

Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project



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Context

The Government of Uganda considers agriculture as a key sector in Uganda's transition to a middle-income country and has emphasized the importance of value addition, commercialization, and building resilience to climate change. Agriculture plays a critical role for income generation, employment and subsistence, particularly for the bottom 40% of the population. The sector employs 70% of the population (87% of women and 63% of men), and over 80% of the poorest. High population growth, increasing pressure on natural resources, limited access to rural nonfarm income streams, and the almost exclusive reliance on rainfed agriculture define the rural poverty challenge in Uganda.

Uganda is among the world's most vulnerable but least adapted countries to climate change. Historically, Uganda has been well endowed in water resources. In recent years, changes in precipitations have been observed, with increased variability and lower predictability of rainfall becoming a critical issue. The rainy season, traditionally lasting eight to nine months out of the year, has become shorter, averaging six to seven months a year since 2010. Uganda will keep recording more erratic rainfall, changes in the distribution of rainfall, and an increase in the frequency and duration of droughts.

Importance of Irrigation

Historically, the favorable rainfall pattern of Uganda allowed farmers to crop two cropping seasons per year in most parts of the country under rainfed conditions. However, change in precipitations is creating the need for irrigation, currently practiced on a mere 1% of the potential area. Smallholder farmers perceive weather to pose the greatest risk to their agricultural activities, and weather-related events represent the main cause affecting agricultural activities. The National Irrigation Policy, jointly signed by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in 2018, focuses on irrigation as a way to achieving national food security, transforming the agriculture sector and significantly increasing agricultural income.

Project Overview

The Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project (ICRP) aims to support the shift towards more resilient agriculture through the development of sustainable irrigation services. Access to irrigation is critical to allow farmers coping with climate variability, to

increase yield and intensification, and diversify towards higher value crops. The project will address Uganda's climate change vulnerabilities by: (i) promoting adoption of irrigation by smallholder farmers, in synergy with other agriculture inputs and technologies; (ii) increasing water storage capacity; and (iii) promoting sustainable catchment management. This change will be market-driven, with irrigation becoming the anchor for stronger producer organizations and development of value chains.

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) as technical implementation partner.

Project Development Objectives

To provide farmers with access to irrigation and other agricultural services, and to establish management arrangements for irrigation service delivery.

Approved by the World Bank: June 18, 2020

Ratified by the Ugandan Parliament: August 25, 2020

Closing: April 30, 2026

Financial Data (US\$ million)

Financier	Financing
The World Bank	169.2
Government Counterpart	2.4
Local beneficiaries	18.5
Total project cost	190.1

Components

Component 1. Irrigation Services, which aims at providing farmers with irrigation water.

Component 2. Support Services for Agricultural Production and Value-Chain Development, which aims at supporting farmers carrying out on-farm irrigation, accessing production and value addition knowledge and skills, and developing sustainable market access.

Component 3. Institutional Strengthening and Implementation Support, which aims at supporting project implementation.

Beneficiaries

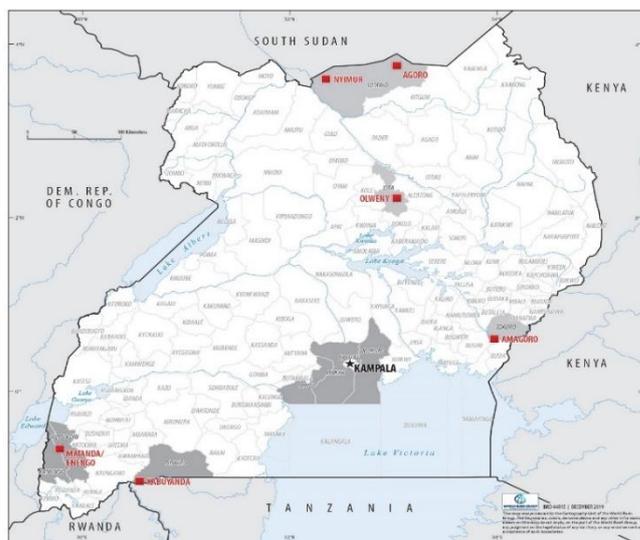
Project Outcomes

Primary project beneficiaries	63,200 farmers
People benefiting from new or improved irrigation services	58,100 farmers
Beneficiaries expected to be women	40%

In the Western Region, the project will support construction of two new public large-scale irrigation schemes (Kabuyanda, Isingiro District; Matanda, Kanungu District), and the related establishment of management structures. The project will also support the design of a new irrigation scheme (Enengo, Kanungu, Rukungiri Districts), with construction to be carried out under future investments. In order to multiply the benefits of public scheme development, the project will pilot public support to farmers around the command area in Isingiro, Kanungu and Rukungiri Districts to develop micro-scale irrigation. In the **Eastern Region**, the project will support the design of a new irrigation scheme (Amagoro, Tororo District), with construction to be carried out under future investments. In these regions, target areas are characterized by regional market opportunities, and farmers well versed in rainfed agriculture, with unreliability of rainfall presenting a key limiting factor for yield increase, crop diversification and intensification.

In the Northern Region, the project will support an area (Nyimur, Lamwo District) with a population characterized by high level of food insecurity and which has been heavily affected by fragility and only recently returned to the area after years of conflicts. The project will re-engage this population in rainfed agriculture to provide quick wins in terms of increasing food security and job creation, in addition to increasing readiness for future irrigation development. The project will support the design of a new irrigation scheme, with construction to be carried out under future investments. The project will also support the establishment of management structures in two recently rehabilitated public medium-scale irrigation schemes (Olweny, Lira District; Agoro, Lamwo District).

In the Central Region, the project will pilot public support to farmers in three districts (Mukono, Wakiso and Mpigi) characterized by easy access to local markets due to their proximity to Kampala, to develop micro-scale irrigation.



For more information

visit <https://www.mwe.go.ug/library/icrp>

Contact ICRP@mwe.go.ug

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