

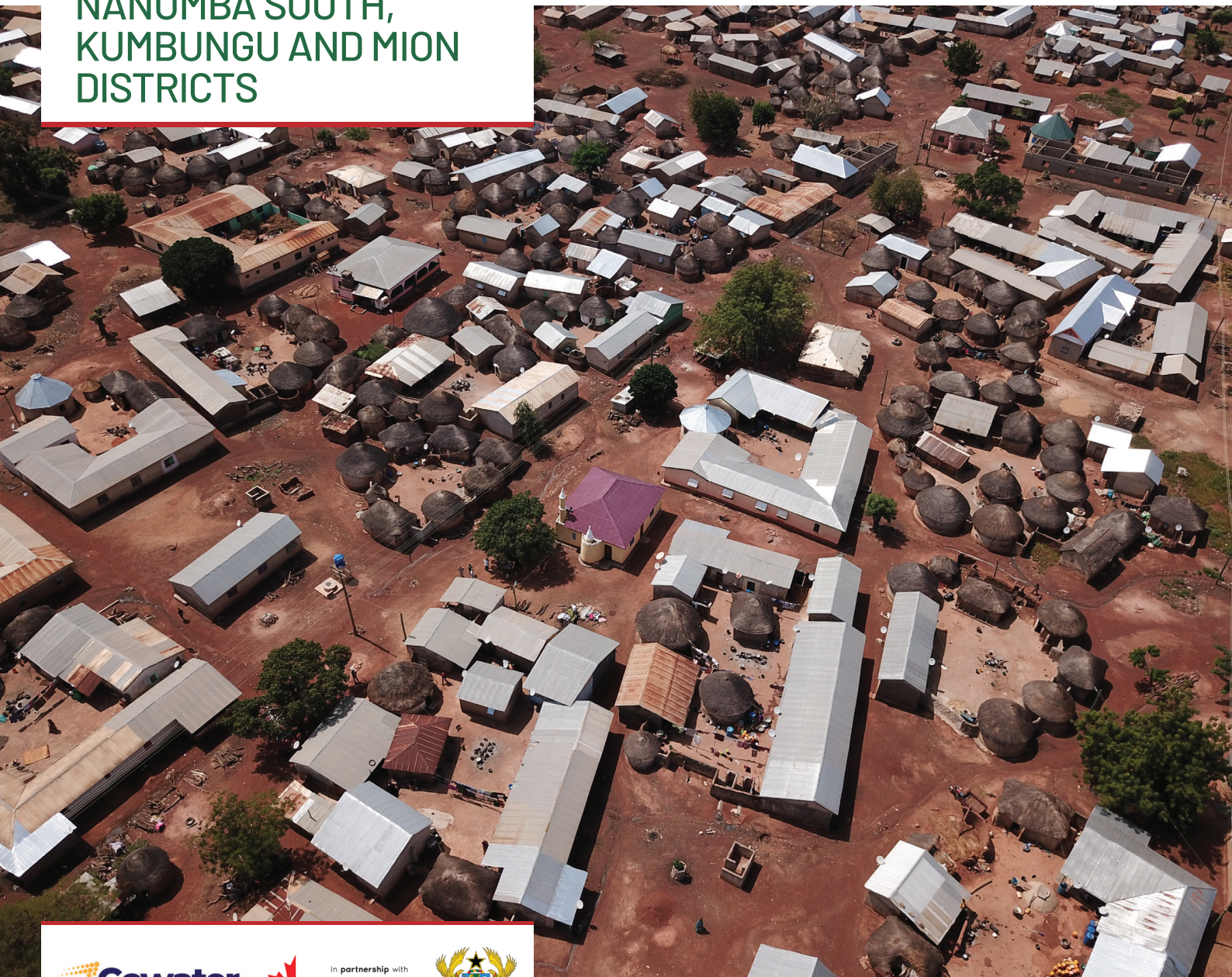


Strengthening Investments
in Gender-Responsive
Climate Adaptation



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING STRATEGY FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ADAPTATION

NANUMBA SOUTH,
KUMBUNGU AND MION
DISTRICTS



Developed by:
SONGTABA

ACTIVITY BACKGROUND

Strengthening Investments in Gender-Responsive Climate Adaptation (SIGRA) is a 5-year project funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project aims at improving the resilience of Ghanaian citizens, particularly women, girls, and vulnerable groups, through increased investments in inclusive and gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives.

Initial climate vulnerability assessments conducted by SIGRA in its three Northern partner districts Nanumba South, Kumbungu and Mion, revealed a range of climate vulnerabilities significantly impacting on the districts' natural resources, food security, livelihoods, socio-economic stability, and public health.

Building on the findings of these initial assessments, Songtaba engaged with district and community level stakeholders to co-develop the community-driven strategies outlined in this document. The strategies aim to increase awareness and knowledge on gender equality and climate change, and to support advocacy efforts for gender responsive climate change initiatives in the districts.

Activity: Develop community-driven strategies

Develop the structure and content of actionable community-driven strategies based on inputs from community meetings and stakeholder engagement, aligning with community needs and objectives in Nanumba South, Kumbungu and Mion.

