

PARES Case Study of Engagement & Involvement for Resilience

Case Study Title/ID **Uganda – Flood and Drought – Embedded and Equitable Partnerships**

Country/location Uganda. Kasese and Katakwi Districts

Crisis/challenge type Recurrent flooding and prolonged drought

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PARES Domain illustrated by this case study

Learning & Capabilities: Embedded and equitable partnerships between communities, government actors, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Recommended Actions

For Communities: Engage actively with locally embedded organizations and participate in training, preparedness planning, and resilience initiatives that strengthen local capacity.

For Government: Strengthen collaboration with NGOs and community organizations that maintain a long-term presence in vulnerable districts. Support joint planning and integration of community learning into district development and disaster preparedness plans.

For NGOs & health program implementors: Work through local governance structures and community institutions.

Prioritize long-term engagement, capacity building, and shared decision making with community leaders and district actors.

For Funders: Support sustained partnerships that strengthen local capacity and institutional learning rather than short-term project-based interventions.

Data for this case analysis

46 key informant interviews (Kampala, Kasese and Katakwi districts); 12 focus group discussions (Kasese and Katakwi) in 2023; dissemination and validation workshops with c.60 stakeholders in 2026.

Key Message

Long-term partnerships between locally embedded NGOs, community leadership structures, and district authorities strengthen local learning and adaptive capacity to respond to climate shocks.

Case study summary

In Kasese and Katakwi districts, NGOs such as the Red Cross and SOCADIDO maintain long-term partnerships with communities and district authorities. These organizations work through established governance structures including Local Council level 1 (LC1) leadership, Village Health Teams, disaster committees, and community groups. Through training, technical support, and joint planning processes, external partners strengthen community capacity to interpret climate risks, adopt adaptive practices, and coordinate preparedness activities. Because these organizations maintain sustained engagement and collaborate closely with trusted local leaders, communities perceive them as legitimate partners rather than external actors. This enables continuous knowledge exchange and strengthens the ability of communities and local institutions to adapt to changing environmental conditions. These embedded partnerships therefore contribute to long-term learning and the development of durable resilience capacities.

Detailed Explanation of engagement mechanisms

Context that provides the conditions in which the observed actions work

Kasese and Katakwi districts experience recurrent floods and drought that disrupt livelihoods and essential services. District governments often face limited resources to respond to these shocks independently. NGOs and humanitarian organizations therefore play an important role in supporting preparedness and response activities. In these districts, several organizations have maintained a long-term presence and established working relationships with community leaders and district authorities.

The actions (mechanisms) that were observed to lead to resilience outcomes

Embedded NGOs collaborate with local leadership structures and community institutions to support resilience-building activities. They provide training, technical guidance, and resources that help communities adopt practices such as flood-resistant housing, climate-smart agriculture, and financial management through savings groups. These partnerships also facilitate joint planning and information sharing between communities, NGOs, and district authorities.

Observed outcomes

Long-term collaboration strengthens trust between communities and external partners and enables continuous learning and adaptation. Communities develop new skills and knowledge that support preparedness and recovery during climate

shocks. Over time, these partnerships contribute to stronger local capacity to anticipate risks and sustain resilience actions.

Case Evidence

Vignettes #3, #4, #5 and #9 in Uganda – Flood & Drought – Supporting Evidence document

Related case studies

Social Relations and Structures

Uganda – Drought – Trusted Leaders and Intermediaries

Uganda – Flood – Knowledge Systems Integration

Uganda – Flood – Drought – Social Capital and Collective Action

Operational Systems

Uganda – Flood – Drought – Multistakeholder Collaboration

Other relevant case studies

Cyclone-related Flooding

Madagascar – Cyclones – Social Capital and Collective Action

Madagascar – Cyclones – Communication and Information Systems

Madagascar – Cyclones – Embedded and Equitable Partnerships

Drought

Ethiopia – Drought – Trusted Leaders and Communication

Ethiopia – Drought – Social Capital and Collective Action

Ethiopia – Drought – Knowledge Integration

Ethiopia – Drought – Embedded and Equitable Partnerships