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**COP28 UAE**

Making sense of COP 28 commitments 5 months down the road.



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# Uganda Sanitation Fund Takes Bold Steps towards Improved Public Health



Making sense of COP 28 commitments 5 months down the road.

**Closing the WASH SDG Programme with Achievements and Reflections**



Kampala; In a significant move towards enhancing public health and hygiene standards across Uganda, the Uganda Sanitation Fund recently launched a 3-year program in a colorful event. Supported by the Sanitation Hygiene Fund and managed by the Ministry of Health and its partners, Dr. Ruth Acheng, the Minister of Health as the official guest stated that the initiative aims to revolutionize sanitation practices in 30 district local governments.

“We spend hefty sums of money treating preventable diseases such as diarrhoea among infants. Still, we lose 33 children daily to the same, and the consistent outcry from the communities is that there are no drugs in the health facilities. I ask every person to commit today to change our habits and adopt a culture of cleanliness, responsibility and respect for our environment,” Dr Diana Atwiine, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health, Uganda.

Previous similar events have singled out the challenge of limited and undervalued financing options for sanitation and hygiene, accrued to the gap in evidence and products about the sanitation economy and hygiene markets for Uganda.

Responding to this gap, a three-year Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) project in Uganda worth 5 million US



Dollars was concurrently launched to catalyse public and private investment in sanitation and menstrual hygiene markets, with the purpose to activate the evolving sanitation economy through a targeted focus on seven selected districts. The SHF is enabled by the Governments of The Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng while launching the SHF project applauded development partners and civil society for catalysing the economic potential of sanitation and hygiene that Uganda has missed out on for long.

“I am excited to learn that our next personal and private investments may be in the sanitation and hygiene sector. Government of Uganda shall leverage on this

project to navigate innovative financing to accelerate access to improved health, and ultimately to steer the country towards building a sanitation economy and accelerating menstrual health and hygiene markets.”

Work under the SHF project commenced mid last year with IRC delivering intensive capacity strengthening in Three-Star WASH in Schools model to education officers and the WASH FIT tool to health officers in Buikwe, Buyende, Kabarole, Kamuli, Kayunga, Luuka and Kole districts.

The SHF project is managed under Water For People as the prime in Uganda, while government oversight is under the Ministry of Health, Environmental Health Department. Other implementing partners are the

Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Education and Sports, UWASNET, Finnish Mondial (HEWASA and AMREF Health Africa), IRC and Water For People.

At the heart of the program lies the goal to promote the adoption of hygienic practices within communities. The program encompasses a multifaceted strategy, engaging government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector entities to promote demand-driven approaches. From advocating for Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to conducting home improvement campaigns and sanitation marketing, efforts are underway to instill lasting behavior change and bolster the supply chain for sanitation products and services.

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# News



*Hon. Beatrice Anywar Atim - Minister of State for Environment (MWE) highlighting the persistent challenges faced by women in LDCs during COP 28 in Dubai*

## Making sense of COP 28 commitments 5 months down the road.



As the world grapples with the urgent need to address climate change, five months after the conclusion of COP28, a closer examination of the commitments made during the conference sheds light on the progress and challenges in global climate action. COP28 witnessed a flurry of declarations and pledges from countries and organizations worldwide, spanning a wide range of initiatives aimed at mitigating climate change and promoting sustainable development. One of the key highlights of COP28 was the historic agreement to operationalize and capitalize funding for Loss and Damage, with a staggering \$726 million committed to support those most affected by the climate crisis. This significant step spotlights the growing recognition of the need to address

the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. The Pledges to replenish crucial climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDC), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), intended to demonstrate a collective commitment to financing climate-related projects and supporting adaptation efforts in developing countries. With pledges totaling billions of dollars, these funds play a vital role in building resilience and promoting sustainable development in the face of climate change. In addition to financial commitments, COP28 witnessed the endorsement of several pledges and declarations addressing various aspects of climate action, from renewable energy and

energy efficiency to agriculture, health, and gender equality. Notable endorsements include the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, the COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate, and the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, among others.

