

IDIWA-Triple nexus Report on Disability, Environment Conservation and Gender Based Violence on WGDs

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Prepared By:
DIOGO PAUL-CONSULTANT

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List of acronyms

CCGAPs	Climate Change Gender Action Plans
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDIWA	Integrated Disabled Women Activities
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1.0 Executive summary

The community of Kaliro experiences gender-based violence ranging from sexual related violence, physical and economic in nature which stems from the discriminatory gender norms. It has been observed that GBV has been observed across various sectors in the society spectrum, however for this task the bias is in regards to environmental conservation, and how environment issues/concerns have contributed to the gender-based inequalities and violence. How environment-related issues are affecting or have been affected by women or men alone and who is affected more. Amidst the challenging situation we needed to know the socially constructed vulnerabilities and the specific needs, challenges and priorities of women, men, girls and boys in relation to the environment.

By developing the nexus between GBV, disability and Environment conservation it will create opportunity for awareness creation on the subjects under question and establish a knowledge base for understanding and enhancing strategies and channels that address GBV through environmental conservation and also clearly highlight the linkages therein. The consultant engaged partners including Kaliro district leaders, women and girls with disability, paralegals and activists to establish better ways to manage our environment without leaving anyone behind and reducing GBV with the purpose to inform GBV and environment policy, programs and projects planning. This consultation was another way of collecting knowledge and experiences in the regards to how environment interacts with GBV for a better understanding of the situation and tailor interventions to address GBV, reduce vulnerabilities as it relates to the environment.

Literature regarding GBV with alignment on the environment from various areas around the world was reviewed to get a feel of the information and experiences about the topic in question. More information and feedback were got from 10 key informant interviews which were held with key staff of Kaliro district and IDIWA staff, and extensive feedback about the topic was got from 2 focus group discussions held with both women and Girls with disabilities. During the consultations some gaps in knowledge were identified, most common types of GBV, practices leading to GBV and responses that give hope for sustainable development and agreed that with reduced GBV, environment conservation is promoted and vice versa

The findings suggest that protecting the environment can help check GBV and reduce some inequalities to do with disabled people as it will be discussed below, furthermore it is believed that ending GBV and conserving our environment can go far to help improve livelihoods and guarantee a better tomorrow for women and girls with disabilities in Kaliro. 100 percent of the respondents noted they had observed GBV (from sexual, physical and psychological violence, to sexual harassment, sexual coercion – rape in specific cases – child marriage linked to environmental issues, and more).

This analysis reveals the complex and interacting and interconnectedness of GBV across environmental pressure, issues and threats on the community and access to and control of natural

resources. Threats and pressures on the environment and its resources amplify gender inequality and power imbalances in communities and households coping with resource scarcity and societal stress. Discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes even shape the differentiated treatment of women and men working to protect and conserve the environment, ultimately affecting the effectiveness and success of outcomes. Customary laws, societal gender norms and traditional gender roles dictate who can access and control natural resources, often resulting in the marginalization of women compared to men.

Across contexts, expressions of GBV maintain societal and cultural gender inequalities and norms, forming a feedback loop to the detriment of livelihoods, rights, conservation and sustainable development. GBV is a systematic means of control to enforce and protect existing privileges around natural resources, maintaining power imbalances that create tensions within families, between communities and among involved actors.

1.1 Access to and control over land: Land is a key resource with all the natural resources, forests, water and also the basis for agriculture. Land is essential to life, livelihoods and resilience. Secure access to, control over and use of land provides a source of food, shelter, income and social identity, and reduces vulnerability to food insecurity, hunger and poverty, particularly in rural areas (IFAD, 2015). Secure tenure also encourages investment to improve land management and outputs (USAID, 2016). Gendered power imbalances are perpetuated by unequal land tenure like women not owning land as it affects women's ability to access, use, control and benefit from land. Which limits women's ability to produce more, then lowering their economic power and hence poverty.

1.2 Land degradation and Deforestation: Land degradation and deforestation pose much threat on the natural resource stock. i.e. land, forests and other resources. Forests are important for the wellbeing of many communities, they provide several goods, products and services, the products include firewood, medicinal herbs, mushrooms and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), most of these are collected by women at a small-scale level mainly to support their families, however due to the high poverty levels and lack of awareness amongst the masses has led to the promotion of rampant and illegal tree cutting. This has led to the scarcity of firewood and charcoal hence the high prices.

Environmental degradation and natural resource scarcity pose significant threats to ecosystems and livelihoods, resulting in or exacerbating biodiversity loss, food insecurity, poverty, displacement, violence, and loss of traditional and cultural knowledge. Ensuing tension and competition over scarce resources in and between communities and households amplifies normative, discriminatory and exploitative gender inequalities, giving way to a rise in GBV as a means of control and reinforcement of power imbalances.

1.3 Climate change and weather-related disasters: Climate change is fundamentally challenging the ways in which societies access, benefit from and interact with natural resources and the environment. These climatic changes have resulted in sea-level rise, degraded environmental resources and an observed increase in weather-related disasters, such as unreliable rains, hailstorms, droughts, floods, pests and disease. Exposure to these effects can be devastating to natural and human systems alike. Its effects are far reaching in agricultural systems, of which 90 percent of our people earn a living through agriculture, devastating effects on agriculture lead to low production and incomes hence extreme poverty. The women, youths and disabled people are at greater risk of experiencing the adverse effects of climatic changes. This risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts is due to interlinking social, economic, cultural, institutional and legal discriminations that contribute to these groups' unequal access to vital resources that help build adaptive capacity to climate change.

