

# Policy and Gender Analysis: Northern Uganda



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**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



*Wendy Okolo, Edidah Ampaire, Mariola Acosta, Jennifer Twyman*

# Objectives of the Study



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- To critically analyze existing policies looking at the gaps, overlaps, contradictions
- To analyze gender inclusion in both existing and newly formulated policies
- Identify key state and non-state institutions in Uganda at all administrative levels

# Country Context



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- **The political context**
  - The political history since policy is not ahistorical
- **The policy environment**
  - The global
  - The regional
  - The national
- **The broad framework of policy in Uganda**
  - The legal structure
  - The policy development process
  - Donor Support
  - Finance-budget strategy
  - The institutional framework

# Methodology



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- Ten focus groups discussions on policy implementation were held, with men and women farmers separately in the Rakai and Nwoya districts.
- In parallel, 25 semi-structured expert interviews with:
  - Policy formulators at national level, international donors, non-governmental organization representatives, district and sub-county officials, Parish chiefs and local council leaders were also held.

# Policies Analyzed



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- The National Agriculture Policy 2011
- Uganda Forestry Policy 2001 (incl. acts and regulations)
- Uganda National Climate Change Policy 2012
- Uganda National Land Policy 2013
- National Adaptation Program of Action
- National Policy for the Conservation and Management of Wetland Resources,

# The Gender Approach



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The extent of gender inclusion was analyzed through three axes namely:

- The extent, to which women are involved in decision making processes
- The extent to which policies address access and ownership of resources
- The extent to which policy increases alternatives and the choices for women in food security, adaption, mitigation

- **Skewed Budget Allocation:** District-level funds are not evenly allocated across sectors either.
- Overlapping mandates between sectors
- Limited technical capacity
- Limited policy literacy at the local levels
- Limited attention to the local context

# The Political Context



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- The political context of Uganda is largely shaped by a state infrastructure established by colonialists.
- Country undergoing restructuring and devolving power.
- Embraced fundamental institutional reforms in 1986- Decentralization policy
- Ineffective implementation of programs geared towards sustainable climate change adaptation as well as gender mainstreaming

# Key Findings



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## Use of unclear terminology

- “Gender” & “Women” used as interchangeably
- Consideration to men’s adaptive capacity to climate change is widely overlooked

## Use of gender stereotypes

- Women portrayed both as “vulnerable” and “key agent of change” – assumed to have a key role in fighting climate change (dangerous similarity to WED discourses)

## Simplification of vulnerability

- Neglects and radically simplifies the broad spectrum of women and men that exist in society

## Intersectionality

- Uganda is home to 56 ethnic groups – yet policies present little recognition of intersectionality of gender and other social divides.
- Might translate in added difficulties or failure to effective implementation of policies and programs.

# Key findings



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## Insufficient consideration to gender structural constraints

- Fail to comprehensively address gendered power dynamics at different levels and the structural constraints that underpin women's vulnerability to climate change.
- Most land is held under customary tenure, women do not have effective ownership of land – effects on willingness to invest in new practices or difficulty accessing credit.

## Poor harmonization of policies

- Several disengagements between gender approaches in different policies.
- Lack of harmonization between sectors and of an implementation plan to comprehensively engage gender issues.

## Ineffective decentralization

- District officers with little room to maneuver and set priorities.
- Insufficient budget, training and staffing
- Little engagement with gender at district level apart from quota system.

## Constraints...



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- Women are not fully integrated in all decision-making structures as well as processes regarding access to and use of land.
- Land co-ownership initiatives have been unsuccessful and should be addressed within the socio-cultural context.
- The success of the National Gender Policy contingent on other sectors
- Gender considerations are not budgeted for. For the financial year 2013-2014 none of the guiding principles for gender integration was implemented.

# Constraints



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- Gender provisions made have weak structures of operationalization:
  - No budgets. For the financial year 2013-2014
  - None of the guiding principles for gender integration was implemented.
- Lack of a plan that articulates how gender will be incorporated in the different interventions of the policy.
- Gender concern's at a superficial level, since it does not consider the structural barriers
  - Such as low levels of education, high levels of poverty, lack of ownership of most assets such as land) that contribute to the exclusion of women from agricultural productivity interventions.

# Alternative Approaches



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- The inclusion of women in the climate discourse should take an approach that seeks to destabilize present power relations
- More focus should be on equity since women are central to exposures and risks associated with climate change accentuated vulnerability
- Climate change related policies should include women within sustainable development not as an addendum
- Policy should address structural barriers that underpin inequitable access

# Questions & Answers

