ChildFund Uganda

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Capacity Statement



Every child has the right to a clean, healthy, sustainable and abundant environment.

www.childfund.org

Protecting Uganda's Future

Uganda faces mounting challenges from environmental changes, which disproportionately affect children and their access to education, health, nutrition, clean water, and protection, undermining their fundamental rights. Ranked among the countries with increasing vulnerability to environmental shocks, Uganda grapples with flash floods, droughts, landslides, deforestation, and erratic weather patterns that devastate livelihoods and ecosystems.

Uganda's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are projected to rise from 90.1 $MtCO_2e$ in 2015 to 148.8 $MtCO_2e$ by 2030 and 235.7 $MtCO_2e$ by 2050 under a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario.

Human activities — including deforestation (63% forest cover lost in 25 years), unsustainable agriculture, and heavy reliance on biomass energy — are accelerating these environmental pressures.

Despite this, Uganda has demonstrated leadership by ratifying the Paris Agreement and implementing progressive frameworks, including its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to confront these challenges.

Centering Children in Building Sustainability

ChildFund recognizes that environmental changes are not only ecological challenges but also a serious child rights crisis, directly threatening children's survival, development, and future. We implement child-centered, environmentally resilient programs aligned with Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Our strategy integrates environmental action across all programmatic areas — including health, education, child protection, water resource management, food security and livelihoods — while promoting adaptation and environmental stewardship at all levels of society. Through innovative, community-driven approaches, we equip children and youth to lead efforts that build resilience, foster adaptation, and support mitigation for a sustainable future.

About ChildFund Uganda

ChildFund operates in 32 districts in Uganda through 9 local implementing partner organizations and 1 refugee settlement (Palorinya), reaching over **4 million** children, their families, and communities annually.

Focus Areas:
Child Protection, Early Childhood Development, Environmental Sustainability, Education, Food Security, Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, WASH, Youth Development, Emergency Response and Advocacy.



Strategic Priorities

- Community-Based Disaster Risk Management
- Education on Environmental Care
- Smart Agriculture
- Circular Economy
- Nature-Based Solutions
- Water Resource Management
- Youth for Environmental Sustainability
- Energy-Efficient Technologies

Flagship Projects

Building Economic Resilience for Farmers and Youth:
This BMZ-funded project, implemented in Teso and Lango sub-regions in North-Eastern Uganda, trained 840 farmers in smart agriculture and vocational skills for green jobs. The project planted over 1 million tree seedlings, developed DRR contingency plans in four districts, and increased crop yields by 21 – 32%, thereby improving food security and incomes.

Tree Growing and Forest Restoration:
Partnering with local governments and schools, we support large-scale tree-growing initiatives to combat deforestation, enhance carbon sequestration, and improve biodiversity.

Women and Youth Economic Empowerment:
This project supported 100 youth, 100 teenage mothers, and 240 women in Teso and Lango sub-regions. Participants gained skills in eco-friendly enterprises such as smart agronomy, and livestock farming. Annual incomes increased significantly: teenage mothers (13-19) saw a rise from $18 to $580 (3122%), youth (20-24) from $42 to $376 (791%), and women (25-60) from $51 to $387.

Youth Day of Service:
Each August, ChildFund collaborates with LEAP Africa and its local partners to mobilize over 500 youth for the Youth Day of Service, a week-long Pan-African, youth-led campaign focused on protecting the environment.

Promoting Smart Agriculture:
ChildFund works with local partners in Mbale and Lango regions to train farmers on sustainable farming techniques such as agroforestry, soil conservation, and energy-efficient irrigation systems. Since 2022, ChildFund has supported over 10,000 farmers to adopt smart agricultural practices.

Amplifying Children's and Youth Voices in Environmental Protection

ChildFund actively supports children and youth to become environmental champions and participate in decision-making processes:

- **Involvement in Policy Development:** We facilitate child and youth participation in Uganda's NDC review and other national environmental frameworks to ensure their voices are represented in decision-making.
- **Advocacy:** Through media partnerships, children and youth share stories, raise awareness, and engage policymakers to influence policies on environmental protection.
- **Youth Leadership Programs:** Young advocates lead grassroots initiatives, mobilizing peers and communities to build resilience and promote environmental conservation.



Future Focus

Our commitment to building environmental sustainability remains central to our efforts in improving the well-being of children and communities.

Working in collaboration with communities, governments, the private sector, and various development partners, our strategy is designed to deliver measurable, scalable and sustainable impact.

We offer proven solutions to environmental challenges that integrate the voices and needs of children and youth into every action.

As a trusted partner, ChildFund delivers locally driven, child-centered solutions that align with local frameworks such as Uganda's Vision 2040 and global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.





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