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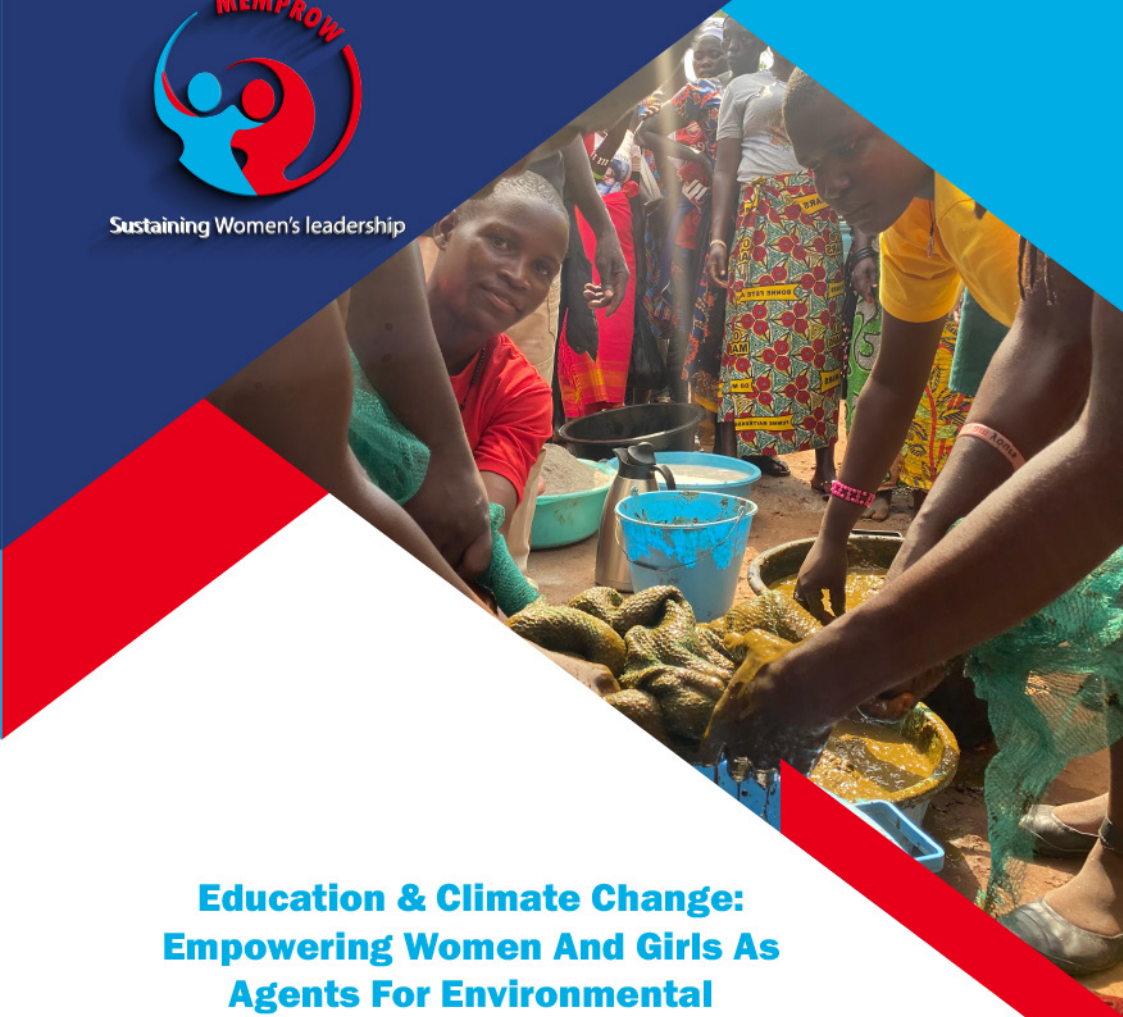
Sustaining Women's leadership



Education & Climate Change: Empowering Women And Girls As Agents For Environmental Sustainability, Experiences from MEMPROW Uganda

HOPE ATIM[1], SHARON OCOLA[2] & PATIENCE KWIOCWINY[3]

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> This paper highlights how gender-responsive awareness creation and capacity building can provide women and girls with the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities necessary to address environmental challenges.

