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## UGANDA REFUGEE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE – URRI

### Summary of Gender and Power Analysis – July 2025

The Uganda Refugee Resilience Initiative (URRI), led by consortia headed by Save the Children and the Danish Refugee Council, commissioned a Gender and Power Analysis (GAP) during its inception phase. The analysis was conducted in nine refugee-hosting districts across West Nile, Northern, and Western Uganda, as part of the URRI programme funded by the Royal Embassy of Denmark (DANIDA). The purpose of the GAP is to provide a deeper understanding of specific gender inequalities, bringing out contextualised insights from men, women and youth, households and communities and opportunities in relation to the URRI programme objectives. This snapshot presents key findings. Additional information can be found in the full GAP report.



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## 816

Quantitative household surveys with 816 respondents across the nine (9) districts (Yumbe, Obongi, Moyo, Madi Okollo, Terego, Koboko, Lamwo, Adjumani, Kyegegwa). The population distribution is as follows: one-third of individuals are men from men-headed households, one-third are women from women-headed households, and one-third are women from men-headed households. Additionally, 18% of the population includes persons with disabilities.

- 34 key informant interviews in the project districts
- 54 focus group discussions
- 9 in-depth interviews with people with disabilities
- Literature review and analysis guided by the gender equality and social inclusion framework

## Key Findings from the GAP Analysis

- Women spend 35% of their day on unpaid domestic and caregiving tasks, compared with just 5% for men.
- In male-headed households, 49% of men make decisions alone, while 53% of women report their views are not considered.
- Only 9% of women can identify at least three CSA and sustainable land management practices, compared with 18% of men.
- Overall, nearly 1 in 2 households reported some form of GBV: In the past year, 43% of respondents reported physical violence against women, and 47% reported emotional abuse. 24% of respondents justify violence against women under certain conditions.
- 42% of women and 51% of men reported leadership roles in local groups. The proportion is lower among refugee women (34%).



## Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Environmental Management

- Overall, CSA adoption is low (39%), with the lowest adoption among women, refugees, and people with disabilities, likely due to limited access to irrigation, finance, and extension services.
- Men largely control land. Refugee female-headed households report the lowest rates of land access among the surveyed group.





## Inequitable Division of Labour and Time Poverty of Women

CSA adoption is still low generally among the surveyed farmers, with 38% of households correctly applying at least 4 regenerative CSA practices (such as crop residue mulching, composting, cover cropping, crop rotation, agroforestry, energy-efficient stoves, and zero tillage). Despite high participation in CSA training, youth and women need further support to drive adoption.

The geographic differences in adoption were attributed to the varying presence and active promotion of regenerative and climate-smart agriculture in some districts by local government extension staff, NGOs, and CBOs.



### Gender inequalities are a driver and a consequence of climate vulnerability.

Climate and environmental shocks disproportionately impact women. Refugee households and female-headed households report the lowest recovery rates. Host male-headed households recover faster due to stronger land tenure and access to inputs.



## Male-dominated Resources & Decision-Making

- (Older) men control land, farming, livestock, and finances. Refugee female-headed households face the greatest land scarcity and tenure insecurity. More than half of women report that the suggestions they make are largely ignored in household decision-making processes.
- Refugee women, adolescent girls, and people with disabilities are most excluded from decision-making.
- Women have lower access to CSA information, improved seeds, and credit due to mobility and literacy barriers, plus bias among extension workers.
- Women, youth, and people with disabilities express strong aspirations for independence and entrepreneurship.
- Women attend fewer community meetings (especially in Adjumani and Lamwo) and are often silent when they attend. When they participate in a leadership role, women mostly hold administrative roles such as note-taking. Despite high membership in VSLAs and SACCOs (67% of women), women are often not making the decisions about the VSLA loans.





## Patriarchal and Restrictive Norms Limit SRHR and Fuel GBV

- Patriarchal norms require women to seek approval for SRHR services.
- Adolescent girls face stigma when seeking care.
- People with disabilities face inaccessible facilities and untrained providers.
- Frequent stockouts of contraceptives and testing kits and judgmental attitudes [DKR1] erode women's confidence in SRHR services.
- GBV is widespread and intensifies during climate shocks, especially when women and girls travel long distances for water/firewood.

### Link with and learn from successful social norm change models

Uganda counts several tested social norms and male engagement models. Programmes such as SASA!, REAL Fathers, Transforming Masculinities, and SAY have already demonstrated effectiveness in shifting attitudes and practices around caregiving, joint decision-making, sexual and reproductive health, and tolerance of GBV. These behaviour-change-based approaches engage men as partners and role models, foster shared caregiving responsibilities, support women's independent health access, and promote positive masculinity.

## Recommendations

- 1 Promote Climate Smart Agriculture and environmental practices through gender-transformative, inclusive approaches.
- 2 Reduce women's unpaid labour by engaging men and promoting energy-saving technologies.
- 3 Boost women's leadership and decision-making through empowerment and inclusive structures.
- 4 Improve women's access to land, finance, technologies, and markets.
- 5 Unlock economic potential of women, youth, and Persons With Disabilities with finance, markets, and mentorship.
- 6 Expand Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights access by tackling harmful norms and creating safe spaces for adolescents.
- 7 Train providers and integrate youth-friendly SRHR services into health facilities.
- 8 Prevent Gender Based Violence by using proven models, community dialogue, and strong referral pathways.

**The complete list of recommendations is available in the full report.**



**Scan here for the full report.**