



National policy

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments (VAA) in Uganda

Problem

Uganda ranks among the most vulnerable countries to climate change globally, positioned at 173 out of 185 on Notre Dame’s GAIN index for climate vulnerability and readiness. Despite this high level of vulnerability, most sectors, except for agriculture, have not yet developed comprehensive National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This gap has left many areas, particularly the health sector, exposed to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Vulnerability assessment in action

Recognizing the urgent need to address climate-health risks, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Uganda identified an opportunity in early 2023 to develop a Vulnerability & Adaptation Assessment (VAA) and a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP). These initiatives aimed to better understand the specific health-related threats posed by climate change and to develop plans to mitigate these risks.

The VAA and HNAP were published in August 2024. The next steps involve integrating the HNAP into broader government development and climate policies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and annual work plans and budgets. Additionally, efforts will focus on mobilizing domestic and external resources, such as applying for funds from the Green Climate Fund, to support the implementation of the HNAP.

Impact

The development of the VAA and HNAP has positioned Uganda to effectively address climate-related health risks by leveraging local and external resources.

Four key factors contributed to Uganda’s success:

Wide Awareness

There was broad recognition of Uganda’s significant vulnerability to climate-sensitive health risks as well as environmentally mediated health risks given Uganda’s history with Ebola and other diseases.

Political Will

Strong support and commitment from the national government facilitated the initiatives.

Climate-Health Leadership

The prior appointment of a climate-health lead within the national government ensured focused and dedicated leadership.

National Climate Policy

An established national climate policy underscored the priority of addressing climate issues.