Abstract

With the increasing impacts of climate change globally, in Africa, and even in Uganda, vulnerable populations, especially women and girls in refugee and host communities, have suffered several climate impacts arising from extreme weather such as extreme heat, flooding, food shortage, water scarcity, and diseases. This paper explores the critical role of education (awareness creation and capacity building) in empowering women and girls to lead climate action and promote sustainable climate change adaptation practices and resilience. While women and girls have been affected, they are powerful and potential agents of environmental sustainability when equipped with the right information and resources.

This paper highlights how gender-responsive awareness creation and capacity building can provide women and girls with the skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities necessary to address environmental challenges. In this paper, we share the Mentoring and Empowerment Program for Young Women's (MEMPROW) experiences and lessons from empowering rural women and girls in refugees and host populations in Terego district, highlighting some successful initiatives that women and girls have driven to promote adaptation, resilience, and environmental conservation to respond to climate change in their communities. We also share experience from MEMPROW's Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA II) and Urgent Action Fund (UAF) in Ivempi Refugee Settlement and host communities in Terego district, highlighting the need for integration of both traditional knowledge with modern techniques to address climate change impacts, ie., agro-ecology practices for sustainable agriculture, tree planting, and making sustainable energy fuels to address the health risks.

MEMPROW's experience in strengthening capacity and resilience among refugee and host communities through the SPA II and UAF projects emphasize the need for gender-sensitive approaches in climate adaptation, the need for integrating climate education into school activities, strengthening women's leadership at all levels, and creating supportive policies that facilitate women's participation in climate decision-making processes. In conclusion, women and girls have the potential to be powerful agents of environmental sustainability if equipped with the right information.

Keywords: *climate change, women, capacity building*
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Presented at the 2nd Climate and Health Pre-COP Symposium on October 15, 2024, held at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Introduction

Climate change poses a significant threat to Uganda, affecting communities, particularly women and girls, who are most dependent on natural resources. The Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW) recognizes the critical role of women and girls in environmental sustainability and has developed programs to empower them as leaders, decision-makers, and innovators in the fight against climate change. MEMPROW has been implementing the SPAI, SPAII, and UAF in Arua and Terego districts. Through these projects, MEMPROW was able to educate, mentor, and offer practical training for young women and girls in Agro ecology, nursery bed making, and afforestation, pesticides and fertilizers production.. MEMPROW has equipped at least 200 young women and girls (active) in the last year (2024) with the skills to drive climate action, ensuring that they are not only implementers but also key decision-makers in shaping environmental policies and practices.

Background

Climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges, significantly affecting agriculture, food security, and livelihoods. The rising global temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, and soil degradation have disrupted food production worldwide. According to NOAA's 2023 Annual Climate Report, the combined land and ocean temperature has increased at an average rate of 0.11° Fahrenheit (0.06° Celsius) per decade since 1850, or about 2° F in total. The rate of warming since 1982 is more than three times as fast: 0.36° F (0.20° C) per decade. Therefore, extreme climatic events have a strong impact on society and ecosystems and are thus important to study (Moberg and Jones, 2005).

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2014, climate change is expected to reduce agricultural productivity by up to 30% in some regions by 2050 if no adaptation measures are taken. Smallholder farmers, who produce nearly 80% of the world's food, are among the most vulnerable, particularly in developing countries where reliance on rain-fed agriculture is high (IPCC, 2014). The United Nations Development Programme estimates that about 80% of people displaced by climate change are women (Habtezion, 2012). The impacts of climate change are more experienced in developing countries, which are characterized by high levels of vulnerability (UNDP, 2014).

In developing countries, the majority of women are engaged in subsistence agriculture as a source of both food and income generation, with peculiar vulnerabilities to climate change and variability (Rao et al. 2019). Thus, a changing climate as well as other risks and shocks pose challenges to managing household food and nutrition security by women in many societies, especially in Africa. In Ethiopia, for example, men are more concerned about the low livestock prices due to climate change, while women's concerns focus on food availability (Goodrich et al.,2019). Although agriculture is increasingly feminized in terms of women's labour contributions, this has not resulted into increased access and control over respective productive resources such as land, credit or technologies like drought-resistant crop varieties and groundwater irrigation (Ahmed et. al. 2016).

