

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ACTION

PROJECT: EMPOWERING & SCALING WOMEN'S CLIMATE ADVOCACY THROUGH SAFE SPACES

LOCATION: IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, TEREKO DISTRICT, UGANDA

IMPLEMENTER: COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AGENDA (COTA)

SUPPORTED BY: CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT - MS TCDC



WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

WOMEN IN IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT LIVE DAILY WITH THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE – WATER SHORTAGES, DEFORESTATION, EXTREME HEAT, FLOODING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. WOMEN AND GIRLS CARRY THE GREATEST BURDEN, YET THEIR VOICES HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN EXCLUDED FROM LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING SPACES.

BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025, THE EMPOWERING & SCALING WOMEN'S CLIMATE ADVOCACY THROUGH SAFE SPACES PROJECT WORKED TO CHANGE THIS REALITY. IMPLEMENTED BY COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AGENDA (COTA) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CLIMATE JUSTICE GRANT (MS TCDC), THE PROJECT CREATED SAFE SPACES, STRENGTHENED WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, AND SUPPORTED COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ACTION.

RATHER THAN TREATING WOMEN AS BENEFICIARIES, THE PROJECT POSITIONED THEM AS LEADERS, ORGANISERS, AND CLIMATE ACTORS.

SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN'S VOICES



Women-only reflection sessions created safe and trusted spaces where refugee women could openly discuss climate challenges affecting their lives, including:

- Access to clean water
- Firewood collection risks
- Deforestation and environmental degradation
- Care burdens intensified by climate stress

Participatory methods such as storytelling and group dialogue ensured inclusion of young women and women with disabilities. These spaces helped women build confidence, speak freely, and identify emerging leaders.

WOMEN ARE NO LONGER MANAGING CLIMATE IMPACTS ALONE. THEY ARE ORGANISING, ADVOCATING, AND ACTING TOGETHER.



"THIS SPACE GAVE ME COURAGE. NOW I HELP PLAN ACTIONS FOR MY COMMUNITY." – BETTY, 19

FROM PARTICIPATION TO LEADERSHIP



IMPACT ACROSS TWO PROJECT PHASES



PHASE I (2024): BUILDING CONFIDENCE & VOICE – VILLAGE 12



KEY 2024 RESULTS

“IF WE ARE NOT HEARD, WE SUFFER TWICE — FIRST FROM FLOODS, THEN FROM SILENCE.”
— WOMAN PARTICIPANT, VILLAGE 12



- 6 WOMEN-ONLY SAFE SPACE SESSIONS CONDUCTED
- 29 REFUGEE WOMEN ENGAGED, MOST SPEAKING PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME
- 1 COMMUNITY CLIMATE ADVOCACY TRAINING DELIVERED
- WOMEN CLIMATE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (WCAC) FORMED IN VILLAGE 12
- WOMEN RAISED CLIMATE ISSUES SUCH AS WATER ACCESS, FIREWOOD SAFETY, AND LAND USE WITH LOCAL LEADERS
- WOMEN BEGAN ATTENDING AND CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY MEETINGS

WOMEN ARE NO LONGER MANAGING CLIMATE IMPACTS ALONE. THEY ARE ORGANISING, ADVOCATING, AND ACTING TOGETHER.

- 4 women-only reflection sessions + 1 validation session
- 6 WCAC mentors recruited
- 32 emerging women leaders mentored
- WCAC 2025 established in Village 10
- 5 community climate action plans developed
- Women led a community water source cleaning and climate awareness action

KEY 2025 RESULTS



- 147+ WOMEN AND YOUTH ENGAGED
- 2 FUNCTIONAL WCAC CHAPTERS ESTABLISHED
- 61 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN SAFE SPACES
- 32 WOMEN LEADERS MENTORED
- 5 COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED
- 1 WOMEN-LED COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTED
- 100% BUDGET UTILISATION WITH FULL ACCOUNTABILITY

IMPACT AT A GLANCE (2024-2025)

“IF WE ARE NOT HEARD, WE SUFFER TWICE — FIRST FROM FLOODS, THEN FROM SILENCE.”
— WOMAN PARTICIPANT, VILLAGE 12



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SUSTAINING WOMEN-LED CLIMATE JUSTICE

FROM ACTION TO SUSTAINED IMPACT



THE CLIMATE JUSTICE ACADEMY GRANT PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THAT WOMEN-LED CLIMATE ACTION WORKS WHEN REFUGEE WOMEN ARE TRUSTED, ORGANISED, AND SUPPORTED. THROUGH SAFE SPACES, MENTORSHIP, AND COMMUNITY ACTION, WOMEN IN IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT HAVE MOVED FROM COPING WITH CLIMATE IMPACTS TO LEADING COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS.

HOWEVER, THE CLIMATE CHALLENGES FACING REFUGEE COMMUNITIES ARE ONGOING. SUSTAINING AND EXPANDING THIS WORK REQUIRES CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP, RESOURCES, AND SOLIDARITY.

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, THIS INITIATIVE CAN:

- SCALE WOMEN CLIMATE ADVOCACY COMMITTEES (WCACS) TO MORE VILLAGES
- SUPPORT WOMEN TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLANS
- STRENGTHEN MENTORSHIP, LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS, AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
- ENABLE WOMEN-LED MONITORING, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- BUILD A CROSS-VILLAGE PLATFORM FOR WOMEN'S CLIMATE GOVERNANCE IN IMVEPI
- INVESTING IN WOMEN-LED CLIMATE ACTION IS NOT CHARITY – IT IS A STRATEGIC, COST-EFFECTIVE CLIMATE JUSTICE SOLUTION ROOTED IN LIVED REALITIES.



WHY CONTINUED SUPPORT MATTERS



CALL TO ACTION: PARTNER WITH WOMEN LEADING CHANGE



WE INVITE DONORS, PARTNERS, AND ALLIES TO:

- SUPPORT THE NEXT PHASE OF WOMEN-LED CLIMATE ADVOCACY IN IMVEPI
- INVEST IN SMALL GRANTS AND MENTORSHIP FOR WCAC-LED INITIATIVES
- PARTNER ON LEARNING, DOCUMENTATION, AND SCALING COMMUNITY CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
- TOGETHER, WE CAN ENSURE THAT REFUGEE WOMEN ARE NOT ONLY HEARD – BUT RESOURCED TO LEAD.

WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE CLIMATE JUSTICE ACADEMY (MS TCDC) FOR BELIEVING IN GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORTING REFUGEE WOMEN TO CLAIM SPACE, VOICE, AND POWER IN CLIMATE JUSTICE.

WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE:

WCAC MENTORS AND WOMEN LEADERS, WHOSE COURAGE AND COMMITMENT DRIVE THIS WORK
 COMMUNITY LEADERS AND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, WHO SUPPORTED MOBILISATION AND ACTION
 LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES, WHO CONTINUE TO WALK WITH WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

THIS PROJECT STANDS AS PROOF THAT WHEN WOMEN LEAD, COMMUNITIES MOVE FORWARD.

APPRECIATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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