



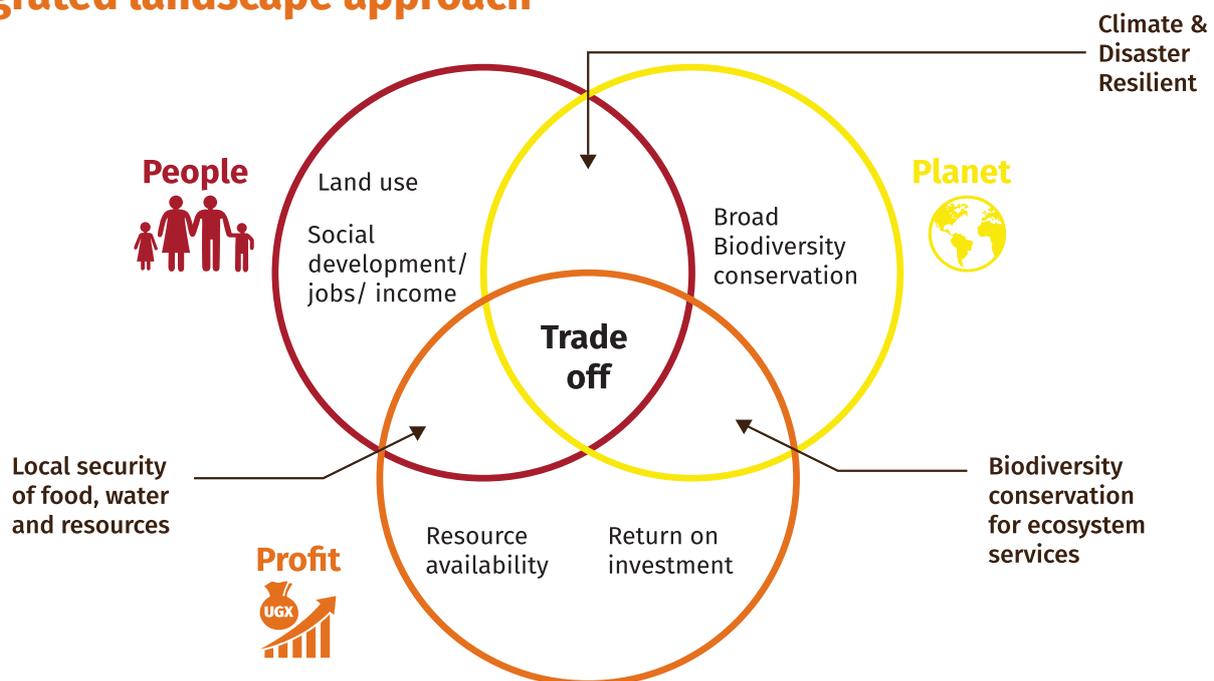
Promoting inclusive Natural Resource Management among refugees and host community

The government of Uganda lists eight critical responses that together with aid agencies are currently being implemented to address the impact of refugees on the environment based on the comprehensive refugee framework (CRRF); Advocacy and awareness programs on environmental/forest management laws and regulations, tree marking – to protect rare and endangered species and trees in water catchment areas, promotion of tree planting in both host and refugee communities, promotion of appropriate technologies for safe biomass use, promotion of sustainable land management

and integrated soil fertility management, promoting sustainable and alternative livelihoods, sanitation and hygiene campaigns to promote safe and disposal of solid waste materials.

CARE is using the nexus of humanitarian and long term development to build resilience that bridges humanitarian action and sustainable development-increasing this resilience operates in synergy with gender transformation and inclusive governance.

Integrated landscape approach



Key issues and implications



Reductions in natural cover (bushlands, wetland, grasslands)



Increase in land use activities (settlements, farming activities)



Influx of refugees, demand for firewood, land



Increased pressure on land resources
Water stress



In Uganda, **90%** of households including; host and refugees use energy from biomass to meet their daily energy needs (Rivoal & Haselip, 2017). Refugees in Uganda use about 2.965-ton wood daily.