Africa is still one of the most affected continents, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions (UN report on Understanding Africa's Global Air Pollutant Emissions and Contributing Economic Sectors, February 2024). The region experiences increasing temperatures, prolonged droughts, and unreliable rainfall, which threaten food crop production. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2011 reports t

climate variability has led to a decline in staple food crops such as maize, millet, and sorghum crops that are crucial for food security across many African nations. Women, who constitute nearly 60% of Africa's smallholder farmers, are disproportionately affected, as they have less access to climate-resilient agricultural technologies, financial services, and land ownership. In many African communities, traditional gender roles place the responsibility of food production and family nutrition on women, yet they remain marginalized in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation. Women, who make up a large portion of the agricultural workforce, often face greater challenges due to existing gender inequalities that limit their access to resources, technology, and climate adaptation strategies.

East Africa is also experiencing intensified climate-related challenges, including increased droughts, floods, and unpredictable rainfall patterns. Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda heavily depend on agriculture, yet they face declining crop yields due to climate-related shocks. (UNDRR 2022) Studies show that in the past two decades, maize and other staple food crops have seen productivity declines due to rising temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns. Women farmers in East Africa are particularly vulnerable, as they often rely on rain-fed agriculture and have limited access to irrigation and improved seed varieties. Gender disparities in access to agricultural extension services further limit their ability to adapt to climate change effectively.

Uganda, like the rest of East Africa countries, is facing increasing climate change impacts that threaten agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. The country has witnessed shifts in rainfall patterns, leading to unpredictable planting seasons, water shortages, and more frequent crop failures.(World Bank, 2021) In Uganda, rural women and girls play a leading role in food production and domestic responsibilities, but are generally more at risk of climate change than men (WOUGNET, 2016).

A study conducted by Kansiime and Mastenbroek, (2016) in West Nile also reveals that various districts in this region were very vulnerable to climate change. Drought, pests and diseases were particularly more common in Arua, compared to the other study locations. Too much rainfall (heavy and erratic) was mostly reported by farmers in Nebbi and Zombo (Ibid). In districts such as Pakwach, where women are primary food producers, climate change has resulted in declining food crop productivity, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Women farmers in the region face multiple challenges, including poor soil fertility, post-harvest losses, and limited access to climate-smart farming techniques. Moreover, socio-cultural barriers and economic constraints further limit their ability to respond effectively to climate shocks.

Literature Review

Climate change presents one of the most challenging global threats to sustainable development for all categories of people and places. Climate change issues such as droughts and other extreme weather events significantly disrupt livelihoods, exacerbate the cycle of poverty, lead to crop failures, water scarcity, depression and domestic violence among others (Abbasi, Anwar, Habib, Khan, & Waqar, 2019; Akrofi, Mahama, & Nevo, 2021).

Research shows that due to climate change, women bear the brunt of increased natural disasters, displacement, unpredictable rain fall, decreased food production, and increased hunger and poverty (WOW & UKAid, 2021). The United Nations Development Programme estimates that about 80% of people displaced by climate change are women (Habtezion, 2012). The impacts of climate change are more experienced in developing countries, which are characterized by high levels of vulnerability (UNDP, 2014).

Vulnerability to climate change impacts is linked to poverty and economic marginalization (UNDP, 2014). It is widely recognised that women, in particular, have less access to productive resources, agricultural credit, and limited access to agricultural land (UN, 2020). The legal, institutional and socio-cultural barriers often limit women's access to these services.

Besides, women globally earn much less income than their men counterparts (Akrofi 2 Climate Change Vulnerability and Women's Land Rights et al., 2021). This economic marginalization affects women's ability to access knowledge and information on climate risks as well as adaptation measures, and their ability to make investments that can help them to adapt or recover from climate-related shocks and stresses (Leichenko & Silva, 2014). Moreover, women still face gender-based discrimination on ownership of land and access to natural resources (UNDP, 2014).

Across the developing world, rural women suffer widespread gender-based discrimination in laws, customs and practices, which cause huge inequalities in their ability to access, control, own and use land and this limits their participation in decision-making at all levels of land governance (UN, 2020). Yet women's land rights are key in reducing their vulnerability to climate change impacts (Landesa, 2016). Emerging evidence suggests that when women hold secure rights to land, efforts to tackle climate change are more likely to be successful, and the responsibilities and benefits associated with climate change response programs are more equitably distributed (UNDP, 2014).

