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RESILIENCE BUILDING IN UGANDA

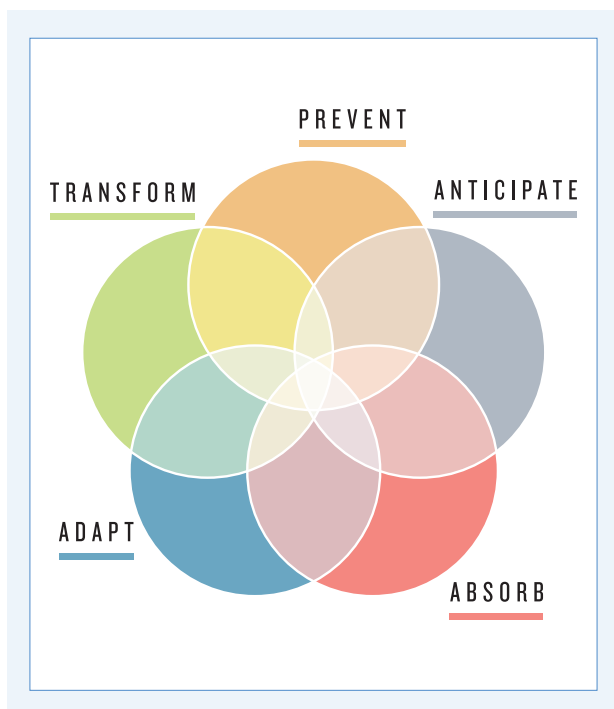
FAO PROGRAMME REVIEW (2024)

PURPOSE:

This document reflects an analysis of ongoing FAO Uganda resilience building interventions and how they contribute towards the five capacities for resilience building, namely:

- **PREVENTIVE:** reduce existing and future risks.
- **ANTICIPATIVE:** act early.
- **ABSORPTIVE:** the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).
- **ADAPTIVE:** incremental adjustments.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE:** make fundamental changes to the system.

The five capacity areas are in most cases overlapping during specific project implementation, with the classification based on the overarching resilience capacity area.



This review comes at a time when FAO seeks to review its Resilience work in Sub Saharan Africa in order to systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building within FAO programmes for scaling up. This is intended to facilitate and harness the opportunities in emergency and resilience programming, and integration of emergency, resilience, and development work into the priorities of Member States.

The initiative is in view of the increasing number of the food and nutrition insecure people in Africa, with the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) rising from 19.4 percent in 2021 to 19.7 percent in 2022, and the number of people facing hunger increasing by 11 million people since 2021 and by more than 57 million people since the outbreak of the pandemic. A much larger proportion of the population in Africa faces hunger compared to the other regions of the world – nearly 20 percent compared with 8.5 percent in Asia, 6.5 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7.0 percent in Oceania.¹ According to the region's most recent economic update, growth in Africa was projected to dip to 2.5 percent in 2023, down from 3.6 percent in 2022. Rising conflict and violence across the region exerts a dampening effect on economic activity, with climate shocks poised to exacerbate this fragility. About 462 million people in the region are still living in extreme poverty in 2023 even as growth remains uneven across the continent. While East Africa was set to record a growth rate of 1.8 percent in 2023, West Africa was expected to grow at a rate of 3.3 percent during the same year. Harnessing the potential of natural resources provides an opportunity to improve the fiscal and debt sustainability of African countries. It is envisaged that if Africa can harness its natural resource wealth (oil, gas, and minerals), it can sustainably transform economically and create more job opportunities, while transitioning into a low-carbon economy².

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3017en/cc3017en.pdf>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afri/overview> and <https://live.worldbank.org/event/2023/state-africa-region-natural-resources-sustainable-future>

It is against this background that FAO's Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is collaborating with Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe Country Offices to undertake a learning and knowledge sharing initiative. The overall objective is to systematically capture, document, and disseminate insights and best practices related to resilience building for scaling up.

As one of the steps towards achieving the objective, this report is drawn out of the review of operationally active projects within the Field Programme Information Management System (FPMIS) for the period 2020 to December 2024 in Uganda that are contributing towards resilience building.

The projects are aligned with the FAO Uganda Country Programme Framework (2021-2025) Outcome 1: The enabling environment for agrifood systems transformation that is nutrition-sensitive, inclusive, rights-based, gender-responsive and evidence-driven is strengthened, with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Outcome 1: By 2025, Uganda has inclusive and accountable governance systems and people are empowered, engaged, and enjoy human rights, peace justice and security, with the goals of specific FAO Priority Program Areas—One Health, Agriculture and Food Emergencies, Resilient agri-food systems—of the FAO Strategic Framework (2022-31), and the Quadripartite (FAO, World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and World Health Organization (WHO) goals.