GBV-environment linkages across a range of contexts, demonstrating that GBV is applied as a systematic tool of control to determine the rights and prospects of people based on their gender. While the issues are vast, there are also numerous entry points to prevent and respond to GBV within these linkages. Understanding GBV and environment interactions is critical for effective policy-making, planning and interventions, as these issues influence one another in various ways that can hinder or negate progress.

Some promising practices do exist and are leading the way for others in this area of work and hence the need to strengthen them. Environmental programming can address GBV issues and risks by: integrating focused attention in organizational priorities and policies; raising awareness and capacities; building strategic alliances across sectors and stakeholders to expedite action; and integrating GBV considerations across the board.

2.0 Background

IDIWA is interested in developing a nexus between environmental conservation, GBV, livelihoods and disability; this will help in identifying intersection points for promotion in environment conservation, GBV, livelihoods and disability. This nexus will help in creating transformation of people lives and to achieve sustainable livelihoods. It will be a basis for designing projects and interventions that address gaps and needs of the vulnerable communities. The vulnerability of poor nations, communities, families and individuals to the impacts of climate change is of growing significance. The World Report on Disability confirms that more than 20% of the poorest people worldwide are people with disabilities (World Report on Disability 2011), and that 82% of persons with disabilities in developing countries live below the poverty line (Elwan 1999). Policy development and interventions at all levels need to address the specific circumstances of persons with disabilities in relation to climate change, together with those of their families.

Gender based violence (GBV) in Uganda is perceived as a national problem and of growing concern because of its linkage to trauma experienced by victims, and its direct negative impact on the dignity of victims and productivity in general. In Busoga, very few women and men who experience violence report to relevant authorities due to a number of reasons including lack of justice for survivors. Children with disabilities face rape and defilement among other problems when they are

sent for firewood in the forests, water at the wells and boreholes. They don't receive justice and most of the times perpetrators tend to run away, and at times connive with the authorities and conclude the cases out of court.

It is anticipated that climate change will cause increasing hardship for persons with disabilities (and other vulnerable groups), and the quality of life is likely to deteriorate. The ability to adapt, livelihood opportunities and resilience are all anticipated to decline in a changing environment. Climate change is also likely to cause an increase in the incidence and prevalence of many disabling impairments. Climate change has also caused poverty to the people with disabilities because most of them depend on farming but the weather has always affected their crops and left them in hunger due to decrease in food security and resulting into malnutrition, decrease in access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), increase in emergencies due to extreme weather events, reducing access to infrastructure, shelter and basic services, increase in displacement / migration, increase in human security, and protection issues and can also result into to conflicts.

Environmental conservation/climate change, GBV, Livelihoods and Disability inclusion are components that can lead to conflicts in communities and mostly to the women and girls with disabilities if not well addressed. It is against this backdrop that IDIWA has undertaken this consultation to develop a nexus between Environmental Conservation, GBV and Disability. Environmental conservation has become one of the core issues that need to be addressed to battle environmental issues including climate change and global warming and at the same time to help reverse environment degradation which leads to improved food security, reduced gender inequalities, improved access to natural resources, reduced resource conflicts and hence improved livelihoods. Environment conservation is intended to achieve sustainable.

Sustainable development is the need of the hour that can save mother earth from the repercussions of unsustainable human activities, GBV and failure to figure-in disability. However, efficiency and sustainability of intervention under the different sectors to wholesomely address issues has recently been a concern in Uganda mainly due to inadequate sectoral collaboration in planning and implementation, which has led to a continuous poor/negative trend with increasing frequency of droughts and environmental degradation and gender inequalities. This situation therefore calls for development of mechanisms for promoting integrated planning, development and management of natural resources so as to create synergy among various sectors, promote efficiency in utilization of available resources and reduce environmental degradation and ensure more efficient utilization of natural resources to meet various social and economic demands. With the environment well managed, it is believed that violence resulting from resources scarcity due to unsustainable activities together with the gender imbalances will be checked.

However worthy noting is that addressing GBV is not easy. It is culturally embedded, context-specific and without a one-size-fits-all solution. Attempting to address it may pose its own dangers, but not addressing it poses others which might be complicated, including failing to meet global environment and development goals. While GBV and environmental issues have typically been addressed separately, such as through distinct strategies and sources of support, it has been

found out that informed and integrated approaches are urgently needed for better environmental and gender equality integration, programming and outcomes.

3.0 Methodology

The consultation exercise was premised on the following methodology; Review of literature, primary and secondary data to obtain information on the environment-related issues verses GBV and disability. The core objective of consultation was to get information about the linkages and interactions between environment conservation, GBV and disability, to enable the nexus development. The consultant engaged partners including Kaliro district leaders, women and girls with disability, paralegals and activists to establish better ways to manage our environment without leaving anyone behind and reducing GBV with the purpose to inform GBV and environment policy, programs and projects planning. Literature regarding GBV with alignment on the environment from various areas around the world was reviewed to get a feel of the information and experiences about the topic in question. More information and feedback were got from 10 key informant interviews which were held with key staff of Kaliro District Local Government across all the departments and IDIWA staff.

