

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

BY
UNFCCC ARTICLE 6 FOCAL POINT,
UGANDA

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Introduction

- Uganda a land locked country is located in East Africa along the equator
- Being an LDC with limited institutional and technical capacity, it is vulnerable to extreme climatic events
- The most common extreme events include:
 - erratic rainfall
 - prolonged dry spells
 - Frequent hailstorms in some parts of the country and
 - Floods
- A lot of myths still loom around climate change among many communities

Objective

- The objective of the presentation is to highlight the efforts being made to enhance adaptive capacity through education, training and public awareness

Current efforts

- Uganda's National development plan 2010/11-2014/15 recognising climate change as a serious issue,
- Emphasises four areas:
 - Building capacity for implementation of UNFCCC and its related protocols
 - Ensure Climate proof development planning among others through climate change education, training and awareness at all levels
 - Promoting low carbon development path by intensifying public education and
 - Implementing COP decisions and Participating in international climate change processes

What is on ground?

- A Climate Change institutional arrangement in place:
- Climate change Unit for coordination of climate change actions in the country *but still lean and not yet very robust to respond to the increasing demand to address climate change*
- 28 Climate desk officers from key institutions composed to support sectoral implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions including awareness raising *but many institutions haven't responded*
- A long awaited climate change policy, costed implementation strategy and mainstreaming guidelines being developed *But still in draft form*
- *Some Civil Society are working closely with government to complement Government effort but*

What is on ground?

- Efforts for integration of climate change into the national education curriculum in:
 - upper primary and lower secondary are under way *but the financial implications are high and knowledge of climate change among subject specialists is still scanty*
- Climate change awareness/sensitization has been undertaken in only 45 local government /districts **yet there are 112 districts and the scope of target beneficiary is limited finances**
- **Only Environment officers, Community development officers, District Planners, district production officers, 2 representatives of teachers and 2 of NGOs/ CSOs/CBOs at times one representative of farmers/community member or none**

What is on ground?

- A study on gender and Climate change has been undertaken by Makerere University in partnership with CCU/MWE with support from ICEIDA
- A documentary on gender and Climate change was been produced to boost CC awareness: *'The Faces of Climate Change in Uganda'* (in collaboration with the Royal Danish Embassy in Kampala)
- In Collaboration with UNITAR, development of strategy for learning, skills and human resource development is being undertaken (UN CC learn pilot programme)
- NAPA pilot sites as Demos are being established e.g. Land and water management site in Bundibugyo district, Western Uganda

The question at this point

- When will the awareness for the lower local governments and community members be accomplished ?
- Even many at central government level and upper Local Government level are still still have limited knowledge
- **Climate change impacts are not waiting for us**

Lessons learnt

- Education, training and awareness raising **MUST** be continuous since new things keep cropping up in the climate change arena
- Addressing climate change issue requires consorted effort and the costs are high
- Technology both soft and hard is crucial for tackling climate change
- Research institutions, academia and the private sector can play a great role

Lessons learnt

- Accessing climate financing through UNFCCC mechanism has been tough especially for most developing countries including Uganda

Conclusion

- I will be grateful to learn more from your experiences and good practices.

THANKYOU ALL