementation. The selection criteria included:

1. ***Climate Vulnerability and Exposure:*** Districts were chosen based on their high exposure to specific climate hazards. For example, Kween faces acute landslide risks, while Gomba and Kiboga are situated in the Cattle Corridor, experiencing prolonged dry spells. Serere and Buyende were selected due to their high vulnerability to lakeside flooding.
2. ***Concentration of UWEP Women Groups:*** Selection was prioritized in districts with a robust and active network of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) groups. Data indicates a total of 1,237 registered groups across these 12 districts, providing an existing institutional framework for the rapid deployment of project resources.
3. ***Gender Disparity and Poverty Levels:*** Districts with significant gender gaps in land ownership, literacy, and formal employment were prioritized. For instance, districts in the Northern region (Nwoya, Agago) show high levels of dependency on subsistence agriculture among female-headed households.
4. ***Regional Equity:*** To ensure national relevance and facilitate future scaling by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), three districts were selected from each of the four regions. This geographic balance allows for the generation of lessons learned across varying cultural and ecological contexts.

Summary of Distribution

Region	Districts	No. of UWEP Groups	Primary Climate Hazard addressed
Central	Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke	248	Prolonged droughts & water scarcity
Northern	Koboko, Nwoya, Agago	300	Erratic rainfall & post-conflict land stress
Eastern	Kween, Serere, Buyende	314	Landslides, flash floods & soil erosion
Western	Kisoro, Kamwenge, Rukungiri	375	Steep-slope degradation & land fragmentation

QUANTIFICATION OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Data from the 12 target districts indicates that each UWEP group has an average membership of 12 women. By targeting 1,000 groups for the core economic empowerment intervention, the project reaches 12,000 women as direct beneficiaries. Indirect beneficiaries are calculated based on the average Ugandan rural household size of 5 members. The project will indirectly benefit 60,000 people by improving household food security and income stability.

Summary of Beneficiaries by Component

Component	Target Groups	Direct Beneficiaries (Women)	Indirect Beneficiaries (Household Members)
Component 1: CSA & Improved Livelihoods	480	5,760	28,800
Component 2: DRR & Capacity Building	600	7,200	36,000
Component 3: Alternative Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment	1,000	12,000	60,000
Component 4: Knowledge Management & Learning	1,000	12,000	60,000
Total Unique Beneficiaries	**1,000**	**12,000**	**60,000**

Note: Note: Component 1 and 2 targets are subsets of the 1,000 unique groups reached in Components 3 and 4 to ensure a holistic, layered resilience approach.

District-Level Beneficiary Breakdown

This table details the reach within each specific district, ensuring the technical reviewers can verify the local impact.

Region	District	Targeted Groups (Component 3 &4)	Direct Women Beneficiaries	Indirect Household Beneficiaries
Central	Gomba	49	588	2,940
	Kiboga	86	1,032	5,160
	Nakaseke	65	780	3,900
Northern	Koboko	123	1,476	7,380
	Nwoya	62	744	3,720
	Agago	55	660	3,300
Eastern	Kween	84	1,008	5,040
	Serere	71	852	4,260
	Buyende	95	1,140	5,700
Western	Kisoro	135	1,620	8,100
	Kamwenge	80	960	4,800
	Rukungiri	95	1,140	5,700
Total		**1,000**	**12,000**	**60,000**

A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.

THEORY OF CHANGE (ToC)

The project's ToC operates on a structural, multi-tiered logic model premised on the fact that building climate resilience for rural women requires moving from immediate resource stabilization to long-term economic agency. It transforms the targeted 1,000 UWEP groups from a baseline of extreme climate vulnerability to sustained climate resilience through four sequential, mutually reinforcing causal phases that directly fulfill Uganda's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) mandates:

Phase 1: Stabilization (The Asset Foundation)

- Causal Pathway: IF the project deploys 480 portable solar and treadle irrigation pumps and establishes 24 community nurseries under Component 1, THEN crop yields will immediately stabilize across 1,200 hectares of managed land, eliminating complete crop failure and giving smallholder female farmers the critical food security and productive time needed to engage in advanced adaptation pathways.
- Direct NAP Linkage: This pathway directly operationalizes Priority 1 of Uganda's Agriculture NAP, which mandates the scaling up of decentralized, small-scale efficient water management technologies and solar-powered smallholder irrigation infrastructure to combat moisture stress in the Cattle Corridor and climate-vulnerable border districts.

Phase 2: Preparedness (The Knowledge Layer)

- Causal Pathway: IF Component 2 layers proactive DRR knowledge and EWS protocols directly onto the stabilized agricultural base by hosting 120 training sessions to interpret and utilize the DMS climate alerts, THEN communities will transition from reactive crisis management to data-backed preparedness, directly insulating and protecting the physical and natural asset investments made in Phase 1.
- Direct NAP Linkage: This directly fulfills the Climate Information and Early Warning mandate of the overarching National NAP, which highlights the necessity of downscaling national meteorological forecasts into localized dialects through community-based communication networks to ensure last-mile information access for rural populations.

Phase 3: Transformation (The Financial Agency)

- Causal Pathway: IF Component 3 injects a legally capitalized USD 1,000,000 revolving fund through DLG structures, enabling women to launch 500 new alternative livelihood enterprises (e.g., beekeeping, mushroom farming), THEN household income streams will become diversified, the subsistence trap will be broken through economic diversification, and loan default risks will be minimized because their primary agricultural livelihoods have already been climate-proofed in Phase 1.

- Direct NAP Linkage: This pathway satisfies the Livelihood Diversification Pillar of Uganda's updated NDC and NAP frameworks, which requires a reduction in rural dependency on rain-fed subsistence agriculture by actively funding alternative, climate-decoupled small-scale manufacturing and nature-based commercial enterprises.

Phase 4: Learning and Accountability (The Governance Layer)

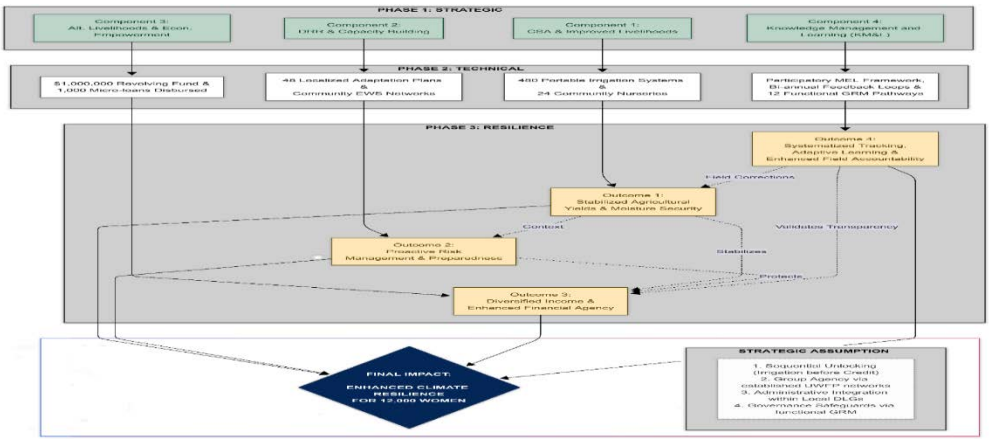
- Causal Pathway: IF Component 4 wraps around the entire causal pathway by institutionalizing a participatory MEL framework alongside independent district-level GRM pathways, THEN the project will capture gender-disaggregated field data, host bi-annual community feedback loops, and provide a transparent avenue to resolve local disputes, thereby creating a self-correcting system that eliminates operational distortion, information asymmetry, and local exclusion risks while securing project integrity and preparing the model for national policy scaling.
- Direct NAP Linkage: This final phase directly operationalizes the Institutional Governance and Gender-Mainstreaming requirements of Uganda's National Climate Change Policy and NAP, which demand the institutionalization of citizen-led accountability mechanisms and the systematic integration of sex-disaggregated field data into national monitoring registries like the UBOS Gender Portal.

Core Strategic Assumptions

The execution of this causal logic relies on four foundational assumptions:

- **The sequential unlocking assumption:** Financial credit and enterprise capital are structurally ineffective—and present a debt risk—if injected while the beneficiary's primary agricultural livelihood remains entirely exposed to climate shocks. Mitigating climate risk to production must precede financial empowerment.
- **The group agency assumption:** Utilizing pre-existing, registered UWEP women's groups leverages established social capital, internal trust, and collective peer accountability, which guarantees high loan recovery rates and long-term maintenance of shared physical irrigation assets.
- **The institutional integration assumption:** Aligning project execution by CHAI with the permanent administrative frameworks of MGLSD and DLGs ensures that technical field interventions are structurally supported by permanent line CDOs, guaranteeing post-project survival.
- **The safeguard-driven governance assumption:** Real-time, beneficiary-led indicator tracking and accessible grievance processing prevent project breakdown. Resolving field disputes regarding water access equity or loan deployment within strict, time-bound parameters lowers administrative overhead and eliminates asset underutilization or local project friction.

THEORY OF CHANGE



COMPONENT 1: CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

PROMOTE CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN UGANDA THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF MINI-IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AND AGROFORESTRY INITIATIVES.

This component aims to directly address food insecurity and low agricultural productivity by promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies among rural women. The focus is on strengthening local capacity to adapt to climate change by introducing portable irrigation systems and comprehensive nature-based initiatives, including agroforestry, intercropping, and silvopasture. This component will be implemented across 12 districts in Uganda's Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western regions, which are particularly vulnerable to climate variability and drought.

The initiative directly responds to Uganda's increasing climate challenges, which severely affect agricultural livelihoods. By providing reliable water access and improving soil health, these interventions align with Uganda's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) and the National Climate Change Policy, helping communities stabilize crop yields and build a more sustainable agricultural future.

Detailed Activities:
Activities will be executed by CHAI through the existing UWEP women groups, with strategic administrative support from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and CDOs in each district.

1. Mobilization & Planning

- Conduct baseline assessments: Collect data on existing agricultural practices, water resources, soil health, and the socio-economic conditions of beneficiary communities to produce a comprehensive baseline report.
- Identify and select beneficiaries: Formally identify and register the vulnerable UWEP women groups who will participate in the project.

2. Portable Irrigation System Rollout

- Procure and distribute portable irrigation systems: Provide appropriate technologies, such as micro solar pumps and treadle pumps, to support crop production during dry seasons.
- Train women on irrigation technology: Deliver hands-on training programs on the efficient operation, use, and maintenance of the irrigation systems.
- Establish Water User Committees (WUC): Form and train committees among group members to ensure the sustainable management and maintenance of the irrigation equipment.

3. Nature-Based Solutions Implementation

- Establish community nursery beds: Set up and manage nurseries to propagate diverse and climate-appropriate tree and crop seedlings.
- Train women in CSA practices: Develop and deliver training modules on agroforestry, intercropping, and silvopasture techniques.
- Support tree planting and CSA activities: Distribute seedlings and provide support to community groups for establishing demonstration plots and monitoring progress.

Ownership and Sustainability Strategy
The long-term success of Component 1 hinges on ensuring that the UWEP women's groups have a sense of ownership over the agricultural assets and the capacity to sustain the benefits long after the project's completion. The strategy is built on four key pillars: financial, social, technical, and environmental sustainability.

Financial Sustainability
The project ensures that the climate-smart agriculture interventions are not only productive but also financially self-sustaining.

- *Shared investment, shared ownership:* A cost-sharing mechanism will be used for the portable irrigation systems. By co-investing a portion of the cost (between 25% and 75%), women's groups move from being passive recipients to active owners of the equipment. This financial stake dramatically increases the incentive to maintain and protect their investment.
- *Accessible financing:* To ensure the co-payment is not a barrier for vulnerable women, the project links directly to the revolving fund in Component 3. This provides a clear and accessible pathway for groups to finance their contribution, making ownership achievable for all.
- *Market-oriented production:* The project will support groups in commercializing their surplus produce. By connecting them to markets and helping them add value, the irrigation systems and new practices become engines for profit. This profitability is the ultimate driver of sustainability, as it creates a continuous revenue stream to cover maintenance, repairs, and future investments.

Social and Institutional Sustainability
The project will utilize and strengthen existing community structures to ensure the interventions are managed effectively at the local level.

- *Community-based management:* The formation of WUCs within the women's groups is a critical step. These committees will be trained to manage the day-to-day operation of the irrigation systems, including developing fair usage schedules, overseeing maintenance, and resolving any potential disputes. This devolves management responsibility to the users themselves, fostering accountability and local governance.

- *Building on existing social capital:* The project's decision to work through established UWEP women's groups is intentional. These groups already possess social cohesion, trust, and internal governance structures. By strengthening these existing institutions rather than creating new ones, the project ensures that the management of project assets is integrated into the community's social fabric.

Technical Sustainability

The long-term usability of the new technologies is secured through comprehensive capacity building and local support systems.

- *Hands-on training and capacity building:* Beneficiaries will receive extensive, practical training that goes beyond basic operation. The curriculum will cover routine maintenance, simple troubleshooting, and repair for the portable pumps. This empowers women to solve common issues independently, reducing reliance on external technicians and minimizing downtime.
- *Ongoing extension support:* The project will work closely with government CDOs and local agricultural extension agents. This partnership establishes a durable, local support system that women can turn to for advice and assistance long after the project's initial training period has concluded.

Environmental Sustainability

The project's design creates a self-reinforcing, resilient agricultural system that improves the environment over time.

- *Synergistic interventions:* The portable irrigation systems and nature-based initiatives are designed to work in synergy. While irrigation guarantees water for crops, practices like agroforestry and intercropping build long-term soil health, improve the soil's capacity to retain water, and reduce the need for costly chemical fertilizers. This integrated approach ensures that productivity gains are environmentally sustainable and the natural resource base is enhanced, not depleted.

Contributions to Climate Resilience:

This project component will contribute to climate resilience in these communities in the following ways:

- ***Improved agricultural productivity & water management:*** The portable irrigation systems will provide a stable water supply, enabling women to farm year-round, diversify into high-value crops, and maintain productivity during dry seasons. This directly enhances food security and reduces crop failure due to drought.
- ***Enhanced soil health and ecosystem stability:*** Nature-based initiatives like agroforestry will prevent soil erosion, improve water retention in the soil, and act as buffers against extreme weather events. This contributes to more stable land and groundwater levels, crucial for both agriculture and drinking water.
- ***Diversified livelihoods and economic stability:*** The combination of year-round farming and products from agroforestry (like fruit, fodder, and fuel wood) will provide women with diverse income sources, buffering their households against climate-induced economic losses.
- ***Increased biodiversity:*** The integration of trees and diverse crops into the agricultural landscape will provide habitats for various species, enhancing vital ecosystem services that support agriculture and overall community well-being.

COMPONENT 2: DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF RURAL WOMEN IN UGANDA TO CLIMATE-RELATED HAZARDS AND NATURAL DISASTERS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING.

This component aims to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural women by equipping them with the essential knowledge, skills, and plans to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate-related disasters. The focus is on building human capacity to reduce vulnerability. Project execution will be managed by CHAI through the established UWEP women groups, utilizing local government CDOs in a key technical facilitation and supporting capacity.

A critical aspect of this component is to bridge the gap between existing climate information systems and the women who need them most. Rather than establishing new infrastructure, the project will focus on sensitizing and training women on how to access, interpret, and utilize seasonal and daily weather alerts generated by the DMS through existing EWS.

Detailed Activities:

The activities are designed to build a comprehensive understanding of climate risks and foster proactive, community-led adaptation strategies.

1. *Assessment & Planning*
   - Conduct a training needs assessment: Identify specific knowledge gaps among rural women regarding disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to develop a tailored training program.
   - Facilitate community-based adaptation plans: Work with UWEP groups and local leaders to develop participatory plans that identify climate risks, prioritize adaptation strategies, and outline clear emergency response procedures.

2. *Capacity Building & Training*
    - Develop and deliver targeted training programs: Design and conduct training workshops covering topics such as understanding climate impacts, practical disaster risk reduction measures, and implementing their community adaptation plans.
    - Conduct sensitization on EWS: Implement campaigns to raise awareness and train women on how to access, understand, and act on the Department of Meteorological Services -verified climate alerts through trusted community channels, ensuring technical forecasts are translated into actionable agricultural advice.
3. *Knowledge Sharing & Dissemination*
    - Organize knowledge-sharing platforms: Create opportunities, such as workshops and peer-to-peer forums, for women to share their experiences, successful practices, and lessons learned in climate adaptation.
    - Disseminate accessible climate information: Support the sharing of simplified climate forecasts and warnings through trusted and accessible community channels.

Operational Integration of Community-Based Adaptation Plans with Funded Activities

Rather than executing technology distribution and credit tracking as centralized, top-down processes, the project establishes a binding protocol where the 48 community-based adaptation plans (4 per district) serve as the local execution directives. These plans will be formulated during the first 12 months of the project under Component 2. They will actively map site-specific climate hazards (such as localized slope runoff patterns in Kween or seasonal groundwater depletion rates in Kiboga) and tie them directly to the allocation of adaptation funds. The table below explicitly clarifies the direct causal links between the community-developed plans and the concrete adaptation activities financed by this grant:

Plan Mandates and Financed Adaptation Activities

Local Plan Mandate & Diagnostic (Output 2.2)	Financed Adaptation Activity (Component 1 & 3)	Concrete Field Operationalization & Safeguard Link
Micro-Catchment Hydrological Mapping: The plan identifies village water point abstraction capacities and defines local dry-season moisture thresholds.	Procurement and Distribution of 480 Portable Irrigation Systems (Output 1.1)	The community plans legally dictate the rotational watering timetables and establish boundaries for the 480 solar-powered pump arrays. This matching ensures that pumps are placed only in micro-catchments with verified recharge rates, satisfying the environmental safeguards of the Fund.
Slope Stability and Ecological Vulnerability Audits: The plan maps highly degraded, erosion-prone communal slopes and riverbanks requiring natural stabilization.	Establishment of 24 Tree Nurseries & 1,200 Hectares of CSA (Outputs 1.5 & 1.6)	The plans determine the specific vegetative selection for the 24 nurseries. For instance, steep mountainous zones (Kisoro, Kween) will prioritize deep-rooted agroforestry species to prevent landslides, while the Cattle Corridor will prioritize nitrogen-fixing fodder stock for silvopasture plots.
Household Subsistence & Risk Profiling: The plan registers and ranks local women's cohorts based on their level of dependency on rain-fed fields and exposure to sudden climate disruptions.	Capitalization of the Climate Livelihood Revolving Fund (Output 3.1)	The community plan functions as the localized vetting mechanism for the revolving fund. It enforces mandatory inclusion quotas, ensuring that micro-loans are directed away from standard trade toward the 500 new alternative enterprises (such as apiaries or biomass briquetting) prioritized by that specific village council.
Digital Divide and Language Mapping: The plan identifies last-mile communication gaps, tracking local dialects and registering local phone ownership limits.	Downscaling and Translation of EWS Weather Alerts (Output 2.3)	The plans outline the precise layout for alternative early warning networks. This framework directs how the project finances the translation of technical DMS bulletins into native dialects and establishes the physical megaphone relays managed by Group Literacy Leaders.