Extensive feedback about the topic was got from 2 focus group discussions composed of 10 to 15 group members each. These were held with both women [30 to 50yrs] and Girls [15 to 30yrs] with disabilities. The questionnaire for the interview and the focus group discussion guide were designed to cater for environment-related issues affecting the women or men alone to also help get information on the socially constructed vulnerabilities and the specific needs, challenges and priorities of women, men, girls and boys in relation to environment conservation and the sustainable development goals who priority areas include: Right to land, natural resources and biodiversity; Access to food, energy, water and sanitation; and Climate change, sustainable production and consumption, and health and well-being.

During the focus group discussions respondents were asked various questions to detail to ensure accuracy and open answers were provided, probed to reflect who exactly was involved and affected. The collected data was analyzed to provide details as discussed below.

4.0 Findings

It was found out to be that 95 percent of the respondents had a good understanding of the key concepts in regards to environment conservation, GBV and disability and they were able to raise issues surrounding the subjects. Most of them consented that some actions were being taken towards achieving environment conservation and 50% noted tree planting as being done, 20% reported sensitizations to have been conducted, 10% to using of energy saving stoves, 10% to practicing modern farming practices and 10% to other. They however noted some challenges which included destructive human activities, poverty, changing land demands, and limited law enforcement. The respondents suggested ways to overcome the challenges and 25% highlighted putting focus on tree planting, 16% mentioned awareness creation and proper waste management, involve all stakeholders in the management and conservation of the environment,

government enforcing existing laws, rewarding environmental conservation champions and while planning give priority to environment conservation and also embedding environment conservation in the school curriculum. In regards to existing local laws that promote environment conservation, 70% of the respondents consented to not having them in place.

4.1 Gender Based Violence: Some efforts have been put in place to combat GBV including; CSOs supplementing government programs to prevention GBV, government establishing policies for protection and prevention, sensitization of the communities and local leader to forward violent people to police. The respondents suggested what should be done on top of what is being done including; educating the community on GBV prevention matters which rated at 26%, 13% stated putting in place prohibiting laws and taking survivors to rehabilitation centers, and among others were promote human rights based approaches and positive gender norms, discourage adaptation to discriminatory cultures and practices, promote gender transformative approaches, create safe spaces for men and boys to listen and discuss the inequalities, report cases of violence, dialogue meetings and women empowerment.

4.2 Disability: Disability cases are common in our communities and were mentioned as below; 43% mentioned physical disability, 21% recorded mental and sensory [hearing and visual] disability and among others included autism and albinism. The persons with disabilities are facing several issues some of which the respondents mentioned as below; 21% noted communication barriers and unequal opportunities, 14% noted negative attitudes and biased cultural practices and among others included inaccessible environment and services, poor participation in public processes, unfavourable competition, discrimination in social services and always left out and considered last. Respondents suggested ways to overcome the issues surrounding the disabled persons and here 21% mentioned promoting equal treatment, 14% mentioned ensuring that services are inclusive of the needs of PWDs and publicize the policy on accessibility to public places, and among others included improving access to services, ensuring easy access to physical environment, empowering PWDs through education, promotion of positive attitudes and gender norms, providing psycho-socio support to those who need it, and strengthening existing laws to protect the disabled persons

Understanding Environment issues /threats to the community is important and on this matter the respondents suggested as follows; 16% noted declining soil fertility, flooding and deforestation, 11% noted long dry spells, and among others included; poor production due to land degradation, wetland degradation, hailstorms, pollution, poor waste management, climate change, urbanization, high population growth and over fishing.

4.3 Environmental issues in relation to GBV: Some of the effects of these environment issues in regards to promoting GBV were mentioned as below; 10% noted women and girls moving long distances in search for firewood, lack of enough food, loss of vegetation cover, limited access to household income, death for PWDs especially children due to floods, and homelessness and violence in camps and among others included, Rape, sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, reduced access for PWDs to social services, failure to access and reach homes, limited access to safe water. It was noted that most of the respondents agreed to the notion that addressing the effects of environment issues will impact positively on checking GBV cases, a number of respondents did not give feedback on this question however those who endeavoured noted that since it will involve increasing land fertility, awareness creation, improved incomes, improved food production and lowering climate change effects.

Environment issues pose effects to persons with disabilities as mentioned below; 30% mentioned reduced access to social services, 15% mentioned lack of enough food hence hunger, and among others include low incomes, deteriorating health physiological health concerns, reduced access to social services, abandonment due to disasters, exposure to diseases, disagreements, abandonment due to disasters, deteriorating health physiological health concerns. 100 percent of the respondents noted they had observed GBV (from sexual, physical and psychological violence, to sexual harassment, sexual coercion – rape in specific cases – child marriage linked to environmental issues, and more) The most common kinds of GBV that were mentioned amongst the women and girls were Physical assault which rated at 33%, sexual and psychological abuse at 20%, rape at 13%, economic abuse and denying the girl child education. The married men and women are the most involved parties in the GBV cases, the youths and the general public in entire experiences these cases.

It was clear that all the environmental issues have a bearing on the livelihoods of the people hence the need to understand the issues surrounding, address and promote positive and sustained livelihoods amidst the challenges relating to social inequalities. Understanding Environment issues /threats to the community is important and on this matter the respondents mentioned as follows; 16% noted declining soil fertility, flooding and deforestation, 11% noted long dry spells, and among others included; lack of access to land, poor production due to land degradation, wetland degradation, hailstorms, pollution, poor waste management, climate change, urbanization, high population growth and over fishing.