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COUNTRY CONTEXT:

Uganda registered a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.525 in 2021, ranking 166 out of 191 countries.³ The country is increasingly vulnerable to climatic and non-climatic shocks, compounded by rising poverty rates. The 2019/2020 Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) estimated that 20.3 percent of Ugandan households live in poverty, corresponding to nearly 8 million people (an increase from 19.7 percent in 2012/13).⁴ Nearly half of Ugandan households experience multidimensional poverty, with rural households (55 percent) experiencing higher rates compared to urban households (23 percent) and 50 percent of female-headed households experiencing it compared to 46 percent of male-headed ones.⁵ The lack of national social protection systems and rising inequality exacerbate these problems. Currently, the top 10 percent of the population retains a third of the national income, while the bottom 40 percent retains only 16.5 percent.⁶

Uganda's agriculture sector is striving for more efficiency through enhanced resilience to both climatic and non-climatic shocks, and increased financial inclusivity, better incomes, and a better quality of life. From 2013 to 2018, growth in the sector stagnated at 2 percent annually, and staple crops continue to yield well below their potential, with shortfalls of up to 40 percent.⁷ Food and nutrition insecurity prevails in most parts of Uganda. In the current period of August 2023 – January 2024, which covers the first 2023 harvest and the second 2023 planting and har-

³ UNDP. 2022. *Human Development Report 2021-22: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World*. New York. <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22>

⁴ Uganda Bureau of Statistics. *Uganda National Household Survey 2020*. Kampala: 2021.

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). *Going beyond monetary poverty. Uganda's multidimensional poverty profile, 2020*. Accessed: <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/6146/file/UNICEF-Uganda-Multi-dimensional-child-poverty-2020.pdf>

⁶ *United Nations Uganda Common Country Analysis (CCA): for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025*. United Nations Uganda, 2020. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/Uganda-UNSDCF-2021-2025.pdf>

⁷ International Growth Centre. *Transforming Uganda's agricultural sector for sustained economic growth*. Nathan Fiala and Derek Apell. 43422. 2017.

vesting seasons, 846,000 people (20 percent of the population analysed) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse), with 58,000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The food security situation is projected to gradually deteriorate during the projection period of February to June 2024, with the population in IPC Phase 3 or above increasing from 846,000 people (20 percent of the analysed population) to 963,000 people (23 percent of the analysed population).⁸

Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa, with more than 1.5 million refugees and asylum seekers.⁹ Through a progressive refugee policy framework, the Government of Uganda grants refugees a number of rights, including access to land for agriculture purposes, freedom of movement, the right to seek employment and the right to access social services through the national system, among others. Despite these concessions aimed at enabling resilience and self-reliance, refugees remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs, including food and nutrition security. Many refugee-hosting districts are amongst the poorest in Uganda, with host communities, in addition to refugees, experiencing food insecurity and low rates of resilience.¹⁰

⁸ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156708/?iso3=UGA>

⁹ As of October 2021. United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). "Uganda Refugee Statistics", https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Uganda%20Dashboard_31Oct2021.pdf (Accessed: 29 July 2021).

¹⁰ https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/09_2021Uganda-National-Survey-Report-2019-2020.pdf

Yet, refugees are a powerful human resource, which reinforces the need for a concerted effort by humanitarian and development actors to promote self-reliance among both refugees and their host communities.

To address the above-mentioned issues, FAO is implementing the Uganda 2023 - 2025 Country Programme Framework (CPF) which aligned with and contributes to the Government of Uganda's Vision 2040 and its associated National Development Plan III (NDP III) 2020/21-2024/25 - as well as the country's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025. The CPF outlines three key pillars for agricultural and food system development. In this context, the CPF sets out three priority areas to guide FAO's partnership with the Government of Uganda (GoU). The overall goal is to sustainably transform Uganda's agricultural sector by building sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agrifood systems. The priority areas embrace the spirit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda to "leave no one behind", including the millions of refugee population, and particularly women and girls. The priority areas put people at the centre of FAO's goal to build sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems. The areas focus on (i) people and the enabling environment, (ii) people and the natural environment, and (iii) people and prosperity. These priorities recognize the importance of building resilient livelihoods for all Ugandans and the role that can be played, especially by women and youth, in the development of the agriculture sector.





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FAO RESILIENCE BUILDING PROGRAMME IN UGANDA

The organization defines *resilience as the ability of individuals, households, and communities to PREVENT, ANTICIPATE, ABSORB, ADAPT and TRANSFORM positively, efficiently, and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks and crises while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights, and well-being for all*¹¹.

