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Donor
 European Union
- 
Period
 Dec 2021 to Sept 2023
- 
Targeted Districts
 Kikuube & Kamwenge
- 
Total Budget
\$1,763,899
- 
SDG
 13 CLIMATE ACTION, 14 LIFE BELOW WATER, 15 LIFE ON LAND

- 
Reach
114,866 people
Direct Reach - 14,811
(M 6,540 · F 8,271)
Indirect Reach - 100,055
- 
Partners
 District Local Government
- 
CMP
 CARE Denmark

The Central Problem

Refugees are competing with the host community for access to forest resources mainly wood products due to the demand for fuel wood, poles for construction of shelter and economic opportunities such as illegal charcoal selling. Furthermore, there is increased demand for water and wetland resources as well as land for agriculture. There is evidence that this pressure on natural resources is having a particular impact on women and children who are already among the most vulnerable refugees, as they have to walk longer distances each day to fetch water and firewood, exposing them to protection risks including gender based violence (GBV)

The demands on ecosystem services from rapid refugee influxes outpace planning and implementation of

remedial measures. As a result, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and partners have declared environmental protection and restoration, a major priority under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)'s second and third pillars, as reflected by the decision to develop a specific refugee response plan on Water and Environment. Scarcity of natural resources can undermine all efforts of the GOU to build peaceful coexistence between refugees and their hosts, as recognized as well in the EU's Triple Nexus Framework that calls for durable solutions to meet immediate needs of refugees and their hosts and prevent the risk of conflict.

Similarly, an EU delegation mission in January of 2020 identified key capacity gaps in the preparedness for and coordination of responses towards new influx of refugees.

Key Capacity Gaps in the Preparedness for and Coordination of Responses Includes:

1. **Inadequate joint planning and limited interaction** between District authorities and key stakeholders to ably plan for refugee influx and disaster aspects in their plans and budgets
2. **Disjointed planning and forward looking** by district authorities on Disaster management. Need to strengthen Multi stakeholder processes and institutionalizing District Contingency Plans with existing OPM/Government methodologies, tools, strategies and planning cycles.
3. **District reactive mode to Disaster Management and Response:** Funds must be set aside to tackle disasters and emergencies in the District Contingency plans
4. **Non-functional District Disaster Management Committees.** Existing DDMCS occasionally meet and possess limited knowledge on how to conduct rapid needs assessments with district departments and officials working in silos
5. **Need for capacity building** of district staff to comprehend Disaster Managements issues in a more holistic and appreciating the sectoral approach to disaster risk reduction to ensure sustainability of all investments/development interventions to benefit refugees and host communities.
6. **Protection of water catchment areas and natural resources** in all the settlements to guarantee the survival of refugees, host communities and safeguarding of all investments in the settlements.

Solution

The proposed action is aligned with specific objective 2 of the CRRF DIRECT, to ensure 'Reduction of the negative socio-economic impact of new and recurrent displacement situations.' The project also contributes to the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management (2010), which sets out to establish and equip disaster prepared-ness institutions to adequately manage and support the country to cope with disasters, and also to ensure that disaster preparedness is integrated into development processes at all levels.



Overall Objective

Strengthen resilience, safety & well-being of displaced populations and their host communities in Uganda and reduce inequalities between these groups.



Specific Objective

Reduce the negative environmental & socio-economic impact of new and recurrent displacement situations in Kikuube and Kamwenge districts

Intermediate Outcome 1

Institutional and community capacities for early warning and out-of-settlement development-focused preparedness strengthened

Intermediate Outcome 2

More sustainable and inclusive Natural Resource Management and governance in refugee-hosting areas, leading to greater social cohesion

Expected Outputs/Results

Output 1.1: District Contingency Plan (DCPs) for Kamwenge district developed and disseminated in order to move towards institutionalization and sustainability of disaster preparedness and early warning

Output 1.2: Capacity of Kikuube and Kamwenge districts and targeted communities to implement and coordinate DCP and response activities have been Strengthened

Output 2.1: Capacity of district, community and refugee settlement on Natural Resource governance strengthened in Kikuube and Kamwenge

Output 2.2: Key ecosystems (rivers, wetlands, and bare hills) restored

Main Activities

Output 1.1: Train authorities in Gender in Emergencies, protection mainstreaming, disability and inclusion; Conduct Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) and disseminate to key stakeholders; Train authorities in scenario planning; Develop environmental-friendly and gender-responsive District Contingency Plan (DCP); Disseminate DCP

Output 1.2: Support localization of the District Contingency Plan through Community Disaster Preparedness Action Plans (CoDPAP); Support integration of District Contingency Plan into District Development Plan and budget; Develop and support a fundraising plan for further support to the district contingency plan; Emergency Response Exercise based on finalized DCP and SOP's; Facilitate learning event with districts and key stakeholders in South West Uganda on DCP development and implementation

Output 2.1: Support the district to carry out a comprehensive mapping and assessment of the state of major natural resources including the drivers of degradation in Kamwenge district; Support the District to mainstream gender into the Natural Resources Sector Plan; Conduct a refresher training and review of the Gender action plan for Kamwenge District; Facilitate development of Resource Management Plans for Kafu and Kagasha wetlands, and Kabuga bare hill in Kamwenge; Raise awareness on the national environment laws, ordinances and natural resources conservation; Support Sub counties to initiate and ratify by-laws on Natural Resources Management; Map and address the key drivers of conflict in relation to natural resources access and use

Output 2.2: Support the implementation of restoration interventions within River Mpanga

ecosystem; Support the voluntary elimination of cultivation activities from wetland and river buffer areas; Facilitate restoration interventions within 2 wetland ecosystems (Kafu wetland in Kikuube, Kagasha wetland in Kamwenge); Facilitate restoration interventions within 2 forest/woodland ecosystems (Pachwa forest reserve in Kikuube, and Kabuga hill in Kamwenge); Advocate for sustainable resource use and management through events to commemorate key International days; Promote timely access to, use and reporting of weather and climate information in Kikuube and Kamwenge; Rehabilitate wetland and river catchments through sustainable agricultural land use and management practices and landscape approach in Kamwenge and Kikuube; Support the establishment of energy woodlots to reduce pressure on existing tree cover

Target Groups & Final Beneficiaries

TG1: 2 District Local Governments hosting refugees and their respective DDMCs. Targeted districts are Kamwenge and Kikuube

TG2: 4 Sub Counties including their LCs and RWC, particularly at level of local council and RWC I, II and III. These include Biguli, Kahunge, and Nkoma/Katalyebwa TC (sub counties in Kamwenge), Kabwoya, (sub county in Kikube). This will however be confirmed at baseline.

TG3: 7 Government Ministries and agencies (MWE, OPM, MOLG, NFA, UNMA, ULGA)

TG4: 30 resource user groups will be supported with incentives for voluntarily elimination degradation activities from wetland and river buffer areas.

TG5: 1,000 households which will benefit from capacity building on Sustainable land management training.

TG6: Households in the target sub counties and beyond that will be reached with weather and Climate information Final beneficiaries: 75,851 households translating into 356,145 individuals (at a ratio of 50:50 refugee host community)

Implementation Approach



Partnership with key stakeholders



Putting communities at the centre of actions



Enhance synergies with ongoing projects

The project is financed by the European Union through the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and implemented by CARE International in Uganda