4.4 Access and control to land: Land is essential to life, livelihoods and resilience. Secure access to, control over and use of land provides a source of food, shelter, income and social identity, and reduces vulnerability to food insecurity, hunger and poverty, particularly in rural areas (IFAD, 2015). Secure tenure also encourages investment to improve land management and outputs (USAID, 2016). Gendered power imbalances are perpetuated by unequal land tenure like women not owning land as it affects women's ability to access, use, control and benefit from land. Which limits women's ability to produce more, then lowering their economic power and hence poverty.

For the persons living with disabilities, discrimination can be even more pronounced, because in addition to the discrimination based on their gender, they are also discriminated against because

of their status, which makes them have even fewer rights and less access to land. This issue is exaggerated by the declining fertility of the soils for agriculture, in which 16% of the respondents consented to this being a serious environmental change which leads to poor yields hence food insecurity which leads to household stress and other forms of GBV

Women, make essential contributions to the agriculture sector, yet they have less access to and control over productive resources, resulting in fewer opportunities than men. The gender gap negatively impacts food security, nutrition and well-being at the household and community, despite their contribution they are more often discriminated against in the form of no wages, unequal access to employment opportunities and work safety, as well as limited participation in decision-making like in sell of agricultural harvests

It was noted that since the women lack enough control on land, most of the proceeds from the land, mainly agricultural produce is sold off without consent from the women who play a key role in farm management, they account for much of the labor force in the agricultural sector. This demotivates them to produce more and hence lowers their economic capacity which results in physical violence. 33% of respondents noted that physical violence was the most rampant compared to sexual and psychological abuse at 20% which was mostly resulting from disagreements from the agricultural sector. This limited access to land by the women affects their level of investment, most especially long-term investments are not preferred, like forestry [tree planting projects]

Gender inequalities rooted in legal and social norms – including unequal access to education [boy child favoured for education], economic opportunities and decision making – and gender differentiated roles and responsibilities dictate how (and if) women and men access and have control over land and resources related to forests, agriculture, water resources. Evidence and experiences in the context of land and natural resources show that GBV is often employed as a way to maintain these power imbalances, violently reinforcing sociocultural expectations and norms and exacerbating gender inequality. For example, when attempting to enter into agricultural markets, women can experience intimate partner violence (IPV) as their partners seek to control finances and maintain economic dependencies. Moreover, gender-differentiated roles related to land and resources can also put women in a more vulnerable position to suffer. GBV while carrying out daily responsibilities, as seen in firewood and water collection activities. Access to and control over natural resources are also often a source for sexual exploitation, when women feel have nowhere to go since they don't own land.

4.5 Land degradation and Deforestation: Forests are important for the wellbeing of many communities, they provide several goods, products and services, the products include firewood, medicinal herbs, mushrooms and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs), most of these are collected by women at a small-scale level mainly to support their families, however due to the high poverty levels and lack of awareness amongst the masses has led to the promotion of rampant and illegal tree cutting. This has led to the scarcity of firewood and charcoal hence the high prices. It was recorded that women and girls walk long distances in search for firewood, which exposes them to bad characters that cause harm to them, rape them or even cause death. The long distances from home as well expose them to wild animal attacks and snake bites.

The women and girls lose much of productive time in looking for forest products mainly firewood as the main source of cooking energy, which would have been dedicated to household development hence breeding household conflicts resulting from being away from home and partner stress. Environmental degradation and natural resource scarcity pose significant threats to ecosystems and livelihoods, resulting in or exacerbating biodiversity loss, food insecurity, poverty, displacement, violence, and loss of traditional and cultural knowledge. Ensuing tension and competition over scarce resources in and between communities, households and industries amplifies normative, discriminatory and exploitative gender inequalities, giving way to a rise in GBV as a means of control and reinforcement of power imbalances.

The increasing high population in the country has exerted pressure on the dwindling natural resources and ecosystems; it has increased conflicts for land and land-use, which has led to encroachment of forest lands and wetlands for expansion of agriculture. Amidst this competition, the women are disadvantaged to access land and the benefits there-in which affects productivity at both household and community level. Poor waste management involving poor disposal of kaveera and plastics has led to declining soil fertility and water quality.

4.6 Climate change and weather-related disasters: Climate change is fundamentally challenging the ways in which societies access, benefit from and interact with natural resources and the environment. These climatic changes have resulted in sea-level rise, degraded environmental resources and an observed increase in weather-related disasters, such as unreliable rains, hailstorms, droughts, floods, pests and disease. Exposure to these effects can be devastating to natural and human systems alike. Its effects are far reaching in agricultural systems, of which 90 percent of our people earn a living through agriculture, devastating effects on agriculture lead to low production and incomes hence extreme poverty.

The women, youths and disabled people are at greater risk of experiencing the adverse effects of climatic changes. This risk and vulnerability to climate change impacts is due to interlinking social, economic, cultural, institutional and legal discriminations that contribute to these groups' unequal access to vital resources that help build adaptive capacity to climate change (Braaf, 2016; Dankelman, 2016; Dwyer & Woolf, 2018). Women and girls in particular are harmed by climate change and weather-related disasters, facing heightened risks of experiencing GBV (CEDAW, 2018), 16% of the respondents noted floods as one of the key issues but I wish to observe that floods are not rampant in Kaliro and around Busoga, attention should be put on long dry spells which rated at 11% by the respondents.