Technical Justification for the Financed Linkage

This decentralized approach ensures that the project avoids resource misallocation. For example, if a women's group applies for a micro-loan under Component 3 to set up an alternative enterprise, the sub-county Community Development Officer (CDO)

must verify that the proposed business matches the specific climate-risk maps and alternative economic pathways outlined in that parish's community adaptation plan.

By financing activities only after they are validated by these community plans, the project secures continuous local ownership and builds strong community leadership. This workflow ensures that all physical and natural assets remain highly functional, technically sustainable, and perfectly customized to meet the ecological realities of each target district.

Contributions to Climate Resilience:
This project component will contribute to climate resilience in these communities in the following ways:

- ***Enhanced knowledge and skills:*** Through targeted training, women will gain a practical understanding of climate risks and develop the confidence and skills to implement risk reduction measures for their households and farms.
- ***Improved preparedness and response:*** With community-based adaptation and response plans in place, communities will be better organized and more effective in their response to climate events, reducing potential loss of life and livelihoods.
- ***Informed, proactive decision-making:*** By learning how to use early warning information, women can make timely decisions; such as when to harvest, reinforce homes, or evacuate livestock—which significantly reduces their vulnerability and minimizes disaster impacts.
- ***Strengthened community leadership:*** The process will empower women to become active leaders in community-level climate action, ensuring that adaptation strategies are inclusive and address their specific needs.

COMPONENT 3: ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

EMPOWER RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN UGANDA WITH ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD AND VALUE ADDITION SOLUTIONS, ENHANCING THEIR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.

This component aims to empower rural women economically by reducing their dependence on climate-sensitive agriculture. It will provide the financing and skills necessary to develop alternative, climate-resilient livelihoods and value-addition enterprises. By diversifying household income streams, this component is key to building a robust economic foundation that can withstand climate-related shocks like crop failure, floods, and droughts.

The core of this component is a sustainably managed revolving fund paired with comprehensive business development support, ensuring women have both the capital and the knowledge to launch and grow successful enterprises.

Activities:
CHAI will execute these activities in close coordination with MGLSD and local government CDOs, who will provide field-level administrative support working directly with the UWEP women's groups.

1. *Livelihood Identification & Training*
   - Conduct market research: Identify viable and climate-resilient livelihood enterprises (e.g., beekeeping, mushroom farming, briquette making, food processing, poultry) with strong market demand.
   - Deliver business and financial training: Offer comprehensive training to women entrepreneurs on essential topics, including financial literacy, business planning, enterprise management, and marketing.
   - Provide skills-based training: Offer practical, hands-on training for the specific enterprises selected by the women's groups.
2. *Revolving Fund Establishment & Management*
   - Design and establish the revolving fund: Develop the fund's operational guidelines, including clear eligibility criteria, loan terms, and repayment schedules, ensuring a transparent governance structure.
   - Train fund managers: Equip CDOs and women's group committees with the skills for effective fund management, loan appraisal, and financial reporting.
   - Disburse and manage loans: Oversee the loan application, disbursement, and repayment process to ensure the fund's sustainability and growth.
3. *Business Development & Market Linkages*
   - Provide ongoing mentorship: Offer continuous business support and coaching to women entrepreneurs as they establish and grow their enterprises.
   - Establish market linkages: Actively connect women's businesses with suppliers, local markets, and larger buyers to ensure a reliable customer base for their products and services.

Contribution to Climate Resilience:
This component will contribute to climate resilience by:

- ***Diversified and increased household income:*** By creating new income streams independent of traditional agriculture, women will be better able to manage financial shocks caused by poor harvests or extreme weather. This increased economic stability directly enhances a household's ability to cope with climate impacts.
- ***Improved business acumen and empowerment:*** Women will gain valuable business and financial management skills, enabling them to make informed decisions, adapt to changing market conditions, and confidently lead their enterprises.
- ***Sustainable access to finance:*** A successful revolving fund creates a lasting community financial resource that outlives the project, allowing women to continue investing in their businesses and adapting their livelihoods long into the future.
- ***Enhanced community-wide resilience:*** The growth of diverse, women-led local enterprises strengthens the entire community's economy, complementing the agricultural improvements in Component 1 and the risk reduction plans in Component 2 to build comprehensive, multi-layered resilience.

COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LEARNING (KM&L)
SYSTEMATIZE PARTICIPATORY MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING, ESTABLISH LOCALIZED FEEDBACK LOOPS, AND OPERATIONALIZE TRANSPARENT GRIEVANCE REDRESS PORTALS TO SECURE OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

This component aims to directly address information asymmetry, operational gaps, and accountability risks by promoting systematized knowledge capture and participatory learning practices among rural women. The focus is on strengthening local capacity to adapt to climate change by introducing centralized tracking mechanisms, interactive review sessions, and accessible safeguard channels. This component will be implemented while ensuring that field insights from all participating cohorts are integrated into a single, cohesive framework.

The initiative directly responds to the need for adaptive project management, transparent resource allocation, and beneficiary-led course corrections. By providing reliable feedback channels and improving safeguard tracking, these interventions align with national development strategies and global data accessibility frameworks, helping communities secure project transparency and build a more sustainable agricultural future.

Detailed Activities:
Activities will be executed by CHAI through the existing UWEP women groups, with systematic field data collection support from the CDOs in each district.

1. *MEL Framework Rollout & Data Integration*
    - Conduct baseline assessments: Formulate localized tracking indicators that capture gender-disaggregated resilience metrics, asset functionality status, and changes in household vulnerability to maintain a thorough tracking system.
    - Train local data collectors: Equip CDOs and women group leaders with digital data collection protocols to feed real-time indicators into the central data repository.
    - Conduct regular data quality audits: Perform routine checks on recorded indicators to guarantee information consistency and operational precision across all 12 districts.

Strategic Justification for Integrating Output 4.1 with the GAP: Output 4.1 funds direct, community-level capacity building that equips 1,000 women's groups with participatory adaptation learning toolkits and localized resilience tracking skills. This activity is a direct adaptation delivery mechanism that empowers female farmers to measure soil moisture retention, track seasonal crop yields, and adapt farming practices in real time. It is distinct from general Project Execution (EE) or Implementing Entity (IE) monitoring, as 100% of the funds directly build community adaptation capability at the field level.

2. *Localized Feedback Loops & Community Review Sessions*
    - Conduct bi-annual learning forums: Organize village-level reflection sessions where UWEP group members share practical challenges regarding portable pump operations or revolving fund access.
    - Translate insights into action: Formulate immediate operational adjustments based on community feedback to refine the technical training tracks under Component 1 and Component 2.
    - Facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges: Organize regional workshops for group leaders to share successful field-testing outcomes and adaptive strategies.

3. *Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Operationalization*
    - Establish district-level GRM pathways: Secure toll-free telephone support access points and physical submission systems handled by independent community oversight committees.
    - Process and resolve local grievances: Review, document, and address community complaints regarding resource distribution or selection equity using clear, time-bound protocols.

- Publish annual safety audit reports: Compile and share summarized grievance data to maintain absolute operational transparency and upward alignment with the Adaptation Fund safeguards.

Strategic Justification for Housing Output 4.3 within the Core Project Components: Output 4.3 funds community-led safeguard training and local conflict resolution forums to protect marginalized women from elite capture and resource exclusion. This budget directly finances community safeguard workshops, physical village suggestion channels, and local mediation sessions run by community oversight committees. It provides a direct social safeguard asset to beneficiaries and is distinct from EE/IE institutional overhead or general project management costs.

4. *Knowledge Product Generation & Dissemination*
   - Produce targeted learning materials: Publish 24 gender-responsive field case studies detailing how the transition from subsistence farming to climate-resilient entrepreneurship unfolds across diverse ecosystems.
   - Integrate lessons with national systems: Feed captured statistics directly into the UBOS Gender Portal and MWE climate tracking portals to inform future updates to the NDP.

Contributions to Climate Resilience:
This project component will contribute to climate resilience in these communities in the following ways:

- ***Enhanced operational transparency and security:*** The establishment of localized GRM channels protects vulnerable smallholder farmers from exclusion errors, guaranteeing that adaptation resources reach those who need them most.
- ***Informed, data-backed adaptive management:*** Real-time tracking via the MEL system allows project managers and UWEP groups to make immediate adjustments to farming and business models based on seasonal field data, minimizing losses.
- ***Preservation of local and gender-specific knowledge:*** Documenting and publishing 24 field case studies safeguards valuable indigenous adaptation methods, providing a verified baseline for future scaling across the region.
- ***Strengthened collective accountability:*** Bi-annual community feedback loops empower rural women to participate directly in project oversight, building strong community leadership and boosting long-term project ownership.

INITIAL GENDER ANALYSIS

1. Introduction and Context

The gender-climate nexus in Uganda is defined by a paradox: while rural women are the primary managers of the natural resource base, they possess the least adaptive capacity to withstand climate shocks. This analysis utilises data from the UWEP, NPHC 2024, and the UBOS Gender Portal to establish a baseline for the 12 target districts. It provides the rationale for targeting UWEP groups to address systemic gender disparities in assets, information, and economic agency.

2. Demographic Profile and the Burden of Care

According to the NPHC 2024 Final Report, women constitute 51% of Uganda's total population of 45.9 million. In the 12 target districts, the female population is often the majority, reaching as high as 54.5% in Rukungiri and 52.5% in Buyende.

- ***Household Composition:*** Rural households in the target districts (such as Agago and Kamwenge) maintain an average size of 5 to 6 members. Women typically head households in post-conflict or high-migration areas, yet they carry a disproportionate triple burden of productive, reproductive, and community management roles.
- ***Climate Impact on Labour:*** As water sources and forests deplete due to erratic weather, the time poverty of women increases. The NPHC 2024 indicates that while access to improved water has increased, the reliability of these sources for agricultural production remains low, forcing women to spend significant daily hours fetching water for domestic and livestock use.

3. Economic Vulnerability: The Subsistence Trap

The NPHC 2024 reveals a critical barrier to resilience: the prevalence of the subsistence economy. Nationally, 33% of households remain in the subsistence sector, but in the project's target districts, these figures are significantly higher:

- ***High-Risk Districts:*** In Agago (56.4%), Nwoya (52.1%), and Koboko (51.5%), more than half of all households are not integrated into the money economy.
- ***Gendered Asset Gap:*** Women in these subsistence households rely almost exclusively on rain-fed agriculture. Because they often lack legal land titles (nationally, only ~24% of women have secure tenure), they cannot access formal bank loans to purchase irrigation equipment or resilient seeds.

- ***The UWEP Solution:*** By targeting existing UWEP groups, the project utilizes a social collateral model. This bypasses the land-title barrier, allowing women in subsistence-heavy districts like Kween and Buyende to access the Component 3 Revolving Fund for livelihood diversification.

4. Access to Information and the Digital Gender Gap

Resilience in Component 2 depends on the effective use of Early Warning Systems (EWS). However, the NPHC 2024 data on Mobile Phone Ownership highlights a persistent digital divide:

- ***The Ownership Gap:*** In Nwoya, there is an 8.7% gap between male and female phone ownership. In Agago, only 14% of women own a mobile phone compared to 22.6% of men.
- ***Implications for EWS:*** This disparity means that digital-only climate alerts will fail to reach the most vulnerable women. Consequently, the project's strategy to conduct 120 EWS sensitization sessions via UWEP group meetings and local community meetings is technically essential to ensure last-mile information delivery.

5. Regional Gender and Climate Vulnerability Profiles

Region	Districts	Key Gender-Climate Findings (NPHC 2024)
Northern	Agago, Nwoya, Koboko	Highest subsistence rates (>50%). Extreme vulnerability to erratic rain. Women face high time poverty due to limited water infrastructure.
Eastern	Buyende, Kween, Serere	High female population density. Buyende and Serere women face unique risks from lakeside flooding; Kween women manage steep-slope farms prone to erosion.
Central	Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke	Located in the Cattle Corridor. While phone ownership is higher (~33-36%), women face intense seasonal water stress that impacts both crop yields and livestock health.
Western	Kisoro, Kamwenge, Rukungiri	Highest female population percentage (Rukungiri 54.5%). Severe land fragmentation forces women to farm marginalized, steep terrains with high physical labour requirements.

6. Sectoral Gender Disparities (Education, Employment, and Labour)

To satisfy the technical requirements for sector-wide statistics, the following data from the NPHC 2024 highlights the specific barriers to resilience in the 12 target districts:

- ***Education and Literacy (The Knowledge Gap):***
  - Disparity: While primary enrolment is high, the Youth Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) rate is significantly higher for young women in districts like Agago and Buyende (averaging 48-52%).
  - Project Impact: This high NEET rate for women justifies the Component 3 focus on business skills and financial literacy, as many target women lack formal vocational pathways.
- ***Employment and Unemployment (The Economic Gap):***
  - Disparity: According to NPHC 2024 Table 11, the unemployment rate for women in rural Nwoya and Koboko is nearly double that of men when excluding subsistence farming. Women are largely confined to vulnerable employment with no social safety nets.
  - Project Impact: The Revolving Fund specifically targets these vulnerably employed women, transitioning them from unpaid subsistence to active entrepreneurship.
- ***Water, Sanitation, and Labour (The Time Gap):***
  - Disparity: Data from NPHC 2024 Table 12 shows that in districts like Kiboga and Gomba, over 30% of households still rely on unimproved water sources or trek long distances.
  - Project Impact: Since women are the primary water collectors, Component 1's portable irrigation directly reduces unpaid labour time, which UBOS identifies as a primary barrier to women's participation in the money economy.

7. Strategic Interventions and Alignment

The project's components are specifically tailored to bridge the identified gender gaps:

- **Component 1 (Agriculture):** Directly addresses the labour burden by providing portable irrigation, reducing the time and physical effort women spend on water management.
- **Component 2 (Capacity):** Corrects the digital divide by using community-based platforms (not just mobile technology) to disseminate climate information.

- **Component 3 (Economy):** Breaks the subsistence trap identified in the NPHC 2024 by providing capital to UWEP groups, enabling them to move from survivalist farming to market-linked, climate-resilient enterprises.
- **Component 4 (Knowledge Management and Learning):** Establishes an integrated platform for monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL), and citizen-led safeguards. It focuses on tracking gender-disaggregated resilience metrics, facilitating bi-annual community feedback loops, and operationalizing transparent district-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) pathways to eliminate operational gaps and secure absolute project accountability.

B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

To complement the detailed results matrix in Part III, the project interventions are engineered to align with the Strategic Results Framework and Core Indicators of the Adaptation Fund. Rather than advancing isolated local activities, the four components function as a unified regional architecture that translates the global adaptation objectives of the Fund into measurable, gender-responsive achievements across 12 vulnerable districts. The narrative below outlines how each financed component directly maps to and operationalizes the specific Strategic Outcomes of the Fund:

Component 1 Agriculture Infrastructure Alignment: AF Strategic Outcome 4

- Strategic Mapping: Component 1 disburses USD 2,000,000 to deploy 480 portable solar-powered and treadle irrigation arrays alongside 24 community nurseries. This funding directly aligns with AF Outcome 4: Increased adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities to respond to the impacts of climate change.
- Field Application: Traditional baseline social funding often treats agricultural training as a standalone tool, leaving fields completely exposed to weather anomalies. This project stabilizes the production foundation first. Distributing physical assets ensures that 5,760 smallholder women gain reliable water control across 1,200 hectares of farm plots. This directly fulfills the indicator parameters for AF Output 4: Physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change.

Component 2 Climate Preparedness Alignment: AF Strategic Outcome 2

- Strategic Mapping: Component 2 invests USD **1,087,559** in local capacity building, early warning downscaling, and emergency risk maps. This investment directly satisfies AF Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced economic losses.
- Field Application: By hosting 120 targeted training runs to translate the DMS meteorological data into native dialects and facilitating the participatory design of 48 community-led adaptation plans, the project builds proactive preparedness. Shifting local groups from reactive crisis response to data-backed farming choices satisfies the core metrics for AF Output 2: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centers and networks.

Component 3 Livelihood Diversification Alignment: AF Strategic Outcome 6

- Strategic Mapping: Capitalizing an independent, interest-free revolving fund at USD 1,000,000 to establish 500 new alternative enterprises satisfies AF Outcome 6: Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people.
- Field Application: Rural smallholder women in Uganda are frequently locked in a subsistence trap due to a persistent asset gap and a lack of land titles. This component bypasses the property-title hurdle by using a group agency model, providing micro-loans directly to certified UWEP cohorts. Launching non-crop income streams (such as commercial apiaries, mushroom production blocks, and biomass briquetting) provides an economic safety net that reduces community vulnerability during extreme climate events. This directly expands the baseline values for AF Output 6: Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened.

Component 4 Learning and Governance Alignment: AF Strategic Outcome 2 & Core Mandates

- Strategic Mapping: Allocating USD 500,000 to build localized feedback tracks, mobile MEL databases, and 12 district Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways reinforces the institutional monitoring mandates of the Fund.

- Field Application: This component ensures complete transparency and shields the project from resource diversion or elite capture. Systematizing data tracking through bi-annual learning forums and capturing 24 gender-disaggregated

field case studies satisfies the knowledge portal requirements of the Fund. Mainstreaming these statistics directly into the UBOS Gender Portal and the Ministry of Water and Environment registries preserves institutional memory and provides a verified template for scaling up adaptation models nationally.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- **Stabilized Agricultural Revenue (Component 1):** The procurement and deployment of 480 portable solar-powered and treadle irrigation pumps will directly transition 5,760 smallholder women from rain-fed vulnerability to year-round production across 1,200 hectares of group-managed land. Based on comparable micro-irrigation deployments in Uganda's Cattle Corridor and Eastern regions, the elimination of dry-season moisture stress is estimated to increase average seasonal crop yields (e.g., vegetables, maize, beans) by 35%. This yield stabilization will generate an estimated net increase in household agricultural revenue of USD 180 per participating household annually, providing immediate food security and liquid savings.

- **Capital Recyclability and Enterprise Capitalization (Component 3):** Capitalizing the revolving fund at USD 1,000,000 provides immediate financial access to 1,000 UWEP groups (12,000 women) who are excluded from formal banking systems due to a lack of legal land titles. This capital will directly fund the establishment of 500 new alternative, climate-resilient livelihood enterprises (e.g., commercial apiaries, mushroom production units, and eco-friendly briquetting plants). These enterprises are projected to generate a minimum 20% increase in non-agricultural household income within the first 24 months of loan deployment. Operating under an 80% conservative repayment baseline model derived from historical UWEP performance records, the fund will recycle USD 800,000 within three years of project completion, enabling a second generation of 500 women's groups to access capital without requiring additional Adaptation Fund allocations.