2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of developing the community-driven strategies included:

- Build and promote broad-based public awareness of key climate change issues in the districts,
- Make the case to the public for the need for investment in climate change adaptation,
- Demonstrate the practical steps at the community level to tackle climate change, and
- Support initiatives around climate change education and civic action by proposing the development of tools, resources, and opportunities for adoption and use at the community level.

To achieve these objectives, Songtaba engaged with district and community level stakeholders in Nanumba South, Kumbungu and Mion. At the district level, the team interviewed officers at the District Assemblies including: the District Coordinating Directors, Planning Officers, Budget Officers, Agriculture Officers, District EPA Officers, and other specialized agencies such as NADMO. At the community level, the team engaged with women groups, youth groups, and the aged to gauge their perspectives on climate change issues in their respective districts.

3 GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE NORTHERN REGION

In Ghana, the five regions of the North are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, rising temperatures, and flooding. These challenges disproportionately affect women, especially those in rural areas, due to existing gender inequalities and socio-economic roles. Limited access to resources, decision-making power, and education makes them more vulnerable to climate-related disasters and environmental degradation. Climate change, in turn, can worsen existing gender disparities, leading to increased poverty, displacement, and violence. Women with disabilities, older women, and widows face even greater risks, as they often have fewer resources and limited access to adaptation opportunities. Recognizing these intersections is crucial for developing effective adaptation strategies that address the root causes of vulnerability.

Some of the key gender considerations affecting women and men disproportionately in the North include:

- **ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**

Women, persons with disabilities and some men from deeply vulnerable backgrounds, often face challenges in accessing and controlling land and community resources such as farmlands, forest resources, and other common pool resources, including irrigation facilities. It is therefore imperative to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups have equitable access to the facilities and benefits associated with climate change adaptation initiatives.

- **WATER SCARCITY:**

Women and girls in the region often bear the primary responsibility for water collection. Climate change-induced droughts exacerbate water scarcity, increasing the time and effort required for water collection, impacting women and girls' productive activities and well-being. Droughts and changing rainfall patterns are leading to water scarcity, affecting both human consumption and agricultural activities, jeopardizing food security.

- **AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS:**

Climate change impacts on agriculture, such as erratic rainfall and increased temperatures, disproportionately affect women and other vulnerable farmers who often have limited access to resources, land, and technology, hindering their ability to adapt and sustain their livelihoods.

- **FINANCIAL SERVICES:**

As many women in the three SIGRA partner districts do not have property in their name, access to credit and financial services is often skewed in favor of men, limiting women's ability to adopt climate-resilient technologies and diversify their income sources.

- **LABOUR DYNAMICS:**

Traditionally, men have more freedom to participate in economic activities than women, partly due to fewer domestic responsibilities. Gendered norms often assign men to labor-intensive, higher-value crop production like yam, while women grow vegetables mainly for household consumption. Climate adaptation initiatives must consider these labour dynamics to ensure equitable participation. For instance, introducing irrigation can shift traditional roles. Interventions should also ease women's workload by promoting labour-saving technologies and providing childcare.

- **INFORMATION AND TRAINING:**

Women face barriers in accessing real time climate-related information and training programs, reducing their awareness of adaptation strategies and opportunities.

- **CULTURAL NORMS:**

Prevailing gender norms and stereotypes limit women's access to resources, decision-making power, and opportunities for participation. To this end, the design and implementation of adaptation initiatives should be culturally sensitive and consider local customs and practices that will ensure effective participation of women.

Community engagements in DC Kura, Wulensi, and Kpegu in Mion, Nanumba South and Kumbungu respectively, highlighted the urgent need for targeted interventions to build the resilience of women in these communities. Unequal access to climate-resilient resources and opportunities and limited access to land, credit, and technology are disproportionality increasing their vulnerability to climate change. Men in the communities also face challenges, particularly those from deeply vulnerable background who rely on rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing. Climate-related crop failures and livestock losses is leading to economic hardship and migration for the youth. Despite this, men in these communities are typically more resilient to climate change impacts, as they have greater access to resources and decision-making power compared to women.

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IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN NANUMBA SOUTH, KUMBUNGU AND MION

The climate situation in the three Northern SIGRA partner districts (Mion, Nanumba South and Kumbungu) reflects the broader experiences of other communities across Northern Ghana, with similar challenges such as erratic rainfall, prolonged drought and increasing vulnerabilities.

NANUMBA SOUTH DISTRICT

With Wulensi as its capital, spans 1,150 km² and has a population of 106,374 (PHC 2021), mostly rural. Located in the Guinea Savannah zone, it relies on a single rainy season for subsistence farming of yam, maize, millet, and groundnuts. The district faces poor infrastructure, limited healthcare, and water access. Climate change worsens these issues, threatening food security. Nevertheless, its agricultural potential remains strong with the right support.

MION DISTRICT

Created in February 2012 from Yendi Municipal, has Sang as its capital and 164 rural communities with a population of 81,812 (GSS, 2013). Dagombas are the majority ethnic group and Islam is the dominant religion. Key festivals include Damba and Bugum. The district has poor infrastructure. Only 45 km of its 386 km road network is tarred; most communities lack electricity, and water access is mainly through boreholes. Sang and Sambu are the only towns with pipe-borne water. Health services are limited to two health centers and six CHPS compounds, with a new hospital under construction. Education is inadequate, with no senior high school in the district. Students must travel outside for SHS. Over 90% of residents depend on subsistence farming. Other income sources include animal rearing, agro-processing, smock weaving, and petty trading.

