



ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT (JANUARY–NOVEMBER 2025)

Project Title:	Empowering Women for Resilience against Climate Change Health Impacts in Oil-Host Communities of Hoima, Buliisa and Kikuube Districts
Organization:	Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA)
Reporting Period:	From January to November 2025
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Total Grant Budget	EUR 86,000
Budget for the Relevant Semester	EUR 43,000

1.REMINDER OF THE PROJECT

The project “Empowering Women for Resilience against Climate Change Health Impacts in Oil-Host Communities” supports women and girls in the oil-rich districts of Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube to respond to climate change health challenges, environmental stress, and socio-economic pressures intensified by oil activities in the Albertine region.

The project covers 10 highly vulnerable oil-affected communities across Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube districts, in areas that have been heavily impacted by oil and gas (EACOP) activities, leading to prolonged droughts, floods, pollution, land loss, food insecurity, weak health systems, inadequate water access, and gender inequality. The project established Women Climate Resilience Resource Centres (WRCs) which serve as the project’s central hubs, ensuring culturally grounded, women-led, and sustainable interventions.

Project Objectives

- a) To strengthen the capacity of women and girls to cope with climate-related health risks.
- b) To improve access to preventive health services, hygiene education, and early warning.
- c) To establish Women Climate Resilience Resource Centres (WRCs) as Oil Projects Affected Persons (PAPs) safe learning and support spaces for climate change adaptation and resilience.
- d) To empower women with leadership, financial literacy, and platforms for advocacy.

Expected Results

- a. Increased awareness of the link between climate and health among households.
- b. Improved access to preventive services and hygiene practices.
- c. Greater adoption of climate-smart agriculture and resilient livelihood options.
- d. Strengthened women’s leadership, voice, and participation in community decision-making.
- e. Fully functional WRCs offering continuous learning, income skills, and environmental action.

Key Activities Implemented during the year

During the year, the major activities carried out include baseline survey, climate-health awareness campaigns and trainings, mobile health camps, establishment and equipment of 3 WRCs, facilitation of leadership and financial literacy trainings to women and girls, trainings in climate-smart agriculture, establishment of tree-nurseries and tree planting, business skills and livelihood training, and linking women to government programmes, private sector actors, and peer support networks.

2.SYNTHESI OF THE SEMESTERS 1&2 PROGRESS (JAN-NOV 2025)

Overall Developments

Across the reporting period, the project demonstrated substantial progress in strengthening climate-health resilience for women and girls. The establishment of WRCs, intensification of training and agricultural practices demonstration, business skills development, and community advocacy created a strong foundation for long-term resilience. Semester 1 encompassed baseline research, establishing WRCs, and wide-scale awareness, while Semester 2 emphasized deeper skills-building, leadership empowerment, district stakeholder engagement, business resilience, and community health outreach.

The 22 climate-health campaigns and radio programmes reached more than 12,000 community members. The project facilitated 32 health care providers who completed training on health and climate resilience. The Mobile health camp reached 168 people with screening, hygiene education, and climate-health information. Three (3) WRCs were established and equipped with solar lighting, water tanks, tree nurseries, and training modules, while leadership and financial literacy trainings benefited 350 women and girls. Under climate smart agriculture, 130 smallholder farmers were trained; 71,000 different tree species were distributed and planted and 5,000 seedlings raised in community nurseries. The women and girls further benefited from business, livelihood improvement trainings on beekeeping, poultry management, soap making and value addition. The project also linked women to government PDM programme, private sector initiatives by oil companies and peer support networks.

Major Problems Encountered and adjustments

No	Problems encountered	Solutions/Adjustments
1	Prolonged drought (July–Oct 2025) affected vegetable production and water-dependent activities	Encouraged small scale affordable watering of vegetable gardens around backyard gardens, and rainwater reservoirs
2	The political season and RDC clearance requirements before any gatherings caused delays in some community meetings and the final health camp	Adjusted activity calendars to avoid campaigns in the same periods
3	Transport challenges limited some follow-up mentorship activities in Semester 2	Used local facilitators and peer mentors who are community based during community

		outreaches and trainings
4	Overlapping NGO/oil-company activities led to confusion in some villages in Buliisa	Strong branding and communication enhanced visibility and differentiated CICOA activities
5	Men's resistance to women's leadership roles in some communities exacerbates gender inequality	Introduced male supporters (male champions) and promoted mixed-gender dialogues

Lessons Learned:

- (i) Women-led planning increases ownership and attendance.
- (ii) Radio, storytelling, and peer learning are highly effective for low-literacy groups.
- (iii) Combining livelihood training with climate action strengthens motivation.
- (iv) WRCs double as therapy, leadership hubs, and safe spaces not just training centres.
- (v) Journalists' engagement is essential for amplifying climate-health awareness.

3. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

A. CONTEXT

The intervention communities continue to experience overlapping challenges. The oil activities have led to land loss, displacement, pollution, and disruptions to livelihoods. Climate change has resulted in prolonged droughts, extreme heat, erratic rainfall, and floods. Health risks such as malaria, diarrhea, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and poor sanitation are on the rise. Social pressures, especially gender inequality, low literacy, domestic violence, and a weak health-seeking culture, are present every day. The political season (2025) has increased bureaucracy and cost for community mobilization.

Despite these constraints, strong collaboration with Village Health Teams, community leaders, women's groups, cultural leaders, and district officials has enabled steady progress.

B. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

Strategic objective	Approach/es used	Activities implemented (Jan – Nov 2025)	Achievements	What was not implemented
1: Strengthen women and girls' capacity to cope with climate-related health risks.	Participatory, community-led approaches Use of local facilitators and VHTs during mobilization and empowerment building trust	(i) Raise awareness among women and girls on the health impacts of climate change, oil extraction, and effective adaptation strategies through radio, meetings, and printed IEC materials (ii) Train community members on climate smart and sustainable agricultural practices and sanitation, including backyard gardening and WASH	○ The 22 climate-health awareness campaigns and radio programmes reached more than 12,000 people ○ 430 participants trained (230 women and 70 community leaders/youth) in Semester 1, &130 farmers in Semester 2.	A vegetable-growing demo in Buliisa was postponed due to severe drought
2: Improve access to preventive health services and hygiene education	Outreaches, Health workers, VHT-led sessions,	(i) Organize Mobile health camp that offered screening, hygiene education, and disseminated climate-health information (ii) Train healthcare providers and community health workers on managing health issues related to climate change	○ One health camp supported 168 people. ○ 12 Health workers and 20 VHTs were trained and supported during outreach	Health camps mainly reached communities near HCIVs; remote villages remained underserved.
3: Establish and run Women Climate Resilience Resource Centres (WRCs) to Increase women's participation in diversified, climate-	Upgraded existing structures. Local trainers and peer mentors provided continuous learning support. WRC-	(i) Establish and equip WRCs serving affected communities as training hubs, skills acquisition and safe spaces (ii) Facilitate linkage meetings to credit and small grants to help women start or	○ Three (3) WRCs were established, fully equipped and operational, with solar power, water tanks ○ Eight (8) linkage meetings	Effective community mobilization strengthened environmental protection. Community members gathered seedlings from within

resilient economic activities	based demonstrations, Promotion of Indigenous multi-purpose tree species introduced (medicinal, nutritional, environmentally friendly).	expand small businesses that are resilient to climate change, through government programmes like PDM, GROW (iii) Promote tree planting among households, community and support seedling nurseries at WRCs. (iv) Organize women groups into Savings Associations and SACCO and position them to tap into funding opportunities for growth (v) Facilitate trainings on business development, financial management, and market development to help women start or expand and manage their own businesses (vi) Strengthen community disaster committees, disaster preparedness plans, community early warning systems and other strategies that reduce vulnerability to climate change effects.	were facilitated at the WRCs with financial institutions for credit access and business advisory ○ Over 71,000 trees were distributed and planted, and 5,000 seedlings were raised at WRC nurseries ○ 140 women are actively saving through their 4 savings groups ○ 120 women trained in value addition, business and trade. ○ Community sensitisation was conducted disaster identification, early warning systems and preventive strategies through radio and community meetings reaching over 430 people	the community following sensitization increasing the area planted. Restriction on public gatherings affected engagement
4: Empower women with leadership, financial skills and platforms for advocacy	Peer-led learning, storytelling, mentorship, and civic engagement	(i) Facilitate trainings on leadership, negotiation, public speaking and advocacy empowering women and girls	○ 230 women trained in leadership and advocacy. ○ Women are increasingly	Some follow-up mentorship sessions were postponed due to drought, transport