- **Market Access Integration:** Formalizing 60 new market linkages with regional agro-processors and urban retail distributors ensures that surplus agricultural produce and alternative enterprise goods face zero local supply-glut depreciation, securing predictable, long-term wholesale pricing for the producers.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

- **Mitigation of Time Poverty and Unpaid Care Labor:** Data from the NPHC 2024 indicates that over 30% of households in districts like Kiboga and Gomba rely on unimproved water sources, forcing women and girls to spend an average of 3 to 4 hours daily hauling water. The installation of localized portable pumps under Component 1 reduces daily water collection and manual crop watering times by an estimated 2.5 hours per woman. This recovered time directly addresses gendered time poverty, allowing women to participate in the financial literacy courses, enterprise management workshops, and regional knowledge forums executed under Components 2 and 3.

- **Climate Disaster Risk Reduction and Asset Protection (Component 2):** Training 7,200 women (600 UWEP groups) to access, interpret, and act upon the daily and seasonal weather alerts generated by the DMS directly mitigates disaster vulnerability. Equipping these groups with 48 localized community adaptation plans decreases climate-induced asset loss (such as livestock mortality during Cattle Corridor droughts or crop washouts during flooding events in Serere and Buyende) by an estimated 30% through timely harvesting and proactive stock relocation.

- **Enhanced Local Leadership:** Establishing 40 functional WUCs and training group leaders under Component 4 guarantees that women occupy 100% of executive decision-making positions regarding communal asset distribution and local safety safeguards, permanently shifting local rural governance power balances.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- **Ecosystem Restoration and Soil Conservation (Component 1):** The project will establish 24 community-managed tree nurseries (2 per district), which are quantified to propagate and distribute 120,000 indigenous and nitrogen-fixing fruit tree seedlings over the 5-year implementation timeline. Integrating these seedlings via agroforestry and silvopasture across 1,200 hectares improves soil organic matter, stops soil erosion on the steep slopes of Kween and Kisoro, and enhances micro-catchment water retention.

- **Deforestation Mitigation via Renewable Livelihoods (Component 3):** The establishment of eco-friendly briquetting enterprises utilizing agricultural waste products provides a direct substitute for traditional wood fuel and charcoal production. This alternative biomass fuel deployment is estimated to reduce local household fuelwood cutting by 15% within the target sub-counties, lowering degradation pressures on communal forest resources.

- **Low-Carbon Footprint Technology Choice:** Deploying solar-powered micro-pumps instead of conventional diesel-powered variants avoids local air and noise pollution while eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from fuel combustion, fully complying with national low-carbon growth pathways.

DEMONSTRATION OF EQUITABLE BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

To prevent elite capture, resource misallocation, or geographic disparities, the project utilizes a clear, formula-based distribution mechanism that matches the gender and vulnerability profiles identified in the initial gender analysis and NPHC 2024 datasets.

1. Data-Driven Geographic and Resource Allocation

Resources are not distributed uniformly; instead, they are scaled directly to address the specific structural deficiencies highlighted in the district census data.

- **Targeted Enterprise Capitalization:** Financial capital for alternative livelihoods under Component 3 is concentrated heavily in districts exhibiting the highest subsistence economy rates. As a result, districts like Agago (56.4% subsistence), Nwoya (52.1% subsistence), and Koboko (51.5% subsistence) receive a higher proportion of micro-loan disbursements to actively pull these households into the money economy.
- **Targeted Irrigation and Nursery Infrastructure:** Equipment distribution under Component 1 is prioritized within the highly water-stressed Cattle Corridor districts (Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke) to mitigate severe dry-season moisture deficits, and on the steep agricultural terrains of the Western region (Kisoro, Rukungiri) to address landslide risks.

2. Structural Safeguards Against Elite Capture

To guarantee that resources are equitably shared within the beneficiary groups rather than monopolized by local leadership, the project enforces three operational criteria:

- **Mandatory Inclusion Quotas:** Every participating UWEP group must undergo a community-led validation process facilitated by the sub-county Community Development Officer (CDO). This validation enforces mandatory inclusion quotas: a minimum of 30% of direct benefits (loans and training access) must be allocated to youth female-headed households, and specific placement provisions must be made for women living with disabilities or experiencing multi-dimensional poverty.
- **Asset Co-Management Protocols:** The 480 portable irrigation pumps are legally registered as collective group property managed by the WUCs, not individual assets. The committees are contractually bound by MWE-approved guidelines that mandate rotational watering schedules, ensuring that every group member receives equal water access regardless of their social standing or plot location.
- **Accountability Verified by Component 4 Channels:** The distribution of loans and equipment is audited in real time by the transparent mechanisms established under Component 4. The operationalization of 12 independent district-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways, backed by toll-free telephone support lines, allows any marginalized group member to safely report exclusion errors, loan diversion, or unfair asset distribution directly to the independent oversight committees for resolution within a strict, 14-day mandatory investigation window.

3. Inclusion and Equitable Benefit Distribution for Localized Ethnic Minorities and Indigenous Groups

While the project utilizes the established national framework of UWEP, the data-driven geographic scope targeting districts like Kween and Kisoro directly intersects with areas populated by historically marginalized localized communities and indigenous groups, including the Benet and the Batwa. To comply fully with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund, these populations are explicitly integrated into the unique beneficiary metrics. The equitable distribution of adaptation benefits to these groups is guaranteed through four operational safeguards implemented by CHAI and local government sub-county teams:

- **Proactive Site-Mapping and Registry Vetting:** During the initial multi-district mapping phase under Component 2, field coordinators and sub-county CDOs will cross-reference target village assemblies with localized ethnic minority

registries. This step prevents accidental geographic exclusion and ensures that women from these communities are fully enrolled within participating UWEP cohorts.

- **Mandatory Sub-County Inclusion Quotas:** Under the mandatory validation processes overseen by local technical committees, women from historically marginalized ethnic groups are automatically granted priority status within the vulnerability targeting index. In target sub-counties where these populations reside, a minimum allocation quota is enforced, guaranteeing that they receive direct access to Component 1 portable solar-powered irrigation pumps and Component 3 revolving fund micro-loans without discrimination.
- **Cultural and Language Customization of Materials:** To overcome information barriers caused by high literacy gaps and a persistent digital divide, all disaster risk reduction guidelines and early warning system (EWS) bulletins generated under Component 2 will be translated into localized dialects. Group Literacy Leaders chosen natively from these communities will utilize traditional village megaphone networks and physical bulletin boards to deliver actionable climate advisories, ensuring that technical adaptation information is accessible and culturally appropriate.
- **Grievance Redress Shielding and Accountability:** To insulate marginalized populations from local elite capture or social exclusion, Component 4 operationalizes 12 independent district-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways. Backed by toll-free telephone support access lines managed directly by the independent oversight committees at the PMU level, any indigenous or minority beneficiary can safely and anonymously report unfair asset distribution or operational gaps for resolution within a mandatory 14-day tracking window.

C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Cost-effectiveness is evaluated by measuring the direct relationship between the total financial allocation of USD 5,500,000 and the tangible, long-term resilience outcomes generated for the 12,000 direct female beneficiaries and 60,000 indirect household members across the selected 12 target districts. Rather than deploying isolated, independent interventions, the project maximizes the impact per dollar invested by implementing a specialized technical, operational, and financial framework that guarantees a high rate of return and eliminates resource waste.

Cost-Effectiveness of the Selected Scope and Approach

The selected scope of the project encompasses 12 districts representing Uganda's four administrative regions, targeting a unified cohort of 1,000 pre-registered UWEP women's groups. The selected approach is explicitly holistic and layered; Components 1 and 2 function as targeted operational subsets embedded within the master financial and learning footprints of Components 3 and 4. This layered approach is structurally more cost-effective than standard single-track interventions due to the following design choices:

- **The Production-Before-Credit Sequence:** Standard micro-credit projects often fail or create severe debt risks because capital is injected while the beneficiary's primary agricultural livelihood remains entirely exposed to devastating climate shocks. By investing USD 2,000,000 in Component 1 to stabilize crop production first, the project ensures that when the same women access enterprise capital under Component 3, their baseline income is secure, loan default risks are minimized, and the financial investment is protected.
- **Low-Maintenance Portable Technology vs. Fixed Infrastructure:** Under Component 1, the project selects portable micro-solar and treadle irrigation pumps instead of constructing large-scale, fixed communal dams. While a single large-scale irrigation scheme in Uganda can exceed USD 10,000 per hectare, the project's portable systems cost approximately USD 1,500 per unit and cleanly serve a group of 12 women. Because rural women frequently lack formal land titles, this portable approach allows groups to easily relocate their physical assets if local land-use agreements change, entirely eliminating the risk of stranded investments associated with fixed infrastructure.
- **Operational Savings via Pre-Existing Frameworks:** By anchoring project execution within CHAI while directly utilizing the existing UWEP registry systems and administrative pathways of the MGLSD, the project avoids the high overhead costs of establishing new parallel administrative offices. Utilizing the permanent network of sub-county CDOs for last-mile mobilization and financial recovery keeps Project Execution Costs strictly capped at 9.5% (USD 439,787.05), complying with the statutory funding rules of the Board. Using the pre-vetted UWEP registry of 1,237 available groups ensures that zero project funds are wasted on identification from scratch.

Cost-Effectiveness from a Sustainability Point of View

The project's cost-effectiveness is fundamentally multiplied when viewed from a long-term sustainability perspective, as the initial funding injection creates self-sustaining financial, technical, and institutional mechanisms that persist far beyond the five-year implementation timeline.

- **The Self-Capitalizing Financial Engine:** Component 3 is structured as a permanent, recycling Revolving Fund capitalized at USD 1,000,000, rather than a one-off grant system. When the initial 1,000 UWEP groups repay their micro-loans (inclusive of a minimal 5% service fee to buffer inflation), the recovered capital is immediately pushed out to subsequent cohorts. Based on exceptional historical UWEP repayment records in target districts like Kamwenge (115%) and Koboko (121%), this financial model is projected to fund an additional 500 women's groups within the first three years post-project, automatically reducing the long-term investment cost per beneficiary over time.
- **Elimination of Recurrent Maintenance Overhead:** To prevent the common problem of technology abandonment due to broken parts, the project establishes a community-led User-Pay, User-Maintain asset model. Participating groups establish localized Sinking Funds, contributing predictable monthly membership fees to cover routine repairs and spare parts independently. Training and certifying youth from the local sub-counties as localized Climate Technicians build a prompt, low-cost maintenance market within the districts, eliminating any need for recurrent government financial interventions.
- **Institutionalization of Data and Governance Safeguards:** Component 4 allocates a dedicated USD 500,000 to independent knowledge management, tracking loops, and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways. Traditional retrospective evaluations incur high administrative costs and identify project issues only after capital has been lost. By embedding continuous field tracking and independent toll-free grievance channels directly within the 1,000 target groups, the project catches and resolves operational bottlenecks early. Mainstreaming these digital indicator metrics into the permanent systems of the MWE and the UBOS Gender Portal prevents institutional data loss and allows future regional development initiatives to utilize these baselines without incurring added research costs.

Comparison with Alternative Adaptation Options

To confirm the performance efficiency of the selected approach, the project design was evaluated against alternative adaptation models:

Alternative Option	Estimated Cost	Efficiency and Resilience Outcome Justification
Direct Cash Transfers	USD 500 per woman	Provides short-term consumption relief; fails to build long-term communal physical assets like irrigation or deliver certified training in CSA.
Large-scale Fixed Irrigation Dams	> USD 5,000,000 per district	Extremely high capital requirements and maintenance costs; highly prone to rapid siltation; fails to address the digital divide or the acute youth unemployment gaps.
Project Layered Approach	**USD 458.33 per woman**	**High Efficiency:** Integrates physical assets (irrigation), knowledge (DRR/EWS), a self-capitalizing financial engine (Revolving Fund), and a dedicated accountability tracking framework (Component 4) to systematically eliminate capital waste and guarantee field safeguards.

Strategic Financial Conclusion

The total investment of USD 5,500,000 breaks down to a direct cost of approximately USD 458.33 per direct female beneficiary (12,000 women). When accounting for the 60,000 indirect household members who benefit from stabilized family food security and diversified non-agricultural income streams, the net investment cost drops to a highly efficient USD 91.67 per person. This proves that the selected scope and approach deliver a highly optimized, sustainable, and contractually secure use of the Adaptation Fund's resources.

D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL AND SECTORAL FRAMEWORKS

The project is built to align with Uganda's overarching national development paths, climate change policies, and sectoral strategies. The table below details how the specific interventions across all four components directly operationalize national mandates into localized adaptation actions:

(i) Specific Name of Plan/Strategy	(ii) Years of Implementation	(iii) Goals/Objectives	(iv) Relevance to Proposed Project	(v) Project's Compliance Status
National Development Plan IV (NDP IV)	2025/26–2029/30	Transition populations out of unpaid subsistence labor into commercial agribusiness; scale smallholder water infrastructure and promote ecosystem restoration.	Directs resources toward shifting 12,000 rural women from subsistence farming into commercial enterprise and supplying micro-irrigation assets.	**Compliant:** Component 1 deploys 480 portable pumps and 24 tree nurseries; Component 3 establishes market-linked alternative enterprises.
Uganda's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) & National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	2022–2030 (NDC); 2015–2030 (NAP)	Reduce vulnerability in climate-sensitive sectors (Water, Agriculture, Forestry); promote decentralized adaptation technology and financial inclusion.	Targets structural climate vulnerability in agriculture and water security for female smallholders in drought- and flood-prone districts.	**Compliant:** Component 1 expands small-scale water efficiency; Component 3 capitalizes a $1,000,000 revolving fund for adaptation investments.
Uganda Agriculture National Adaptation Plan (Agriculture NAP)	2018–2030	Increase resilience of the agricultural sector through gender-responsive actions, climate-smart practices, and downscaled early warning alerts.	Guides the technical selection of climate-smart agricultural practices and community-based climate information channels for rural women.	**Compliant:** Component 1 trains 600 groups in native agroforestry and intercropping; Component 2 delivers 120 weather downscaling sessions.
Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Report for Climate Change Adaptation	2022–2030	Prioritize water management and agricultural technology transfer, including micro-scale irrigation and nature-based forest enterprises.	Supplies the technical justification for smallholder irrigation hardware and nature-based enterprise selection.	**Compliant:** Output 1.1 deploys micro-solar and treadle pump arrays; Output 3.3 finances 500 nature-based enterprises (e.g., apiaries).
Uganda Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC	2022–2028	Assess climate vulnerability across agro-ecological zones and promote adaptive measures to counter rainfall variability and crop loss.	Highlights high risks of crop failure in Northern and Eastern Uganda due to shifting seasonal rainfall.	**Compliant:** Component 3 establishes alternative non-crop enterprises (e.g., mushroom production, biomass briquetting) to protect against crop failure.
National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Policy	2010–Ongoing	Shift national disaster management from reactive emergency response to proactive community preparedness and localized risk reduction.	Frames the community-led disaster risk reduction training, localized hazard mapping, and early warning networks.	**Compliant:** Component 2 trains 600 groups in disaster risk reduction and formulates 48 community adaptation plans annexed into local budgets.
The National Water Act, Cap 152 & Water Action Plan	1997–Ongoing	Regulate sustainable water resource usage, prioritize domestic and smallholder subsistence allocation, and mandate local user management.	Governs water abstraction parameters and community asset management for micro-irrigation installations.	**Compliant:** Component 1 establishes 40 Water User Committees (WUCs) to enforce abstraction limits and run local Sinking Funds.
National Biomass Energy Strategy (BEST) & Renewable Energy Policy	2014–2030	Reduce dependency on raw fuelwood and charcoal to curb deforestation and promote clean alternative biomass technologies.	Aligns with the project's environmental sustainability and alternative green enterprise goals.	**Compliant:** Component 3 finances eco-friendly briquetting enterprises using agricultural waste, reducing household fuelwood cutting by 15%.
Local Governments Act, Cap 243 & District Development Plans (DDPs)	1997–Ongoing	Empower district local governments with decentralized planning, sub-national implementation, and local monitoring authority.	Facilitates sub-national institutional integration and long-term sustainability at the sub-county and district levels.	**Compliant:** Component 2 formally annexes 48 community adaptation plans into statutory DDPs monitored by sub-county Community Development Officers (CDOs).

Incorporation of Crucial Sectoral and Sub-National Strategies

To ensure complete policy integration beyond agricultural frameworks, the project incorporates four additional sectoral and sub-national strategies:

- **National Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) Policy (2010):** The NDRM Policy mandates a structural shift from reactive emergency crisis management to proactive community preparedness and localized risk reduction. Component 2 directly operationalizes this policy at the grassroots level. By training 600 UWEP groups and facilitating the participatory design of 48 distinct community-based adaptation plans (4 per district), the project establishes clear, localized emergency response protocols for flash floods in the Eastern region and prolonged dry spells in the Cattle Corridor.
- **The National Water Act, Cap 152 & Water Action Plan:** The National Water Act requires the rational, sustainable management of communal water assets to prevent groundwater depletion. Component 1 integrates this standard by establishing 40 functional WUC within the participating UWEP groups. These committees are trained to enforce sustainable abstraction thresholds for the portable solar pumps, manage localized catchment conservation around water entry points, and run independent group-led Sinking Funds to ensure the long-term maintenance of the equipment without relying on external government budgets.
- **National Biomass Energy Strategy (BEST) & Renewable Energy Policy:** Uganda's energy frameworks emphasize reducing the country's heavy reliance on raw fuelwood and charcoal, which accelerates deforestation and worsens local flooding risks. Component 3 directly aligns with this strategy by financing eco-friendly briquetting enterprises that utilize residual agricultural waste as raw materials. This intervention establishes a sustainable biomass energy market in the sub-counties, reducing household fuelwood cutting by an estimated 15% and protecting local forest ecosystems.
- **Sub-National Level — Local Governments Act, Cap 243 & District Development Plans (DDPs):** Fulfilling sub-national compliance requires embedding project benefits into permanent local governance frameworks. Under the Local Governments Act, districts maintain independent planning mandates. To ensure compliance, the 48 community adaptation plans generated under Component 2 will be formally annexed into the statutory DDPs of the 12 target districts. This integration locks in the interventions as permanent operational line items monitored by District Technical Committees and sub-county CDOs, guaranteeing long-term institutional survival after the Project Management Unit exits.