KUMBUNGU DISTRICT

Created in 2012 from the former Tolon/Kumbungu District, covers 1,599 km² with Kumbungu as its capital. It has 115 communities and a population of 110,586 (PHC 2021), over half of whom are under 20, creating high demand for education, health, and jobs. Agriculture is the main livelihood for 60% of residents, mostly subsistence-based, with some irrigation around the Bontanga Dam. Key crops include maize, rice, yam, soya, and vegetables. Average household income is low at GH¢40.20 monthly. The district has abundant Shea trees, especially in Voggu, Kuli, and Tibung, with over half of the nuts unharvested annually, offering potential for value chain development. Irrigated vegetable farming along the White Volta is also promising. Other economic activities include fishing, sand winning, and gravel digging. Poverty and limited opportunities drive youth, especially girls, to migrate south for work (kayayei).

¹ Programme based Composite Budget (2024-2027)

Table 1: Impact of climate change on the districts' natural resources

Nanumba South	Kumbungu	Mion
Water: Droughts and erratic rainfall have reduced water levels in the Nawuni River, causing water scarcity in communities like Kpatsim and Wulensi. Residents now travel long distances for water, impacting both household needs and irrigation, and threatening food security.	Water: In Kpegu, droughts and changing rainfall patterns are leading to water scarcity, affecting both human consumption and agricultural activities. Water scarcity is also leading to minor conflicts with cattle owners over water sources.	Water: The district faces severe water scarcity during dry seasons due to reduced rainfall and high evaporation. This affects drinking water, irrigation, and groundwater recharge, leading to decreased water availability and compromised water quality.
Soil: Unsustainable practices like slash-and-burn, along with extreme weather, are causing severe soil erosion in sloped areas such as Lungni in Nanumba south and Kpegu in Kumbungu. This reduces soil fertility and crop yields, threatening agriculture, the main livelihood in the districts.		Soil: High temperatures and dry conditions, worsened by unsustainable farming and extreme weather like droughts and windstorms, are degrading soil through moisture loss, erosion, and nutrient depletion. This threatens soil health, land fertility, and crop productivity.
Biodiversity: The district is experiencing a decline in key economic trees like shea and dawadawa, vital for food, medicine, and women's livelihoods. Deforestation from charcoal production and unsustainable farming, especially in Bakpaba, is degrading ecosystems and reducing natural resource availability.	Biodiversity: Deforestation and habitat loss driven by climate change, and human activities are causing a decline in biodiversity. The district is witnessing a reduction in the populations of economically important trees like shea and dawadawa due to large scale farming by non-residents. These trees provide valuable resources for food, medicine, and income generation, especially for women.	Biodiversity is declining due to prolonged dry conditions, climate change, and unsustainable practices. Key economic trees like shea and dawadawa are reducing, along with non-timber forest products vital to local livelihoods, especially for women. Pest outbreaks and plant diseases are also increasing, further threatening local ecosystems.

Table 2: Sectoral Impacts of Climate Change by District

Nanumba South	Kumbungu	Mion
Agriculture: Climate change disrupts agriculture in Nanumba South through erratic rainfall, prolonged dry seasons, and rising pest and disease outbreaks. These challenges reduce crop yields and food security, with farmers struggling to adapt due to limited access to modern techniques and resources.	Climate change is severely affecting agriculture in the district. Irregular rainfall and longer dry seasons are disrupting farming cycles and reducing yields. Rising pests and diseases worsen the situation, while limited access to modern tools and techniques makes it harder for farmers to adapt.	Agriculture: Agriculture in Mion district is suffering from declining yields due to irregular rainfall and prolonged dry spells. Reliance on rain-fed farming increases vulnerability, while shifting seasons have disrupted planting and sowing schedules.
Health: Climate change is worsening public health in the districts. Water scarcity and poor sanitation are increasing waterborne diseases. Rising temperatures are causing more heat-related illnesses. Declining crop yields are driving food insecurity and malnutrition, especially among vulnerable groups.		Health: The district faces rising cases of vector-borne diseases like malaria and waterborne illnesses such as typhoid and cholera, driven by water scarcity and poor quality. Heat stress and dehydration are increasing, while limited healthcare access worsens the impact and delays response.
WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene): In Nanumba South and Kumbungu, access to clean water and sanitation is a major challenge worsened by climate change. Dry-season water shortages force reliance on unsafe water sources, raising disease risks. Poor sanitation infrastructure leads to unhygienic practices and environmental concerns.		Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Frequent water shortages limit access to clean water, undermining hygiene and sanitation. Women and children are especially affected, often traveling long distances to fetch water.
Livelihoods and Livestock: Declining crop yields and livestock losses have cut family incomes, pushing many to adopt unsustainable alternatives like charcoal burning and artisanal mining, which further harm the environment.		Livelihoods: The reduced availability of shea trees and 'Dawadawa' and non-timber forest products (such as herbal plants) hampers the livelihood and income of the district. Limited alternative livelihoods increase vulnerability, exacerbating poverty levels in the district. Livestock: Limited water and feed, heat stress, and rising disease are reducing livestock populations, meat quality, and milk productivity, impacting nutrition and income. Women responsible for livestock care face increased stress.

