



Impact Brief for Western Uganda FBO Network Climate Change Interventions in Uganda - Using Sports and Poetry Lyrics to Increase Awareness and Advocacy for Climate Change Through Faith-Based Spaces and Approaches.



Introduction

Climate change has become another challenge that has hindered Africa's development and strained the continent's peace and security architecture in recent decades. In Uganda, the effects of climate change include increasing droughts in the northern regions, decreased and unpredictable rainfall in the eastern and central regions, and floods in the western and southwestern regions. Other indicators of climate change include a decrease in clean drinking water, pests, diseases, soil erosion, and depletion of grazing land for livestock. These effects have led to secondary effects such as tensions over grazing lands and conflicts between pastoralist and sedentary communities. In Western Uganda, where the Western Uganda Faith-Based Organisations Network (WUFBO) is implementing peacebuilding and climate change projects, the main effects of climate change are flooding and changes in rainfall patterns. This brief summarizes the impacts of WUFBO's climate change interventions in the districts of Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, and Kyegegwa in western Uganda. The interventions utilized edutainment activities such as sports and poetry to educate young men and women about the effects of climate change, promote their participation in

initiatives that aim to mitigate climate change, and enhance community resilience and adaptation.

What is WUFBON?



Western Uganda FBO Network (WUFBON) is a network for Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in western Uganda established since 2013. As one of the largest faith networks operating in 13 districts of Western Uganda, its goal is to improve the welfare of people in Uganda and Africa by complementing government and non-governmental programs on climate change, peacebuilding, sexual rights and reproductive health (SRHR), and family planning. Since 2013, WUFBON has prioritized five thematic areas: human rights, health, environment, conflict resolution, and safety and security. The organization's largest project currently is the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA), which is implementing activities on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB). Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), JISRA activities are taking place in 12 districts in western Uganda, including Kyenjojo, Bunyangabu, Kamwenge, Kasese, NtorokoKagadi, and Bundibugyo. Western Uganda FBO Network implemented Raising voices on integrated climate change and family planning supported by Panaroma Global with funding from 128 collective and thirdly Western Uganda FBO Network has implemented successfully the (PHED-Population Health environment and Development) and with support from KOSHE we have managed to implement activities aimed at using sports and poetry lyrics to increase awareness and advocacy for climate change through faithbased spaces and approaches.

WUFBON Climate Change Interventions



In 2023, WUFBON implemented a series of interventions in Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, and Kyegegwa. The organisation collaborated with district sports officers, district education officers, district community development officers, district natural resource officers, and district forestry officers to secure government support for all climate change projects. These projects included enlightening sports clubs and youth groups through interfaith and intercultural poetry and sports events. The interventions on climate change consisted of 1 inception meeting, 1 guiding circular for climate change activities, 2 orientation forums for science and arts teachers, 10 interfaith poetry forums, 4 training seminars for staff and officials of sports clubs, 10 sports events, 1,290 information, education and communication materials (IEC), 30 artistic posters, 5 training seminars for life skills for young men and women involved, 5 engagement meetings with stakeholders, and 1 endline review meeting with all stakeholders. All dialogue forums, training sessions, and seminars took place at the Nsinde Eco Tourism and Resource Centre in **Kyenjojo** district, while the poetry forums were held in primary schools. The artistic posters were strategically placed at the Centre, and all IEC materials were freely distributed in the three districts. Additionally, WUFBON reached **21,000** people by screening a documentary on access to clean energy at the Solar Garden Village in Nsinde Eco-Tourism Research and Resource Centre. The documentary screening was supported by ENventure, New Energy Nexus, Build PHED/USAID-LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP and UTOPIA. Furthermore, WUFBON collaborated with national government offices, local CSOs, and CBOs in a public event to commemorate World Earth Day and World Environmental Day on June 5, 2023. The event aimed to promote climate education and raise awareness of WUFBON's activities.

Outcomes and Impacts

WUFBON's intervention in 2023 achieved significant outcomes and Impact to date.

Outcome 1: WUFBON directly reached over 21,000 people with climate change information in the three districts, and then deployed these individuals to share the information with their families and neighbor's

Outcome 2: WUFBON trained **136** teachers and **320** religious leaders who, with support from the District Education Officers, incorporated climate change knowledge into their schools' co-curricular activities and religious institutions.

Outcome 3: WUFBON established a team of 160 community and green schools' ambassadors and deployed them to lead the climate change campaign in the communities.

Outcome 4: WUFBON created an intercultural sports hub at Nsinde Eco Tourism Research and Resource Centre, which continued to attract community members. As of December 2023, 2,010 people had visited the Centre. The Centre used these visits to educate community members and provide them with information on climate change and the government's policies on the issue.

Outcome 5: Government officials in Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, and Kamwenge districts committed to incorporating climate change activism into their work and allocating budgets for climate change adaptation plans and activities. To further their work on climate change, government officials in the three districts formed a political caucus dedicated to pursuing climate change activism.

Outcome 6: By December 31, 2023, 746 primary and 88 secondary schools had adopted sports for climate change learning and the green school model.

These outcomes have had demonstrable impacts. For example, a young priest from Kamwenge reported we are disciples of Jesus who see our home watersheds as teaching us to live sustainably with the land upon which we depend," says Rev. Phionah Kansiime a priest and educator who mixes faith with environmental stewardship through church platforms and her Music and drama shows.

Similar impacts were observed in Kamwenge and Kyenjojo where a young woman asserted, Nyakato is the 20-year-old co-founder of Green Mosque for Environment Solutions empowers youth to hold government officials accountable in combating the climate crisis. In 2023, she led efforts to pass a resolution in the Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo legislature to recognize the validity and existential threat of climate change. The

project also achieved impacts in Kyenjojo, where a group of youth explained their experiences:

Hamidah, An entrepreneur and social engineer, is the founding CEO of the social enterprise EcoWeavers Uganda. Hamidah uses recycled tires, bottles and natural materials to build affordable crop storage space for farmers to prevent crop loss and maximize food security.

Hamidah discovered that laterite, a reddish, clay-like material and local natural resource, was historically used as a building material. She successfully incorporated laterite in her work, reintroducing Indigenous knowledge and methods. Hamidah says the mention of trees in the Qur'an taught her about patience and being grounded in her identity and principles, ***Have you not seen how Allah sets forth a parable? A good word like a good tree, whose root is firm and its branches reach the sky. (Qur'an, 14:24).***

Contact us:

Rev. Atuhaire Moses

Executive Director

Western Uganda FBO Network

+256777882009 atuhaireswufbon@gmail.com