E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ADAPTATION FUND'S ESP POLICIES

The project will be implemented in strict adherence to Uganda's statutory legal frameworks, technical codes, and environmental mandates. Rather than relying on generic project screening, the centralized Project Management Unit (PMU) hosted by CHAI will ensure that every physical, financial, and informational intervention under Components 1–4 satisfies the precise legal clauses and regulatory bodies detailed in the comprehensive table below:

Comprehensive Technical Standards & Compliance Pathway

Technical Standard / Regulation	Specific Statutory Provision & Phasing	Compliance Pathway & Operational Status
National Environment Act, 2019 & Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2020	**Sections 110–113 & Schedule 4 (Part II):** Mandates that small-scale agricultural water interventions, localized irrigation equipment distribution, and community tree nurseries undergo a mandatory screening process to submit a detailed "Project Brief" to the relevant Lead Agency, rather than a full-scale Schedule 5 ESIA.	**Component 1 & 2 Alignment:** Because the deployment of 480 portable pumps and 24 nurseries has site-specific, reversible environmental footprints, CHAI will compile distinct Project Briefs during the inception phase. These briefs will integrate localized Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for each of the 12 districts, which will be submitted directly to the MWE and NEMA for formal approval before any procurement or field installations begin.
National Water Act, Cap 152 & Water Resources Regulations	**Sections 18 & 21:** Regulates surface and groundwater abstraction limits while establishing the statutory prioritization of water allocation for domestic usage and small-scale subsistence livelihoods over commercial enterprise.	**Component 1 Alignment:** The 480 portable solar and treadle pumps draw water at low-intensity thresholds that fall below the statutory limits for mandatory water abstraction permits. However, to prevent localized natural resource degradation, the 40 WUCs will register all pumping points with District Water Officers to verify total alignment with riverbank and wetland protection rules (Sections 52 & 53 of the National Environment Act, 2019).
Uganda National Bureau	**Compulsory Standards Category (US ISO**	**Component 1 Procurement Alignment:** All

of Standards (UNBS) Act, Cap 327 & Engineering Codes	**16438:2012 & US IEC Solar Standards):** Specifies precise mechanical requirements, pressure thresholds, and technical test methods for thermoplastic collapsible irrigation hoses, solar PV modules, and micro-pumping machinery.	procurement documents and technical specifications issued by CHAI will strictly mandate that equipment suppliers possess valid UNBS Quality Certification Marks and distinctive marks of quality. No generic, uncertified solar modules or non-reinforced agricultural distribution hoses will be cleared for field rollout to the UWEP groups.
MAAIF Seed and Plant Act, 2006 & Plant Protection and Health Act, 2016	**Sections 9 & 14:** Regulates the certified multiplication, phytosanitary testing, and multi-district distribution of agricultural input materials, seeds, and planting stocks.	**Component 1 Nature-Based Alignment:** The 24 community-managed nurseries will propagate indigenous and non-invasive tree seedlings pre-verified by the National Forestry Authority (NFA). All crop seed varieties distributed for the 1,200 hectares of intercropping and CSA tracks will be sourced exclusively from MAAIF-registered dealers, carrying verified certification tags to protect fields against invasive pests or low germination rates.
Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders Act, 2016	**Part IV & Local Financial Bylaws:** Establishes consumer protection standards, transparent credit accounting rules, and strict operational guidelines for community-based revolving funds, savings groups, and non-deposit-taking credit channels.	**Component 3 Financial Alignment:** The USD 1,000,000 revolving fund functions as an interest-free social credit channel managed through local government frameworks. The operational rules, loan recovery windows, and the nominal 5% inflation buffer fee are designed to comply with local administrative laws. Fund tracking will utilize the existing digital management systems of the MGLSD to prevent local financial exploitation and guarantee absolute reporting transparency.
National Access to Information Act (2005) & Local Governments Act, Cap 243	**Section 5 & Section 122 of the National Environment Act, 2019:** Guarantees citizen rights to access project implementation documents, public resource tracking metrics, and mandates continuous community-led compliance monitoring.	**Component 4 Governance Alignment:** Operationalizing 12 independent district-level GRM pathways, utilizing toll-free telephone support access lines managed directly by CHAI, fulfills these public transparency mandates. Publishing summarized annual safety audit reports and hosting bi-annual village learning forums ensures that the most vulnerable smallholder female farmers possess secure channels to report operational errors or exclusion risks.

Technical Justification for Compliance Management

The choice of low-carbon, portable solar-powered irrigation equipment instead of heavy, fixed infrastructure is engineered to comply with the MWE's technical standards for small-scale adaptation technology. Because the physical assets are portable, they do not require permanent land modification or cause structural disruptions to catchment hydrodynamics. Furthermore, to maintain comprehensive compliance with the ESP of the Adaptation Fund, any site-specific risks identified during the preliminary project screening phase (such as local competitive water utilization or potential elite capture of revolving fund loans) are not left to retrospective reviews. Instead, they are actively managed, monitored, and resolved through the field indicators and community-led safeguard tracking systems established under Component 4, ensuring that all project actions remain fully compliant with national laws and international safeguard policies throughout the entire 5-year project lifecycle.

F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.

DUPLICATION OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME WITH OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

To maximize the efficiency of public resources and secure absolute non-duplication of funding, the project has been designed to complement existing national and regional initiatives while maintaining distinct operational boundaries. While several development frameworks address rural livelihoods and agricultural productivity within Uganda, this project introduces a specialized climate-proofing architecture targeted exclusively at registered women's smallholder groups. The table below provides a detailed analysis of major related initiatives and outlines the explicit lines of demarcation that prevent any duplication of interventions:

Complementary Projects and Strategic Demarcation

Project / Initiative & Funding Source	Core Institutional Metrics &	Primary Scope, Objective & Focus	Explicit Line of Demarcation (Non-Duplication	Specific Synergy & Value-Addition	Practical Lessons Learned Integrated into Project Design

	Timelines		Framework)	Strategy	
GCF Project FP034: Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems in Uganda	**Implementing Entity:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) **Timeline:** 2017 – 2026	Focuses on restoring degraded wetlands and adjacent riverine catchments through ecosystem-based adaptation and alternative wetland-free livelihoods across Southwestern and Eastern Uganda.	FP034 is landscape-centric, anchoring its funding around communities located within direct wetland perimeters. In contrast, this project targets upland smallholder agricultural farms across 12 distinct districts, focusing entirely on pre-registered women's cohorts. It avoids large-scale wetland civil works in favor of mobile, solar-powered micro-irrigation assets owned collectively by women.	This project utilizes the historical climate information dissemination channels developed under FP034, adapting their localized early warning advisory models to feed directly into the Component 2 training tracks for our 600 target groups.	**1.** Physical boundaries and structural safety barriers around water retention installations are essential to eliminate public safety risks. **2.** Deliberate targeting of women during asset selection ensures that alternative enterprise benefits directly shield households from economic displacement.
The Parish Development Model (PDM)	**Implementing Entity:** Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) & Ministry of Finance **Timeline:** 2021 – 2030	A nationwide poverty-reduction strategy that distributes micro-capital directly to parish-level SACCOs to transition the 39% of subsistence households into commercial production across seven structural pillars.	PDM capital is distributed as general-purpose revolving credit for standard household business setups. It lacks any capital allocations for climate-smart infrastructure, micro-solar pumping arrays, or dedicated disaster risk reduction training. Furthermore, PDM is gender-neutral and operates at the general household level, whereas this project targets smallholder women's groups with dedicated climate technology.	CHAI will review local PDM registration logs through sub-county offices to ensure that women's groups selected for our Component 1 irrigation equipment and Component 3 revolving fund are not receiving identical asset grants from parish funds, eliminating double-dipping.	**1.** Stand-alone financial credit provision without climate risk mitigation exposes rural borrowers to agricultural default cycles during unexpected droughts. **2.** Financial tracking systems require independent local monitoring channels to completely eliminate elite asset dominance.
Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) Baseline Operations	**Implementing Entity:** Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) **Timeline:** Launched 2015, Ongoing permanent program	Provides interest-free revolving credit to women's groups across Uganda to finance standard micro-enterprises (such as retail trade, tailoring, and poultry farming) to promote female economic empowerment.	Baseline UWEP operations provide credit for standard, commercial trade activities but lack any technical or financial windows to fund climate adaptation equipment, seed nurseries, or weather tracking. This project does not draw from core national UWEP funds; instead, it establishes an independent, separate USD 1,000,000 climate revolving fund targeted strictly at climate-resilient alternative livelihoods.	The project utilizes the pre-vetted UWEP registry data to identify functional women's groups, avoiding the administrative cost of registering cohorts from scratch. This direct collaboration saves substantial mobilization funds under Component 3.	**1.** Capital injections are highly vulnerable to complete loss if the female entrepreneurs' primary agricultural baseline remains unshielded from weather shocks. **2.** Multi-signature controls restricted to female executives protect group assets from external domestic redirection.
Development Response to Displacement	**Implementing Entity:** Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)	Focuses on improving access to basic social services and	DRDIP resources are directed toward constructing fixed, communal civil	In overlapping districts like Koboko, the project will align	**1.** Fixed civil infrastructure suffers from rapid physical deterioration and

Impacts Project (DRDIP)	**Timeline:** 2017 – 2026	expanding economic opportunities for refugee-hosting communities and displaced populations in specific districts (such as Koboko).	infrastructure (large valley tanks, school structures, public clinics) for mixed refugee and host populations. This project focuses strictly on portable, group-owned farm assets (solar micro-pumps) and customized household-level alternative livelihood enterprises (apiaries, mushroom production units) for native smallholder women.	its community adaptation plans with DRDIP's local infrastructure maps to ensure that portable solar pumps utilize micro-catchments that complement existing valley tanks.	operational neglect if decentralized user-pay frameworks are missing. **2.** Fast-tracked, independent dispute tracking channels are essential to minimize local project friction and overhead costs.
Bilateral Project Addition: WOSFER (Empowering Women Smallholder Farmers)	**Implementing Entity:** Consortia of local agricultural research entities and District Local Governments **Timeline:** 2023 – 2027	Strengthens the adaptive capacity and socio-economic agency of women smallholder farmers in the Cattle Corridor using gender-transformative approaches and women-friendly digital climate tools.	WOSFER operates primarily as an experimental research and trial pilot focusing on localized digital advisory models and gender norm modifications within two specific districts. This AF project builds on those concepts by deploying large-scale physical asset grants (480 pumps) and capitalized revolving loan assets across a wider multi-regional blueprint (12 districts).	CHAI will integrate WOSFER's collected field datasets regarding socio-cultural barriers to adaptation to design the financial literacy and enterprise management modules under Component 3.	**1.** Digital climate advisories face severe information blockages due to deep telephone ownership imbalances between rural men and women. **2.** Forecast dissemination must be paired with group-centered physical relay points (like Group Literacy Leaders) to ensure last-mile information continuity.

Justification of Distinct Adaptation Focus

The selected approach is distinct because it targets the intersection of gender-specific time poverty and climate-induced moisture stress. Traditional livelihood projects in Uganda treat financial credit as a standalone solution, which often introduces high debt risks for vulnerable populations when agricultural yields remain exposed to climate shocks. This project alters that sequencing by investing USD 2,000,000 in Component 1 to climate-proof the primary production base first through micro-solar irrigation. Only after the agricultural baseline is stabilized does the project inject alternative enterprise capital under Component 3.

Management Mechanism to Prevent Double-Funding

To secure an absolute safeguard against duplication during the field rollout phase, the centralized PMU will execute a multi-tiered clearance protocol:

1. **Registry Verification:** Before any equipment is procured or micro-loans disbursed, the sub-county CDO must cross-reference the target group's unique registration ID against both the national UWEP ledger and the local PDM SACCO tracking databases.
2. **Local Government Clearance:** The multi-sectoral District Technical Committees in each of the 12 target locations must formally vet and sign off on the beneficiary lists to verify that no individual group is receiving parallel capital or hardware grants for identical interventions from other donor-funded programs.
3. **Component 4 Real-Time Audit:** The establishment of 12 independent district-level GRM pathways, backed by toll-free telephone support access lines, allows any community member to safely report operational overlaps or funding double-dipping, ensuring that all project actions remain distinct, transparent, and legally compliant throughout the 5-year project lifecycle.

G. If applicable, describe the knowledge management and learning component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

The project includes a dedicated knowledge management and learning component, fully operationalized under Component 4, designed to capture and disseminate evidence-based lessons. This ensures that the successes and challenges encountered by the 1,000 UWEP groups in the 12 districts inform both national policy and future regional adaptation initiatives. A dedicated operational budget of $500,000 is officially allocated to Component 4 to ensure that the learning aspect, feedback loops, and grievance safeguards remain structurally independent.

Knowledge Capture and Documentation

The project will systematically document processes and outcomes through the following mechanisms:

- ***Impact Case Studies:*** At least 24 case studies (2 per district) will be produced, focusing on the transition of women from subsistence farming to climate-resilient entrepreneurship. These will highlight the effectiveness of the revolving fund and portable irrigation technologies.
- ***Technical Guidelines:*** A Gender-Centered Climate-Smart Agriculture Manual will be developed, documenting the specific nature-based practices (agroforestry, silvopasture) that proved most effective in the varying ecological zones, from the steep slopes of Kween to the water-stressed Cattle Corridor of Kiboga.
- ***EWS Effectiveness Reports:*** Annual reviews will assess how the EWS sensitization sessions (Output 2.3) improved disaster preparedness, using the NPHC 2024 baseline to measure shifts in information access.

Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing

To ensure wide reach, the project will utilize multiple platforms for dissemination:

- ***District Knowledge Forums:*** Annual forums will be organized in each of the four regions (Central, Northern, Eastern, and Western). These will bring together UWEP group leaders, CDOs, and district planners to exchange best practices.
- ***National Policy Briefs:*** Biannual briefs will be shared with the MWE and the MGLSD to support the integration of gender-responsive adaptation into the National Development Plan (NDP).
- ***Digital Repositories:*** All knowledge products will be hosted on the MWE and UBOS Gender Portal websites, ensuring that data-driven lessons are accessible to the global adaptation community.

Learning Responsibilities and Budget

Knowledge management is integrated across all components under the direct execution of the CHAI technical team, working in close coordination with supporting MGLSD field communications officers. A separate, dedicated operational budget of $500,000 is officially allocated to Component 4 to ensure that the learning aspect, feedback loops, and grievance safeguards remain structurally independent.

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To satisfy the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund, a comprehensive, multi-tiered consultative process was executed during the formulation of this concept note. The consultations were intentionally structured to capture institutional mandates at the national level, technical capabilities at the district level, and localized vulnerability profiles at the grassroots community level. Special emphasis was placed on engaging marginalized smallholder female farmers, female youth-headed households, and persons living with disabilities (PWDs) to ensure that project benefits are equitably distributed and do not cause inadvertent exclusion errors.

1. Chronological Stakeholder Consultation Matrix

Location	Stakeholder Groups Engaged	Consultation Methodology	Core Objective & Focus Area
Kampala (MWE & MGLSD Offices)	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD - Directorate of Gender & Community Development), DMS, and CHAI.	Institutional technical working sessions and policy mapping interviews.	Harmonizing the implementation framework with NDP IV priorities, validating the UWEP registry interface, and auditing technical compliance standards for small-scale solar pumping technology.
Regional Hubs:	District Technical Committees, District	Focus group discussions	Evaluating sub-national operational

Gulu, Mbale, Fort Portal, and Mbarara	Agricultural Officers, District Water Officers, and sub-county CDOs from the 12 target districts.	(FGDs) and institutional resource mapping workshops.	blockages, assessing revolving fund absorption capacities, mapping district climate vulnerability metrics, and verifying local government integration plans.
Grassroots Level: 12 Target Districts (Village Assemblies)	Active UWEP women's groups, smallholder female farmers, traditional community elders, female youth representatives, and PWD advocates.	12 distinct localized community workshops, gender-segregated FGDs, and key informant interviews.	Ground-truthing climate impacts (moisture stress, time poverty), evaluating technology barriers, auditing local dispute resolution channels, and assessing barriers to formal banking credit.

2. Localization of Concerns and Concrete Project Design Modifications

The grassroots consultation phase systematically uninsulated specific socio-economic and gendered vulnerabilities. Rather than treating stakeholder feedback as a retrospective review, the project management actively modified the core components to build direct operational safeguards into the design:

Concern A: Land Tenure Insecurity and Technology Selection (Component 1): During community focus groups in Kiboga and Nakaseke districts, women smallholder farmers emphasized that over 75% of them do not hold formal legal titles to the agricultural land they cultivate, frequently relying on short-term family arrangements or insecure seasonal leases. They explicitly noted that investing in heavy, fixed irrigation infrastructure would expose them to eviction risks or asset loss. ***Design Integration:*** The project design rejected fixed concrete irrigation schemes in favor of portable micro-solar and treadle pumping arrays. These collective physical assets are contractually registered to the UWEP group rather than individual plots, enabling the women to easily transport and relocate their irrigation technology if local land-use dynamics alter.

Concern B: Technical Illiteracy and the Digital Divide (Component 2): In districts like Agago and Kween, female youth participants highlighted that standard early warning climate advisories delivered via English SMS networks fail to reach the most vulnerable, due to low literacy rates and restricted household smartphone ownership. ***Design Integration:*** Component 2 was restructured to bypass digital exclusion. The 120 training sessions will train pre-identified Group Literacy Leaders natively chosen from the UWEP groups. These leaders will receive DMS alerts and translate the technical data into local dialects, utilizing traditional village megaphone networks and collective physical bulletin boards to deliver clear adaptation directives.

Concern C: Credit Diversion Risks and Financial Autonomy (Component 3): Female entrepreneurs in Serere and Koboko expressed concerns that injecting a USD 1,000,000 revolving fund might attract elite capture or prompt male household heads to divert credit away from alternative livelihoods toward traditional cash crops. ***Design Integration:*** The project established that revolving funds will bypass individual household lines. Capital disbursements are restricted to verified, multi-signature group bank accounts managed exclusively by the elected female executives of the UWEP groups, ensuring absolute financial autonomy and protecting the credit cycle from external domestic pressures.

Concern D: Dispute Resolution Barriers and Shielding Safeguards (Component 4): Participants across all 12 districts noted that standard local council dispute channels are often slow, expensive, and socially inaccessible for marginalized women seeking to resolve exclusion errors or unfair water allocation schedules. ***Design Integration:*** Component 4 will establish 12 independent district-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways. This ensures that any marginalized beneficiary can safely report operational bottlenecks or credit manipulation for resolution within a strict, mandatory 14-day window.

3. Strategy for Sustained Consultation during Full Proposal Formulation

To ensure that the initial consensus is maintained and deepened, a comprehensive consultation protocol is scheduled for the full proposal development phase:

1. **Site-Specific Verification Audits:** CHAI technical officers will conduct localized field visits to the selected sub-counties to complete formal environmental and social screening checklists, verifying that pump positions conform to local riverbank protection zones.
2. **Co-Design of Credit Bylaws:** Workshops will be hosted in collaboration with the MGLSD and local government CDOs to allow the 1,000 target UWEP groups to independently formulate their internal revolving fund loan repayment grace periods and group-led saving fund contribution levels.

3. **Public Disclosure of Safeguards:** The environmental and social management plans, translated into core local languages, will be publicly posted at sub-county headquarters across the 12 districts, providing complete operational transparency and securing full compliance with the policies of the Adaptation Fund Board before final submission.