FAO in Uganda in collaboration with government and partners is supporting refugees and host communities to protect their assets and produce their own food to help diversify their income sources, thus reinforcing the Government's progressive refugee policies. Furthermore, FAO works with the Government of Uganda through the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and farmer groups to promote the multiplication and diffusion of quick maturing, drought tolerant and disease-free seeds, and vege-

tatively propagated planting materials in order to improve farm yields. FAO also provides support in collecting accurate and comprehensive data on food security and malnutrition to aid in decision-making by implementing the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in Uganda.

The organization facilitates the assessment of food security through the IPC Analytical Protocols, providing current and trustworthy food security data for planning and early warning purposes. Emphasis is made on enhancing opportunities for women and youths, building partnerships, promoting gender equality and nutrition, integrating climate change strategies, and following FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management¹² to reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian aid.

FAO's initiatives have been instrumental in strengthening the various resilience dimensions, including preventive, anticipatory, absorptive, adaptive, and transformational capacities. By focusing on different aspects of resilience, FAO seeks to empower local communities, improve food security, and foster sustainable development in the face of complex challenges. The following section explores FAO's contributions to enhancing resilience capacities in Uganda, shedding light on the organization's multifaceted approach and its impact on vulnerable populations.

¹¹ [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019 \(Page 189\)](#)

¹² <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>

PREVENTIVE CAPACITY:

reduce existing and future risks.

In agriculture, preventive capacity involves implementing measures to mitigate potential risks. Examples include farmers using crop rotation to prevent soil degradation and pest buildup, thus reducing the risk of crop failure, and sustainable land management practices like contour plowing and cover cropping to prevent soil erosion and degradation and safeguard agricultural productivity.

With resources from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Global Health (BGH) FAO in close collaboration with government and partners is working towards prevention and control of microbial threats from domestic and wild animals through robust animal health systems and enabling policies.

Emphasis is made towards strengthening animal health workers capacities as well as provision of data to support early warning, surveillance, and laboratory systems under a One Health approach. FAO is also providing training and tools for strengthening risk assessment and mapping, data management.

In collaboration with Office of the Prime Minister and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), FAO is developing communication materials and conducting social mobilization activities to raise awareness about Ebola risks and prevent the spread thereof. Specific attention is given to female-headed households as well as people with disabilities (PWD).



ANTICIPATIVE CAPACITY:

act early.

Agricultural anticipative capacity means early detection and response to impending threats allowing for timely mitigation actions. Some examples include putting in place early warning systems, i.e. utilizing weather forecasting and climate prediction tools to anticipate potential risks like extreme weather events and enabling farmers to take timely actions such as regularly monitoring for signs of pest infestations and proactively implementing pest control measures to prevent widespread damage to crops.

Through resources from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) FAO Uganda is scaling up Anticipatory Action (AA) initiatives. The focus remains establishing hazards adversity management protocols, developing risk monitoring tools, capacity development on adversity triggers, developing normative guidance on adversity management in agriculture and food security. Community engagement activities as well as studies on adversity effectiveness are being conducted for documentation of good practices.

With financial support from the European Union (EU), FAO and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) are jointly working with the government of Uganda to develop a multi-hazard early warning system in Karamoja. This includes development of AA protocols for floods, droughts, and crop and livestock pests and diseases. The results of this interventions are feeding into the planning and strategic engagement with stakeholders to ensure timely action in response to the El Niño induced floods in East Africa. Financial resources from Belgium are also being invested in soliciting valuable knowledge and resources to implement anticipatory actions that will lead to reduced impacts of expected floods on the communities and ecosystems.

Pass through funds from WFP are being invested in capacity development of national and local actors to enhance the resilience of chronic and acute food insecure households in Karamoja. This includes improving the generation and dissemination of accurate, timely, and actionable early warning information. The information is translated

into preparing for and mitigating the impact of shocks on food security and nutrition and enabling communities and households to benefit from anticipatory and early actions, ultimately strengthening their resilience to shocks and stresses. Shock-affected households also benefit from early response to food crises.

In the animal health sector, efforts are being made to address the gap in capacity and the delivery of services to prevent, detect, and respond to animal health emergencies. FAO in close collaboration with the government and partners is working towards enhancing animal health and One Health capacities to mitigate zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks and threats. The initiative aims to enhance national preparedness, early detection, reporting, and response to zoonoses and AMR threats through capacity building and technology transfer. It also aims to reduce risks through strengthening One Health platforms and fostering a policy environment for improved detection, prevention, and control of these threats.

