



STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2028

Resilient and Dignified lives for all

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Executive Summary

In this strategic plan 2022-2028, GEDA- Uganda seeks to empower girls and women in Uganda with skills, values and competencies to harness their full potential. The organization specifically will remain a change facilitator of processes and innovator of sustainable, gender-responsive, and resilient interventions that underpin gender stereotypes and ensure gender justice. In addition, will focus on a gender-responsive and climate-resilient food system that address the malnutrition challenge for pregnant and lactating women and children under five. And as well influencing policies and plans, developing strong institutional capacity, knowledge management and harnessing partnerships for joint action as key pillars of the organization.

GEDA Uganda Interventions in this strategic plan will mainly be informed by research, past experience global trends and community led participatory approaches that empower communities to identify their most pressing needs and jointly develop strategies to address their needs.

1.0 About Gender-Environment & Development Action

Gender-Environment and Development Action started as a result of numerous stories that were awash in the media about the increased teenage pregnancies and high child marriages in Kasese District. One of the stories was of one “Muhindo” not her real names who was a primary seven pupil of 16 years old and got impregnated by a would be good “Samaritan” that offered her 1,000 to buy books because her mother would not afford <https://www.unicef.org/uganda/stories/plight-adolescent-girl-rural-kasese-western-uganda> There was another story of the youngest mother in Uganda that gave birth at the age of 11 years and so many other related stories. The fertility rate of the Bakonzo in Kasese also stood at an average of 6.1 births per woman far beyond the national average of 5.4

https://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/family_planning_atlas_2019.pdf . In addition, Kasese District ranked highly in child marriages and teenage pregnancies that affect the health and dignity of the girl child.

This coupled with the increase of environmental hazards like floods, mudslides, drought among others in Kasese increased the vulnerability of women and girls and affected the social economic development of the households in the District leading to a vicious cycle of poverty and high malnutrition rates, Gender Based Violence and Violence against Children among others.

Therefore the mission was to understand the measures and drivers of gender related issues and environmental degradation, carry out research with strong commitment to providing solutions and remedies to the above and much more.

A team of strong minded individuals with a wide range of experience, expertise and dynamic academic backgrounds came together to tackle the challenges in our communities through research, engaging the women and girls, boys and men the leaders in several environment and gender related issues. We realize girls and women interact with the environment most often looking for firewood, cultivating the land and therefore being more attracted to environmental degradation. we engage them to use other alternative energy sources like energy cooking stoves, heat retention bags, briquettes among others.

The other approach being employed by GEDA Uganda is “men engage” especially with the issues to do with Sex and Gender based violence (SGBV), SRHR, doing counseling, referral pathways among others.

Therefore the formation of Gender-Environment and Development Action Uganda was informed by these challenges that we needed to tackle .

GEDA Vision

A world where gender equity , Environment and Economic justice prevail, in which women & girls have the power to harness their full potential

GEDA Mission

To promote gender and environmentally sensitive development initiatives for resilient and dignified lives for all”

GEDA Core values

- Gender equity
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Non discriminative
- Respect for humanity and mother Earth

3.0 Core Thematic Areas of Focus

During the period 2024- 2028 GEDA- Uganda will focus its efforts on 4 core thematic areas

3.1 Nutrition and Food Safety

GEDA Uganda will promote **nutrition and health interventions** for children under five, pregnant and lactating Women to **reduce the proportion of children under five suffering from stunting and other forms of malnutrition especially those born to Teenage mothers** .In addition, **Food safety interventions** shall be promoted anchored on the **food systems approach** through **agroecology** and extensive consumer awareness to reduce the proportion of people that suffer from food born diseases and as well enhance livelihoods of small-scale farmers and other actors especially women farmers and SMEs along the food value chain

3.2 Climate and Environmental justice.

GEDA- Uganda will promote **climate justice** and access to **efficient cooking energy technologies** for women and girls and ensure that women and girls are less vulnerable to risk and more resilient to climate shocks and stresses.

3.3 Gender justice

GEDA- Uganda will promote protection interventions and will **amplify voices for gender justice** to ensure that women and girls experience **gender equity for enjoyment of dignified lives free from violence (DLFV)**, realize their rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), land and other productive resources.