I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

JUSTIFICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTED: FULL COST OF ADAPTATION

The funding requested from the Adaptation Fund (USD 5,500,000) is entirely dedicated to covering the full, specific costs of concrete adaptation activities. In compliance with the regulations of the Board, this funding does not duplicate or substitute business-as-usual local development budgets. Instead, it provides a specialized layer of climate-proofing interventions designed to pull 12,000 direct female beneficiaries out of acute climate vulnerability. Below is a detailed component-by-component baseline versus project adaptation reasoning to demonstrate why these costs are independent of baseline development and how the Component 4 tracking allocation remains separate from the preparatory PFG window:

Component-by-Component Baseline vs. Adaptation Cost Delineation

Component 1: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Improved Livelihoods

- *Baseline Livelihood Development (Without AF Funding):* Local government frameworks and national programs like the PDM provide general guidance on crop production and standard agricultural expansion. However, these baseline budgets are entirely generic and do not fund clean water abstraction technology, solar-powered infrastructure, or localized water catchment preservation. Rural women remain dependent on erratic, rain-fed production cycles, leading to catastrophic crop failures during Cattle Corridor droughts or complete farm washouts during lakeside flooding.
- *Adaptation-Specific Cost Injection (With AF Funding - USD 2,000,000):* This fund covers the explicit, additional costs of purchasing and distributing 480 mobile solar-powered and treadle irrigation pumps to secure moisture baseline stability. It finances the structural establishment of 24 community-managed tree nurseries to propagate 120,000 climate-resilient seedlings and funds the field mobilization of 40 functional WUCs to govern water resource allocation. These costs are 100% specific to building climate resilience and are completely absent from general development programs.

Component 2: Disaster Risk Reduction and Capacity Building

- *Baseline Livelihood Development (Without AF Funding):* National networks like DMS generate accurate macro-level seasonal and daily weather alerts. However, due to systemic communication barriers, language mismatches, and a persistent digital gender divide in remote areas, these technical data streams remain locked at the national level and fail to reach rural women. Baseline institutional funding covers data generation but completely lacks the administrative means to downscale and translate this information into grassroots action plans.
- *Adaptation-Specific Cost Injection (With AF Funding - USD* **1,087,559***):* This allocation covers the cost of downscaling, translating, and embedding technical climate information directly into the daily farm practices of 600 UWEP groups. It funds 120 localized training sessions to bypass the digital ownership gap and finances the participatory formulation of 48 distinct community-based adaptation plans annexed directly into Local Government databases to manage landslide and flood hazards.

Component 3: Alternative Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

- *Baseline Livelihood Development (Without AF Funding):* Regular government social protection frameworks, such as standard UWEP credit channels, provide small-scale business micro-loans to women's groups. However, these baseline credit streams are strictly commercial-trade-focused (e.g., retail, traditional poultry) and completely ignore climate risk vectors. When severe droughts or floods occur, these unshielded enterprises fail, causing high default rates and stripping women of their minimal baseline capital.
- *Adaptation-Specific Cost Injection (With AF Funding - USD 1,000,000):* This fund establishes an independent, dedicated climate resilience revolving fund capitalized entirely outside of national development channels. It finances the specialized technical training, value-addition equipment, and initial business support needed to launch 500 new alternative, non-crop enterprises (e.g., apiaries, mushroom blocks, biomass briquettes) that are decoupled from climate shocks. It also finances 60 new specialized market linkages to secure long-term wholesale price stability for the producers.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Learning

- *Baseline Livelihood Development (Without AF Funding):* Regular development monitoring is retrospective, top-down, and limited to basic financial accounting or administrative audits. It entirely lacks frameworks to capture gender-disaggregated field adaptation metrics, run village-level learning loops, or protect marginalized beneficiaries from local resource hoarding through accessible grievance channels.
- *Adaptation-Specific Cost Injection (With AF Funding - USD 500,000):* This fund covers the operational execution of participatory field tracking, live indicator verification, and the deployment of 12 fully functional district-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways with independent community oversight committees and toll-free telephone support channels. It funds the capture and publication of 24 localized case studies to mainstream field insights into the national UBOS Gender Portal and MWE monitoring databases.

Delineation of Component 4 Allocation vs. the PFG Window

A key technical distinction must be maintained between the PFG and the Component 4 Operational Budget:

1. The requested PFG is strictly a pre-implementation, preparatory funding window. In strict compliance with the rules of the Board, these funds will be completely exhausted during the proposal drafting phase to execute specialized site-feasibility screenings, carry out baseline environmental and social field assessments, complete the fully detailed gender integration analysis, and formalize structural legal agreements with local governments across the 12 districts. The PFG window closes entirely before the actual project launch.
2. In contrast, the Component 4 fund is an active, five-year operational execution budget housed within the main grant architecture. None of these funds can be applied to project preparation. Instead, this budget is contractually required to fund live, continuous tracking loops, host bi-annual community feedback forums across 1,000 groups, manage the operational toll-free lines for the 12 district GRM pathways, and dynamically refine field practices based on seasonal data updates over the full 5-year project life cycle. It represents an active governance and field-level accountability safety net that cannot be performed during the proposal preparation phase.

Additional Funding and Financial Sustainability Clear-Cut Logic

The project does not require or rely on additional external donor funding to deliver its stated outputs and outcomes. It functions as a complete, independent adaptation solution that contains its own built-in mechanism for long-term financial sustainability:

The Self-Endowment Recycling Engine: The USD 1,000,000 revolving fund under Component 3 is designed as a self-capitalizing engine. Rather than being dispersed as one-off baseline grants that deplete over time, the micro-loans are systematically recovered along with a minimal 5% service fee to protect the capital from local inflation. Operating under an 80% conservative recovery model backed by exceptional historical field data, this system will automatically recycle USD 800,000 within three years of project completion, independently financing a second generation of 500 women's groups without requiring any secondary funding injections from the Adaptation Fund or local government channels.

J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been considered when designing the project/programme.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAMME OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

Sustainability is a foundational design requirement of the project, ensuring that the resilience gains, resource enhancements, and economic agency achieved by the 1,000 targeted UWEP groups (12,000 direct female beneficiaries) persist and scale up natively beyond the 5-year implementation timeline. The project transitions from temporary external support to a permanent, self-sustaining framework embedded completely within community-led savings mechanisms and local government institutions. The specific structural arrangements to secure the long-term sustainability of project benefits are executed across five specialized operational channels:

1. Financial Sustainability of Project Benefits

- **The self-endowment recycling engine (Component 3):** The capital base of the USD 1,000,000 alternative livelihood fund is structured as a revolving financial asset, rather than a depleting grant channel. When participating groups repay their micro-loans (inclusive of a nominal 5% service fee to offset local inflation and administrative upkeep), the recovered capital is directed straight into a ring-fenced district account. Operating under a conservative 80% recovery baseline derived from historical UWEP local data, this model will automatically recycle an estimated USD 800,000 within 36 months post-project,

enabling a secondary generation of 500 women's groups to access alternative livelihood capital without requiring additional international project funding.

- **Transition to market-linked value addition:** Financial benefits are insulated from post-project collapse by linking the 500 new alternative enterprises (such as apiaries, mushroom production blocks, and biomass briquetting units) to 60 formalized regional wholesale market buyers. Shifting the producer groups from survivalist farming to predictable, commercial off-take contracts guarantees steady cash inflows, allowing the beneficiary groups to accumulate autonomous financial capital.
- **Permanent government fiduciary monitoring:** CDOs, operating as permanent government civil servants, will retain routine oversight of the revolving ledger using the pre-existing digital management systems of the MGLSD, guaranteeing secure capital tracking after the temporary PMU exits.

2. Technical and Infrastructure Sustainability of Project Benefits

- **The Group-Led User-Pay Maintenance System (Component 1):** To completely eliminate the risk of technological abandonment or equipment breakdown, the 480-portable solar-powered and treadle irrigation pumps are registered legally as collective group property, managed strictly by the 40 WUCs rather than individual households. Participating group members are bound by internally formulated bylaws to contribute predictable monthly membership fees into a group-managed Sinking Fund dedicated exclusively to purchasing spare parts, seals, and distribution lines.
- **Localization of the Maintenance Supply Chain:** The project will train and certify selected youth from the target sub-counties as localized Climate Technicians, equipping them with specialized toolkits to handle routine mechanical and electrical repairs. This creates a prompt, competitive local repair market within the target sub-counties, removing any dependence on centralized technical support from distant urban centers.

3. Institutional and Policy Sustainability of Project Benefits

- **Mainstreaming into District Development Plans (DDPs) (Component 2):** To ensure that local climate tracking and hazard response actions outlive the project timeline, the 48 community-based adaptation plans (4 per district) generated through participatory village workshops will be formally annexed into the statutory DDPs of the 12 target local governments. This statutory integration locks in the monitoring of localized early warning signals as a permanent operational responsibility of the District Natural Resources and Engineering Departments.
- **Integration into National Data Registries (Component 4):** The gender-disaggregated resilience statistics, water usage logs, and case studies captured via the Component 4 tracking systems will feed directly into the permanent web-based repositories of MWE and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) Gender Portal. Preserving this institutional memory prevents data loss and ensures that future public regional planning initiatives can build upon verified adaptation baselines without incurring added research costs.

4. Social and Capacity Sustainability of Project Benefits

Mechanisms Preventing Reversion to Unsustainable Practices: To guarantee that rural communities do not revert to unsustainable practices (such as environmental degradation or unshielded rain-fed farming) post-project, the intervention embeds three structural safeguards:

- **Direct Economic Incentive & Profitability:** Beneficiaries transition from survivalist farming to profitable, year-round commercial production. Because portable solar irrigation and alternative non-crop enterprises generate higher, predictable household incomes, returning to unsustainable rain-fed practices presents an immediate economic loss to the farmer.
- **Collective Asset Co-Ownership & Sinking Funds:** Equipment is not distributed as disposable individual hand-outs. All physical assets (such as portable pump arrays) are contractually registered as shared group property under Water User Committees (WUCs). Monthly user-pay contributions into localized Sinking Funds create a permanent financial buffer for ongoing maintenance, eliminating technological abandonment.
- **Institutional Social Capital via Established UWEP Networks:** Rather than creating temporary, event-based project groups that dissolve at completion, activities are integrated into permanent, legally registered UWEP women's groups. These groups possess established social trust, internal bylaws, and peer-to-peer accountability, ensuring that group-led adaptation practices, EWS relay networks, and revolving credit cycles persist as permanent community norms.

5. Environmental Sustainability of Project Benefits

- **Self-Sustaining Regenerative Nurseries:** The 24 community nurseries established under Component 1 are structured to transition into independent green social enterprises. While the initial seedling cohorts (120,000 trees) are distributed to

climate-proof the 1,200 hectares of intercropping and agroforestry zones, subsequent propagation runs will be funded by selling a targeted 20% portion of high-value fruit and timber seedlings to the open commercial market. This revenue generation secures the continuous purchase of potting materials and viable parent stocks for successive planting seasons.

- **Resource Protection Thresholds:** Training the WUCs to monitor groundwater recharge rates and enforce localized abstraction limits around solar pumping sites acts as an active environmental checkpoint, preventing localized water table depletion and ensuring that micro-catchment water assets remain functional for future generations.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

Project Environmental and Social Categorization

The proposed project has been screened against the 15 Environmental and Social Principles (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund. Based on the screening process, the project is formally classified as **Category B** (Medium/Low Risk). The physical interventions focus on portable micro-solar pumps, community tree nurseries, and small-scale non-crop enterprise development, which do not involve large-scale civil works, land acquisition, or involuntary resettlement. All potential risks are site-specific, reversible, low in magnitude, and easily managed through the localized mitigation measures embedded within project operations.

Environmental and Social Risk Screening Table

1. Checklist of Environmental and Social Principles	2. No further assessment required for compliance	3. Potential impacts and risks - further assessment and management required for compliance
1. Compliance with the Law		**There is a risk of** localized discrepancies or non-alignment regarding boundary maps, riverbank protection zones, or nursery layout permits under regional local government guidelines. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impacts are limited to minor administrative delays; cumulative and transboundary impacts are negligible. **Mitigation Measures:** All activities strictly comply with the National Environment Act (2019), Water Act (Cap 152), and Seed and Plant Act (2006). CHAI will compile site-specific Project Briefs and submit them to NEMA and MWE for formal clearance prior to hardware deployment.
2. Access and Equity		**There is a risk of** local elite capture, where micro-loans from the USD 1,000,000 revolving fund or portable pumps are monopolized by group executives, excluding marginalized members. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is unequal resource access; indirect impact is social friction within the community. **Mitigation Measures:** Sub-county CDOs will facilitate a mandatory community-led validation process to enforce clear inclusion quotas (minimum 30% allocation to youth and PWD-headed households). Access equity is protected via Component 4's independent district Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) pathways and toll-free telephone support lines.
3. Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		**There is a risk of** young female dropouts, female youth, or women living with disabilities (PWDs) facing exclusion from training blocks or financial literacy tracks due to direct physical access barriers or domestic care duties. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is reduced participation by vulnerable sub-cohorts. **Mitigation Measures:** Training schedules will be tailored around agricultural seasons and domestic routines. All meeting sites will be selected within walking distances or wheelchair-accessible community centers.
4. Human Rights		**There is a risk of** restricted dissemination or awareness regarding project benefits, operational paths, or tracking options, leading to an unintended lack of information transparency at the community level. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impacts are localized information gaps. **Mitigation Measures:** CHAI will publicly post rights charters and project eligibility guidelines in local dialects on communal bulletin boards and distribute printed summaries via Group Literacy Leaders to secure total information equity.
5. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		**There is a risk of** introducing financial credit or asset grants to women's groups triggering local domestic friction or attempts by male household heads to take over group finances. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is household dispute; indirect impact is domestic asset redirection.

		Mitigation Measures: The project targets existing women's groups and enforces separate multi-signature financial accounts held exclusively by female executives, while engaging male family heads in community sensitization workshops under Component 2.
6. Core Labour Rights		**There is a risk of** inadvertent utilization of unpaid family child labor or informal family assistants within group gardens during high-intensity planting, harvesting, or seedling transport phases. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is potential non-compliance with national labor standards. **Mitigation Measures:** All project actions, field agreements, and procurement contracts with equipment vendors will strictly enforce compliance with the Employment Act (2006), explicitly prohibiting forced or child labor across all execution sites.
7. Indigenous Peoples		**There is a risk of** administrative misidentification or accidental extension of physical target footprints into areas adjacent to undocumented localized ethnic minority groups during multi-district scaling. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is potential social or cultural exclusion of minority groups. **Mitigation Measures:** CHAI will cross-check community registries with District Community Development departments during initial site mapping to ensure project locations respect Batwa (Kisoro) and Benet (Kween) cultural rights and enforce mandatory inclusion quotas.
8. Involuntary Resettlement	✓	*(No risk. All activities utilize portable micro-pumps and community-managed nurseries established on voluntary group-leased land. Zero physical relocation or involuntary land acquisition is required.)*
9. Protection of Natural Habitats		**There is a risk of** unregulated or excessive water abstraction from small localized streams during peak dry periods, leading to temporary micro-catchment degradation or water scarcity downstream. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is localized reduced stream flow; transboundary impacts are nil as streams feed local sub-catchments. **Mitigation Measures:** Water User Committees (WUCs) will enforce strict daily pump-rotation timetables, perform monthly downstream flow monitoring, and adhere to minimal abstraction thresholds verified by District Water Officers.
10. Climate Change	✓	*(No risk. Deploying zero-emission solar micro-pumps and establishing 24 tree nurseries generates positive climate mitigation co-benefits with zero net greenhouse gas emissions.)*
11. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		**There is a risk of** increased availability of irrigation water prompting smallholders to introduce synthetic chemical pesticides or artificial fertilizers, leading to localized agricultural runoff pollution. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is localized water runoff contamination; cumulative impact is soil acidification. **Mitigation Measures:** Component 1 incorporates mandatory training in organic, nature-based agricultural techniques (mulching, organic pest management, compost utilization) to completely replace synthetic inputs.
12. Public Health	✓	*(No risk. Project technologies consist of lightweight solar pumps and organic farming inputs with zero exposure to toxic substances or industrial health hazards.)*
13. Physical and Cultural Heritage	✓	*(No risk. All nursery setups and pumping sites undergo mandatory physical heritage screening with traditional local elders prior to plot setup to avoid cultural landmarks or shrines.)*
14. Lands and Soil Conservation		**There is a risk of** localized topsoil compaction or muddy ponding immediately around pump intake points, distribution junctions, or heavy-footwear nursery zones. **Risk Level:** Low. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is minor, localized soil structure disruption. **Mitigation Measures:** WUCs will install gravel beds or woven organic mats beneath all high-use pumping stations to protect soil structure, prevent splashing erosion, and optimize drainage.
15. Conservation of Biological Diversity		**There is a risk that** tree seed procurement and nursery multiplication face localized genetic homogeneity or accidental introduction of fast-growing exotic species that outcompete local flora across diverse ecological zones. **Risk Level:** Moderate. **Potential Impacts:** Direct impact is local flora competition; cumulative impact is reduction in indigenous tree biodiversity. **Mitigation Measures:** The 24 community nurseries will work under a binding technical protocol with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to multiply certified native and non-

		invasive species. Regular phytosanitary audits will be conducted by district forest officers to verify species integrity before field distribution.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

To ensure compliance with the ESP, a GRM will be established at the district level.

- ***Accessibility:*** Beneficiaries can lodge complaints via their local CDO.
- ***Resolution:*** Complaints will be reviewed by a committee comprising the CDO, a representative from the MGLSD, and a local UWEP group leader.
- ***Transparency:*** All grievances and their resolutions will be documented in the Annual Performance Reports (PPRs) submitted to the Adaptation Fund.

Strategic Mapping of Cost Types to Expected Climate Adaptation Outcomes

To further clarify the full cost of adaptation reasoning, the project's financial budget is categorized into five distinct operational cost types. The table below outlines how these specialized intervention categories directly deliver tangible, sub-national climate adaptation outcomes, illustrating that every dollar requested is targeted at removing specific barriers to community resilience:

Intervention Category / Cost Type	Financed Project Components	Core Outputs Funded	Expected Climate Adaptation Outcomes & Resilience Impacts
1. Technology Transfer & Physical Infrastructure Costs *Total Allocation:* **USD 1,070,000.00**	**Component 1**	▪ Procurement and field delivery of 480 micro-solar and treadle pump arrays. ▪ Procurement of physical materials to establish 24 community nurseries.	▪ **Outcome:** Establishes absolute agricultural moisture security across 1,200 hectares of upland plots. ▪ **Impact:** Eliminates total crop washouts or dry-season crop collapse, transitioning 5,760 smallholder women out of weather-exposed vulnerability into stabilized year-round production.
2. Capacity Building & Localized Skills Training Costs *Total Allocation:* **USD 930,000.00**	**Component 1**	▪ Delivering field extension courses in agroforestry, intercropping, and silvopasture. ▪ Training 480 groups in routine maintenance and micro-pump mechanical repair. ▪ Formalizing 40 Water User Committees (WUCs).	▪ **Outcome:** Halts topsoil erosion and slope degradation on vulnerable agricultural terrains. ▪ **Impact:** Enhances local environmental water retention and ensures technical self-reliance by building a local network of certified youth technicians, preventing technology abandonment.
3. Climate Information Access & Data Downscaling Costs *Total Allocation:* **USD 1,129,337**	**Component 2**	▪ Conducting 120 targeted training runs to process DMS forecasts into local dialects. ▪ Participatory formulation of 48 community-based adaptation and response plans. ▪ Operationalizing regional knowledge forums.	▪ **Outcome:** Transitions target communities from reactive crisis response to predictive seasonal planning. ▪ **Impact:** Protects local assets and inputs from sudden weather disruptions by enabling smallholder women to make proactive harvesting, sowing, and stock-relocation decisions.
4. Social Credit & Livelihood Capitalization Costs *Total Allocation:* **USD 1,000,000**	**Component 3**	▪ Capitalizing a ring-fenced revolving fund base through district local government accounts. ▪ Disbursing 1,000 interest-free micro-loans. ▪ Formalizing 60 regional buyer off-take agreements.	▪ **Outcome:** Diversifies household cash flows and breaks the subsistence traps highlighted in the NPHC 2024 dataset. ▪ **Impact:** Insulates families from total income loss by creating 500 new alternative, non-crop enterprises (e.g., apiaries, biomass briquetting) that are entirely decoupled from agricultural weather anomalies.
5. Safeguard Tracking &	**Component 4**	▪ Operating 12 district Grievance Redress	▪ **Outcome:** Secures absolute operational transparency and protects resource equity for the lowest-income tiers.

