## Findings and lessons learnt from the Localising Climate-Sensitive Risk Assessment in Uganda

### Introduction

CECORE, in partnership with GPPAC and financial support from UNDP, implemented a pilot project on localizing climate security risk assessment from 2022-2023. The pilot project was also implemented in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In Uganda, it was piloted in Kaabong district - a semi-arid district characterised by a history of armed cattle rustling within Karamoja region and across the border with its fragile neighbouring pastoral communities of Kenya and South Sudan.

The experiences and lessons learnt from Uganda fed into the development of the GPPAC's Guidance Note for the localisation of integrated climate-sensitive risk assessments - anchored in the conceptual framework and toolkit developed by the UN Climate and Security Mechanism (CSM). The pilot project in Uganda focused on the conflict and climate change nexus.

During the pilot in Uganda, local actors developed a monitoring mechanism that built on existing local structures, resources and indicators to enable local actors to actively monitor; identify local climate-related security risks, climate change impacts, community vulnerabilities, and adaptive mechanisms; and craft local awareness messages.

The process involved working with actors at various levels (especially at local levels) to understand the link between climate change and insecurity/violence; unite the key actors around a common goal; encourage community-led data collection; data analysis; and communicate and use the findings to determine the next steps in addressing the interlinkages between climate change and fragility.

Voluntary hand-over of guns by youth.

Some of the Local adaptive methods of harvesting water

*Community members embrace environmental protection as a strategy towards addressing violent conflict*

**Key findings and lessons learnt**

- There is a strong nexus between climate change and insecurity/violent conflict. Climate change is one of the key drivers and multipliers of security risks/violence. On the other hand, violent conflicts contribute to and worsen climate change and environmental degradation. In order to advance impactful action, it is important to enhance synergy and joint efforts between peacebuilding, security and climate change actors.

- For climate change and security interventions in places with cross-border spill-over dynamics (like in Kaabong, which is affected by the situation in Kenya's and South Sudan's communities), a cross border and multi-stakeholder approach is important. It enhances collaboration and synergy to wholistically address both pull and push factors.

- There are a number of locally appropriate adaptive measures to climate change and security at community level that can be built-on. It is also important to build on existing local peace structures, resources and knowledge (including indigenous knowledge). This can be enhanced by strengthening community resilience and adaptive capacities of communities to respond.

- Communities can easily develop localised solutions to climate change by adapting contextually appropriate methods like innovative irrigation techniques, life-fencing, water harvesting, growing of fast maturing plants, planting of plants that scare away dangerous wild animals, predicting and analyzing rainfall by reading the movement pattern and of animals, insects and birds, reading of animal intestines, propagation of drought resistant tree species, etc. The traditional structures, schools, community groups and local government structures can serve as an inspiration and vital platforms for support of such mechanisms.

- The integration of local indicators and indigenous knowledge into formal early warning systems plays a key role in increasing active participation of local actors towards preventing and addressing climate change and violent conflict issues. It also makes these efforts more impactful and more sustainable. The community members, for example, crafted practices of "Community as Primary Users" and "Community Early Action" premised on the notion that the community members can collect, analyze and use the risk assessment findings to prepare for risks; and that communities when aware and resilient can easily respond without always having to wait for response from high level duty bearers. The integration was strengthened by supporting coordination between the traditional and formal early warning actors.

- Localised climate security risk assessments provide a critical tool to help identify, collect evidence, and prioritise risks at the local level. It enables a contextual understanding of local communities, building on existing knowledge, ensuring meaningful participation of diverse actors, and fostering local ownership of the process. As a result, it offers a pathway for local actors and duty bearers to address climate change and violent conflict issues before emerging or escalating.

- Working with local actors to identify and put in place sustainability measures is vital. This ensured continuity of project interventions and scale-up in communities (through the voluntary Kaabong Action Committee on climate change, community infrastructures for peace, and local government structures) - even after the project phase-out.

**Relevant links**

Project highlights on Website: CECORE Climate Change and conflict Nexus- Localising Climate Security in Uganda- a case of Kaabong district - 99designs-5a2077b854357. Includes the Step by step Guide on Localizing Climate Security. As well as the case study, video, etc.

Video: CECORE Climate Change and conflict Nexus- Localising Climate Security in Uganda- a case of Kaabong district - 99designs-5a2077b854357 Or You-tube: Climate change & Conflict Nexus (youtube.com)