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Furthermore, the launch of initiatives such as the AL-TERRA Catalytic Fund, with a global mobilization target of \$250 billion, and the commitment by the World Bank to increase financing for climate-related projects by \$9 billion annually for 2024 and 2025, signal a growing momentum towards scaling up climate finance and driving positive climate action on a global scale.

However, while the commitments made at COP28 represent significant progress in the fight against climate change, challenges remain. The disparity between pledged funds and actual disbursements, as well as the need for greater transparency and accountability in fund management, are areas that



require attention. Ensuring that commitments translate into tangible actions on the ground, particularly in vulnerable and marginalized communities, remains a pressing concern.

COP28 five months down the road, it is clear that concerted and sustained efforts are needed to translate commitments into meaningful climate action. With the clock ticking on the climate crisis, the global community must continue to work together towards achieving the ambitious goals set forth in the Paris Agreement and securing a sustainable future for generations to come.



## Key Highlights on declarations and commitments

The commitments encompass diverse initiatives, including declarations on food systems transformation, health, renewable energy, efficiency, and efforts to decarbonize heavy-emitting industries.

### Loss and Damage Agreement:

COP28 facilitated a historic agreement to operationalize and capitalize funding for Loss and Damage, committing \$726 million to support those most affected by the climate crisis.

### Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund Replenishments

- \$3.5 billion pledged to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- \$133.6 million pledged towards the Adaptation Fund.
- \$129.3 million pledged towards the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDC).
- \$31 million pledged to the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

### ALTÉRRRA Catalytic Fund Launch

The UAE launched ALTÉRRRA, a \$30 billion catalytic fund to drive positive climate action, with a global mobilization target of \$250 billion.

### World Bank Commitment

The World Bank committed to an annual increase of \$9 billion for 2024 and 2025 to finance climate-related projects

### Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

#### Commitment:

MDBs collectively pledged a cumulative increase of over \$22.6 billion towards climate action

### Pledges and Declarations

The COP28 witnessed the endorsement of 11 pledges and declarations, garnering historic support from countries and organizations worldwide. Notable endorsements include:

- Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge endorsed by 124 countries.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, & Climate endorsed by 142 countries.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health endorsed by 133 countries.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery & Peace endorsed by 75 countries and 40 organizations.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate Finance endorsed by 13 countries.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Hydrogen and Derivates endorsed by 37 countries.
- COP28 UAE Declaration on Gender-Responsive Just Transitions endorsed by 74 countries.
- Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge endorsed by 65 countries.
- Global Cooling Pledge endorsed by 64 countries.
- Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter endorsed by 52 companies, representing 40 percent of global oil production.
- Industrial Transition Accelerator endorsed by 35 companies and six industry associations.



# Summary of COP 28 Financial commitments Breakdown

NO	THEME	FUNDS COMMITTED (USD)
1	Loss and Damage	\$726 million
2	Green Climate Fund	\$3.5 billion (increasing second replenishment to \$12.8 billion)
3	Adaptation Fund	\$133.6 million
4	Least Developed Countries Fund	\$129.3 million
5	Special Climate Change Fund(SCCF)	\$31 million
6	Renewable Energy	\$5 billion
7	Cooling	\$25.5 million
8	Clean Cooking	\$30 million
9	Technology	\$568 million
10	Methane	\$1.2 billion
11	Climate Finance	\$30 billion from UAE, \$200 million in Special Drawing Rights, and \$32 billion from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)
12	Food	\$3.1 billion
13	Nature	\$2.6 billion
14	Health	\$2.7 billion
15	Water	\$150 million
16	Gender	\$2.8 million
17	Relief, Recovery, and Peace	\$1.2 billion
18	Local Climate Action	\$467 million

During the COP 28 sessions, panel discussants offered insightful recommendations for urgent action by world leaders to address the pressing issues related to climate change. The following key recommendations emerged from the discussions:

## Enhanced Women's Inclusion and Empowerment

- Recognize and address the systemic barriers that hinder women's participation in climate discussions and decision-making processes.
- Implement measures to ensure equal representation of women in leadership roles, both nationally and globally.
- Prioritize investments in education, health services, and economic empowerment to uplift women, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



## Youth Engagement and Capacity Building.

Allocate sufficient resources for building the capacities of young people to actively participate in global processes like COP, ensuring their meaningful involvement.