The long dry spells lead to water scarcity and crop failure, however with water scarcity, cooking, cleaning and sanitation is challenged. Much of fetching water is done by women and girls, with water scarcity the women and girls take long time in fetching and collecting water in long queues at water sources, reducing the time they can spend on other activities, such as attending school, carrying out income-generating activities or enjoying leisure time, which perpetuates the gendered cycle of poverty (UNICEF, 2016). Which causes tension in the home, hence stresses and conflicts. Post-traumatic stress disorder; loss of property and livelihoods; erosion of community and cultural ties; and scarcity of food and basic provisions in the aftermath of weather-related disasters – all these can lead to feelings of powerlessness and societal and resource stresses. Such pressure on heads of household to provide for families can result in community conflict over resources and contribute to a marked increase in violent behaviors among men, including domestic violence and other forms of GBV (Dankelman, 2016).

Climate change impacts and weather-related disasters affect all areas of life, degrading natural resources, disrupting food production and water availability, damaging infrastructure and threatening progress on the full and effective realization of human rights and poverty eradication (IPCC, 2014). Famine resulting from destruction of farmlands by hailstorms and pests i.e. grasshoppers, cause food insecurity which piles pressure on the bread winner to provide for the family hence the stresses and conflicts in the homes.

In many areas of the world, women's dependence on natural resources and agriculture for their livelihoods and their families' nutrition, coupled with their lack of control and ownership over land and resources and discriminatory norms, make them less able to respond to and recover from climate change and weather-related disasters. This also leaves them vulnerable to GBV in households and communities, often resulting from negative coping mechanisms in the face of livelihood and resource stress. When communities are unable or unprepared to cope with the impacts of climate change and weather-related disasters, compound stresses, such as a breakdown in economic systems, infrastructure and social services, including police and health centers, can increase gender inequality and foster proliferation of GBV.

In the wake of social, financial and infrastructure stresses due to climate change and weather-related disasters, poor families resort to giving away their children in child/early marriages as a coping strategy. This analysis reveals the complex and interacting and interconnectedness of GBV across environmental pressure, issues and threats on the community and access to and control of natural resources. Mainly land [As shown in table below] Threats and pressures on the environment and its resources amplify gender inequality and power imbalances in communities and households coping with resource scarcity and societal stress. Discriminatory gender norms and stereotypes even shape the differentiated treatment of women and men working to protect and conserve the environment, ultimately affecting the effectiveness and success of outcomes. It is true that customary laws, societal gender norms and traditional gender roles dictate who can access and control natural resources, often resulting in the marginalization of women compared to men

The different expressions of GBV maintain societal and cultural gender inequalities and norms, forming a feedback loop to the detriment of livelihoods, rights, conservation and sustainable development. GBV is a systematic means of control to enforce and protect existing privileges around natural resources, maintaining power imbalances that create tensions within families, between communities and among involved actors.

The table below provides the summary of environment issues in relation to GBV and Disability

Environment pressures, issues and threats	Associated effects that trigger GBV	Associated effects that uniquely affect persons with disability	Category of GBV
Land degradation [Deforestation, reduced soil fertility, poor waste management, pollution]	Women and girls moving long distances in search for forest products mainly firewood, safe water Low yields hence food-security issues. Water scarcity Low incomes hence the poverty	Firewood scarcity is exaggerated hence limited meals leading to Malnutrition	Women and girls exposed to sexual violence and abduction en route to water and firewood Women lose direct access to natural resources, driving economic GBV Early pregnancies intimate partner violence, Child marriage, Abduction and rape
Climate change [long dry spells, flooding, hailstorms]	Destruction of property and natural resources which greatly affects livelihoods since there will be scarcity	Damage to infrastructure, services Displacement and disruption of PWDs, health issues	Women and children exposed to sexual and intimate partner violence in and outside of camps Inequitable access to (or availability of) recovery services, information or support

	which leads to lacking and poverty. Damage to infrastructure, services Displacement and disruption of communities		driving economic GBV Child marriage,
Access to Land and land use demands [high population, urbanization, wetland encroachment, over fishing]	Low production hence food insecurity, safe water scarcity, limited livelihood options, low incomes Community conflicts	No production	intimate partner violence Child marriage forced sex with attachments Abduction and rape

5.0 TRIPLE NEXUS– DISABILITY, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

There is a strong base of literature and research connecting Disability and climate conservation, climate conservation and Gender based Violence, and Disability and gender-based violence. The review of the relationships between the pairs of issues presented in the previous sub-section demonstrates that the impacts associated with both climate conservation and disability, as well as Disability and Gender based violence, severely affect all people around the world, but in a differentiated fashion and with specific and often disproportionate impacts on women and girls with disabilities. Moreover, WGDs greater vulnerability to climatic events is exacerbated in settings that are also affected by increased levels of poverty, and vice versa. WGDs not only have distinct risks and vulnerabilities, but they also have participation capacities and potential to act as agents of change in climate conservation and GBV mitigation. However, there has been less research and in-depth discussion considering these three topics simultaneously, presenting an opportunity to explore the potential entry points for addressing all three concurrently for effective development interventions.