Gender inequality in access to land and property is substantial due to discriminatory inheritance practices, unequal access to land markets, and gender-biased land reforms (UN, 2020). Women's land rights are generally considered secure if they are clearly defined, long-term, enforceable, appropriately transferable, and socially and legally legitimate (Landesa, 2016). Gender-specific impacts of climate change are also largely attributable to gender-differentiated power relations, roles and responsibilities of men and women at the household and community levels (Cardona et al., 2012).

Socially constraining norms and values often lead to increased vulnerability to climate change for women and girls. Geographic location also influences gender-related vulnerability to climate change (McDowell, Ford, Lehner, Berrang-Ford, & Sherpa, 2013). The vulnerability context also differs for rural and urban areas. For example, due to inadequate infrastructure and access to facilities and services, rural dwellers especially women may find it more difficult to adapt to climate change impacts (Akrofi et al., 2021). In Uganda, rural women and girls who play a leading role in food production and domestic responsibilities, are generally more at risk of climate change than men (WOUGNET, 2016).

In most parts of Uganda, climate change has brought new challenges in the form of more tenuous livelihoods, worsening and recurrent drought and evolving gender roles (Opondo et al., 2016). In Arua, the main impacts of climate change include diminishing agricultural productivity, reduced food availability, and loss of incomes. These have The Case of Arua District 3 worsened gender inequalities and reduced the adaptive capacities of women who predominantly depend on agriculture for a living (Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment 2019). This calls for efforts to empower women to build their absorptive, adaptive and transformative resilience capacities to manage climate and other shocks and stresses (Opondo et al., 2016).

Gender and Climate Vulnerabilities Emerging evidence reveals that vulnerability to climate change is a multilayered and multifaceted phenomenon, determined by both biophysical and socio-economic factors, leading to differential vulnerabilities for women and men from different categories, groups, and locations (Abbasi et al. 2019). Given the gender-differentiated roles and responsibilities, rights, access, ownership, and knowledge shape climate vulnerabilities, often resulting in women being affected disproportionately because of the socioeconomic constraints and inequalities (WOW and UKAid 2021). Thus, gendered climate vulnerability can be based on four major situations and conditions, namely 1) work types and spaces of men and women, 2) inequities in access and control over assets and resources, 3) gender division of roles and responsibilities, and 4) inequalities in decision-making (Goodrich et al. 2019).

In developing countries, the majority of women are engaged in subsistence agriculture as a source of both food and income generation, with peculiar vulnerabilities to climate change and variability (Rao et al. 2019).

Thus, a changing climate as well as other risks and shocks pose challenges to managing household food and nutrition security by women in many societies, especially in Africa. In Ethiopia, for example, men have been found to be more concerned about the low livestock prices due to climate change, while women's concerns focus on food availability (Goodrich et al.,2019). Although agriculture is increasingly feminized in terms of women's labour contributions, this has not resulted in increased access to and control over respective productive resources such as land, credit, or technologies like drought-resistant crop varieties and groundwater irrigation (Ahmed et. al. 2016). In fact, they are often excluded from extension and training opportunities, such as on the use of machinery or fertilizers, provided both by the public and private sectors. Women remain subsistence producers. Issues of water availability/scarcity are socio-culturally of major concern to women and their children, given their responsibility of availing water for household use. With increased water scarcity due to climate change, women's workload has increased (McDowell et al. 2017). Like many other African Countries, Uganda is also very vulnerable to climate change. A study conducted in Eastern Uganda reveals that female- 4 Climate Change Vulnerability and Women's Land Rights headed households were more vulnerable to climate change (GVI-IPCC = -0.134) than male-headed households (GVI-IPCC = -0.176) (Balikoowa et al., 2019). In the same study, it was further noted that disparity in adaptive capacity was a major cause of vulnerability differences between female and male-headed households. In communities around Elgon Mountain, female vulnerability is attributed mainly to a limited asset ownership portfolio (Nabanoga and Bomuhangi, 2019).