Create mechanisms for youth representation at decision-making tables, acknowledging the unique perspectives and contributions they bring to climate action.

Foster the inclusion of youth-led initiatives and young professionals in climate-related endeavors, promoting intergenerational equity.

### Addressing Climate Crisis Impact on Vulnerable Communities

Recognize and address the disproportionate impact of climate crises on vulnerable communities, particularly those in LDCs.

Implement measures to support communities facing challenges such as low education, inaccessibility to health services, and increased burdens due to climate-related impacts.

Prioritize funding and resources to aid adaptation and resilience efforts in regions most affected by climate change.



### Gender-Responsive Policies and Legislation

● Advocate for the integration of gender-responsive policies and legislation in climate action frameworks.

● Emphasize the need for climate certificates of compliance for projects, in addition to gender and financial certificates, to regulate activities and ensure environmental sustainability.

### Fulfillment of Pledges and Financial Commitments

Urge world leaders to fulfill pledges made during previous COP sessions, with a specific focus on financial commitments. Address the funding gap as a critical component in effectively dealing with the climate crisis, ensuring that financial resources are allocated to support climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

### Strengthening Climate Resilience and Adaptive Strategies

Strengthen climate resilience by investing in adaptive strategies, including climate-smart solutions and nature-based enterprises.

Encourage the development and implementation of climate-resilient and gender-transformative interventions, such as elevated latrines and rainwater harvesting systems.

Support private sector initiatives that contribute to climate resilience and adaptation, fostering partnerships between public and private entities.





**Inclusive and Transparent Climate Governance**

- Establish inclusive and transparent governance structures that involve key stakeholders, including women, youth, and vulnerable communities.
- Ensure that climate initiatives and projects are governed by youth movements, promoting a consultative relationship between youth-led organizations and governmental bodies.

**Global Collaboration and Partnerships**

- Encourage collaborative learning and dialogue among delegates to share effective strategies for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs aligned with climate resilience.
- Promote networking among delegates to facilitate partnerships and collaborations for future WASH initiatives in Uganda and beyond.

# Closing the WASH SDG Programme with Achievements and Reflections

**By Hannifa Kasule**

**Kampala;**The culmination of the WASH SDG programme in the first quarter of 2024 marks a significant milestone for Simavi and its partners. Having led the coordination of the programme since 2017, Simavi celebrates surpassing ambitious targets set to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions for communities across seven countries, 15 sub-programmes, and 73 sub-national districts. The success of the programme, which aimed to impact the lives of over 4 million people, is attributed to the collaborative efforts of the Netherlands WASH SDG Consortium – WASH Alliance International, Plan International, and SNV.

In a recent global closing event held on March 21st, 2024, in The Hague, Netherlands, various stakeholders from the Dutch water sector convened to reflect on the programme's achievements and chart a way forward. Steven Collet, Deputy Director-General International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, underscored the importance of collective action in addressing systemic constraints within WASH systems. In his address, Collet posed pivotal questions to policymakers, urging them to break silos, mobilize political will, enhance cooperation, empower agency, and identify leverage points for transformative change.

Among the highlights of the event were interviews with key programme staff, panel discussions, and spotlight sessions. Delegates from Uganda led by Ms Rashidah Kulanyi, the outgoing Country Manager for SIMAVI in Uganda, shared insights into the programme's journey and identified key focus areas moving forward. These include WASH and climate change initiatives, WASH+ systems strengthening, and gender equality efforts. Simavi's Managing Director, Dienneke van der Wijk, emphasized the importance of leveraging lessons learned and impactful strategies identified during the programme.