An entry point for addressing these three issues as a triple nexus is the connection between natural resource availability and Disability, which has particular gender dimensions. Changing climate conditions such as pro-longed dry spells alter the availability of natural resources, causing WGDs to travel further and spend more time collecting water and firewood. This increases their exposure to harsh environmental conditions and their risk of GBV, as they venture farther away from their communities. Less secure access to these resources also increases struggle over water and fuel, and competing interests may overlook or ignore WGD's access and needs, affecting the health of families and entire communities. Climate stressors, including droughts and floods, can interact with non-climate stressors, such as inadequate service delivery and, corrupt and mismanaged natural resource use, to exacerbate environmental degradation, water and food insecurity, social stress, and competition in extreme cases, these can lead to increased cases of GBV on the WGDs. In situations characterized by poverty, natural resource competition and scarcity, the time, labour, and risks associated with collecting natural resources to maintain households substantially increase for women and girls with disabilities and the impacts of climate change on women and persons with disability can be felt in the area of biodiversity, food security, health, economics, water

sanitation and hygiene, as well as in social aspects, such as trauma, loss of traditional lands and fishing grounds.

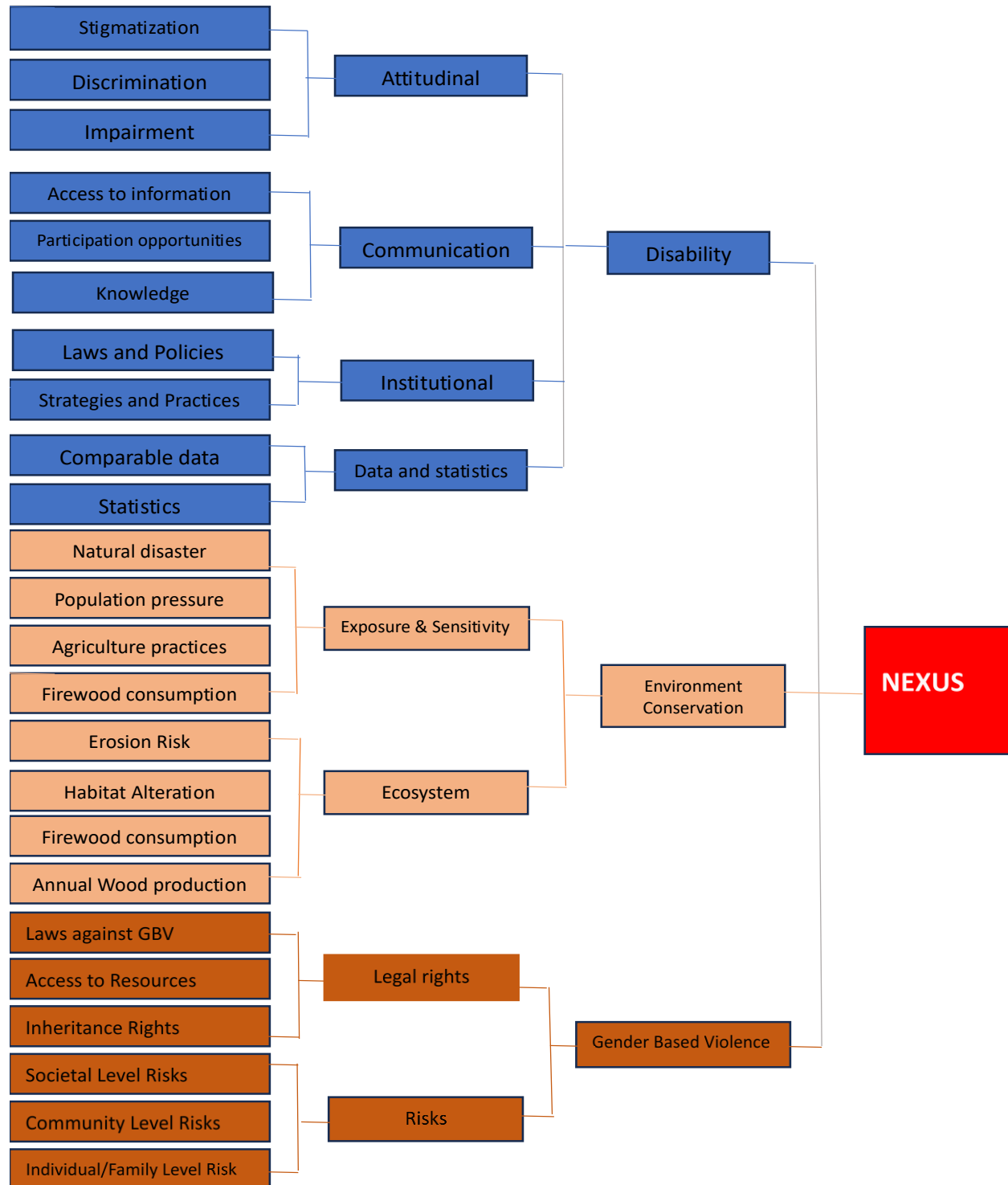
Disability, Gender based violence, and climate conservation are complex and intertwined issues with some shared drivers and social implications that affect progress across issues. GBV on WGDs has been driven by gender inequality includes the social, legal, cultural, and economic factors, as well as the barriers that limit the full participation and consideration of WGDs in leading and driving efforts to change socio-cultural perceptions that perpetrate gender inequality. Women and girls living with disabilities are highly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV). WGDs, gender-based violence is often compounded by disability-based discrimination. Women and girls with disability are often considered weak, worthless and in some cases subhuman by their societies - and because of that face a heightened risk of domestic and sexual violence.