A study conducted by Kansiime and Mastenbroek, (2016) in West Nile also reveals that various districts in this region were very vulnerable to climate change. Drought, pests and diseases were particularly more common in Arua, compared to the other study locations. Too much rainfall (heavy and erratic) was mostly reported by farmers in Nebbi and Zombo (Ibid). In the same study, it is revealed that heavy and erratic rainfall also led to flash floods, particularly in Nebbi because of its low lying nature. The prolonged droughts in the region have reduced the length of growing seasons, particularly the first season, which has been reduced to just two months i.e., April and May. Compared to other districts in West Nile sub-region, Arua is characterised by unique climate change impact compounding factors, such as a high urbanization rate, reduced per capita land ownership, environmental degradation, among others. However, there is a lack of documentation of such vulnerability context to inform adaptation and resilience- building interventions. Moreover, there is a need to have such information produced in a way that enhances understanding of gendered vulnerabilities to climate change. This is especially so because of the prevailing social-cultural practices that discriminate against women on important livelihood assets such as land. Such information is important in galvanizing the growing recognition of the importance of differential climate change vulnerabilities, women targeted policies, laws, programs, and projects on land rights, gender mainstreaming, and empowerment across scales.

Climate change impacts the poorest and the most vulnerable, especially poor women and men, boys and girls. However, gender inequalities mean there is unequal distribution of climate risks that affect different categories based on their vulnerabilities and capacities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2014 report on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability notes with medium evidence and high agreement that climate change reinforces multidimensional inequality and vulnerability. People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized in society are especially vulnerable to climate change which also affects adaptation and mitigation responses. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change because of their heavy dependence on natural resources and agriculture and their critical role in food production, household water supply and energy, and their lack of access to key services. Increased incidence of extreme weather events (floods, droughts, among others), and the impact this has on soil health, access to water, and so on are all taking their toll. Accelerated action is required to address known inequalities. The narrative of 'vulnerability" has also inhibited a richer analysis of what poor women and men from poor households can contribute to addressing climate change challenges - both in adaptation and mitigation. This narrative has masked their roles as vital agents of change. Women have unique knowledge and skills to tackle climate change. Transformative and innovative approaches are needed to unlock this potential.

Climate change and differences in gender vulnerabilities.

Research in East Africa has found that the negative effects of climate change are felt most acutely by women farmers, who experience greater crop failures and lower yields compared to their male counterparts (Agyei et al., 2016). This is often due to a combination of factors, including women's limited access to information, resources, and climate-smart farming technologies. Furthermore, changing rainfall patterns disrupt planting and harvesting times, leading to poor crop performance and increased food insecurity.

Women make up almost 50 percent of the agricultural labour force in sub-Saharan Africa, an increase from about 45 percent in 1980. (FAO, 2011) The averages in Africa range from just over 40 percent in Southern Africa to just over 50 percent in Eastern Africa. (FAO, 2011) These sub-regional averages have remained fairly stable since 1980, with the exception of Northern Africa, where the female share appears to have risen from 30 percent to almost 45 percent. The sub-regional data for Africa conceal wide differences between countries both in the share of female labour in agriculture and the trend (FAO, 2011)

Research also shows that due to climate change, women bear the brunt of increased natural disasters, displacement, unpredictable rain fall, decreased food production, and increased hunger and poverty (WOW & UKAid, 2021). The United Nations Development Programme estimates that about 80% of people displaced by climate change are women (Habtezion, 2012). The impacts of climate change are more experienced in developing countries, which are characterized by high levels of vulnerability (UNDP, 2014). Vulnerability to climate change impacts is intimately linked to poverty and economic marginalization (UNDP, 2014).

It is widely recognized that women, in particular, have less access to productive resources, agricultural credit, and limited access to agricultural land (UN, 2020). The legal, institutional and socio-cultural barriers often limit women's access to these services. Besides, women globally earn much less income than their men counterparts (Akrofi 2 Climate Change Vulnerability and Women's Land Rights et al., 2021). This economic marginalization affects women's ability to access knowledge and information on climate risks as well as adaptation measures, and their ability to make investments that can help them to adapt or recover from climate-related shocks and stresses (Leichenko & Silva, 2014). Moreover, women still face gender-based discrimination on ownership of land and access to natural resources (UNDP, 2014).

