



**FSD Uganda - IDIWA**  
**Jinja, Uganda**  
**Participatory Action Research:**  
**Resilience and Climate Adaptation in Persons with Disabilities**

Community Partner Overview

IDIWA is an indigenous non-governmental organization established in 2000 by women of different disability categories including physical and sensory disabilities together with parents of children with disabilities from Iganga District. The establishment of IDIWA came out of realization that women and girls with disabilities face heightened discrimination on account of gender and disability. They are among the poorest in their communities and efforts to address their plight are hindered by lack of coordination and sufficient information. This necessitated the birth of IDIWA to design community-based development programs for women and girls with disabilities in Uganda. IDIWA's mission is to empower Women and Girls with Disabilities, and other vulnerable to maximize their potential and improve their standard of living. IDIWA visualizes an inclusive society in which human rights, citizenship and the potential of Women, People with Disabilities, and other vulnerable groups are respected, the overall goal of IDIWA is to improve the quality of life of in the areas of economic empowerment, human rights, community-based rehabilitation, health and reproductive rights, and education.

Social Issue Focus and Impact

Uganda Vision 2040 aims at transforming Uganda from a predominantly rural and low-income country to a competitive upper middle-income country. However, achievement of the long-term goals depends on opportunities and resources that are climate sensitive thus the need to develop appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in all sectors to ensure that the country is resilient to the adverse impact of climate change.

Whereas the impacts of climate change affect everyone, persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected because of their livelihood circumstances, socio-political isolation (perpetuated by stigma, discrimination, inaccessible infrastructure/information and exclusion), and economic disadvantage and lack of access to resources and information (Kett and Twigg, 2007). This is further intensified by physical, communication, and other barriers. The situation is even worse for women and girls with disabilities as women are at a higher risk of being more exposed to climate shocks while having less resilience than men. In addition, there are limited opportunities for participation of persons with disabilities in climate change responses at all levels yet there is need to uphold the principle “nothing about us, without us”.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on climate change and the rights of people with disabilities that calls on governments to adopt a disability-inclusive approaches when taking action to address climate change, however, Uganda's climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are not comprehensive, integrated and disability-inclusive due to inadequate data on disability. Hence policies and

programs do not adequately support the resilience and adaptive capacities of persons with disabilities to the adverse impacts of climate change in both in rural and urban areas. This calls for the need to invest in research in order to have evidence on how the resilience of persons with disabilities should be enhanced by the different climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions and come up with more evidence-based recommendations.

### Research Description

#### **The Purpose of this research is as follows:**

- To examine the strategies for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity of PWDs to adverse impacts of climate change.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To examine the relationship between disability and climate resilience.
2. To assess the extent to which the national climate change responses are disability-inclusive.
3. To come up with evidence-based recommendations for enhancing resilience and adaptive capacities of persons with disabilities.

#### **Impact of the research project on the community:**

- Improved understanding of the link between disability and climate change resilience
- Improved availability of relevant data for designing disability-inclusive climate change and disaster risk reduction interventions/policies for enhanced resilience and adaptation capacity of PWDs.
- Improved participation of PWDs and DPOs in climate change and disaster risk reduction advocacy, policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

#### **Methodology:**

The survey will use the Community Based Participatory Research approach and employ both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The following data collection techniques will be employed;

- a) The Key Informant Interviews
- b) Focused Group Discussions
- c) Participatory rural appraisal/ assessment (PRA)
- d) Observational Method
- e) Survey Method
- f) Case Study Method
- g) Secondary Data Collection

### Student Profile

Students and professionals in Environment studies, Rehabilitation, Public Social Policy, Social Work or equivalent qualifications. Coordination knowledge and technical expertise/skill/talent in Advocacy/Advancing a policy-oriented agenda is needed. You will be required to submit a CV as well as go through a phone interview for the vetting process before your placement is confirmed.