Climate vulnerability is more than exposure to climate-related stressors, climatic changes, and weather shocks, but also accounts for the economic, social, and geographic situations that make WGDs such as those living with albinism, more sensitive to the effects of those stressors, as well as the participation capacities of WGDs to participate in environment conservation. Violence against women and girls with disabilities (VAWG) and climate change are two of the most pressing emergencies and sustainable development challenges of our time. Women and Girls with disabilities environmental Human Rights Defenders are at particular risk of threats, violence and even femicide as they take action to protect their territories, ecosystems and communities from the impacts of human-led habitat loss, degradation, pollution and climate change. A failure to eliminate VAWG with disabilities poses a serious risk to mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts to combat the climate crisis. At the same time, as climate change worsens the incidence of VAWG with disabilities, the failure to address gender-based violence (GBV) risks and challenges in climate action can compound risks for women and girls with disabilities safety and right to a life free from violence.

Climate change and environmental degradation exacerbate the risks of violence against women and girls with disabilities due to resource scarcity and food insecurity and disruption to service provision to survivors. VAWG with disabilities limits their participation, leadership and agency which is critical for effective climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience building efforts. Gradual environmental degradation or slow-onset climate events such as heavier rainfall and prolonged droughts leading to increased crop failure, livestock loss and food insecurity are also exacerbating VAWG with disabilities. WGDs are more dependent on natural resources and climate sensitive work to sustain their livelihoods and hold primary responsibility for collecting natural resources including water, firewood or food. WGDs have a crucial role to play as agents of change in climate and environment action at all levels and their knowledge of community needs and priorities are key to combating climate change and environmental degradation, reducing disaster risk and building resilience at all levels, including ensuring effective action is taken to mitigate the impact of climate change on VAWG with disabilities.

[Disability-Inclusion-in-GBV-Programming-ICGBV-CBM.pdf](#); [GBV_and_environmental_linkage.pdf](#); [GBV-ENV_interlinkages.pdf](#); [GBViE_Theory_of_Change_Monitoring_Framework.pdf](#); [Gender-Transformative-Approaches-An-HC3-Research-Primer.pdf](#)

IDIWA TRIPLE NEXUS FRAMEWORK – DISABILITY, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION



5.1 Recommendations

- Promote climate smart agriculture in Kaliro district through creating awareness, sensitizing and building the productive capacity of WGDs on Climate Smart Agriculture concepts for adaptation and increasing food productivity in a sustainable manner. Establish Agriculture smart demonstration garden where farmers will be trained on Climate smart agriculture. Train WGDs and other community members on planting basins, green manuring, conservation agriculture (rotations, intercropping, mulching and reduced tillage) and agroforestry as a climate- smart practices to improve productivity, food availability and resilience to climate hazards. Kaliro district to provide land where the climate smart agriculture gardens will be established.
- IDIWA to Promote go green campaigns in Kaliro district to plant 100,000 trees (we will encourage planting fruit trees to contribute to food security and nutrition) and achieve more than 10% tree cover in the district by 2025. Planting a tree is continuing a battle against the global challenge of climate change. Through this, community members will uphold a bond of unity between the trees and the people, and this will lead to reversing the adverse effects on our environment which we see manifested in prolonged dry spell, desertification and flooding among other consequences.
- Promote green towns in Kaliro district by vegetizing all spaces in these towns to encourage the return of biodiversity, and encourage Kaliro local government to do green town planning and come up with an ordinance on creating green towns, this will go hand in hand with the vegetizing school schoolyards and surroundings to contribute to the education of the students. We will also promote planting trees along roads to create a conducive environment for persons with albinism who are too much affected by hot sun, wheel chair users who are also affected by the sun since their movement is slow and also any other pedestrian using the road.
- Create an enabling policy environment for the elimination of violence against women and girls with disabilities. There should be Integration of VAWGD prevention and response into national and local environmental, disaster risk reduction and recovery, adaptation and mitigation policy frameworks, strategies, planning and accountability mechanisms.
- Promote strategic cross-sectorial partnerships across the climate change and End Violence Against Women and girls with disabilities programs. Strengthen awareness raising and capacity building of environment, climate action and disaster risk reduction programs in VAWGD including legal and policy frameworks and strengthen capacities of ending VAWGDs field in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Generate data to understand the impact of climate change on Violence Against Women and Girls with disabilities and risk factors. Ensure disability and sex-disaggregated data is collected to understand the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on violence against women and girls with disabilities, as well as the risk factors, vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities of women and girls with disabilities in both urban and rural settings. Identify

promising practices and strengthen knowledge sharing on effective strategies and interventions for tackling violence against women and girl with disabilities in the context of climate change.