to increase their participation in decision making processes	dialogues, joint meetings with local government disaster committees and environmental offices. Experience sharing	to take on influential roles within their communities (ii) Support financial literacy, resource mobilization and management, and project planning sessions among women and girls (iii) Link women and groups to government programmes, and private sector actors for various livelihood improvement and poverty reduction projects. (iv) Coordinate networking events and peer support groups to build connections among marginalized women and adolescent girls, as well as with allies and supporters	participating in local planning meetings, and some were nominated for leadership roles. ○ Women report increased confidence and decision making ○ Overall, financial literacy and resource mobilization trainings benefited over 350 women and girls ○ 200 women were linked to PDM government program ○ 120 women and girls benefited from counselling and mentorship sessions	restrictions, and political factors
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Research Component:

The baseline survey during Semester 1 served as the main research component. Conducted between January and February 2025, it covered 124 households across the 3 districts. The baseline used household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and community observations during transect walks. It revealed widespread water scarcity, weak health access and health seeking behaviors, increased pollution food insecurity, gender-based violence, and loss of income. These findings guided activity targeting and sequencing. The data also helped in adjusting indicators and supported advocacy at district level.

PLANNED VS ACHIEVED (Jan–Nov 2025)

Planned Activities	Actually Achieved	Explanation
Conduct 1 baseline survey	Completed one survey (124 households)	Guided project targeting
Establishment of 5 WRCs	3 WRCs were established and equipped	Upgraded existing infrastructure. The 2 remaining WRCs to be established in year 2
Raise awareness among women and girls on the health impacts of climate change, oil extraction, and effective adaptation strategies	Completed across 10 communities benefiting over 12,000 people	Used multimedia channels including radio, posters, meetings reaching wider masses
Training of community members on climate smart and sustainable agricultural practices	430 community members trained	Delivered via VHTs/health workers. Erratic weather affected established demo plots which will need to be improved in year 2
Train healthcare providers and community health workers on health and climate change	Trained 32 health care providers	The providers supported outreach, though movement was challenging in addition to restrictions on public gatherings
Organize Health camps and support health screening targeting women and adolescent girls	168 people reached during health camp.	Restrictions on public gatherings affected the health camp. Final camp scheduled for December 2025
Training on business development, financial management, and market linkages to women and girls	120 were trained	Beekeeping, soap, poultry and crafts
Plant 20,000 trees towards greening	71,000 trees planted	Intensified sensitization on environmental protection by local leaders
Community dialogues and forums where women and girls can voice their concerns and influence local policies and practices	6 platforms activated with 65 women and girls participating	Dialogues occur at the WRCs and through peer learning

RESULTS VS INDICATORS

Expected Results	Indicators	Results (Jan–Nov)	Explanation
Increased climate-health awareness	No.of people sensitized	12,000+ people	Through radio & meetings
Functional WRCs	No.of centres established	3 WRCs operational	Fully equipped & active
Women adopting resilient practices	No.of women trained	230+ women trained	Increased uptake of skills
Trees planted towards greening	No.of trees planted	71,000	Community initiative and uptake
Improved health access	No.of people reached	168 people	Through health camps
Increased in Women's participation	No.of women in platforms	65 women	Engaged in decision forums

4.COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

The project deployed various mechanisms to enhance communication, visibility, and the wide sharing of program results, especially at the grassroots and district levels across Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube. Communication kept communities and other stakeholders informed, promoted ownership, and increased awareness of the health and environmental risks caused by climate change and oil activities.