3.4 Youth Empowerment

GEDA- Uganda will promote interventions that empower the youth with life and entrepreneurship skills especially the Green skills to improve youth transition to decent, gainful and dignified work . This thematic area targets the adolescent mothers, youth out of school, Youth with special needs, youth in refugee settlements, youth in Displaced people's camps(IDPs) among others. The youth networks strengthening in lobby and advocacy shall be strengthened for enhanced participation in policy spaces and programmes at local and National Levels.

4.0 Cross cutting

Research, Learning and Knowledge management will be an integral component of all the 4 core thematic areas of this strategic plan while leveraging on **partnerships** for synergy and collaborations for bigger impact.

5.0 Strategic plan Alignment to National, Continental and international instruments



Integrating Nutrition in CAADP investments plans



Gender Equality & Development



Uganda



Uganda Food and Nutrition Strategy and Investment Plan.

6.0 Goal and Strategic Objectives

6.1. Goal

Women, girls and youth in Uganda are empowered with knowledge and skills to harness their potential for resilient and dignified lives

6.2. Strategic objective

SO1: Improving the nutrition status of children under five years for a healthy early childhood development.

SO2: Enhancing access to diverse, safe and nutrient dense foods amongst the targeted households

SO3: To empower women and girls to amplify their voices for women's rights and advocate for their rights, representation and access to resources

SO4: To empower youth with entrepreneurial skills and enhance their access to resources for investment for income generation and improved livelihoods

SO5: To enhance capacity of women, girls and youth in agroecology and their access to efficient energy technologies for climate resilience

SO6: To strengthen partnerships with government, Private sector, CSOs and other development actors for synergy and joint actions for a far-reaching impact

7.0 KEY Result Areas

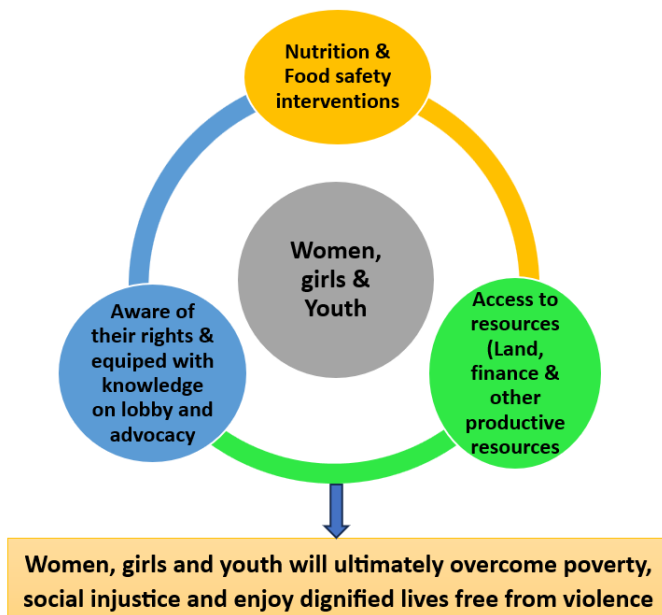
By 2028 GEDA- Uganda will

Have contributed to the reduction of malnutrition by 5% amongst 2000 children under five in the targeted areas in Uganda

1. Have promoted access to diverse, safe and nutrient dense foods amongst 5000 households in the targeted areas in Uganda
2. Have contributed to enhanced livelihoods for 5000 households of targeted women, girls and youth
3. Have contributed to a reduction of gender-based violence amongst the targeted households
4. Have strengthened voices of women, girls and youth to advocate for their rights, representation and access to resources
5. Have enhanced the capacity 3000 women, girls and youth in agroecological practices for climate resilience
6. Have enhanced access to energy efficient cooking and lighting technologies for 5000 households in the targeted areas
7. Have enhanced access to land and other productive resources for women, girls and youth in the targeted areas
8. Have empowered 2000 youth with entrepreneurial skills to foster self-employment and enhance their employability

9. Have strengthened partnerships with government, Private sector, CSOs and other development actors for synergy and joint actions for wider impact