- Increase investment in flexible and adoptive approaches to violence against women and girls with disabilities prevention and response, prioritizing funding for women and girls with disabilities rights and civil society organizations. Scale up evidence-based prevention interventions that address root causes, drivers and risk factors for violence and adapt to work across the climate change continuum including through integrating women's economic empowerment programming such as livelihoods and social protection with ending VAWG programming. Integrate VAWG prevention and response interventions into climate change and environmental adaptation, mitigation and resilience-strengthening policy, programming and finance.
- Strengthening the capacity of IDIWA and other stakeholders to address and monitor WGDs GBV: A major challenge to generating reliable, comparable data is the lack of globally recognized definitions and categorizations of the sub-types of WGDs GBV. The conceptual framework will be developed in partnership with Busoga GBV disability Network, Local governments and other stakeholders

6.0 Conclusion

GBV, whether or not associated with the access, use and governance of land and natural resources, has a negative impact not only on women and persons living with disabilities, but also on the livelihoods of entire households and communities. There is need to strategize and adequately plan for the livelihoods of the communities thriving in the challenging situations

7.0 Annexes

7.1 Annex

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANTS Introduction

IDIWA is developing a nexus between environment conservation, GBV and disability. A questionnaire to support in the process of consultation has been prepared

Overall objective

To strengthen the capacity of women and girls with disabilities, paralegals, male activists and IDIWA staff to promote disability inclusion environmental conservation and GBV response and prevention

Specific objective

1. To develop a Nexus between environmental conservation/climate change, GBV and Disability.
2. To train 30 women and girls with disabilities, paralegals, male champions and IDIWA staff on Gender Transformative Approaches, Environmental Conservation and Disability Inclusion.

Date of interview: _____

Name of the institution/agency: _____

Name of person interviewed and contact details if they will provide it: _____

Position in the institution/agency: _____

Environment conservation

1. What is environment conservation

.....
.....

2. What has been done to conserve the environment in your area

.....
..... a.
by who[which actors]

3. what are the challenges in environment conservation?

.....
.....

4. What do you think is the best way to conserve the environment?

.....
.....

4. a] Are there local laws existing that promote environmental conservation in your community

.....
.....
Gender based violence

5. What is gender based violence?

.....
.....
6. Is it occurring in your area?

7. What kind of gender based violence have you witnessed in your area? [which is most prevalent]

.....
8. Who is involved?

9. Are there efforts done to stop this kind of violence?

.....
.....
10. What should be done to stop these acts of violence?

.....
.....
Disability

11. What do you understand by the term disability?

.....
.....
12. Which disability categories are you aware of?

.....
.....
13. What are the disability issues you can mention?

.....
.....
14. How can we go about those issues?

Linkage of environment conservation, GBV and disability

15. What are the environmental issues or threats that you are aware of [state at least 3 issues] issues that cause or increase pressure and tension to the people in the community?

.....
.....

16. What are the associated effects of the issues mentioned above in regards to domestic violence?

.....
.....
.....

17. Do you think those effects in question 16 are being addressed, if yes what are the challenges?

.....
.....

18. If no, what should be done?

.....
.....

Do you think that addressing environment issues will go ahead to reduce cases of GBV? and give reasons for your answer

.....
.....

19. What are the associated effects of the issues mentioned in question 16 above in regards to people with disability?

.....
.....

20. Do you think those effects in question 20 are being addressed, if yes how and what are the challenges?

.....

21. If no, what should be done?

.....
.....

22. Do you think that addressing gender based violence issues will go ahead to promote and improve environment conservation and management? [please explain your answer]

.....
.....

23. Do you think addressing disability issues will go ahead to promote and improve environment conservation and management? [please explain your answer]

.....
.....

7.2 Annex 2

Focus Group Discussion Guide Introduction

IDIWA is developing a nexus between environment conservation, GBV and disability. A guide to support in the process of consultation has been prepared

Overall objective

To strengthen the capacity of women and girls with disabilities, paralegals, male activists and IDIWA staff to promote disability inclusion environmental conservation and GBV response and prevention

Specific objective

1. To develop a Nexus between environmental conservation/climate change, GBV and Disability.

Focus Group Discussion Guide

Location: Date of FGD:
Duration (start time and end time):
Name of moderator: Name of notes-taker:
Participant summary (include # of women or men):
Age range of respondents:

Environment conservation

24. What is environment conservation?
25. What has been done to conserve the environment in your area?
 - b. By who? [which actors]
26. What are the challenges in environment conservation?
27. What do you think is the best way to conserve the environment?
28. Are there local laws existing that promote environmental conservation in your community?

Gender based violence

29. What is gender based violence?
30. Is it occurring in your area?

31. What kind of gender based violence have you witnessed in your area [which is most prevalent] -who is involved?
32. Are there efforts done to stop this kind of violence? [By who?]
33. What should be done to stop these acts of violence?

Disability

34. What do you understand by the term disability?
35. Which disability categories are you aware of?
36. What are the disability issues you can mention?
[What are the needs of persons (WGDs) with disabilities in relation to their environment health?]
37. How can we go about those issues?

Linkage of environment conservation, GBV and disability

38. What are the environmental issues or threats that you are aware of [state at least 3 issues]
[issues that cause or increase pressure and tension to the people in the community]
39. What are the associated effects of the issues mentioned above in regards to domestic violence? [these will be classified in GBV categories as to where they fall]
40. Do you think those effects in question 15 above are being addressed, if yes what are the challenges?
41. If no, what should be done?
42. Do you think that addressing environment issues will go ahead to reduce cases of GBV?
43. What are the associated effects of the issues mentioned in question 11 above in regards to people with disability?
44. Do you think those effects in question 15 are being addressed, if yes what are the challenges?
45. If no, what should be done?
46. Do you think that addressing gender-based violence issues will go ahead to promote and improve environment conservation and management? [explain you answer]
47. Do you think addressing disability issues will go ahead to promote and improve environment conservation and management? [explain you answer]

Thank you

Some of the photos during consultation