Table 3: Socio-economic vulnerabilities

Nanumba South	Kumbungu	Mion
Dependence on rainfed agriculture: Heavy reliance on rain-fed farming increases vulnerability to climate change. Unpredictable rainfall and drought reduce crop and livestock productivity, limiting food and income options. Lack of irrigation and adaptive technologies worsens the risk for these farming communities.	Dependence on rainfed agriculture: Unpredictable rainfall and prolonged dry spells are reducing crop and livestock productivity, limiting food and income sources. With high dependence on agriculture and little access to irrigation or adaptive technologies, the district's farming communities face increasing vulnerability.	Dependence on rainfed agriculture: Erratic rainfall and drought have lowered crop yields and quality, worsening food insecurity and poverty. Rising farm input costs and inflation reduce farming incomes, deepen disparities among farmers, and contribute to increased farmer suicides.
Disproportionate impact on women and children: Climate change hits women and children hardest. Women in Wulensi and kpegu face heavier workloads fetching water and suffer income losses from reduced crop yields. Children are especially vulnerable to malnutrition and waterborne diseases.		Disproportionate impact on women and vulnerable: Women in DC Kura face limited access to fertile land and high input costs, reducing productivity and income. Crops they grow, like vegetables and groundnuts, suffer from disease and poor soil, impacting household nutrition. Increased manual labor in harsh conditions affects their health. Declines in natural resources, such as shea nuts, further threaten women's livelihoods. Women in the district, who manage water and caregiving, face heavier workloads during dry seasons, often waiting long hours for water. This affects their health, safety, and limits economic participation, deepening gender inequality. Water-dependent livelihoods like shea butter processing also suffer, reducing women's income. Climate change has increased disease and sanitation-related illnesses, adding to women's burden of caring for the health of their families, especially children and the elderly. Children, the elderly, and people with disabilities face heightened health risks from water shortages, waterborne diseases, and poor sanitation.
Food insecurity and malnutrition: The combination of climate change impacts on agriculture and water resources has led to high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in the districts. The districts experience seasonal food shortages, particularly during the lean season before harvest, and the nutritional status of vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women is a major concern. Limited access to healthcare services further exacerbates the challenges faced by those suffering from malnutrition and other health issues.		Food insecurity and malnutrition: Prolonged dry spells cause crop failures, reduce food supply, and raise prices, worsening child nutrition and poverty. Limited financial and market access further restricts families' ability to secure adequate, nutritious food.

Table 4: Current Adaptive Capacities by District

Nanumba South	Kumbungu	Mion
<p>Water resource management: Rainwater harvesting, including rooftop collection, is common. Villages like Wulensi invest in underground tanks, while small dams and dugouts in Wulensi and Nakpayili capture runoff to supply water during dry spells.</p>	<p>Water resource management: In response to water scarcity, Kumbungu communities are adopting traditional and innovative solutions. Rainwater harvesting is common, and those near the White Volta use it for domestic needs, irrigation, and livestock.</p>	<p>Dependence on rainfed agriculture: Erratic rainfall and drought have lowered crop yields and quality, worsening food insecurity and poverty. Rising farm input costs and inflation reduce farming incomes, deepen disparities among farmers, and contribute to increased farmer suicides.</p>
<p>Agricultural adaptation: Farmers in Nanumba South are coping with erratic rainfall and dry seasons by diversifying crops and adopting climate-smart practices, including introducing resilient crops like soya beans.</p>	<p>Agricultural adaptation: Intercropping millet with cowpeas in Kpegu reduces reliance on single crops, while resilient alternatives like soya beans are being introduced in some communities.</p>	<p>Agriculture: The district is promoting conservation and organic agriculture to improve soil health and reduce chemical use, supporting sustainable farming. Farmers are diversifying crops and growing resilient vegetable varieties to cope with unpredictable weather and dry spells. In livestock, efforts focus on better veterinary services, efficient management, and supporting small ruminant production like goats as alternative income and adaptation strategies.</p>
<p>Diversification of livelihoods: Climate change has pushed communities to explore alternative livelihoods beyond agriculture. Seasonal migration, especially among young men, is common during lean periods. Others turn to petty trading, artisanal crafts, and livestock rearing for income and food security.</p>		<p>Seasonal migration and alternative livelihood: Community members often migrate seasonally for temporary work during low agricultural periods, easing economic pressure but causing family separations and added burdens on women and children. Others engage in small-scale trading, crafts, and livestock rearing to diversify income.</p> <p>Forestry: The district is focussing on initiatives to promote afforestation and reforestation and conservation efforts to maintain biodiversity, along with sensitisation against bushfires to protect and restore forest resources.</p>



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Left - Photo by OJnr

5

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING STRATEGY FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Community-driven initiatives are essential for creating sustainable change. Actively involving residents in the design and implementation of awareness campaigns, will ensure that messages resonate with their lived experiences and cultural contexts. This participatory approach fosters a sense of ownership and encourages collective action. Supporting grassroots organizations and community leaders is crucial for amplifying the voices of marginalized groups, particularly women and girls. Providing them with the resources, training, and platforms to share their stories and expertise empowers them to become agents of change within their communities.