CARE International in Uganda through the Strengthening Resilience and Promoting Inclusive Governance project is implementing a humanitarian development nexus project in Kyaka II and Imvepi refugee settlement through;



Mobilization and Sensitization

CARE works with community Leaders – decision-makers and resource gatekeepers at the local, county, and state-level who ensure financially, policy, and resource support. Grass Roots/Community influencers – respected and beloved leaders who live in the community and who can create a critical mass of community support. Young people who directly benefit from the natural resources who can bring other young people along. CARE'S community mobilization is based on partnership, coalition building, community involvement, and collaborations. Through mobilization, CARE creates natural resource awareness on management regulations in Uganda to adjacent communities' access and user rights of the natural resources under the provided regulation through established groups. The refugees are part of the inclusive governance structures for natural resources like wetlands committees and community based monitors.

Partnerships and Capacity Strengthening

CARE believes in approaches that are reflective of a focus on capacity-strengthening both with civil society and government, strengthening community-based collectives to advance the interests of the impact refugees youth and women and building community linkages to government and private sector services and programs – rather than working in isolation. Our partnership is visible in the work we are doing with the district local governments, OPM, UN agencies, and the community leaders. The meetings are organized in collaboration with District Environment Officer, Natural resources officer, DISO, and OPM. With support from the Office of the prime minister CARE with her partner, JESE spearheaded the process of wetland demarcation in the settlement, where several processes have been conducted these include, Sensitization meetings and assessment of the wetland status this resulted to into relocating the occupants of the wetlands to other zones.





Group Formation

For sustainability, the mobilized citizens are organized in groups of the focus will be on strengthening existing CBOs and, when necessary, facilitating the creation of new groups.

Priority is given to:



Farmer groups (producers, marketing associations, cooperatives)



Refugee groups



Forest & other natural resources' management groups



Women and youth groups



V/YSLAs



Target areas

When new CBOs are formed in these districts, consideration will be given to mixed groups (refugees and hosts) to build social cohesion. Priority is given to strengthening the governance of CBOs and to strengthening the business and leadership skills of women and youth, including both Ugandans and refugees.

Economic Empowerment

The assumption is that when the local groups (such as the community-based forest management groups, farmer groups, youth groups) are introduced to the VSLA approach for an extensive period of time (2+ years), they will have the skills and opportunity to grow their savings and invest them in an economically rewarding and strategic manner. This is preceded by identification of potential value chains in which the CARE can collaborate with a variety of actors to promote inclusiveness and economic empowerment and resilience (input supply, crop/livestock/forest product markets, banks, mobile phone operators) especially for women, youth and refugees.



Quick Wins:



• Mobilization

Mobilized and sensitized over 10,000 refugees in wetland management policies and practices using Kakoni zone wetland as a reference point, with 17 established wetland management labels. Uganda as a country has good natural resource-related regulations; however, for better compliance by both the refugees and the host communities, there is a need for sensitization and interpretation of some of these regulations.

Road side planting in Kyaka II



Wetland Encroachment is not allowed – Signpost translated in various languages spoken by the refugees in Kyakaa II

- **Reforestation**

Over 15000 grevillea seedlings have been planted within the settlement. With a challenge of land among the refugee, they do not find a planting of trees on their 30x30 ft. Feasible idea. However, with the introduction of avenue tree planting and the promotion of agroforestry tree species, it has become easy to get the refugees interested in tree planting.



Refugees planting trees in Kyakaa II



Maize Demo site Kyakaa II R/S long 5,

- **Maximizing the 30X30 plots**

One of the most commonly given excuses for the encroachment of wetlands and Forests Reserves is lack of land for cultivation; therefore, in order to overcome the challenge refugees have trained in climate-smart agriculture interventions. With CSA intervention, refugees are trained on how to utilize the small plots in a more sustainable way and undertake production through the year, such as backyard gardening, sack gardening. This has seen more 50 households benefit, and with the establishment of three nursery beds in the settlement, it has also been easy to access some vegetable seedlings.