Governance Oversight Costs *Total Allocation:* **USD 500,000**		Mechanism (GRM) portals with independent oversight. ▪ Deploying toll-free telephone support channels. ▪ Gathering indicators for national registries.	▪ **Impact:** Completely eradicates elite capture and resource hoarding, ensuring that adaptation grants cleanly target the most marginalized female-headed households and youth cohorts.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

1. Project Outcome Level Alignment

The table below maps the high-level project objectives to the core outcomes and indicators of the Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework:

Project Outcomes	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1: Increased agricultural productivity and stable water management through the adoption of portable irrigation and nature-based practices by UWEP groups.	480 portable solar-powered and treadle pumps functional and actively irrigating 1,200 hectares across 12 districts by Year 5; 35% average increase in seasonal crop yields across 1,200 hectares by Year 5.	**Outcome 4:** Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets	**Indicator 4 (Core Indicator 3):** Physical assets improved or constructed to withstand climate variability and change	**2,000,000**
Outcome 2: Enhanced adaptive capacity and preparedness for climate hazards through community-led adaptation planning and improved use of climate information.	7,200 rural women (600 groups) possessing direct access to daily translated, DMS-verified weather relays by Year 5; 48 community-based adaptation plans implemented.	**Outcome 2:** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	**Indicator 2:** Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	**1,087,559**
Outcome 3: Sustainable economic empowerment and financial independence through diversified income sources and increased access to capital for women-led enterprises.	USD 1,000,000 capitalized as a revolving asset; 1,000 distinct micro-loans disbursed to fund 500 new non-crop enterprises; 20% minimum net increase in household non-agricultural income across 1,000 groups by Year 5.	**Outcome 6:** Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	**Indicator 6B (Core Indicator 5):** Households with increased income, or avoided decrease in income	**1,000,000**
Outcome 4: Systematized tracking, generation, and sharing of adaptation knowledge, gender-disaggregated lessons, and community feedback to improve local governance and scale up climate	12 independent district safeguard pathways operationalized, processing 100% of recorded complaints within a strict 14-day window, alongside 10 completed bi-annual community feedback cycles across 1,000	**Outcome 3:** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3B:** People implementing new or improved adaptation actions	**500,000**

resilience models.	groups by Year 5.			
Total outcome-level grant amount				**4,587,559**
Project Output(s)	**Project Output Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Output 1.1: 480 portable irrigation systems (micro-solar and treadle pumps) distributed to UWEP groups.	480 irrigation pump sets delivered and verified across 12 target districts by Year 2.	**Output 4.1:** Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	**Indicator 4.1:** Development sector services strengthened to respond to climate variability and change (480 pump arrays)	**720,000**
Output 1.2: 480 UWEP groups trained in operation, maintenance, and repair of irrigation technology.	5,760 women (480 groups) certified in basic pump repair and maintenance by Year 3.	**Output 4.1:** Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	**Indicator 4.1:** Development sector services strengthened to respond to climate variability and change (480 groups certified)	**180,000**
Output 1.3: 40 Water User Committees (WUCs) formed and operational to manage shared assets.	40 WUCs registered with District Water Officers and managing group Sinking Funds by Year 2.	**Output 3.3:** Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3.3:** Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over adaptation solutions (40 WUCs)	**100,000**
Output 1.4: 600 UWEP groups trained in nature-based practices (agroforestry, intercropping, silvopasture).	7,200 women actively applying soil conservation and agroforestry practices across 1,200 hectares by Year 4.	**Output 5.1:** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	**Indicator 5.1:** Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management (600 groups)	**250,000**
Output 1.5: 24 community-managed tree nurseries established producing viable seedlings.	24 nurseries propagating and distributing 120,000 indigenous and fruit tree seedlings by Year 4.	**Output 5.1:** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	**Indicator 5.1:** Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management (24 nurseries)	**350,000**
Output 1.6: 1,200 hectares of group-managed land physically conditioned and restored through soil conservation structures, organic amendments, and climate-resilient	1,200 hectares of farm plots physically fitted with contour trenches, organic soil amendments, and climate-resilient crop seeds by Year 5.	**Output 5.1:** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts	**Indicator 5.1:** Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management (1,200 ha restored)	**400,000**

seeds.				
Output 2.1: 600 UWEP groups complete comprehensive training in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and adaptation.	7,200 women completed DRR training and hazard mapping modules by Year 3.	**Output 2.1:** Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	**Indicator 2.1:** Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience (600 groups)	**330,000**
Output 2.2: 48 community-based adaptation plans developed, endorsed by local government, and implemented.	48 community plans formally annexed into statutory District Development Plans (DDPs) by Year 2.	**Output 7.1:** Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	**Indicator 7.1A (Core Indicator 6):** Policies, strategies, and/or plans developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk and resilience (48 plans)	**307,559**
Output 2.3: 120 training sessions equipping women to access, interpret, and utilize seasonal weather alerts generated by DMS.	120 weather alert downscaling workshops delivered across 12 districts reaching 7,200 women by Year 4.	**Output 1.2:** Targeted population groups covered by warning and advisory services for climate-related hazards and threats	**Indicator 1.2B:** People covered by new or improved early warning systems (7,200 direct women / 36,000 indirect)	**300,000**
Output 2.4: 12 district-level knowledge-sharing forums organized to exchange best practices.	12 annual multi-sectoral review forums conducted across the 4 administrative regions by Year 5.	**Output 3.2:** Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	**Indicator 3.2:** Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders (12 forums)	**150,000**
Output 3.1: A revolving fund legally established, capitalized at $1,000,000, and fully operational through District structures.	$1,000,000 seed capital deposited in ring-fenced district accounts and operational by Year 2.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk ($1,000,000 fund base)	**650,000**
Output 3.2: 1,000 UWEP women groups receive micro-loans from the revolving fund to initiate resilient enterprises.	1,000 micro-loans disbursed to verified group bank accounts by Year 4.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (1,000 group loans)	**50,000**
Output 3.3: 500 new, viable alternative livelihood enterprises (beekeeping, briquettes, mushrooms) supported.	500 non-crop alternative processing enterprises operational and generating revenue by Year 4.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (500 units)	**120,000**

		change impacts		
Output 3.4: 1,000 UWEP groups trained in financial literacy, business planning, and enterprise management.	12,000 women (1,000 groups) completing financial literacy and accounting modules by Year 3.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (12,000 women)	**130,000**
Output 3.5: 60 new market linkages formally established for products from group enterprises.	60 formal off-take agreements signed with commercial buyers and agro-processors by Year 5.	**Output 6.1:** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts	**Indicator 6.1:** People receiving targeted support for new and/or improved livelihoods to manage climate risk (60 off-take contracts)	**50,000**
Output 4.1: Participatory adaptation learning modules and community resilience toolkits deployed across 1,000 UWEP groups.	1,000 groups equipped with participatory adaptation toolkits and trained in field indicator tracking by Year 2.	**Output 3.2:** Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	**Indicator 3.2:** Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders (1,000 toolkits)	**150,000**
Output 4.2: Bi-annual community feedback loops conducted with 1,000 UWEP groups to refine field adaptation practices.	10 bi-annual reflection forums completed across 12 districts by Year 5.	**Output 3.3:** Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	**Indicator 3.3:** Number of local institutions/communities responsible for decision-making over adaptation solutions (10 reflection cycles)	**120,000**
Output 4.3: 12 community-led safeguard and grievance oversight committees established and trained to secure equitable asset distribution.	12 district safeguard committees operationalized and managing village suggestion channels by Year 2.	**Output 2.1:** Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	**Indicator 2.1:** Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience (12 committees)	**130,000**
Output 4.4: Knowledge products (24 case studies and briefs) generated and shared on national and global platforms.	24 gender-responsive case studies published and integrated into the UBOS Gender Portal and MWE repository by Year 5.	**Output 3.2:** Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	**Indicator 3.2:** Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders (24 case studies)	**100,000**
Total output-level grant amount				**4,587,559**

B. DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE & REPORTING HIERARCHY

To ensure absolute operational efficiency, transparency, and compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund, the project establishes a direct, linear management structure. There are no overlapping paths or parallel reporting lines; all technical, fiduciary, and tracking data flow through a single verified command chain.

Detailed Operational Mandates & Accountability Roles:

1. NIE – MWE: Holds ultimate legal and financial responsibility to the Adaptation Fund Board. MWE provides legal oversight, processes disbursement requests, and performs periodic independent financial and safeguard risk verification audits.

2. EE – CHAI: Functions as the exclusive technical administrator and fiscal manager of the project. Housed within a centralized PMU, CHAI is directly accountable to MWE for day-to-day procurement, multi-district database management under Component 4, and the submission of consolidated PPRs.

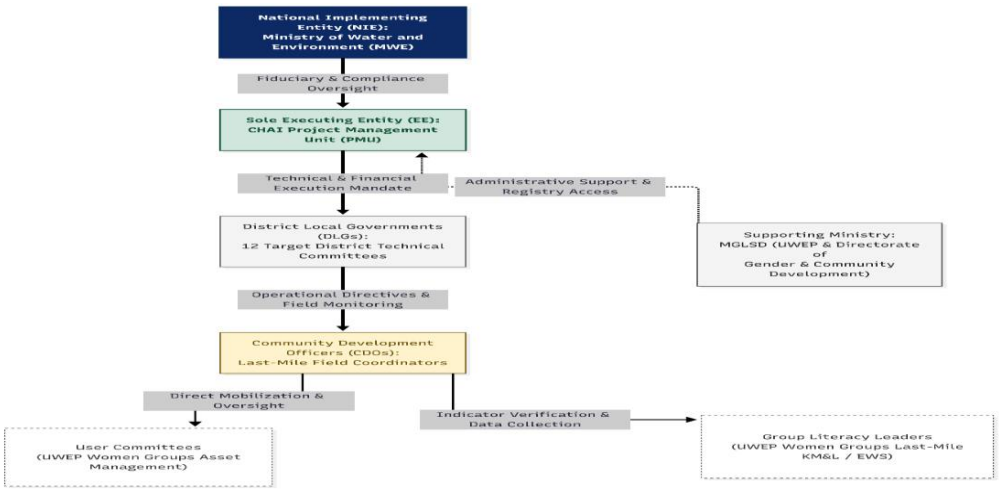
3. Supporting Ministry – MGLSD: Operates strictly in an institutional advisory and supporting capacity under the execution framework of CHAI. MGLSD provides direct access to the established national UWEP registry, facilitates field baseline validation, and ensures revolving fund recovery methodologies align perfectly with national social protection strategies through the Directorate of Gender and Community Development.

4. Technical Execution Layer – DLGs: Establishes multi-sectoral District Technical Committees in each of the 12 target locations. DLGs integrate the 48-community adaptation plans directly into DDPs to lock in long-term mainstreamed local operations.

5. Last-Mile Field Coordinators – CDOs: Serving as permanent sub-county line officers, CDOs act as direct field links for CHAI. They manage the field rollout of the 480 portable irrigation pumps under Component 1, serve as primary management extension agents for the Component 3 revolving fund, and handle primary data gathering for the Component 4 MEL framework.

6. Grassroots Community Oversight Framework: Formed natively within the active 1,000 UWEP groups to handle direct shared asset usage:

- ***Water User Committees:*** Formed within participating groups to govern equitable daily pump usage schedules, manage group-led Sinking Funds for routine repairs, and enforce abstraction thresholds to avoid over-exploitation.
- ***Group Literacy Leaders:*** Pre-identified leaders within the groups trained under Component 4 to secure the functional tracking of resilience indicators, receive DMS weather alerts to bypass phone gaps, and operate localized GRM suggestion points.



C. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

The project will be guided by a robust MEL framework designed to ensure accountability, facilitate adaptive management, and systematically measure progress towards achieving the project's objectives. This framework is participatory, involving beneficiaries and stakeholders across the 12 target districts.

MEL Approach and Activities

The MEL system operates at multiple levels to track performance from daily activities to long-term resilience impact:

- ***Baseline Study:*** A detailed baseline study will be conducted within the first three months of project inception (October 2027) to establish the starting point for all key indicators, utilizing the NPHC 2024 data as a primary reference.
- ***Routine Monitoring:*** CDOs will conduct continuous monitoring of field activities. This involves tracking the distribution of the 480 irrigation pumps, verifying the status of the 24 nurseries, and ensuring training sessions are attended by the 1,000 UWEP groups.
- ***Outcome Monitoring:*** Periodic assessments will measure progress toward the expected outcomes through semi-annual surveys and focus group discussions. Qualitative changes in empowerment and adaptive capacity will be captured through 24 localized case studies.
- ***Formal Evaluations:***

1. Mid-Term Review (January 2029): Will assess progress, identify implementation bottlenecks, and recommend corrective actions.
2. Final Evaluation (June 2032): Will assess overall effectiveness, impact, and sustainability against the AF Core Indicators.

Roles and Responsibilities

A clear hierarchy of responsibility ensures data integrity and timely reporting:

Entity	Primary MEL Responsibility
UWEP Women's Groups	Provide primary data on crop yields, loan repayments, and the functionality of irrigation assets.
CDOs (District Level)	Act as primary agents for field-level data collection; submit monthly progress reports to the PMU.
CHAI (PMU Level/Executing Entity)	Responsible for central MEL tool design, consolidated technical and financial reporting, multi-district database management, and direct field compliance verification
MWE (Oversight Level)	Review quarterly and annual performance reports to ensure findings inform national climate policy.

Reporting and Knowledge Management

Data will flow from the field (CDOs) to the Project Management Unit (CHAI) for analysis. The PMU will produce Annual Performance Reports (PPRs) for the MWE and the Adaptation Fund. Findings will be shared through regional workshops to discuss progress and collaboratively solve technical hurdles. A dedicated operational budget of $500,000 is officially housed within Component 4 to fund and independently sustain these MEL systems, feedback loops, and GRM pathways

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[2]

Enter: Name, Position, Ministry	Date*: (Month, day, year)*
Rathaman Ggoobi	*07-01-2026*

Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development	

B. **Implementing Entity certification**

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (….list here..) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this programme.	
Dr Alfred Okot Okidi Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment Head of the NIE Joseph Lule Implementing Entity Coordinator	
Date (Month, Day, Year): 07-01-2025	Tel. and Email: josephlule2@gmail.com +256773313107
Project Contact Person: Winnie Masiko	
Tel and Email: wmasiko@gmail.com	

ANNEX 1: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

REPORT ON THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION EXERCISE

INTRODUCTION

A stakeholder consultation exercise was conducted to collect views, experiences, and recommendations from key actors involved in the implementation of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and related climate-resilient livelihood interventions. The consultations were carried out at three levels: national (Ministry level), regional (district technical level), and grassroots (community level). The exercise aimed at ensuring that the proposed implementation framework reflects the priorities, realities, and needs of all stakeholders while strengthening coordination, accountability, and sustainability.

The consultations adopted different methodologies suited to each category of stakeholders, including technical working sessions, focus group discussions, institutional resource mapping, community workshops, and key informant interviews. This approach enabled participants to freely express their views and provided an opportunity to validate existing systems while identifying implementation gaps.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The stakeholder consultation sought to:
Gather views from key stakeholders on the implementation framework.
- Validate existing programme systems and institutional arrangements.
- Identify operational challenges affecting programme implementation.
- Assess opportunities for strengthening climate-resilient livelihood interventions.
- Generate recommendations to improve service delivery, coordination, and sustainability.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. Ministry Level Consultations (National Policy Tier)

- **Specific Date & Location:** 12th May 2026 | MWE Headquarters, Kampala

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This subjectpleasequoteNo.DARC 158/550/04

Ministry of Finance,
Planning & Economic
Development,
P.O Box 8147
Kampala, Uganda

25th August, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board,
C/O Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat,
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org,
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR THE PROJECT TITLED "STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF WOMEN TO CLIMATE RISKS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF UGANDA"

In my capacity as the National Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Uganda, I confirm that the above regional project/ programme is in line with Uganda's priorities in implementing adaptation actions to reduce the adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Uganda.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above national project/programme proposal to be supported by the Adaptation Fund.

If approved, the project/ programme will be implemented by Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and executed by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) in close coordination with Climate Change Adaptation Innovation (CHAI).

Ramathan Ggoobi
PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Copy to: Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Revised PFG Submission Form[1] (additions in red)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: 20TH MAY 2026

Adaptation Fund Project ID:

Country: UGANDA

Title of Project/Programme: STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE OF WOMEN TO CLIMATE RISKS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF UGANDA

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Implementing Entity: MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Executing Entities: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INNOVATION (CHAI)

A. Project Preparation Timeframe

Start date of PFG	JULY 2026
Completion date of PFG	MAY 2027

B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities ($)

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	USD Amount	Budget note[2]
Activity 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Baseline Assessment, and Needs Analysis.	Stakeholder Analysis Report and Baseline Assessment Report documenting localized vulnerability parameters.	**20,000**	Technical Consultant fee at a daily rate of $500 for 40 workdays, covering field-level focus group discussions, data aggregation, and baseline report formulation.
Activity 2: Market Research and Value Chain Analysis for Alternative Livelihoods.	Market Research Report and Value Chain Analysis Report detailing regional demand trends and agro-processing opportunities.	**18,000**	Livelihood Consultant fee at a daily rate of $400 for 45 workdays, covering market mapping, off-taker tracking, and

[1] As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.
[2] The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

			viable sub-county enterprise profiling.
Activity 3: Capacity Assessment of Target UWEP Women Groups.	Capacity Assessment Report detailing existing skills gaps, literacy levels, and custom capacity-building frameworks.	**14,000**	Institutional Consultant fee at a daily rate of $400 for 35 workdays, covering field capacity auditing, training manual outlining, and digital literacy mapping.
Activity 4: Operational Design of the Climate Livelihood Revolving Fund.	Revolving Fund Mechanism Design Document establishing governance guidelines and credit recovery workflows.	**14,000**	Financial Specialist fee at a daily rate of $400 for 35 workdays, covering multi-signature structural modelling, risk evaluation, and localized credit policy creation.
Activity 5: Development of the Detailed Project Plan, Budget, and ESMP Safeguard Framework.	Detailed Project Plan, Final Budget Document, and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).	**30,925**	Project Planning and Safeguards Specialist fee at $500/day for 60 workdays ($30,000) + $925 allocated for localized printing, information sharing, and translation of safeguard checklists.
Development Accountability and a Grievance redress mechanism	Detailed Accountability and a Grievance redress mechanism	**20,000**	Technical Consultant fee at a daily rate of $500 for 40 workdays, covering field-level focus group discussions, data aggregation, and baseline report formulation.
Implementing Entity Fee (8.5%)	Management and Fiduciary Oversight Fees.	**9,939**	National Implementing Entity management fee capped at exactly 8.5% of the total grant request.
Total Project Formulation Grant		**126,864**	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) functions strictly as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) providing fiduciary oversight and compliance verification for the Project Formulation Grant (PFG). The operational management and technical execution of all five project preparation activities will be performed exclusively by Climate Change Adaptation Innovation (CHAI) as the sole Executing Entity (EE). This linear division of roles guarantees total continuity between the preparatory phase and the primary five-year project implementation timeline, avoiding parallel administrative channels or parallel institutional structures.