The first step in developing the strategies was engaging with district and community level stakeholders on their perceptions of climate change impacts, causes and existing behaviors and practices hindering gender equality and climate resilience in their district and communities. Existing resources and recommended strategies were also explored. All this information then fed into the proposed advocacy/awareness strategy development.

Table 5: District and Community level Perceptions on Climate Change

Stakeholder Group	Theme of Engagement	Key Discussion Points
Community Level	What are the most visible/felt impacts of climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: Low yields, poor soil fertility, high input costs, and food shortages. • Water: Scarcity, drought (2024 drought), contamination (chemicals and plastics), silted dams, and conflicts over access. • Biodiversity: Declining forest cover. • Weather: Unpredictable rainfall, extreme heat, bush fires and destructive rainstorms. • Livelihoods & Health: Poverty, property loss, strange illnesses, and conflicts with nomadic Fulani over grazing and crops. • Gender Impact: Increased unpaid care work, with women spending more time fetching water. • Social Impact: In Mion, climate change is also linked to rising social vices like theft and robbery.
	What are the causes of climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some stakeholders view climate change as a natural phenomenon beyond their control, • Others cited human activities such as tree cutting, overgrazing, bush burning, improper agro-chemical use, and population growth. In Mion, charcoal burning, especially by women, was noted as a cause, although it is also understood as a poverty-driven income source, • Others believe climate change results from neglecting traditional rituals to appease the gods. Many view it as divine punishment for immoral behaviour, particularly among youth.
	Existing behaviors and practices hindering gender equality and climate resilience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid care work and harmful gender norms, such as excluding women from yam farming reinforce stereotypes that limit women’s roles to subsistence farming. As water sources dry up, the burden of fetching water falls on women and girls, deepening gender inequalities. • In Nanumba South, stakeholders worry there is politicization of everything in the community which can hinder climate resilient initiatives. • In Mion community members also mentioned that they don’t have access to land to undertake afforestation because they are considered settlers.
	Proposed community level strategies/ actions to promote gender responsive climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community level sensitization (Meetings, festivals – Ndipuanda, yam festival – Linijii), de-politization of issues, joint initiatives with multiple stakeholders, • Community tree planting, establishment of forest guards, and afforestation with economic trees such as cashew, mango, teak and mahogany which also serve as wind breaks and fuel wood, • Dams for irrigation purposes, provision of boreholes, formation of community water user committees and training them on local resource mobilization to lead advocacy on securing funding for the provision of community dam/ boreholes, • Utility of early weather information systems, • Adoption of early maturing crop varieties, altering planting dates, support for climate smart agricultural inputs, • Formation of conflict resolution committee to include the Fulbe/Fulani, sensitization between farmers and nomads, and sensitization messages in local dialects.
	Existing local resources, systems, and opportunities to support climate resilient initiatives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate friendly projects implemented by NGOs such as Global communities MEDA, URBANET and LEAP, • Prevailing climate friendly community level by-laws and customs even though enforcement is weak, • Existing VSLA groups could be harnessed to support climate change initiatives, • Existing community level influencers.

Cont. Table 5: District and Community level Perceptions on Climate Change

Stakeholder Group	Theme of Engagement	Key Discussion Points
District Level Stakeholders	Existing integration of climate change in district level plans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of climate change in MTDP, Gender-Responsive Budgeting to support climate change initiatives, Ongoing tree planting activities in the communities and rehabilitation of community dams in Nanumba South, Currently rehabilitating dugouts in selected communities in Mion. Also, rolling out bio-tech technologies to build climate resilient household sanitation facilities. District NADMO is the body responsible for emergency response. In Nanumba South, there is an existing emergency response team under the chairmanship of the DCE with membership from NADMO, Police, fire service, MOFA, Ghana Health Service although it is currently dormant.
	What are the most visible/felt impacts of climate change?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushfires, deforestation, drought, and poor waste disposal degrade the environment and cause water shortages. These lead to economic hardship—especially for women—livelihood loss, food insecurity, and disease outbreaks. In Nanumba South, women are more affected with respect to water shortages and diseases while men are more affected on issues pertaining to bush fires and floods. In Mion, climate change disproportionately affects women, especially during water and food shortages. Youth often migrate to southern Ghana to cope with climate-related hardships.
	Existing local resources, systems, and opportunities to support climate resilient initiatives in the district?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government/district initiatives (Ghana Productive Safety net, IGF projects, district and community by-laws, anti-fire tasks force at communities, facility management committees, strong presence of EPA). NGOs (URBANET, RING 2, MEDA-GROW 2, SADEWP, COIN Project, Global Communities. CRS, ADRO, Songtaba and CLIP). Leveraging on the effective implementation of the GESI bylaws from Nanumba South.
	Strategies to promote gender responsive climate change in the district?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitization with different stakeholders, including community level sensitization. Enforcement of bylaws. Strengthen existing afforestation initiatives, promote community driven tree planting, prioritizing Woodlot establishment. Extensive use of media (radio and TV). Involvement of the youth. Rainwater harvesting. Provide more funding on climate change, Establishment of disaster clubs. Roll out Gender module families. A gender transformative tool used at the community level to foster gender equality among families.

5.1 Proposed Approaches

This strategy emphasizes inclusivity, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and that marginalized groups are actively involved in decision-making processes. It aims to equip community leaders, activists, and climate change adaption organizations with the knowledge and tools necessary to champion gender equality and climate adaptation activities at the community level.