Across the developing world, rural women suffer widespread gender based discrimination in laws, customs and practices, which cause huge inequalities in their ability to access, control, own and use land and this limits their participation in decision-making at all levels of land governance (UN, 2020). Yet women's land rights are key in reducing their vulnerability to climate change impacts (Landesa, 2016). Gender inequality in access to land and property is substantial due to discriminatory inheritance practices, unequal access to land markets and gender-biased land reforms (UN, 2020). Women's land rights are generally considered secure if they are clearly defined, long-term, enforceable, appropriately transferable, and socially and legally legitimate (Landesa, 2016). Gender-specific impacts of climate change are also largely attributable to gender-differentiated power relations, roles and responsibilities of men and women at the household and community levels (Cardona et al., 2012).

Socially constraining norms and values often lead to increased vulnerability to climate change for women and girls. Geographic location also influences gender-related vulnerability to climate change (McDowell, Ford, Lehner, Berrang-Ford, & Sherpa, 2013).

The vulnerability context also differs for rural and urban areas. For example, due to inadequate infrastructure and access to facilities and services, rural dwellers especially women may find it more difficult to adapt to climate change impacts (Akrofi et al., 2021). In Uganda, rural women and girls who play a leading role in food production and domestic responsibilities, are generally more at risk of climate change than men (WOUGNET, 2016).

In Uganda, agricultural productivity has been significantly affected by climate variability, including altered rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures, and more frequent droughts and floods. Research indicates that climate change has led to crop yield reductions for key staples such as maize, beans, and millet, especially in regions like the Karamoja and Western Uganda, where agriculture is heavily reliant on rain-fed systems (NEMA, 2014). Women in Uganda, particularly in rural areas like Pakwach District, are responsible for the majority of food crop production. However, they face numerous barriers, including limited access to modern farming techniques, climate-resilient seeds, and markets to sell their products. These barriers, compounded by the effects of climate change, have further diminished food crop productivity and women's ability to sustain their livelihoods.

In most parts of Uganda, climate change has brought new challenges in the form of more tenuous livelihoods, worsening and recurrent drought and evolving gender roles (Opondo et al., 2016). In Arua, the main impacts of climate change include diminishing agricultural productivity, reduced food availability, and loss of incomes. These have the Case of Arua District worsened gender inequalities and reduced the adaptive capacities of women who predominantly depend on agriculture for a living (Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment 2019). This calls for efforts to empower women to build their absorptive, adaptive and transformative resilience capacities to manage climate and other shocks and stresses (Opondo et al., 2016).

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To cope with the challenges posed by climate change, women in rural Africa have developed a range of adaptation strategies. These include diversifying crops, adopting more water-efficient farming practices, and seeking alternative income sources to reduce reliance on agriculture (Speranza et al., 2014). In Uganda, women have also been encouraged to adopt climate-resilient farming practices, such as the use of drought-tolerant seed varieties, conservation agriculture, and agroforestry (NEMA, 2014). However, the effectiveness of these strategies is often limited by access to training, resources, and markets. Studies suggest that enhancing women's access to climate information, extension services, and technology can significantly improve their adaptive capacity and productivity (World Bank, 2012).

MEMPROW INTERVENTIONS

MEMPROW, through its SPA I, SP II, and Urgent Action Supported projects have been educating and strengthening the capacity of young women and girls in Arua District, Arua City and Imvepi refugee settlement and the host communities in Terego district by training them in key areas to enhance their resilience and environmental leadership. These areas include agroecology farming practices, which equips them with sustainable/ regenerative farming techniques that conserve water and soil health; promote biodiversity and food security; additionally, MEMPROW has supported tree planting and afforestation campaigns to restore degraded ecosystems, introduced renewable energy solutions such as energy cooking and energy-saving stoves to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and built skills in environmental advocacy and policy engagement, empowering young women and girls to influence climate-related decisions in their communities as discussed below.

Agroecology for Climate Resilience.

To combat the growing environmental challenges affecting communities in Uganda, MEMPROW has adopted a proactive and gender-responsive approach by equipping young women and girls with agroecology skills that foster sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Through the Strategic Partner Support II (SPA II) and Urgent Action Fund projects, MEMPROW has trained over 400 individuals—predominantly young women and girls—in key agroecological techniques. These include soil conservation, organic farming, water harvesting, climate-smart agriculture, and the use of indigenous knowledge systems to enhance food security and biodiversity. The trainings not only build technical capacity but also empower participants to become environmental stewards and advocates for sustainable livelihoods within their communities.