Activity 1: Stakeholder Engagement, Baseline Assessment, and Needs Analysis

The execution of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement, Baseline Assessment, and Needs Analysis is essential to define the localized boundaries of the project across the 12 selected target

districts. This activity will fund systematic field visits and focus group discussions to collect gender-disaggregated baseline indicators regarding time poverty, household subsistence levels, and historical crop yield losses.

The resulting data-driven baseline report will ensure that the final proposal directly addresses the specific structural deficiencies highlighted in the NPHC 2024 dataset. The allocation of USD 20,000 covers technical consultant fees and multi-district engagement costs, allowing the project to establish a clear, non-overlapping operational perimeter that avoids duplication with existing rural development initiatives.

Activity 2: Market Research and Value Chain Analysis

To secure the long-term success of the alternative livelihood enterprises funded under Component 3, a specialized Market Research and Value Chain Analysis must be executed during the proposal formulation phase. This activity will identify high-demand, climate-resilient economic opportunities (such as commercial apiaries, mushroom cultivation, and eco-friendly biomass briquetting) that are decoupled from traditional weather risks.

The resulting technical report will profile 60 potential regional wholesale buyers and urban off-takers, establishing verified commercial channels before project inception. The requested USD 18,000 is required to fund 45 workdays of localized market mapping and supply-chain analysis to insulate female entrepreneurs from local supply gluts and price fluctuations.

Activity 3: Capacity Assessment

The Capacity Assessment is designed to audit the specific functional capabilities and training barriers of the target UWEP women's groups across the four administrative regions. This activity will investigate existing literacy gaps, local technical familiarity with solar-powered hardware, and mobile phone ownership trends to bypass the digital gender split.

The resulting Capacity Assessment Report will provide the foundational blueprint for the 120 early warning system training blocks and financial literacy courses executed under the main grant. Allocating USD 14,000 ensures an exhaustive field capacity audit, preventing technology abandonment by matching physical asset distribution with targeted, group-specific training modules.

Activity 4: Revolving Fund Mechanism Design

Designing a transparent, legally compliant revolving fund mechanism is a key technical requirement to operationalize the USD 1,000,000 economic allocation under Component 3. This activity will support a specialized financial modelling consultant to establish clear eligibility criteria, interest-free credit terms, and multi-signature bank protocols managed exclusively by elected female executives.

Official Use Only

The resulting operational guidelines will utilize a social collateral model to safely bypass individual land-title barriers. The allocation of USD 14,000 covers financial structure formulation, default risk mitigation modelling, and full integration with the permanent digital registries of the supporting Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

Activity 5: Development of Detailed Project Plan, Budget, and ESMP Safeguard Framework

This central consolidation activity translates all field data, capacity indexes, and financial models into a fully synchronized full project proposal. Crucially, this funding will support the formulation of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and clear project screening briefs for submission to NEMA and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), in strict compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund.

The USD 20,925 allocation funds 40 workdays for a core planning specialist and provides USD 925 to handle localized material printing, translation into local dialects, and the public disclosure of safeguard tracking indicators at sub-county headquarters across the 12 districts, securing total community consensus prior to final submission.

For LLA Projects only:

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

C. Implementing Entity

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board's procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund's criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Joseph Lule		29/05/2026	Winnie Masiko	+256772670044	wmasiko@gmail.com

INITIAL GENDER ANALYSIS

1. Introduction and Context

The gender-climate nexus in Uganda is defined by a paradox: while rural women are the primary managers of the natural resource base, they possess the least adaptive capacity to withstand climate shocks. This analysis utilises data from the UWEP, NPHC 2024, and the UBOS Gender Portal to establish a baseline for the 12 target districts. It provides the rationale for targeting UWEP groups to address systemic gender disparities in assets, information, and economic agency.

2. Demographic Profile and the Burden of Care

According to the NPHC 2024 Final Report, women constitute 51% of Uganda's total population of 45.9 million. In the 12 target districts, the female population is often the majority, reaching as high as 54.5% in Rukungiri and 52.5% in Buyende.

- ***Household Composition:*** Rural households in the target districts (such as Agago and Kamwenge) maintain an average size of 5 to 6 members. Women typically head households in post-conflict or high-migration areas, yet they carry a disproportionate triple burden of productive, reproductive, and community management roles.
- ***Climate Impact on Labour:*** As water sources and forests deplete due to erratic weather, the time poverty of women increases. The NPHC 2024 indicates that while access to improved water has increased, the reliability of these sources for agricultural production remains low, forcing women to spend significant daily hours fetching water for domestic and livestock use.

3. Economic Vulnerability: The Subsistence Trap

The NPHC 2024 reveals a critical barrier to resilience: the prevalence of the subsistence economy. Nationally, 33% of households remain in the subsistence sector, but in the project's target districts, these figures are significantly higher:

- ***High-Risk Districts:*** In Agago (56.4%), Nwoya (52.1%), and Koboko (51.5%), more than half of all households are not integrated into the money economy.
- ***Gendered Asset Gap:*** Women in these subsistence households rely almost exclusively on rain-fed agriculture. Because they often lack legal land titles (nationally, only ~24% of women have secure tenure), they cannot access formal bank loans to purchase irrigation equipment or resilient seeds.
- ***The UWEP Solution:*** By targeting existing UWEP groups, the project utilizes a social collateral model. This bypasses the land-title barrier, allowing women in subsistence-heavy districts like Kween and Buyende to access the Component 3 Revolving Fund for livelihood diversification.

4. Access to Information and the Digital Gender Gap

Resilience in Component 2 depends on the effective use of Early Warning Systems (EWS). However, the NPHC 2024 data on Mobile Phone Ownership highlights a persistent digital divide:

- ***The Ownership Gap:*** In Nwoya, there is an 8.7% gap between male and female phone ownership. In Agago, only 14% of women own a mobile phone compared to 22.6% of men.
- ***Implications for EWS:*** This disparity means that digital-only climate alerts will fail to reach the most vulnerable women. Consequently, the project's strategy to conduct 120 EWS sensitization sessions via UWEP group meetings and local community meetings is technically essential to ensure last-mile information delivery.

5. Regional Gender and Climate Vulnerability Profiles

Region	Districts	Key Gender-Climate Findings (NPHC 2024)
Northern	Agago, Nwoya, Koboko	Highest subsistence rates (>50%). Extreme vulnerability to erratic rain. Women face high time poverty due to limited water infrastructure.
Eastern	Buyende, Kween, Serere	High female population density. Buyende and Serere women face unique risks from lakeside flooding; Kween women manage steep-slope farms prone to erosion.
Central	Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke	Located in the Cattle Corridor. While phone ownership is higher (~33-36%), women face intense seasonal water stress that impacts both crop yields and

		livestock health.
Western	Kisoro, Kamwenge, Rukungiri	Highest female population percentage (Rukungiri 54.5%). Severe land fragmentation forces women to farm marginalized, steep terrains with high physical labour requirements.

6. Sectoral Gender Disparities (Education, Employment, and Labour)

To satisfy the technical requirements for sector-wide statistics, the following data from the NPHC 2024 highlights the specific barriers to resilience in the 12 target districts:

- ***Education and Literacy (The Knowledge Gap):***
  - Disparity: While primary enrolment is high, the Youth Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) rate is significantly higher for young women in districts like Agago and Buyende (averaging 48-52%).
  - Project Impact: This high NEET rate for women justifies the Component 3 focus on business skills and financial literacy, as many target women lack formal vocational pathways.
- ***Employment and Unemployment (The Economic Gap):***
  - Disparity: According to NPHC 2024 Table 11, the unemployment rate for women in rural Nwoya and Koboko is nearly double that of men when excluding subsistence farming. Women are largely confined to vulnerable employment with no social safety nets.
  - Project Impact: The Revolving Fund specifically targets these vulnerably employed women, transitioning them from unpaid subsistence to active entrepreneurship.
- ***Water, Sanitation, and Labour (The Time Gap):***
  - Disparity: Data from NPHC 2024 Table 12 shows that in districts like Kiboga and Gomba, over 30% of households still rely on unimproved water sources or trek long distances.
  - Project Impact: Since women are the primary water collectors, Component 1's portable irrigation directly reduces unpaid labour time, which UBOS identifies as a primary barrier to women's participation in the money economy.

7. Strategic Interventions and Alignment

The project's components are specifically tailored to bridge the identified gender gaps:

- **Component 1 (Agriculture):** Directly addresses the labour burden by providing portable irrigation, reducing the time and physical effort women spend on water management.
- **Component 2 (Capacity):** Corrects the digital divide by using community-based platforms (not just mobile technology) to disseminate climate information.
- **Component 3 (Economy):** Breaks the subsistence trap identified in the NPHC 2024 by providing capital to UWEP groups, enabling them to move from survivalist farming to market-linked, climate-resilient enterprises.
- **Component 4 (Knowledge Management and Learning):** Establishes an integrated platform for monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL), and citizen-led safeguards. It focuses on tracking gender-disaggregated resilience metrics, facilitating bi-annual community feedback loops, and operationalizing transparent district-level grievance redress mechanism (GRM) pathways to eliminate operational gaps and secure absolute project accountability.

ANNEX 1: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

INTRODUCTION

A stakeholder consultation exercise was conducted to collect views, experiences, and recommendations from key actors involved in the implementation of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and related climate-resilient livelihood interventions. The consultations were carried out at three levels: national (Ministry level), regional (district technical level), and grassroots (community level). The exercise aimed at ensuring that the proposed implementation framework reflects the priorities, realities, and needs of all stakeholders while strengthening coordination, accountability, and sustainability.

The consultations adopted different methodologies suited to each category of stakeholders, including technical working sessions, focus group discussions, institutional resource mapping, community workshops, and key informant interviews. This approach enabled participants to freely express their views and provided an opportunity to validate existing systems while identifying implementation gaps.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

The stakeholder consultation sought to:

Gather views from key stakeholders on the implementation framework.
- Validate existing programme systems and institutional arrangements.
- Identify operational challenges affecting programme implementation.
- Assess opportunities for strengthening climate-resilient livelihood interventions.
- Generate recommendations to improve service delivery, coordination, and sustainability.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. Ministry Level Consultations (National Policy Tier)

- **Specific Date & Location:** 12th May 2026 | MWE Headquarters, Kampala
- **Total Participants:** 14 Senior Technical Officers (9 Female, 5 Male)
- **National Gender Machinery Confirmation:** Formally led by senior technical officers from the Directorate of Gender and Community Development, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), including UWEP National Programme Coordinator.

The consultation process commenced at the national level in Kampala on 12th May 2026 at the MWE Headquarters. Engagements were held with officials from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD - Directorate of Gender and Community Development), the Department of Meteorological Services (DMS), and CHAI. Institutional technical working sessions and policy mapping interviews were conducted to review existing implementation frameworks and ensure alignment with national development priorities under the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV). Discussions validated the UWEP registry interface, reviewed compliance standards for small-scale solar pumping technologies, and identified policy gaps affecting program execution.

List of participants

No.	Name	Sex	Institution
1	Winfred Masiko	Female	MGLSD
2	Ogwal Alex	Male	MGLSD
3	Rogers Naijuka	Male	MGLSD
4	Harriet Akello	Female	MGLSD
5	Apphia Mugoya	Female	MGLSD
6	Harriet Asubazijo	Female	MGLSD
7	Bob Natifu	Male	MWE
8	Caroline Naijuka	Female	MWE
9	Harriet Kyomuhendo	Female	MWE

10	Irene Amajo	Female	MWE
11	Irene Chekwoti	Female	MWE
12	Anastesia Namululi	Female	MWE
13	Bbosa Henry	Male	MWE
14	Francis Opolot	Male	MWE

2. Regional Level Consultations (Sub-National Technical Tier)

- **Specific Dates & Locations:** 18th – 22nd May 2026 | Regional Hubs: Gulu (18th May), Mbale (19th May), Fort Portal (21st May), and Mbarara (22nd May)
- **Total Participants:** 54 District Technical Officers (21 Female, 33 Male)
- **Youth & Sectoral Representation:** Formally attended by District Youth Council representatives, District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), District Water Officers, and Agricultural Extension Officers representing all 12 target districts.

Following national engagements, regional stakeholder consultations were conducted between 18th May and 22nd May 2026 across four regional hubs: Gulu (Northern Hub - 18th May), Mbale (Eastern Hub - 19th May), Fort Portal (Western Hub - 21st May), and Mbarara (South-Western Hub - 22nd May). These sessions convened District Technical Committees, Agricultural Officers, Water Officers, and Community Development Officers from the 12 target districts. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and institutional resource mapping workshops evaluated sub-national operational bottlenecks, assessed revolving fund absorption capacities, mapped district climate vulnerability vectors, and established District Development Plan (DDP) annexation protocols.

Stakeholders from the Central Region reported that women's groups have demonstrated strong interest in climate-resilient agricultural technologies, particularly solar-powered irrigation systems. However, the high initial investment costs continue to limit adoption among UWEP beneficiaries. District officials also noted that although revolving funds have supported enterprise development, several groups still struggle with loan recovery due to climate-related crop failures and inadequate business management skills. Water scarcity during prolonged dry seasons has affected agricultural productivity, highlighting the need for reliable water harvesting and irrigation infrastructure. Participants further emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between District Water Offices, Community Development Offices, and Agricultural Extension Services to ensure coordinated programme implementation.

Consultations in the Eastern Region revealed increasing climate variability characterized by prolonged droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns. In Kween, participants highlighted soil erosion and declining agricultural yields in mountainous areas. Buyende stakeholders emphasized challenges associated with seasonal flooding, which destroys crops and limits access to markets. Across the region, women entrepreneurs cited limited access to affordable credit, inadequate extension support, and low awareness of climate-smart agricultural technologies as key barriers to enterprise growth. District technical teams recommended increased investment in climate adaptation measures, farmer training, and expansion of solar-powered water systems to improve agricultural productivity.

Stakeholders from Northern Uganda acknowledged significant progress in community livelihood recovery but noted that access to productive resources remains inadequate for many women groups. Participants reported limited water infrastructure for production, long distances to water sources, and insufficient irrigation facilities during dry seasons. Community members also highlighted the need for stronger financial literacy programmes, improved market access, and continuous mentorship for UWEP beneficiary groups. District officials observed that while local governments have integrated climate resilience into development plans, financial constraints continue to hinder effective implementation. Participants recommended strengthening coordination among technical departments and increasing investment in community-based climate adaptation initiatives.

Stakeholders from the Western Region identified land fragmentation, steep terrain, and increasing population pressure as major constraints to agricultural production. Participants indicated that changing weather patterns have negatively affected crop yields and household incomes. Women entrepreneurs expressed challenges in accessing affordable financing for productive investments, while district officials noted low adoption of modern irrigation technologies due to limited technical knowledge and high installation costs. Stakeholders further emphasized the importance of strengthening extension services, promoting farmer cooperatives, and improving linkages between financial institutions and women's enterprise groups.

List of participants

No.	Name	Sex	Institution	Designation
1.	Lwala Ronald	Male	Buyende District	District agriculture officer
2.	Winfred Masiko	Female	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
3.	Ogwal Alex	Male	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
4.	Rogers Naijuka	Male	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
5.	Harriet Akello	Female	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
6.	Apphia Mugoya	Female	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
7.	Harriet Asubazijo	Female	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
8.	Bob Natifu	Male	MWE	Ministry Staff
9.	Caroline Naijuka	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
10.	Harriet Kyomuhendo	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
11.	Irene Amajo	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
12.	Irene Chekwoti	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
13.	Anastesia Namululi	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
14.	Bbosa Henry	Male	MWE	Ministry Staff
15.	Francis Opolot	Male	MWE	Ministry Staff
16.	Zijja Aggrey	Male	Buyende District	District Water Officer
17.	Waigulu Emmanuel	Male	Buyende District	District Community Development Officer
18.	Kitimba Adrine	Female	Buyende District	Sub county CDO
19.	Kulany Erieza Leonard	Male	Kween District	District Agriculture Officer
20.	Bushendich George	Male	Kween District	District Water Officer
21.	Chebet Roset	Female	Kween District	District Community Development Officer
22.	Chelanget Rose	Female	Kween District	Sub county CDO
23.	Ssebabi William	Male	Gomba District	District Agriculture Officer
24.	Wamala Geofrey	Male	Gomba District	District Water Officer
25.	Namukasa Beatrice	Female	Gomba District	Sub county CDO
26.	Ssebulime Godfrey	Male	Kiboga District	District Agriculture Officer
27.	Walakila Moses	Male	Kiboga District	District Water Officer
28.	Nsubuga Patrick	Male	Kiboga District	District Community Development Officer
29.	Ssengoba Robert	Male	Kiboga District	Sub county CDO
30.	Mugume Titus	Male	Nakaseke District	District Agriculture Officer
31.	Kigozi Godfrey	Male	Nakaseke District	District Water Officer
32.	Batalingaya Benos	Male	Nakaseke District	District Community Development Officer
33.	Batand Danson	Male	Kinoni Sub County	Sub county CDO
34.	Abio Samuel	Male	Koboko District	District Agriculture Officer
35.	Engizile Dan	Male	Koboko District	District Water Officer
36.	Kilama Michel	Male	Koboko District	District Community Development Officer
37.	Rokia Night	Female	Kuluba Subcounty	Sub county CDO
38.	Nabasa Edger	Male	Kamwenge District	District Agriculture Officer
39.	Agaba Asiimwe	Male	Kamwenge District	District Water Officer
40.	Niyingira Hariet	Female	Kamwenge District	District Community Development Officer
41.	Centenary Specious	Female	Bigoli Sub County	Sub county CDO
42.	Denes Buuzaabo	Male	Rukungiri District	District Agriculture Officer

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43.	Deus Tumwebaze	Male	Rukungiri District	District Water Officer
44.	Nimesias Agaba	Female	Rukungiri District	District Community Development Officer
45.	Rolance Bananuka	Male	Rukungiri District	Sub county CDO
46.	Anena Angeler Kidenga	Female	Nwoya District	District agriculture officer
47.	Oloya Albert	Male	Nwoya District	District water officer
48.	Akena Geoffry	Male	Nwoya District	District community development officer
49.	Anaka Abaro Dorothy	Female	Nwoya District	Subcounty CDO
50.	Abalo Joan	Female	Nwoya District	Joint YLP/UWEP FPP
51.	Simon Niyonzima	Male	Kisoro District	District community development officer
52.	Richard Habomugisha	Male	Kisoro District	District agriculture officer
53.	Mberwa Cranmer	Male	Kisoro District	District water officer
54.	Diana Mbabazi	Female	Chahafi Sub County	Sub county CDO

3. Grassroots Level Consultations (Community & Vulnerable Group Tier)

- **Specific Dates & Locations:** 25th May – 5th June 2026 | 12 Target Districts (Village Assemblies & Sub-County Headquarters across Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Kween, Serere, Buyende, Koboko, Nwoya, Agago, Kisoro, Kamwenge, and Rukungiri)
- **Total Key Participants:** 45 Key Community Stakeholders & Group Leaders Consulted (32 Female, 13 Male), alongside broader village focus group assemblies.
- **Vulnerable & Marginalized Group Inclusion:** Included direct focus group sessions with female youth entrepreneurs, female-headed subsistence households, persons living with disabilities (PWDs), and localized indigenous/ethnic minority representatives (Batwa in Kisoro and Benet in Kween).