As a testament to the programme's impact and legacy, an e-magazine detailing its why, what, and how, alongside real-life field examples, lessons learned, and recommendations for sustainable systemic change, has been released. The e-magazine serves as a comprehensive resource for stakehold



ers interested in learning from the programme's experiences and replicating its successes. Looking ahead, Simavi remains committed to advancing WASH agendas and invites feedback and collaboration from stakeholders interested in joining efforts to achieve lasting positive change.



*Simavi's Managing Director, Dienneke van der Wijk addresses partners during the closure ceremony in Kampala in February 2024.*



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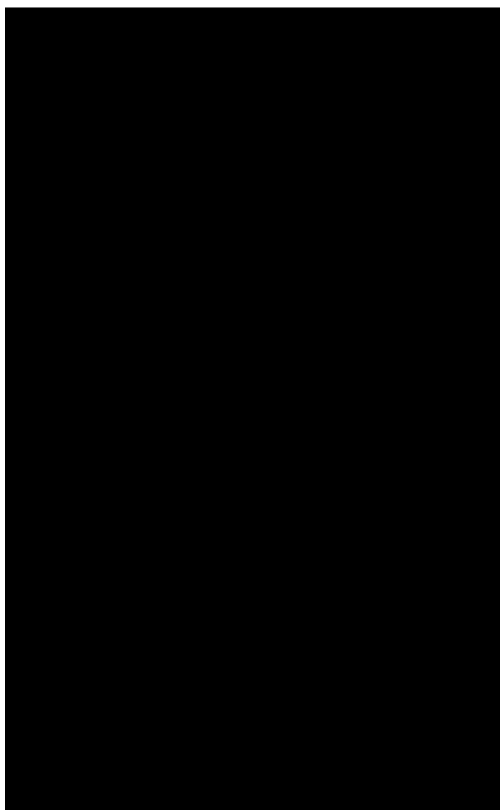
# KABAROLE DISTRICT STRUGGLES TO ADDRESS HYGIENE AND SANITATION CHALLENGES

Kabarole: As the 2030 target of achieving Sustainable Development Goal number 6 (SDG6) nears, Kabarole district is struggling to address the challenges of hygiene and sanitation. This is in efforts to address Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues and achieve SDG6, which aims to provide clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. In a bid to hit the 2030 deadline, Kabarole district has embarked on the journey to ensure all households have access to safe water. Currently, the average access to safe water in Kabarole district stands at 77 percent with some sub counties still facing significant challenges like Kijura town council which still stands at 7 percent. Of the 77 percent, only 27 percent of the population has access to water f

rom protected springs, 58 percent relies on shallow well, 4 percent on boreholes and 12 percent on public taps. Since 2018, the district has been implementing a WASH master plan to conclude by 2030. However, over the past years, the district has been grappling with WASH challenges which include limited access to clean and safe water, poor latrine coverage, open defecation and low hand washing coverage after visiting the latrine. The Kabarole District Administrative officer (CAO), Swaibu Baraba said the National vision states that "water must be available within 300metres for every household by 2030". He said, to realize the district's WASH master plan by 2030, a substantial investment is required with \$ 24.1mln allocated

for water initiatives and \$ 48.1 mln for sanitation projects Kabarole district leaders say, some parts of the district still face the challenge of open defecation leading to increased diseases associated with poor sanitation. According to the Kabarole district health educator, Catherine Kemigabo, a lot of effort is needed to change people's attitude. It has been noted that in Kichwamba Sub County alone, out of 31 villages in the entire sub county, 11 villages still practice open defecation. According to the WASH Baseline sanitation and hygiene survey data report for Kichwamba Sub County, as of December to March 2024, open defecation rates in specific areas are alarming. In parishes of Bwanika, Kihondo and Mabale, open defeca-

tion rate is at 42.9 percent, 79.9 percent and 47.4 percent respectively. Similarly, there are varying levels of improvement in water access across these parishes with Bwanika at 42.9 percent, Kihondo at 79.9 percent and Mabale at 47.4 percent. The data further indicates challenges in hygiene practices, where only 6.4 percent of the entire sub county population wash their hands after visiting the latrine and latrine coverage is at 42.4 percent. In order to address these challenges, the district has been collaborating with different partners like IRC in implementing various interventions which include the construction of new gravity flow water schemes and improved sanitation around homes. Last month, the

