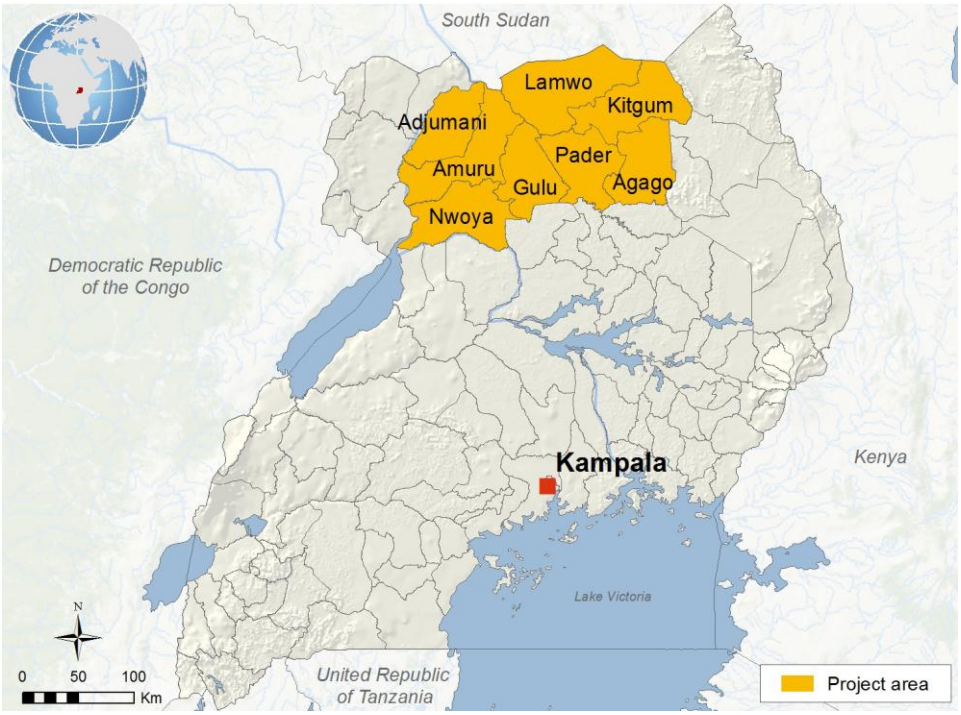
Uganda

Programme for the Restoration of Livelihoods in Northern Uganda (PRELNOR)



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ISSUES

Uganda lies within a relatively humid equatorial climate zone. It experiences vast differences in rainfall patterns across the country, mainly due to its diverse landscapes. Changes in sea surface temperature in the distant tropical Pacific, Indian and, to a lesser extent, Atlantic Oceans strongly influence annual rainfall amounts and timing. With average temperatures increasing, the agriculture sector will be hard hit by adverse climate conditions. Production, both pre and post-harvest, is also very exposed to climate change risks such as drought, intense and erratic rainfall, and increasing incidence of high winds Climate variability could cause increased economic costs for development in the region.

Northern Uganda is home to 20 per cent of Uganda's entire population, but it accounts for 38 per cent of Uganda's poorest. The Acholi sub-region and Adjumani district have suffered more from recent internal conflicts than other areas in the north. Living in the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps has negatively influenced two generations, those who were born in the camps and those who were forced to move into the camps while still young. These generations brought up in the IDP camps could not learn farming and other skills first hand through working with their parents, and many continue to live with psychological trauma. This has left a large number of young people without the necessary skills to take on their own farms. Moreover, the region lost 75 per cent of its livestock and other agricultural assets during the internal conflict. Most farmers returning from IDP camps now rely on the natural fertility of the soils, with minimal or no inputs and no use of innovative techniques, leading to low yields and productivity.

From 1951 to 2010 temperatures have increased approximately 0.5-1.2°C for minimum temperatures and 0.6-0.9°C for maximum temperatures. This trend is projected to continue, with some models projecting an increase of more than 2°C by 2030.

ACTIONS

The project work will be split into two components. The first will deal with **Rural Livelihoods** and the second with **Market Linkages and Climate Resilient Infrastructure**.