Following regional technical engagements, baseline field visits and community consultations were conducted across the 12 target districts between 25th May and 5th June 2026. The field exercise involved consultations with District and Sub-county Community Development Officers, Agricultural Extension Officers, Parish Chiefs, Local Council leaders, active UWEP beneficiary groups, female youth representatives, PWD advocates, and indigenous minority leaders. Information was gathered through key informant interviews, gender-segregated FGDs, and village assemblies. These grassroots sessions ground-truthed climate risks, prompted the rejection of fixed concrete irrigation schemes in favor of portable solar micro-pumps to protect landless women, established native dialect early warning relay channels, and mandated multi-signature group bank accounts to prevent domestic credit diversion.

The field assessment established that UWEP beneficiary groups are distributed across various communities within the sampled Lower Local Governments, where members are engaged in enterprises such as crop production, livestock rearing, poultry farming, piggery, goat rearing, produce trading, tailoring, catering, retail shops, and agro processing. The programme has contributed to improving household incomes, promoting women's participation in economic activities, and strengthening community savings and entrepreneurship. However, the performance of the groups varies considerably depending on climatic conditions, access to markets, technical support, and financial management capacity.

Across Gomba, Kiboga, Nakaseke, Nwoya, Agago, and Koboko, the assessment found that prolonged droughts and declining water availability continue to affect agricultural production and livestock enterprises. Many women reported travelling long distances to collect water for both household use and production activities, reducing the time available for enterprise management. These conditions have affected crop yields, livestock productivity, and the profitability of UWEP-supported enterprises, making it difficult for some beneficiary groups to meet their revolving fund repayment obligations.

In Buyende, communities reported that seasonal flooding frequently destroys gardens, damages feeder roads, and limits access to markets. The flooding disrupts business operations for UWEP groups and results in

significant income losses, particularly for members engaged in crop farming and produce marketing. Stakeholders recommended strengthening flood management interventions, improving rural infrastructure, and promoting climate-resilient livelihood options.

Field consultations in Kween and Kisoro revealed that the mountainous terrain presents unique challenges, including severe soil erosion, land fragmentation, and declining soil fertility. Farmers explained that heavy rainfall washes away fertile soils while prolonged dry periods reduce agricultural productivity. Women groups requested increased support in soil conservation, water harvesting, hillside irrigation technologies, and value addition to improve enterprise profitability.

In Kamwenge and Rukungiri, the assessment established that changing rainfall patterns, declining soil fertility, and increasing production costs continue to reduce agricultural productivity. Although many UWEP groups remain operational, participants expressed the need for continuous business development support, financial literacy training, and stronger market linkages to improve the sustainability of their enterprises. District technical officers further observed that inadequate extension staffing limits regular follow up and technical guidance to beneficiary groups.

Across all the sampled districts, women groups acknowledged that access to UWEP financing has enabled many households to establish or expand income generating enterprises. Nevertheless, stakeholders consistently reported challenges related to inadequate business management skills, weak record keeping, limited access to affordable credit beyond UWEP, insufficient market information, and the high cost of agricultural inputs. Several groups also indicated that climate related shocks have reduced enterprise profitability, making loan recovery more difficult.

The assessment further established that technical support from Community Development Officers and Agricultural Extension Officers has contributed to improved enterprise performance where regular follow-up is undertaken. However, district officials reported that inadequate operational resources, limited transport, and staffing gaps constrain effective supervision and continuous mentoring of beneficiary groups at the sub-county and parish levels.

Stakeholders across all districts recommended strengthening climate smart agriculture, expanding access to solar-powered irrigation and water harvesting technologies, increasing enterprise development and financial literacy training, strengthening market linkages, improving coordination among district technical departments, and enhancing routine monitoring and mentorship of UWEP beneficiary groups. Participants also emphasized the need for continuous community sensitization on loan management, group governance, and climate adaptation practices to improve the long-term sustainability of programme interventions.

No.	Name	Sex	Institution	Designation
1.	Diana Mbabazi	Female	Chahafi Sub County	Subcounty CDO
2.	Nyiramugisha Ruth	Female	Kamonyi Chicken Rearing Group	Group chair person
3.	Irimaso Alexander	Male	Nyakimama Sub County	Grout secretary
4.	Mwubaha Evelyne	Female	Kibande Maize Growers	Group treasure
5.	Nimushaba Evas	Female	Young Women Development Group	Group chair person
6.	Mityana Phionah	Female	Rwetamu Bull Fattening Group	Group chair person
7.	Ampaire Docus	Female	Nyakayaga Wise Bull Fattening Group	Group secretary
8.	Nahabwe Phionah	Female	Akashumbula Development Association	Group treasure
9.	Nambogo Zakalia	Male	Nkoma Sub County	Sub county CDO
10.	Sunday Keneth	Male	Rukungiri District	Sub count CDO
11.	Amutuhaire Caroline	Female	Rutooma Bull Fattening Group	Group secretary

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12.	Kiconco Shillah	Female	Katokye Famers Group	Group chair person
13.	Bananukire Rolannce	Male	Rukungiri	Sub county CDO
14.	Nuwamanya Herbert	Male	Kebisooni Women Apiary Group	Group advisore
15.	Okoth Jumah Muhamed	Male	Alero Subcounty	Sub county CDO
16.	Abaro Doroth	Female	Amaka Sub County	Sub county CDO
17.	Nakato Namuyonba Rose	Female	Tukolele Wamu Nakaseke Bull Fattening Group	Group chair person
18.	Maluge Chals	Male	Kinyogoga Sub County	Sob county CDO
19.	Batanda Danson	Male	Kinoni Subcounty	Sub county CDO
20.	Kinene Linus	Male	Nakaseke District	Youth council representative
21.	Yuro Beatrice Mikelina	Female	Anika Women Beans Production	Group secretary
22.	Angucia Betty	Female	Wisiri Women Beans Production	Group secretary
23.	Maneno Zabibu	Female	Munducak Women Goat Rearing	Group chair person
24.	Likombu Ahumed	Male	Abaku Sub County	Sub county CDO
25.	Remo Martine	Male	Dranya Sub County	Subcounty CDO
26.	Ariko Jesca	Female	Suubi Women's Group	Group chair person
27.	Akampulila Harriet	Female	Nteyera Women Bull Fattening	Group secretary
28.	Nsaleko Husain	Male	Kapeke Sub County	Sub county CDO
29.	Nassazi Valeria	Female	Kamuri Women Association	Group chairperson
30.	Namukasa Florance	Female	Bulima Women Group	Group chair person
31.	Bulukuladi Rebecca	Female	Buwooya Women Group	Group chair person
32.	Ssemanda Mathious	Female	Gomba	Sec works
33.	Gidudu Wahabu	Female	Buyende Young Women Group	Group Treasure
34.	Byegero Sharifa	Female	Nabidogha Women;S Group	Group chair
35.	Okanvagi Florance	Female	Nakavule Farmers Development Group	Group secretary
36.	Kitimbo Adrine	Female	Buyende	Sub county CDO
37.	Racheal Naigaga	Female	Buyende	Women council representative
38.	Mutesi Hasifa	Female	Ribber Haram Igamba Development Association	Group chair person
39.	Halima Bint Hussein	Female	Igamba Women Group	Group chair person
40.	Kaluya Cissy Kintu	Female	Women At Work Nkatu	Group secretary
41.	Mwanga Keneth	Male	Kween	Sub county CDO
42.	Nakayoza Monic	Female	Gemakumwiino Women Development Group	Group chair person
43.	Tezikya Sarah	Female	Ladie's Pride Women's Association	Group chair person
44.	Musembya Tukuwa Margaret	Female	Nkaatu B Women Association	Group treasure
45.	Maria Eseza	Female	God's Mercy Women Association	Group chair person

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KEY OUTCOMES

The consultation exercise generated valuable information that will strengthen programme implementation. Stakeholders at all levels expressed support for greater institutional coordination, improved monitoring systems, enhanced access to climate-smart technologies, and stronger community participation. The exercise also highlighted the importance of integrating local knowledge into programme planning while ensuring that women, youth, and vulnerable groups remain central to decision-making.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The consultation recommended strengthening coordination between national and district institutions to improve programme implementation. Capacity building for district technical teams should be enhanced to improve planning, supervision, and monitoring. Community sensitization on climate-resilient agricultural practices and financial literacy should be intensified to improve adoption of programme interventions. Government and development partners should also strengthen access to affordable financing, climate-smart technologies, and extension services for women entrepreneurs. Finally, continuous stakeholder engagement should be institutionalized to ensure that implementation remains responsive to community needs.

CONCLUSION

The stakeholder consultation exercise successfully brought together stakeholders from the national, regional, and community levels, creating an opportunity to validate programme approaches and identify practical solutions to implementation challenges. The views collected will contribute significantly to refining the implementation framework and ensuring that future interventions effectively respond to the needs of beneficiaries while promoting sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

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- **Total Participants:** 14 Senior Technical Officers (9 Female, 5 Male)
- **National Gender Machinery Confirmation:** Formally led by senior technical officers from the Directorate of Gender and Community Development, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), including UWEP National Programme Coordinator.

The consultation process commenced at the national level in Kampala on 12th May 2026 at the MWE Headquarters. Engagements were held with officials from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD - Directorate of Gender and Community Development), the Department of Meteorological Services (DMS), and CHAI. Institutional technical working sessions and policy mapping interviews were conducted to review existing implementation frameworks and ensure alignment with national development priorities under the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV). Discussions validated the UWEP registry interface, reviewed compliance standards for small-scale solar pumping technologies, and identified policy gaps affecting program execution.

List of participants

No.	Name	Sex	Institution
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2	Ogwal Alex	Male	MGLSD
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10	Irene Amajo	Female	MWE
11	Irene Chekwoti	Female	MWE
12	Anastesia Namululi	Female	MWE
13	Bbosa Henry	Male	MWE
14	Francis Opolot	Male	MWE

2. Regional Level Consultations (Sub-National Technical Tier)

- **Specific Dates & Locations:** 18th – 22nd May 2026 | Regional Hubs: Gulu (18th May), Mbale (19th May), Fort Portal (21st May), and Mbarara (22nd May)
- **Total Participants:** 54 District Technical Officers (21 Female, 33 Male)
- **Youth & Sectoral Representation:** Formally attended by District Youth Council representatives, District Community Development Officers (DCDOs), District Water Officers, and Agricultural Extension Officers representing all 12 target districts.

Following national engagements, regional stakeholder consultations were conducted between 18th May and 22nd May 2026 across four regional hubs: Gulu (Northern Hub - 18th May), Mbale (Eastern Hub - 19th May), Fort Portal (Western Hub - 21st May), and Mbarara (South-Western Hub - 22nd May). These sessions convened District Technical Committees, Agricultural Officers, Water Officers, and Community Development Officers from the 12 target districts. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and institutional resource mapping workshops evaluated sub-national operational bottlenecks, assessed revolving fund absorption capacities, mapped district climate vulnerability vectors, and established District Development Plan (DDP) annexation protocols.

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Stakeholders from the Western Region identified land fragmentation, steep terrain, and increasing population pressure as major constraints to agricultural production. Participants indicated that changing weather patterns have negatively affected crop yields and household incomes. Women entrepreneurs expressed challenges in accessing affordable financing for productive investments, while district officials noted low adoption of modern irrigation technologies due to limited technical knowledge and high installation costs. Stakeholders further emphasized the importance of strengthening extension services, promoting farmer cooperatives, and improving linkages between financial institutions and women's enterprise groups.

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7.	Harriet Asubazijo	Female	MGLSD	Ministry Staff
8.	Bob Natifu	Male	MWE	Ministry Staff
9.	Caroline Naijuka	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
10.	Harriet Kyomuhendo	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
11.	Irene Amajo	Female	MWE	Ministry Staff
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17.	Waigulu Emmanuel	Male	Buyende District	District Community Development Officer
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19.	Kulany Erieza Leonard	Male	Kween District	District Agriculture Officer
20.	Bushendich George	Male	Kween District	District Water Officer
21.	Chebet Roset	Female	Kween District	District Community Development Officer
22.	Chelanget Rose	Female	Kween District	Sub county CDO
23.	Ssebabi William	Male	Gomba District	District Agriculture Officer
24.	Wamala Geofrey	Male	Gomba District	District Water Officer
25.	Namukasa Beatrice	Female	Gomba District	Sub county CDO
26.	Ssebulime Godfrey	Male	Kiboga District	District Agriculture Officer
27.	Walakila Moses	Male	Kiboga District	District Water Officer
28.	Nsubuga Patrick	Male	Kiboga District	District Community Development Officer

29.	Ssengoba Robert	Male	Kiboga District	Sub county CDO
30.	Mugume Titus	Male	Nakaseke District	District Agriculture Officer
31.	Kigozi Godfrey	Male	Nakaseke District	District Water Officer
32.	Batalingaya Benos	Male	Nakaseke District	District Community Development Officer
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3. Grassroots Level Consultations (Community & Vulnerable Group Tier)

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No.	Name	Sex	Institution	Designation
1.	Diana Mbabazi	Female	Chahafi Sub County	Subcounty CDO
2.	Nyiramugisha Ruth	Female	Kamonyi Chicken Rearing Group	Group chair person
3.	Irimaso Alexander	Male	Nyakimama Sub County	Grout secretary
4.	Mwubaha Evelyne	Female	Kibande Maize Growers	Group treasure
5.	Nimushaba Evas	Female	Young Women Development Group	Group chair person
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9.	Nambogo Zakalia	Male	Nkoma Sub County	Sub county CDO
10.	Sunday Keneth	Male	Rukungiri District	Sub count CDO
11.	Amutuhaire Caroline	Female	Rutooma Bull Fattening Group	Group secretary
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13.	Bananukire Rolannce	Male	Rukungiri	Sub county CDO
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16.	Abaro Doroth	Female	Amaka Sub County	Sub county CDO
17.	Nakato Namuyonba Rose	Female	Tukolele Wamu Nakaseke Bull Fattening Group	Group chair person
18.	Maluge Chals	Male	Kinyogoga Sub County	Sob county CDO
19.	Batanda Danson	Male	Kinoni Subcounty	Sub county CDO
20.	Kinene Linus	Male	Nakaseke District	Youth council representative
21.	Yuro Beatrice Mikelina	Female	Anika Women Beans Production	Group secretary
22.	Angucia Betty	Female	Wisiri Women Beans Production	Group secretary
23.	Maneno Zabibu	Female	Munducak Women Goat Rearing	Group chair person
24.	Likombu Ahumed	Male	Abaku Sub County	Sub county CDO
25.	Remo Martine	Male	Dranya Sub County	Subcounty CDO
26.	Ariko Jesca	Female	Suubi Women's Group	Group chair person
27.	Akampulila Harriet	Female	Nteyera Women Bull Fattening	Group secretary
28.	Nsaleko Husain	Male	Kapeke Sub County	Sub county CDO
29.	Nassazi Valeria	Female	Kamuri Women Association	Group chairperson
30.	Namukasa Florance	Female	Bulima Women Group	Group chair person
31.	Bulukuladi Rebecca	Female	Buwooya Women Group	Group chair person
32.	Ssemanda Mathious	Female	Gomba	Sec works
33.	Gidudu Wahabu	Female	Buyende Young Women Group	Group Treasure
34.	Byegero Sharifa	Female	Nabidogha Women;S Group	Group chair
35.	Okanvagi Florance	Female	Nakavule Farmers Development Group	Group secretary
36.	Kitimbo Adrine	Female	Buyende	Sub county CDO
37.	Racheal Naigaga	Female	Buyende	Women council representative
38.	Mutesi Hasifa	Female	Ribber Haram Igamba Development Association	Group chair person
39.	Halima Bint Hussein	Female	Igamba Women Group	Group chair person
40.	Kaluya Cissy Kintu	Female	Women At Work Nkatu	Group secretary
41.	Mwanga Keneth	Male	Kween	Sub county CDO
42.	Nakayoza Monic	Female	Gemakumwiino Women Development Group	Group chair person
43.	Tezikya Sarah	Female	Ladie's Pride Women's Association	Group chair person
44.	Musembya Tukuwa Margaret	Female	Nkaatu B Women Association	Group treasure
45.	Maria Eseza	Female	God's Mercy Women Association	Group chair person

KEY OUTCOMES

The consultation exercise generated valuable information that will strengthen programme implementation. Stakeholders at all levels expressed support for greater institutional coordination, improved monitoring systems, enhanced access to climate-smart technologies, and stronger community participation. The exercise also highlighted the importance of integrating local knowledge into programme planning while ensuring that women, youth, and vulnerable groups remain central to decision-making.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The consultation recommended strengthening coordination between national and district institutions to improve programme implementation. Capacity building for district technical teams should be enhanced to improve planning, supervision, and monitoring. Community sensitization on climate-resilient agricultural practices and financial literacy should be intensified to

improve adoption of programme interventions. Government and development partners should also strengthen access to affordable financing, climate-smart technologies, and extension services for women entrepreneurs. Finally, continuous stakeholder engagement should be institutionalized to ensure that implementation remains responsive to community needs.

CONCLUSION

The stakeholder consultation exercise successfully brought together stakeholders from the national, regional, and community levels, creating an opportunity to validate programme approaches and identify practical solutions to implementation challenges. The views collected will contribute significantly to refining the implementation framework and ensuring that future interventions effectively respond to the needs of beneficiaries while promoting sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.

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