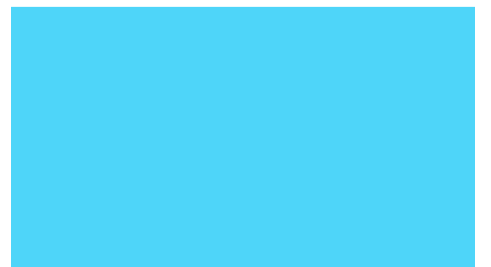


district launched the construction of a shs 900 mln gravity water scheme in Bwanika parish, Kichwamba Sub County with an aim of benefiting 14 villages. According to the Kabarole district chairperson LCV, Richard Rwabuhinga, the initiative seeks to reduce dependence on water from crater lakes which have been exposed to Bilharzia and Typhoid over the years. Rwabuhinga said the water project will be constructed in three phases with the initial phase costing shs 237 mln. "Our goal is to ensure elimination of drinking or fetching water from unprotected sources by 2030. This

water project will also reduce the burden of Bilharzia in Kichwamba sub county" he said. He added that for many years, residents of Bwanika have been relying on water from crater lakes, exposing them to contamination. He revealed that collaborative efforts with partners including IRC will contribute funds to facilitate timely completion of the water project before 2026. To address WASH challenges at the household level, the district in collaboration with IRC has initiated a home improvement campaign. Mary Ayoreka from IRC Uganda emphasized the organization's commitment to

supporting the district in implementing and achieving the WASH master plan by 2030. She said the organization's primary focus in 2024 has been on addressing the longstanding sanitation challenges in Kichwamba Sub County. According to Ayoreka, the intensive home improvement campaign initiated in December last year involved door to door visits for health education, raising awareness and promoting practices to enhance sanitation and hygiene. "We initiated home improvement campaigns in December and as a result, 19 out of the 31 villages in the target area are now officially open defecation

free. However, a persistent challenge remains in the area of hand washing practices" she said. She said to address the issue of hand washing, in collaboration with other partners, they have taken an initiative to provide hand washing facilities which they anticipate that the intervention will lead to an improvement in hand washing practices.







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# Creating Impressions that last a lifetime



# Seed global health to renew MUST-MRRH partnership

By Nahamya Joshua

Kabarole; Seed global health in partnership with the ministry of health has pledged to renew Mbarara University of science and technology (MUST) together with Mbarara regional referral hospital (MRRH) to strengthen emergency health care in western Uganda. This was revealed during a cross partnership learning meeting in Mbarara that was attended by physicians from Makerere University, Muni University, MUST and Busitema University which are all partners of seed global health in emergency medicine. According to Irene Atuhairwe Duhaga, Country Director, Seed Global Health, the five year MUST partnership will expire in June 2024 and immediately a new collaboration will be signed to extend emergency care education and practise with both the university and the hospital. "MUST is one of our biggest partners since 2013, and we are happy that we are continuing to work with you in the next 6 years" Atuhairwe said She added that "one of the objectives for the courtesy visit is to introduce to you Martin from Malawi who is our new director in charge of impact and innovation, and secondly it is to shade



more light on what the next phase of the partnership will be as we are coming to the end of the current strategy plan for this year".