- i..**Radio:** Local radio remained the most effective communication tools. The project facilitated 6 Monthly radio talk shows which were aired across Spice FM, Kabalega FM, and Radio Hoima, featuring women leaders, Village Health Teams (VHTs), local government officials, and project beneficiaries. All talk shows were streamed Twitter/X Spaces for wider reach. Topics covered included climate change, women's health, environmental protection, and community rights. The shows allowed community members to call in, ask questions, and share their views.
- ii..**Print materials:** More than 1,500 printed materials (leaflets and posters) were distributed across the 10 project communities in *Runyoro*, *Lugungu* and English dialects, covering key messages on hygiene, climate-smart agriculture, rights awareness, and the role of women in climate adaptation
- iii..**Social media:** CICOA actively used Facebook, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, and WhatsApp to share updates, and photos. Similarly, CICOA implementing partners-VIDEA Uganda and EACOPHC—consistently shared and amplified this content through their own platforms, helping to broaden the reach.
- iv..**Journalist engagement:** To improve information exchange, the project established a Bunyoro Journalists network, which brings together reporters from local media houses for continuous climate-

health reporting. This group has become a hub for sharing verified project information, educating communities, and guiding radio programming on climate change, health, and community rights.

- v..**Media training:** the project facilitated a regional workshop in April 2025, bringing journalists, local leaders, and CSOs together to discuss and report on climate change and environmental degradation in the context of oil and gas development. The training brought together journalists, talk show hosts, and editors from across the Bunyoro sub-region, as well as local leaders from Hoima, Kikuube, and Buliisa districts. Over 20 media outlets, especially local FM radio stations, reported on the training through news coverage and community updates
- vi..**Brand visibility:** Branded t-shirts with project and donor logos were distributed to all members of the Women Climate Resilience Resource Centers (WRCs). These are worn during all community events, training, and outreach activities. In addition, all project events including tree planting days, and advocacy forums feature branded materials such as banners, tear drops, flyers, and posters to maintain consistent donor visibility.

5.CONSTRAINTS, SOLUTIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Constraint	Solution Taken
Drought and extreme weather	Adjusted schedules; shifted to water-efficient demos
Political season restrictions	Early clearance from RDC & DHO
Transport constraints	Use of local peer mentors
Overlapping NGO/oil activities	Strong project branding and coordination
Low literacy	Storytelling, demos, radio theatre
Male resistance to women leadership	Mixed-gender dialogues and male champion model

6. LESSONS LEARNED, FEEDBACK, HIGHLIGHTS OR INNOVATIONS

- i. WRCs function as safe spaces, not just training hubs that boost confidence and motivation. At WRCs, women can grow, share experiences, and improve leadership.
- ii. Storytelling and radio are exceptionally powerful and effective tools for education and communication in low-literacy settings because they rely on oral traditions and are highly accessible and engaging. They bypass the need for written text, fostering engagement, comprehension, and community involvement.
- iii. Combining climate-smart agriculture (CSA) with income-generating skills and off-farm opportunities ensures faster and more sustained adoption among smallholder farmers
- iv. Combining environmental restoration e.g. through tree planting with income-generating skills like soap making and beekeeping increases motivation and sustainability. It is an integrated landscape management approach which offers multiple synergies and benefits.

- v. Timely and effective engagement of journalists is crucial for building awareness and driving action on climate-health issues in the region.
- vi. Biogas and clean water demonstrations are a highly effective method for encouraging practical behavioral change as they offer visible, tangible proof of the benefits, thereby overcoming common barriers like skepticism, cultural resistance, and lack of practical knowledge
- vii. Working with existing cultural structures significantly increases legitimacy and trust because it aligns new initiatives with deeply held societal expectations, norms, and values. This alignment makes the initiatives seem more appropriate and worthy of support, rather than a foreign or imposed idea

7. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen partnerships with government health units for broader outreach.
2. Upgrade WRCs with permanent water-harvesting systems, as water is a key challenge in all communities.
3. The communities requested that we expand business training to include market linkages and value addition of their harvests from WRC's backyard demonstration gardens.
4. We observed the need to integrate psycho-social Support and GBV response in climate-health activities.
5. There is need for recruitment and training of more male champions for community buy-in and to bridge the gender disparity gap
6. We need to provide continuous training for the Bunyoro Journalists Network.

8. ANNEXES

- 1... Financial Report (Excel)
- 2... Logical framework
- 3... Half-yearly calendar of activities for the following semester, and provisional budget
- 4... Documents/deliverables produced during the semester