Organic Fertilizers and Pesticides: Local Solutions for Soil Health:

Participants were equipped with practical skills to produce organic fertilizers and pesticides using readily available local materials such as kitchen waste, wood ash, and animal manure. This approach promotes regenerative agricultural practices and at the same time reduces reliance on chemical inputs that can degrade soil quality, health and contaminate water sources. Continuous usage of organic alternatives enhances soil fertility, support the growth of beneficial microorganisms, and minimize environmental pollution.

Water Harvesting for Sustainable Agriculture:

MEMPROW has equipped young women with practical skills to construct water harvesting systems using simple, cost-effective methods. This initiative aims to enhance the capacity of communities to capture and store rainwater, addressing persistent water shortages, particularly during dry seasons. These practices, through the projects, have contributed to improved access to water for small-scale farming, thus strengthening community resilience to climate change and supporting food security efforts

Feminist Leadership and Advocacy for Environmental Justice: *These sessions provided participants with tailored mentorship, leadership development, and advocacy training, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to actively participate in and influence climate-related decision-making processes at local, national, and global levels.*

The initiative is grounded in the principles of feminist leadership, which emphasizes inclusivity, equity, and transformative change. Feminist leadership is critical in countering environmental injustices and addressing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and marginalized communities. By fostering agency, amplifying underrepresented voices, and challenging patriarchal and extractive systems, feminist leadership remains the only key for more just, sustainable, and community-centered environmental solutions. Through this approach, MEMPROW continues to build a movement/ generation of climate leaders who are not only knowledgeable but also deeply committed to social and environmental justice.

Outcomes / Impact

- Over 100 young women trained in sustainable farming techniques are improving food security and reducing environmental degradation in their communities.

  "After the series of trainings by MEMPROW, I went back and hired land. Today, I have expanded my farm, and the vegetables I produce are being sold within the region. Customers even come from as far as Congo for my onions and Sukumawiki (spinach). With the money I earn, I am now able to support two orphans with school fees. I'm also excited to be incorporating beehives and grow more varieties of vegetables to target a wider customer base, particularly in Congo. I would like to grow egg plants and okra. None of this would have been possible without the agroecology, value addition, and leadership trainings I attended"- Gloria, Logiri subcounty

- 50+ women and girls have gone through MEMPROW's feminist leadership programmes, taking up leadership roles in climate advocacy at local and national levels.

- MEMPROW participants have led community waste management campaigns, recycling, and budget allocation for waste, and transforming it into useful products like eco-friendly bricks.

  "Before this training, I lived in uncertainty—relying on expensive market produce, limited by seasons, and lacking the knowledge to store seeds or protect crops. Today, I stand with pride, equipped with skills to grow food year-round, even in dry seasons, using natural pesticides and water-saving techniques. I no longer fear returning to South Sudan, because I carry with me the power to feed my family, support my community, and break free from the poverty that once defined my life."- Gaba Susan, Imvepi refugee settlement.

- MEMPROW has partnered with over 10 communities and local governments to implement climate adaptation programmes that benefit both the environment and the livelihood of women and girls.

Recommendations

- *Scale Up Community Training Programs: Expand outreach to rural women and girls with targeted climate education to strengthen grassroots resilience.*
- *Integrate Climate Education in Schools: Collaborate with education stakeholders to introduce age-appropriate climate education and practical eco-clubs in schools.*
- *Foster Strategic Partnerships: Deepen collaboration with civil society and local governments to widen access to training and climate-smart practices.*
- *Support Youth-Led Climate Innovation: Encourage government and development partners to provide seed funding, farm inputs, and platforms for youth climate initiatives.*
- *Promote Inclusive Climate Policy-Making: Ensure women's full participation in climate policy formulation, budgeting, and implementation processes at all levels.*

Conclusion

Educating and empowering women and girls equips them with the knowledge and leadership skills to influence climate policies and take action in their communities. MEMPROW believes that sustainable environmental change must involve women and girls at all decision-making levels. Therefore, women and girls must be viewed not only as implementers but also as decision-makers and leaders in climate action.

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