Unlike the previous 5 year strategy, Atuhairwe stipulated that the new collaboration will be increased to 6 years to enable the two entities conclude some of the projects that were interrupted by Covid19 pandemic. "The initial plan was for a 5 year development plan but now we a

re going to do a 6 year partnership strategy which will be launched in June 2024. And the reason for a 6 year is that internally we want to use the bridging year to take stock of what happened but also develop ourselves internally in terms of capacity building to be able to support partnerships not only here in Uganda but across the 4 countries we are working in" she explained According to Atuhairwe, the new strategy will focus on emergency care and maternal health to save mothers' lives during labour.



Martin Nsukwa-Managing Director-Impact and innovation at Seed Global Health addresses workshop participants.

"We want to focus on a new strategy than the initial component where we have done a lot on academia and putting up a faculty department that is running now we want to see it ringing an impact," she said Martin Nsukwa, Managing Director impact and innovation, Seed Global Health, retaliated that seed global health will emphasise the three pillars of education, practice and policy for the next 6 years. "Much as we want to ensure clinical practice, but we are still going to focus on three pillars that is education, practice and policies and we shall use the bottom-up approach where I am happy that Uganda is leading." Nsukwa said.

He emphasised that trainers in emergency medicine will have to be absorbed in the system to be able to directly support the health sector strategic plans and human resource strategic plans in developing countries rather than going on the streets to look for jobs. "We really want to make sure that people who are getting trained and improving in clinical practice are absorbed



in the system whether with the government or even those in private practice. And it is not only in Uganda but in other countries that we are supporting such as Malawi and Zambia” Nsukwa explained.

He added that “We are making a deliberate move to make sure that for the coming 5 years our partners should be country led and also be able to give us guidance on what to work on”. “As seed global we are also moving forward to make sure that whatever we are doing is country led. We want to make sure that our partners we work with should drive the agenda.” Nsukwa said

Dr. Prisca Mary Kizito, Head of department, Emergency Medicine Physician and Lecturer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology appealed to seed global to continue supporting clinical medicine as a future investment to reverse avoidable material deaths that arise due to lack of skills. “Seed global started collaborating with MUST in 2013 and we are happy that the vision that we started 5 years ago we are now registering progress in emergency medicine specialty, training in clinical care and advocacy, adding that, for example we started the emergency specialty in 2017 with only 5 residents, but today we are having 14 living and very functional residents who have all graduated over the past four years because of the continuous from seed global health” Kizito explained.

She added that “For years MUST has always struggled with space but today at least we have enough space and thanks to seed global”. “We started from a small tea room in 2017 which was also a lecture room but seed suggested that emergency medicine deserves better attention and better care whereby they supplied us with computers, tables and chairs thus shifting from that small room to a bigger space where we are currently operating from” Kizito implored.

Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, Dean Faculty medicine, MUST, appreciated seed global partnership that has changed the face of medicine as a core course at Mbarara University. “We don’t take our engagement with you for granted, you have made great strides towards emergency medicine and even in other areas regarding to trainings, clinical care, staff support because must initially did not have any physician in emergency medicine” Ngonzi said He confirmed that together with MRRH, they will be excited to co-sign the MOU with Seed Global health to help to strengthen the support to amplify emergency medicine both in the university and the hospital.

“Of course without the referral, we would not be having a primary teaching

“Seed global picked us from somewhere and I can now see that the journey is well defined. We pray that the next 6 years’ journey will be with a clear road-map.” Ngonzi said

Prof. Nickson Kamukama, Acting Vice Chancellor, MUST, urged Ugandans to embrace internationalisation to help to solve societal challenges. “Internationalisation is the way to go that is why we are now registering results in emergency medicine” he said adding that, we have a tendency of promoting inbreeding which is not helping us. Let’s go beyond the boundaries of Uganda and Africa to work

together to get solutions for our societal challenges” Kamukama explained Seed Global Health Uganda is a non-government organisation that partners to train nurses, midwives, and physicians, building complete health teams that can provide high-quality care and save lives. The MUST-MRRH-SEED interdisciplinary collaboration started in 2013 where they have so far received ultrasound equipment, training and capacity building as part of life saving intervention on trauma, maternal health and emergency cases.