Proposed approaches include:

Community Meetings: Organize inclusive meetings where men, women, the youth, and all other stakeholders regularly deliberate on issues of climate change and gender equality in their communities.

Grassroots Support: Provide resources and training to local organizations and community leaders to undertake climate adaptation and gender equality initiatives.

Storytelling Platforms: Create platforms for sharing personal stories and experiences on climate change adaptation and gender equality using community radio.

Targeted Awareness Campaigns: Developing targeted awareness campaigns is crucial for reaching specific audiences within the community. Tailoring messages to address the unique needs and concerns of different groups ensures that information is relevant and impactful. These campaigns will utilize a variety of communication channels, including social media, community events, and traditional media (radio/TV).

Education: Providing accessible information on the links between gender equality and climate adaptation, as well as practical steps that can be taken at the household and community level, can drive meaningful change.

Building Collaborative Partnership: Collaborating with local organizations, government agencies, and businesses allows for the pooling of resources, expertise, and networks. These partnerships can amplify the reach and effectiveness of awareness campaigns.

5.2 General Awareness Raising and Advocacy Strategies

I. Identifying Champions for sustained awareness creation on climate change adaptation in the local communities:

- **Observation:** During the community engagement process and in interacting with the various stakeholders in the three districts, including traditional and religious leaders, women's groups and youth group, it was noted that understanding of climate change is deeply situated in a context of spirituality where people largely ascribe climate changes to God's will in punishment for immoral acts of the youth. This decreases the agency of individuals and communities in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- **Recommended Strategy 1:** Development partners should engage traditional and religious leaders to deepen their understanding of climate change as a human-driven issue. These leaders can then use community platforms to raise awareness and promote local climate action.
- **Recommended Strategy 2:** Aligned with the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy, districts should establish Climate Adaptation Committees with support from assemblies and development partners. These gender-balanced, inclusive committees can lead community awareness efforts, enhancing legitimacy and effectiveness.

II. Promote the use of local and indigenous Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, and Behaviour (KAPB) Surveys to continuously assess the level of public engagements on climate change adaptation.

- **Observation:** Local and Indigenous knowledge across the districts is often overlooked. When properly documented and shared, it can play a vital role in addressing climate change challenges.
- **Recommended Strategy:** Recognize the value of local and indigenous knowledge by using KAPB surveys to design interventions aligned with community insights. Integrating this knowledge can improve acceptance and ease adoption and scaling of solutions.

III. Strengthening Women and Youth Voices:

- **Observation:** Women and youth are underrepresented in community decision-making and control of resources like land. Including them in climate adaptation leadership will strengthen community resilience.
- **Recommended Strategy 1:** Establish ongoing two-way dialogue with vulnerable groups, youth, women, and persons with disabilities to build on NAP outreach. This will raise climate adaptation awareness and ensure their priorities inform national decisions.
- **Recommended Strategy 2:** The Gender Model Family (GMF) is a gender-transformative approach piloted by Songtaba, CSOs, and the District Assembly under USAID's RING project. It equips husbands with knowledge and tools to promote equality with their wives and provide equal opportunities for boys and girls. Through training and support, families shift from traditional roles to become models challenging harmful gender norms and inspiring community change.
- **Recommended Strategy 3:** CSOs should collaborate to develop tools that track unpaid care work, monitoring the gender responsiveness of climate-smart initiatives and highlighting the link between climate adaptation and gender equality.

IV. Expand and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with CSOs and community-based organizations including Community Radio stations (Bead Fm and Radio Bimbilla in Naumba South; Simli Radio in Kumbungu, and Zoya Radio, Dasuma Radio and Sankara Radio in Mion), social media, etc to roll out campaigns on climate change

- Various CSOs, private sector, media, and government agencies are implementing initiatives in the communities. Building synergies with these programs is crucial to align messaging on climate adaptation and gender equality. Tables 6 and 7 outline potential partnership areas.

V. Leveraging on community key moments and events to highlight climate change adaptation

- **Observation:** The cultural dynamics of communities across the districts provides opportunities to leverage on to create more awareness on climate change.
- **Recommended Strategy:** CSOs and development partners can leverage annual festivals like the Yam, Damba, and Fire festivals in the three districts to engage communities on climate change adaptation. These events gather the entire community, providing ideal platforms for sharing development information.

VI. Development of agricultural and seasonal calendar

- **Observation:** One of the key climatic issues in the Northern Region is the erratic and changing rainfall which makes ploughing and planting timing difficult, affecting crop yields.
- **Recommended Strategy:** Collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and Meteorological Department to develop a seasonal calendar based on weather monitoring. Use infographics, large-print posters, and visual aids to ensure accessibility for non-literate farmers and guide optimal planting times.

STRATEGIES FOR KEY CLIMATE ISSUES

Table 6: Specific Strategies for Key Climate Issues in Mion, Kunbumgu and Nanumba South

² See Table 7 for specific members of each stakeholder group per district.