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US$71m

Approved IFAD loan: US$50.2m

ASAP grant: US$10m

Other contributions:
Government of Uganda: US$9.3m
Beneficiaries: US$1.5m

Project period: 7 years (2015-2022)

Executing agency: Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)

ASAP beneficiaries: 180,000 beneficiaries

Project objective: Increase sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of small holder farmers with increased and profitable access to domestic and export markets..

PRELNOR will enable smallholder farmers to improve their productivity to a level where there is enough surplus production that the farmer can sell at market.

Under the **Rural Livelihoods** component increased crop production and net income will benefit 10,000 of the 'poorest households. It will intensify farming systems whilst at the same time conserving the natural resource base (soil health and water conservation). Cropping yields from current lands will be increased through the timely use of appropriate technology, land use and cultivation practices. After successful yield increases, the project will look at increasing crop areas.

Another area of project work will be to identify and map available natural resources. Knowing where these valuable resources are will enable farmers to take full advantage of them, and also allow the sustainable management and fair sharing of these resources.

In keeping with this, PRELNOR staff will be promoting best practices in community based natural resource management (CBNRM) and introducing climate change adaptation measures at both the project and household level. The climate change aspect of the project is crucial as it makes any project activities sustainable and long term.

A further subcomponent is that the project will be providing incremental financing support to assist communities in the implementation of their CBNRM plans.

The project will be training the beneficiaries in the harvesting, and use of, harvested rainwater. Harvesting rainwater has multiple benefits particular at the homestead, reducing the hours women spend travelling to and from water sources.

Investments in improved meteorological monitoring and climate information services will be made. This will address the increasing climate variability that limits farmers' agricultural productivity in the project area. It will also give early warning of climate shocks such as storms or flooding, which should give farmers valuable time in which to protect their harvests and avoid losses.

There will be a push to prioritise the production of drought tolerant seeds. These are enhanced seed varieties that have been bred to have certain characteristics, such as short life cycles or the ability to flourish with limited water. This allows farmers to use them in areas negatively affected by climate change. It also usually means that the crops produced are marketable.

PRELNOR will scale up household mentoring. Using volunteer household mentors to work with vulnerable households and youth that are not already linked with community groups and activities. Mentored households that make progress will receive a small food security grant to assist in boosting household food production and /or generating a new stream of cash income.

The second part of the project deals with **Market Linkages and Climate Resilient Infrastructure**. It will involve several aspects such as; post-harvest handling (PHH), caring for the crops once harvested and protecting them from spoilage; (b) assistance to develop business plans for expanding businesses or investment; (c) training, market development and appropriate mentoring support; (d) construction and/or rehabilitation of rural market access roads; and (e) piloting and demonstrating new technologies and approaches.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

There will be many benefits in the target area of this project. Firstly, there will be increased sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of smallholder farmers. These same farmers will also have increased access to domestic and export markets.

Poor farm families and youth will have increased asset bases and resilience through sustainable natural resource management which will lead to improved productivity.

Farmers with surplus crop production will receive increased prices and profitably sell larger volumes of crops through expanded access to Ugandan and regional markets.

An estimated 1,550 km of Community Access Roads (CARs) will be constructed. ASAP grant funding will be specifically used for improving the design and climate-proofing road structures. It will also provide related technical assistance and inputs from an engineer with rain harvesting experience to produce a set of guidelines for rainwater harvesting from CARs.

There will be two strategic market places built for bulk trading at Gulu and Kitgum and two existing border markets will be upgraded together with eight smaller satellite marketplaces. This will make it easier and more convenient for farmers to get their produce to markets of the right size for their harvest. It will also help them get fairer prices for their harvest through inter-market competition.

Within the **Market Linkages and Climate Resilient Infrastructure** component, the project will improve access to markets, facilitate more competitive pricing, and increase farmers' income through improvements to community access roads and structures that facilitate production marketing in selected strategic sites for agriculture trade. It is estimated that benefits from the investments will reach a total of about 108,000 rural households in the eight districts.

Market stakeholders will be trained to access and use the Agricultural Market Information System service (AMIS) to link all levels of the agricultural value chain; from farmers to markets to consumers. Promotional activities to publicise AMIS will include; new tools for accessing market information; and, ensuring that the proposed AMIS links the satellite markets, bulk markets, producer associations, traders associations and farmer groups for collection and dissemination of market information.

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