# CARBON PRICING IN UGANDA



Some of the participants during one of the training sessions

As the Head of Policy at the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Uganda, I recently attended a training organized by GIZ Uganda, and in this edition I want to share some facts from the engagement and recognize the critical importance of addressing climate change and its implications for Uganda's economy and society. Climate change poses significant risks to Uganda, including increased floods, droughts, and high temperatures, which negatively impact infrastructure, water availability, agricultural yields, biodiversity, and human health. In response to these challenges, I acknowledge the efforts of international organizations like the GIZ and its partners in conducting a pilot study on socially responsible carbon pricing in Uganda.

The development of the registered Clean Development Carbon Pricing Incidence Mechanism (CDM) Calculator (CPIC) is particularly noteworthy, as it provides a tool to assess the impact of carbon pricing on population groups and full potential of carbon economic sectors. By embedding this tool in policy dialogue and organizing training workshops for policymakers and key stakeholders, I believe that Uganda can enhance evidence-based policy formulation and planning in addressing climate change. My emphasis is on the importance of adopting direct carbon pricing instruments such as carbon taxes and emissions trading schemes to effectively mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Uganda has significant potential in the carbon market, with over 92 registered voluntary carbon market activities and 189



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## How Does Climate Change Affect Uganda?

CHANGE IN PROJECTED GDP GROWTH BY 2050 DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Subregions	GDP (% Change/Year)			
	1° C	2° C	3° C	4° C
North (n = 7)	-0.76 ± 0.16	-1.63 ± 0.36	-2.72 ± 0.61	-4.11 ± 0.97
West (n = 15)	-4.46 ± 0.63	-9.79 ± 1.35	-15.62 ± 2.08	-22.09 ± 2.78
Central (n = 9)	-1.17 ± 0.45	-2.82 ± 1.10	-5.53 ± 1.56	-9.13 ± 2.16
East (n = 14)	-2.01 ± 0.20	-4.51 ± 0.34	-7.55 ± 0.63	-11.16 ± 0.85
Southern (n = 10)	-1.18 ± 0.64	-2.68 ± 1.54	-4.40 ± 2.56	-6.49 ± 3.75
Whole of Africa (n = 55)	-2.25 ± 1.52	-5.01 ± 3.30	-8.28 ± 5.12	-12.12 ± 7.04

Source: Adapted from Economic growth, development and climate change in Africa, published by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

[https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?expnum\\_id=10421](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?expnum_id=10421)

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# Tooro King to install plasma screens in Fort Portal town to raise awareness on the HIV prevention

Fort Portal: In a bid to prevent and reduce the spread of HIV/Aids in Tooro sub region and the country at large, the King of Tooro Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV has endorsed the idea of installing plasma screens around Fort Portal town with prevention messages about HIV/Aids.

This was said by the Tooro Kingdom premier, Steven Kiyingi who said it's the way people can receive important information.

"A lot has been done in the Kingdom to create awareness about the spread and prevention of HIV/Aids but a lot still needs to be done because instead of reducing it is increasing. The King has now thought of installing plasma screens displaying key messages on prevention" Kiyingi said.

Despite King Oyo being the UNAIDS ambassador in the fight against HIV/Aids, the prevalence rate is still very high in his Kingdom especially in Fort Portal city where the Kingdom headquarters are located.

On several occasions, the King has always called upon his subjects to desist from acts that can expose them to HIV/Aids and several health camps have been conducted and awareness messages delivered to the population.

A new report that was released last year by Uganda Aids Commission (UAC) shows that the transmission of HIV/Aids in Fort Portal city is increasing.

According to the report, the HIV/Aids prevalence rate in Fort Portal city stands at 17.8 percent which is far above the national average of 5.1 percent.

This sparked concern among regional leaders and officials from the UAC.