8.0 Theory of change



If **women and girls** are equipped with knowledge and skills in **nutrition and food safety** interventions **then** they will ensure **access to diverse, safe and nutrient dense foods** for their children and families. And **if women, girls and youth** have access to land, finance, other productive resources and they invest in ecological organic agricultural practices, start and expand their small scale enterprises to meet the food security, nutrition, livelihood, health and the general welfare of their families. **If women, girls** and youth are aware of their rights and equipped with in knowledge and skill in advocacy, they will defend their rights and amplify their voices for rights of other women, girls and youth to

influence policies, practices and programmes in their favour at local, national, Regional and international levels. Then women, girls and youth will ultimately overcome poverty, social injustice and enjoy dignified lives free from violence

9.0 Thematic Priority Intervention Areas

Nutrition and Food Safety

Globally the number of people facing hunger has increased. One out of 11 people face hunger globally and 1 out of every 5 people in Africa making Africa the region with the largest percentage of the population facing hunger (SOFI Report 2023). The nutrition and food safety situation in Africa has neither improved. Nearly 282 million people in Africa (About 20%) of the population are undernourished(2023 Africa Africa Regional overview of Food security and nutrition by FAO 2023) . Globally about 600 million people get sick due to consumption of unsafe food of which 420 pe0pe die.

In Uganda, it's estimated that 29% of children aged 6-59 months are stunted, 4% wasted and 11% underweight with the highest burden of stunting (40.6%) among children under five years registered in the Tooro sub region (UBOS, 2016) where GEDA- Uganda operate.

A study conducted GEDA- Uganda on the factors associated with stunting among Children aged 6-59 months born to Teenage mothers in Kasese District Revealed that 56.4 of the children were stunted.

Therefore, GEDA- Uganda would intensify intervention on nutrition targeting children under five, pregnant and lactating Women with more attention given to teenage mothers and children

Priority Nutrition Intervention

- Nutrition and health education
- Capacity development on Maternal, infant, young child and adolescent nutrition (MIYCAN) and production of nutrient-dense food crops and livestock through agroecology
- Timely Identification of malnourished children and Referral to partners offering health care services

Priority Food safety interventions

- Awareness creation on food safety
- Multi stakeholder engagements on food safety
- Enhancing consumer engagement in food safety
- Local and national level policy advocacy on food safety and agroecological transformation

Climate and environmental justice

Climate affects people differently according to their gender. Women and girls especially in Africa are more affected by climate change due to their socially constructed gender role. Therefore, GEDA - Uganda will focus on gender responsive intervention that strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of women and girls to the effects of climate change. In addition will promote women and girls participation and implying their voices in sustainable nature resources governance.

Priority interventions

- Women and girls' access to efficient cooking and lighting energy technologies
- Enhancing adaptation for women and girls to the effects of climate change in development and humanitarian context
- Provision of Personal Protective Equipment for Women in salt mining
- Amplifying voices for women and girls salt miners and those living adjacent to protected areas for their safety and economic justice

- Advocacy at national and international levels on safety and economic justice for women salt miners and those living adjacent to protected areas
- Involving youngsters in climate and environmental conservation programmes

Gender justice

Priority interventions on gender justice

- Awareness and response to Gender based violence and Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Children (VAC)
- Multi stake holder engagements on GBV and VAC
- Women land rights and Access
- Gender responsive livelihoods for women small scale farmers
- Economic justice for women cross border traders
- Enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health rights for women and girls
- Policy advocacy

Youth Empowerment

Uganda has the youngest population in the world with 73.2% of its population is 30 years and



below children between the ages of 0-17years making up 50.5% and youth between the ages of 18-30years comprising 22.7% percent (UBOs,2024). Amidst this is the high youth unemployment rate, the increasing number of teenage mothers and drug abuse in Uganda. The youth can contribute to the livelihoods of their families and the country's economic development if their potential is harnessed. This young population if not productively engaged can easily be lured into subversive activities

Priority interventions

- Youth entrepreneurship and skilling with major focus on teenage mothers and fathers and youth out of schools
- Youth Sexual and reproductive Health Rights
- Youth learning and knowledge exchange

- Involving Youngsters in and out of schools in nutrition, Food safety, climate/environmental conservation interventions and in prevention and response to GBV and VAC
- Capacity development for youth and youth networks in lobbying and advocacy
- Supporting youth participation in learning and advocacy events at local, national, Regional and international level

Crosscutting intervention

Research, Learning and Knowledge management

The above 4 core thematic interventions will be enriched by research for evidence generation to inform learning and policy.