FAO in Uganda has been implementing a project in close coordination with partners and the government to enhance desert locusts and surveillance capacities. The intervention is intended to strengthen Uganda's preparedness and early response in case of threats and crises that would be caused by desert locust outbreaks.





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ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY:

the ability to bounce back, overwhelmingly humanitarian (emergency response).

This refers to the ability of the agriculture sector to absorb shocks and recover quickly. Some examples of initiatives within this capacity include establishing seed banks to quickly provide farmers with seeds after disasters, thus helping them recover and resume agricultural activities promptly. Another example is maintaining emergency feed stocks for livestock to address immediate feed shortages during droughts or other crises as well as having efficient emergency response mechanisms in place, such as stockpiling feed during times of abundance to alleviate shortages during crises.

In Nakivale settlement, Isingiro district of Uganda FAO through internal resources is providing agricultural inputs to new refugee arrivals. The objective is to improve food production as a contribution towards food and nutrition security while reducing dependency on food aid.

To ensure access to food and other basic goods and services, FAO through resources from Japan is providing CASH+ packages to vulnerable communities in Karamoja. The packages are complimented with provision of animal feed and training of lead farmers. The latter are expected to transfer their knowledge to the wider community.

In response to the desert locust infestation, FAO with resources from Mastercard purchased and applied bio-pesticides to conduct massive ground control operations. Community focal points received training to strengthen their capacity in detecting and reporting locust sightings. Government officials received surveillance training.

ADAPTIVE CAPACITY: incremental adjustments.

Agricultural adaptive capacity involves making gradual adjustments in response to changing conditions. Some examples include supporting farmers to adopt new irrigation techniques or crop varieties that are better suited to evolving climate patterns. Another example is investing in flexible irrigation systems that can adapt to varying water availability, ensuring efficient water use in response to climate fluctuations.

With the support from the Kingdom of Norway, FAO is working to boost climate resilience, food security, and incomes among farmers and agro-pastoralist households in the Teso sub-region of Uganda. Priority is given to vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women and children under five years old with an emphasis on economic empowerment. These efforts are complimented through initiatives contributing towards improving knowledge, building institutional capacities, increasing access to nutritious foods, and enhancing ecosystem adaptive and mitigation capacities.

The Farmer Field School program has been ongoing in Uganda for several years now. The approach is contributing towards building self-reliance communities because of its ripple effect among learners. FAO has been working through partner organizations to teach agriculture skills and help incoming refugees learn how to improve food security. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) principles are incorporated into the FFS programs and public extension services.

In close collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO is working towards strengthening agro-meteorological services and making them more accessible to farmers and fisher, while improving monitoring for early warning and response to high-impact events like droughts. This initiative is in response to climate variability and climate change which represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies, natural ecosystems, and food security.





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TRANSFORMATIVE CAPACITY:

make fundamental changes to the system.

This capacity entails making fundamental changes to the agricultural system in response to long-term challenges. Example interventions include transitioning from conventional to sustainable farming practices to address environmental concerns and ensure the long-term viability of agriculture. Another example includes adopting and promoting certification programs that encourage farmers to transform their practices towards more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.

FAO is promoting sustainable management of natural resources, particularly forests and woodlands with resources from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The intervention entails the development of an environmental impact assessment tool, through which the distribution of forest resources will be mapped, and hotspot areas for restoration identified. Emphasis will be given in development plans for managing the forest landscape. The focus will be on addressing environmental challenges, while ensuring access to biomass, enhancing resilience, and creating livelihood opportunities in Palabek and Kyangwali settlements.

Using the Agricycle¹³ Uganda business model, FAO intends to provide financing opportunities to refugee and host community households, through which they can access affordable and easy to operate agro-processing technologies. With resources from Norway, the communities will also receive capacity building support on value addition, with an emphasis on a market-based approach and partnership with private sector. In close collaboration with UNHCR, FAO is supporting the economic integration of refugees and host communities, by ensuring the agriculture interventions include the establishment of profitable value chains. Collaboration with government is intended to culminate into the creation of a policy environment that promotes agribusiness.

To build climate resilience into the agricultural sector, as an effective means of reducing vulnerability and disseminating community-level adaptation measures, FAO is working in close collaboration with the government to produce and disseminate knowledge on climate change adaptation (CCA) and natural resource management. Emphasis is made on increasing institutional capacity to mainstream gender-responsive Common Country Analysis (CCA) into agriculture sector plans and implementing policies, strategies, and programs.

¹³ <https://www.fao.org/connect-private-sector/search/detail/en/c/1459757/>

RESOURCE PARTNERS:



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