Background

Uganda is a landlocked country in east Africa, approximately 236,040 square kilometres in size. The population is approximately 42.8 million which is expected to grow to over 93 million in the 2040s. Agriculture is the main economic sector, accounting for 25% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing 70% of the labour force. The economy of Uganda is highly dependent on natural resources, making the country vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Uganda is experiencing significant impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, drop in water levels, and increased frequency of extreme weather events like floods, as well as drought, whose social economic impacts make communities very vulnerable.

The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index ranks Uganda as the 14th most vulnerable and 48th least ready to adapt to climate change, of the countries it covered for 2016. Further details on Uganda’s climate change risks can be found in the ‘Uganda Country Climate Risk Assessment Report’. Irish Aid programming in Uganda focuses on education, social protection, governance and accountability and HIV AIDS, with gender, humanitarian response and environment as cross cutting issues. Ireland supports climate response in Uganda through livelihood, micro-finance, and agricultural programmes.

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Climate Finance

In 2017, Ireland provided a total of €1,105,202 to Uganda in climate finance through its bilateral aid program. In addition, Ireland provided €881,593 in climate finance to projects in Uganda through its civil society program. The vast majority (€1,110,000) of this climate relevant funding was for an education project in Karamoja. Although climate change was not the principal objective of this program, it has significant sub objectives on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. The program has a focus on training opportunities to develop green skills, including in the areas of production of low environment impact bricks and energy efficient stoves, alternative construction techniques to lower the impact on deforestation, Solar panel maintenance, installation and repair, water pump maintenance and solid waste management and treatment. Further information on the programs that Irish Aid fund in Uganda can be found [here](#).

Civil society partners GOAL, Gorta Self-help Africa and Vita are helping to build resilience to climate change through a wide range of projects. GOAL’s work includes strengthening the resilience of health systems to climate change, and through the use of climate smart technologies to improve nutrition and food security. Gorta Self-help Africa’s work in Uganda includes a program with smallholder farmers to diversify their production in order to increase their resilience to climate change and other threats.

The OECD Development Assistance Committee has agreed definitions for reporting environmental expenditures. Rio Markers enable the consistent measuring and monitoring of climate finance provided to developing nations. Activities are marked as ‘principal’, ‘significant’, or ‘not relevant’, with explanations as below;

- An activity can be marked as **principal** when the objective (climate change mitigation or adaptation) is explicitly stated as fundamental in the design of, or the motivation for, the activity. Promoting the objective will thus be stated in the activity documentation as one of the principal reasons for undertaking it. In other words, the activity would not have been funded (or designed that way) but for that objective.

- An activity can be marked as **significant** when the objective (climate change mitigation or adaptation) is explicitly stated but it is not the fundamental driver or motivation for undertaking it. Instead, the activity has other prime objectives but it has been formulated or adjusted to help meet the relevant climate concerns.

- The score “0” means that the activity was examined but found not to target the objective (climate change mitigation or adaptation) in any significant way. For activities that have not been assessed, the marker field should be left empty. This ensures that there is no confusion between activities that do not target the objective (score = “0”), and activities for which the answer is not known (score = “null”). This important distinction has implications for statistical presentations of Rio marker data.
In 2017, Ireland provided approximately 3% (€32,781) less climate finance to Uganda through its bilateral program compared to the previous year (2016). This slight reduction was partly caused by a reduction in spending on programs on water and sanitation for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. Despite the slight decline in 2017, as Figures 2 and 3 demonstrate, the 2017 spend is much higher than all years prior to 2016. As in previous years, all of Ireland’s climate finance to Uganda is either for Adaptation or cross cutting.
Figure 2: Total climate finance provided to Uganda from Ireland’s bilateral program over the past 5 years (2013-2017)

Figure 3: Cross-cutting, mitigation, and adaptation climate finance provided to Uganda from Ireland’s bilateral program over the past 4 years (2014-2017). Please note: mitigation spend represents projects where the mitigation marker is higher than the adaptation marker, adaptation spend represents projects where the adaptation marker is higher than the mitigation marker, and cross-cutting represents projects where the markers for adaptation and mitigation are the same.
Case Study

Environment and Climate Change Integration in the Skilling Uganda Project

Uganda’s population is increasing rapidly (3% p.a.) with 23% of the population being youth between 18 – 30 years and 53% is below 18 years. A large and young population has potential to contribute to economic development as an emerging labour pool. However, the low levels of educational attainment, the skills gaps between education and the labour market and inadequate levels of job creation combine to create high levels of unemployment, poverty and increased risks of conflict and insecurity.

Irish Aid is funding Enabel (former Belgian Technical Cooperation) to implement the Support to Skilling Uganda Program in Karamoja region, as a geographical extension of the Belgian funded Support to Skilling Uganda intervention. The program supports development of relevant skills (that are demanded by the market) for Karamojong youth, especially of women and girls. Karamoja is the least developed sub-region in Uganda and scores worst on most, if not all socio-economic indicators. For example, it has a literacy level of only 12% compared to a national average of 71% with an extremely limited access to quality vocational education. The reasons underpinning this level of educational deprivation are complex and multi-faceted.

Through Skilling Uganda – Karamoja program funded by Irish Aid (€1,190,000), Enabel is supporting 2 vocational training institutions (VTIs) and has established a Skills Development Fund for Karamoja. Under these initiatives, Enabel will offer formal, non-formal and short courses to an estimated 2,000 students. The VTIs have prepared business plans and chosen priority trades to engage in. Enabel is promoting green jobs, including econ-friendly construction designs; the Intersecting Interlocking Soil Stabilised Blocks (IISB) using soil and 5% cement, thus minimising the environmentally dangerous practise of burning bricks.

Through the Karamoja Skills Development Fund, established under this programme, Enabel has established a voucher training system. Under this system, NGOs apply for training vouchers for Karamojong youth and women they support in livelihood and income generating activities and Enabel identifies suitable trainers to provide certified quality training of 10-100hrs. One such NGO is supporting women living with HIV/AIDS, to produce Lorena stoves to reduce the time they spend collecting firewood, improve their health and in the process also reducing pressure on the ecosystem. A skills training of 05 days is offered and trainees also offer services in the community for pay.

Photo credit; Tracy C. Kajumba. Irish Aid

Group training on construction of Lorena stoves. This group had an order to construct for other households at a fee.

Eco-friendly IISB made from soil and 5% cement by students of St Daniel Comboni Vocational training Institute.