- **Creating spaces for participation**

An district/inter-district multi-stakeholder forum for natural resource governance, which brings together over 70 members representing a cross section of stakeholders in forest governance from three districts (Mubende, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa) including the representatives from the refugee settlements presents an opportunity to dialogue with duty bearers. This Inter-District Forum, which had some success, for example, in reversing encroachment in Central Forest Reserves (CFRs) and conducting community led monitoring and has been replicated in west Nile for addressing natural resource governance issues in this context, doing so in ways that bring refugees and host communities together to protect their natural resources. Other spaces for negotiation are the Joint sector reviews and technical working groups at Office of the Prime.



Inter District Forum conducting a joint monitoring in Kyakaa II

- **Educating the people in charge**

Engage the leadership in the refugee settlements , the Office of the Prime minister and creating awareness on the impact of settling refugees in wetlands as a result OPM has supported the demarcation of wetlands in the refugee settlments and relocated refugees that had been settled in the wetland.

- **Private sector engagement in Eco enterprises**

Most rural communities are faced with a challenge of lack or limited market for their products , In a bid to address this challenge CARE has identified private sector partners to support the communities engaged in Eco enterprise like Apiary and hand craft . This is very central to the profitability and sustainability of the livelihoods of the impact population in regards to innovations that promote resilience and entrepreneurship. Opportunities for strategic-level engagement with the private sector have been further explored at policy, sector, and value chain levels. Key sectors will include agriculture, forest products (timber and non-timber), financial services, and telecommunications.

- **Making waste work**

Overtime, plastic waste disposal has become challenging in both host and refugee communities due to its non-degradable nature for communities thus it has always been burnt with other wastes to reduce its litter or dumped around water bodies or rubbish pits around home steads thus affecting soils and yield of crops. Although recently there has been a slight decrease in plastic production, this is unlikely to be maintained if no interventions are designed to reduce the waste.

CARE International in Uganda and its partner RICE-WN designed an intervention of recycling plastic waste into building materials such as stone pavers, tiles and building blocks. 5 youth groups (150) in Omugo and Uriama refugee settlement areas have been trained, plastic collection points have been introduced within the settlement to ease the collection under the theme for “Making waste work for wealth and resilience”.



In his own words Witonze Muhire Chairperson of the wetland committee



“I have lived in Kyaka as a refugee for 12 years. I have come back and forth over the years when conflict rises, and I am always welcomed back in Kyaka II. Over the years I have seen Kyaka change it is becoming a desert, the wetlands have changed and so many trees have been cut down. Over the years I have seen a lot of change in the climate; the soil has changed, the dry seasons become longer and longer every year and when there is rain it is harsh rain. I am the chairman of our wetland committee because I want to do everything I can, to reduce the harm we are doing to the community.

Kakoni is losing its trees we do not want our children and future refugees to suffer because we have destroyed the environment that's why I decided to be a part of this wetland committee. The best way we can start this work is by planting more trees and talking to people in the

community about the dangers of cutting trees down and encroaching the wetlands.

As a wetland committee, we consider ourselves the protectors of the wetlands when we find people cultivating the wetlands or misusing the wetlands we talk to them about the dangers of what they are doing we explain why we need to protect the environment. It is hard for people to understand sometimes because they have no options they have no land to grow food on, no fertile land and sometimes because of all the trauma from the wars it's hard to understand what is at stake, they may not have hope for the future so it is hard to plan for the future. When we fail to convince people, we report them to OPM and UNHCR.

STRENPO was the spark at the beginning of these women's journey, CARE gave them the tools to adapt and build resilience and now they are fighting hard with these tools to achieve their dreams. These women are mothers, wives, sisters, farmers, entrepreneur's, leaders, friends, innovators, dreamers and the future of our communities is safe with them leading the way.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
DANIDA | INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Strengthening Resilience and promoting Inclusive Governance Project is funded by DANIDA through CARE Denmark

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