Key Climate Adaption Issue	Key Stakeholder(s)/ Champions	Proposed Advocacy/Awareness Strategy(s)	Key Actions
Declining soil fertility leading to low crop yield and food shortages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallholder farmer groups • Agribusinesses (input dealers, aggregators etc. Wunpini Agrochemical and Ghanormah company limited, Zakaria Agro chemicals Limited) • Department of Agriculture • CSOs • Local Radio Stations • Local youth /cultural groups • Local schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization on climate smart farming practices such as Farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistical support to establish demonstration farms for learning and education.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote dry season gardening at the community dam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize smallholder farmers into VSLA groups to access financial resources to procure simple irrigation tools for dry season farming. • Provide flexible input credit scheme for farm inputs to support farmers.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer field school/peer learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize smallholder farmers into peer learning groups to encourage collaborative learning, organize regular group sessions where farmers learn by doing, experimenting with new practices together
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute simplified training manuals in local languages on sustainable farming practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and distribution of training manuals on sustainable farming practices
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly radio discussions featuring agricultural experts and successful local farmers (include interactive segments for community members to call in and ask questions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sensitization, material and links with agricultural experts, to local radio stations to build their capacity to deliver climate adaption segments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use traditional storytelling, drama, or songs to explain soil degradation causes, consequences, and solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with local youth or cultural groups to explain soil degradation causes, consequences, and solutions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Gardening and Soil Education Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with schools to involve schoolchildren in gardening projects and simple soil lessons to build long-term knowledge and influence household practices through the children
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run data driven campaigns using evidence-based messaging to drive urgency and action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and share simple, localized data for advocacy campaigns (e.g., "yield from fallow plots is 3x higher") to make the issue visible
Water scarcity as a result of the continuous siltation of dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional leaders • Women groups • Youth • CSOs • Community water and Sanitation Agency/ Irrigation Development Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sensitization on water harvesting and usage • Sensitization on the sustainable management and maintenance of water community resources • Facilitate intergenerational learning forums, where elders mentor youth on land conservation and sustainable water management • Community Dam Restoration Days ("Dam Clean-Up Campaigns"). Organize regular community-led desilting and maintenance of dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistical support for the formation of water user committees. • Conduct feasibility studies for potential/alternative water sources. • Mobilize community youth and women groups to participate in self-help project or community interest works to rehabilitate community dams and fund alternative water source projects.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Bylaws and Local Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize leaders to introduce community rules against deforestation, sand winning, or improper farming near dams.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Planting and Buffer Zone Campaigns linked to community events and school or youth group activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the planting of trees or grasses around dams to reduce erosion and runoff.
Isolated incidences of conflicts with Fulani herdsmen over water and grazing zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paramount/Community chiefs • Farmers, youth, women groups • Forestry Commission • District Security Taskforce • Community radio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community sensitization on peaceful co-existence between community and cattle owners • Advocate for clear land use regulations: Push for formal demarcation of grazing lands, protected areas, and farming zones to minimize overlaps and prevent encroachments • Facilitate inclusive dialogue platforms: Bring together farmers, cattle owners (herders), hunters, traditional authorities, and local officials to identify root causes of conflict and build mutual understanding • Use trusted mediators: Engage respected community leaders or religious figures to mediate ongoing or potential conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with logistics to identify and form mixed mediation committees and train them to lead dialogues to address farmer header conflict. • Traditional leaders to convene town hall meetings to promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion

Water contamination due to indiscriminate disposal of agro-chemicals and plastics waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community chief Men's groups Women's groups Youth groups CSOs on WASH Community water and Sanitation Agency Department of agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of community water user committees and trainings on local resource mobilization to lead the advocacy on how to secure funding for the provision of community dam/boreholes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistical support for the formation of water user committees. Conduct feasibility studies for potential/alternative water sources.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Agro-Chemical Use & Disposal Awareness Campaigns and Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design hands-on material and trainings for farmers on proper handling, storage, and disposal of agro-chemicals.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and Promote Community Collection Points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up designated bins or drop-off areas for plastic waste and used agro-chemical containers. Pair with signage and awareness campaigns on the dangers of improper disposal.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drama and Street Theatre Campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and launch performances to show how pollution affects drinking water, farming, and health.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio Jingles and Talk Shows with local farmers, religious leaders, and environmental officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local radio stations. Broadcast messages on the dangers of chemical and plastic pollution.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School and Youth Engagement Programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local schools and integrate environmental education into school clubs and activities.
Deforestation for fuel wood and charcoal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramount/Community chiefs. Smallholder Farmers Groups. Youth Groups. Women groups. Forestry Commission. District Environmental Officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitize community to stop tree cutting for fuel wood and charcoal. Promote the concept of woodlot in communities. Promotion/sensitization on alternative livelihood activities in place of charcoal burning and firewood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize communities to hold green field days . Support community Climate Adaptation Committees to develop action plans on climate change. Support school and community-based clubs to hold tree planting exercises. Traditional leaders to allocate/demarcate lands for ecofriendly parks and woodlots.
Bush fires by cattle owners and hunters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramount/Community Chiefs. Farmers groups. Youth groups. Women group. Cattle owners/care takers association. CSOs. Local Radio Stations. Ghana National Fire Service District office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular engagements with traditional authority. Anti-bush fire campaigns on radio/TV. Community outreach on bush fire prevention. Anti-bush fire committees. Strengthening of by-laws. Formation of mixed mediation committees to settle farmer header conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize communities to hold dialogue series and select volunteers for anti-bush fire committees Draft by-laws and engage assemble and community leaders for discussions, approval and eventual gazetting. Mobilize and lead the formation of mixed mediation committees. Lead in community and media education on the dangers of bush fire. Provide bi-weekly airtime for bush fire education.
Pest infestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small holder farmer groups. Agribusinesses (input dealers, aggregators- Wunpini Agrochemical and Ghanormah company limited), Department of Agriculture. CSOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest and disease control training. Provide training on alternative pests and disease control using locally available materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide logistical support to the Department of Agriculture to expand extension services. Support smallholder farmers to establish proper storage facilities like community seed banks. Strengthen smallholder farmers capacity on pest management to control widespread pest infestation.