Partnerships

GEDA-Uganda will strengthen networking and collaboration with other stakeholders that include; Government, private sector, CSOs, Networks, Cultural institutions, Faith Based Institutions, academia and Development partners for synergy and joint actions. We will also leverage on the expertise and interventions of these partners for a far-reaching impact.

Approaches

This strategic plan will be implemented using different approaches namely a) Gender Responsive b) People and environment-centered c) Parish Nutrition Model (PNM) d) Men Engage e) Diversity and inclusion

Implementation Cost for GEDA-Uganda Strategic Plan 2024-2028

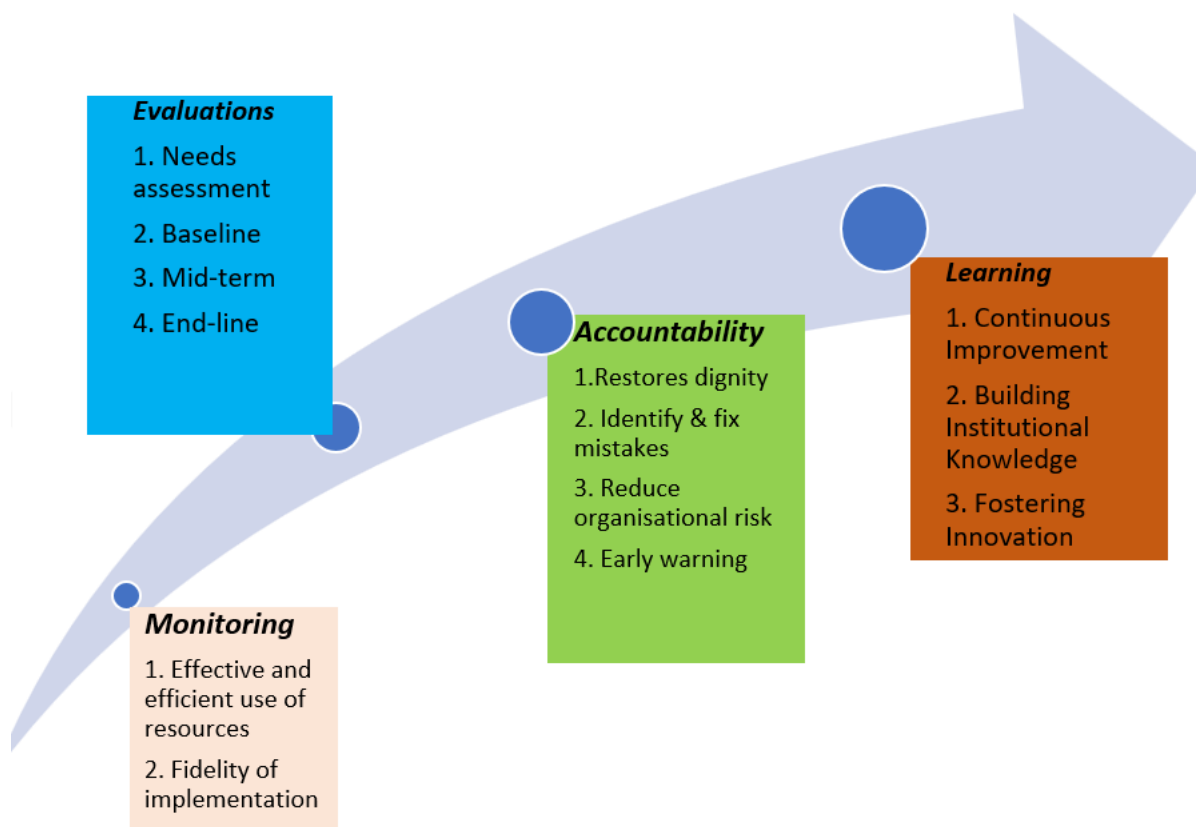


The total cost of implementation of this strategic plan is **513,888 USD**

10.0 Sustainability Principles of the strategic Plan



11.0 Monitoring, Evaluation and Action Learning





Commemoration of the international menstrual hygiene day. It was graced by the Kasese District Woman MP Hon. Kabugho Florence.



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