An official at UAC western Uganda, Michael Masiko said joint efforts should be directed towards Fort Portal city to counter the rising infections.



Unlike the past, when Kalangala district led in HIV/Aids prevalence, Fort Portal city now holds that unfortunate distinction. We are collaborating with Tooro sub region leaders to devise effective solutions" he said.

Dr. Richard Mugahi, the assistant commissioner in charge of reproductive and infant health in the ministry of health identified poverty, gender-based violence and limited male involvement in HIV testing as key factors driving high HIV prevalence.

"I advise the ministry of health to draft messages that resonate with the current generation. For example fighting the scourge through social media" he said.

Despite the HIV/Aids prevalence rate remaining at 17.8 percent in Fort Portal city, there is an alarming trend of new infections being registered in women than in men.

Stakeholders stress that if this pattern is not addressed

urgently, it could pose a significant burden on the city's efforts to eradicate the scourge by 2030. According to Evan Amara, the HIV/Aids focal person for Fort Portal city, the current number of people living with HIV/Aids is 20,848, of which 12,924 are women (62 percent) and 7,922 are men (38 percent) as of December last year.

She said between October and December last year, at least 237 new HIV/Aids cases were registered of which 100 were male and 137 were female from the 13 health facilities in the city.

Out of the 237 new infections, 27 were infections acquired within the past 12 months and 15 of them were among individuals aged 20 to 34, indicating a concerning trend of increasing infections among the youth.

Among the 13 health facilities accredited to offer HIV/Aids services, Fort Portal Regional Referral hospital caters for the

highest number of people living with HIV/Aids, totaling to 8,134 individuals of which 5,134 are women and 3,001 are men.

The stakeholders blame the trend on women's vulnerability and exposure, which they said places them at a highest risk of contracting the infection.

Rev. Sarah Kakyoo from Ruwenzori Diocese attributed the rise in new infections to cross-generational sex.

"Some older men who are infected with HIV/Aids nowadays seek relationships with young girls seducing them with money. In turn, these young girls desiring quick money engage in relationships with these men and end up contracting the infection" Rev. Kakyoo said.

The Fort Portal city deputy mayor, Betty Mujungu stressed the need for behavior change and addressing stereotypes in Tooro sub region.

"People have a misguided notion

that Batooro people are inclined to have sex at an early age, which is incorrect and we condemn it. Its not in our culture. There are numerous stereotypes and public messages that need debunking because such misconceptions lead to the spread of HIV/Aids" she said. She urged the Ministry of health to consider rebranding HIV/Aids messaging for the public, saying the current generation prefers receiving information through songs and drama rather than traditional radio talk shows. **By Scovia Atuhaire**



# Brief stories

## Monitoring of MWE/ AWMZ interventions in the Ruhezamyenda catchment. (25th Apr 2024)

Nature based solutions are being implemented in Muko S/C, Rubanda district, among the communities neighbouring L. Bunyonyi.

A total of 155 members (in three community based groups) have been supported to implement SWC, afforestation, and road runoff harvesting technologies.

The feedback from the beneficiaries is that the impact of these interventions is evident, especially in mitigating soil erosion and silting of the lake, which are prevalent in this area. They pledge continued collaboration with the Gov't/ MWE, in order to upscale the interventions to the entire catchment.

## Water-energy-food-ecosystems dynamics in a climate crisis

Date & Time May 15, 2024 12:15 PM in

Description NEXUS Gains' May webinar discusses the complex relationships between water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) in the context of the climate crisis. It will explore the interconnectedness of these vital elements and their responses to the urgent challenges posed by the changing climate. Featuring talks from Prof. Dr Walter Immerzeel, Utrecht University, on the Indus Basin, and from Mr Dipak Gyawali, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and former Minister of Water Resources, on water governance challenges, this session will explore how the WEFE nexus can help us tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_g9k3iRzBTBq-bAu9j2eHuAg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g9k3iRzBTBq-bAu9j2eHuAg#/registration)

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