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ADVOCACY

Table 7: List of stakeholders and advocacy capacity requirements

Stakeholder Category	Key Actors	Relevant Capacity Requirements	Advocacy-Based Capacity-Building Activities
Youth Groups	Nanumba South: Agbaa United and Brotherhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water, Sanitation, and Health (WASH) Gender Impact on Climate Change Prevention of Chemical Pollution from Farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Youth-Led Climate Action Networks to train and mentor peers on climate resilience. Conduct policy engagement workshops with district officials on youth inclusion in environmental governance. Develop and distribute simplified training manuals in local languages on WASH and sustainable farming practices.
	Kumbungu: Dahinsheli Youth Association Timtooni Youth Association		
	Mion: Christian Unity Group Bananter		
Women's Groups	Nanumba South: Tunteya women's group Nakpayili Gari processing group Aborimaham women's group Saha women's group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean cook stoves, and energy efficiency Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Prevention of chemical pollution from farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize community dialogues with women entrepreneurs and policymakers to advocate for gender-responsive renewable energy policies. Provide technical training on improved cook stoves, sustainable food processing, and climate-smart agriculture. Facilitate women-led research & documentation on the impact of climate change and energy transition on local livelihoods.
	Kumbungu: Suglo Mboribini Women VSLA group		
	Mion: Kimoban Titeritob Nignantichee Tikpantum		
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	Nanumba South: Songtaba ActionAid Nanumba South Smallholder Farmers Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring & Evaluation Gender Impact on Climate Change Policy Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop community scorecards to track and evaluate the effectiveness of local climate adaptation policies. Organize multi-stakeholder advocacy forums to amplify the voices of vulnerable groups in climate decision-making. Strengthen CSO coalitions to engage in national and regional climate policy dialogues.
	Kumbungu: Songtaba CLIP		
	Mion: Songtaba Urbanet Ghana ActionAid		
Traditional Authorities (Chiefs)	Nanumba South: Paramount Chief of Nanumba traditional area Naa Dasana Wulensi paramount chief Naa Osman Salifu Wulanfong community chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecofriendly agriculture practices Fire Belts & Tree Planting WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Traditional Leaders' Climate Council to advocate for policy actions that integrate indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation. Facilitate intergenerational learning forums, where elders mentor youth on land conservation and sustainable water management. Conduct customary law reviews to strengthen local bylaws on climate resilience, water governance, and sustainable land use.
	Kumbungu: Ya-Naa Abukari Mahama Kumbungu paramount chief Zagbalung Traditional area chief Naa Dr. Mahama Kpegu community chief Alhassan Iddrisu		
	Mion: Ya Naa Abukari Maham Mion Lana Alhanssan Tipariga DC Kura community chief Jegma Mbakidi		
Departmental Agencies (Forestry, Agriculture, Fire Services, Community Health, NCCE, etc.)	National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) Forestry Commission Agricultural Extension Services Fire Services Community Health Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of Chemical Pollution Fire Belts & Reforestation WASH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop evidence-based advocacy briefs to influence national climate adaptation policies. Organize cross-sectoral learning exchanges to strengthen coordination between forestry, agriculture, and community health departments. Implement capacity-building programs for local government officials on gender-responsive and inclusive climate policies.

6

KEY ACTION POINTS /NEXT STEPS

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the awareness and advocacy strategies is essential for creating lasting change. This requires building local capacity, securing ongoing funding, and integrating gender equality and climate adaptation into existing community programs. By embedding these issues into the fabric of the community, we can create a culture of awareness and action. Documenting and sharing lessons learned from the awareness strategy can inform future initiatives and inspire other communities to take action. Creating a replicable model for community-driven awareness can contribute to a broader movement for gender equality and climate adaptation.

Establishing community level climate adaptation committees can help to secure funding for initial initiatives. By working together, the community can build a future where gender equality and climate adaptation are prioritized, ensuring a sustainable and just world for all. Involving community members, particularly women, in community decision-making processes ensures that adaptation strategies are relevant, effective, and sustainable.

Additionally, there is the need to continue to build the skills and knowledge of local residents, focusing on local and indigenous knowledge to lead awareness efforts. Providing training and resources empowers communities to implement adaptation measures and manage climate-related risks. It is also imperative to incorporate gender equality and climate adaptation into existing programs and policies in order to achieve sustainable community development.

Finally, the Nanumba South, Kumbungu and Mion districts together with their development partners need secure and sustainable funding sources to support long-term initiatives on climate change adaptation and gender equality.

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