



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

*Contributions to Resilience and Sustainable Development*

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# Introduction

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As we reflect on the events and achievements of the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we present to you the annual report of ACTADE for the year 2023. Amidst the global challenges posed by climate change, social inequality, and environmental degradation, our organization remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities, fostering resilience, and driving sustainable development. Throughout the year, we embarked on a journey marked by innovation, collaboration, and impactful action, guided by our core values and driven by our collective vision of an empowered society promoting good governance and sustainable development.

In 2023, ACTADE continued to play a pivotal role in addressing climate change by promoting locally led adaptation through leveraging partnerships and innovative approaches to build climate resilience and empower communities. From our active participation in the seventeenth Community-Based Adaptation conference (CBA17) to our efforts in mentoring climate change activists and facilitating policy dialogues, our endeavors were characterized by a relentless pursuit of positive change to influence tangible impact beyond our limited reach.

# Projects and achievements

## The seventeenth International Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA17)

In 2023 we partnered with various institutions around the world to organise the seventeenth International Community-Based Adaptation conference (CBA17). This conference took place in Bangkok, Thailand and was the first physical conference since 2019. The conference provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices in addressing climate change at the grassroots level. Our role in the partnership was to curate sessions under the Innovations theme, as theme leads jointly with [Climate KIC](#).

Four thematic sessions were organized under the Innovations theme as follows:

- From Innovation to impact: localizing technology and community innovations for resilience. It was co-hosted by [Friendship NGO](#) and the [Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre](#).
- Empowering Women for climate resilience: innovative approaches and best practices. This was co-hosted by [the International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#), [WaterAid Bangladesh](#) and [Bangladesh Centre for advanced Studies](#).
- Innovations in Finance: empowering, enabling and upscaling impact of local adaptation solutions. The session was co-hosted by the [Caribbean Natural Resources Institute](#), [CARE-World Wildlife Fund Alliance](#) and Climate Change Media Network, Malawi.
- Pain and joy: the power of local agency which was co-hosted by [Care International](#) and Farmers Voice, Bangladesh.

ACTADE co-hosted two sessions as follows:

- Climate Finance: a risky business – but for whom?

This session was hosted by the Least Developed Country Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) and featured speakers from the FCDO, the government of Tanzania, and ACTADE as an interim Fund Manager for Uganda



- Unpacking loss and damage. Prof. Saleemul Huq of ICCCAD helped the participants understand the core elements of loss and damage – which is to avert (actions to mitigate climate change), minimize (adaptation actions) and address (actions beyond adaptation limits). This session facilitated insightful discussions on the implications of climate-related losses and damages, highlighting the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate their impacts.

These sessions aimed to deepen understanding and stimulate dialogue on effective strategies for climate adaptation financing, particularly in vulnerable communities. ACTADE's active engagement in CBA17 not only showcased our commitment to innovation but also underscored our dedication to fostering partnerships and driving collective action for climate resilience. Key messages from the conference can be found at the conference webpage [here](#).

## Pictorial



*Prof. Saleemul Huq unpacks the concept of loss and damage for participants*



*Prof. Saleemul Huq unpacks the concept of loss and damage for participants*



*LIFE-AR representatives from Malawi, Tanzania, UK, and Uganda after having lunch together*



*Group photo - participants at CBA17*

## Conversation on Loss and Damage

A virtual discussion to unpack the concept of loss and damage was organized on 22nd August 2023 with Prof. Saleemul Huq. It attracted interest from participants in Uganda, Rwanda, Finland, Sweden, Bangladesh and Tanzania, among others. The sixth assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the first time in history alluded to losses and damages associated to climate change, giving visibility what climate activists had been advocating for with limited success, for over 20 years. It is imperative for practitioners therefore, to distinguish between economic and non-economic losses and damages, in order to design appropriate interventions, and to mobilise the needed finance.

This 90-minute session was organized after ACTADE participated in a 2-day workshop on following loss and damage in the UNFCCC, hosted virtually by ICCCAD in May 2023.

While we imagined that this was the first of many webinars featuring prof. Saleemul Huq, we were deeply saddened to learn about his passing on 29th October 2023. We are grateful to the stakeholders around the world that acknowledged his immense contribution to climate change policy and practice in various spaces, including in the opening ceremony of the Conference of Parties to the UN Climate Change Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). It was a true honor to work with him.

The poster features the following elements:

- Hashtag:** #ClimateTalks
- Logos:** ACTADE, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, and ICCCAD.
- Title:** A conversation with Saleem on Loss and Damage.
- Guest Speaker:** Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).
- Moderator:** Susan Nanduddu, Executive Director, African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE).
- Date and Time:** 22 August 2023, 3 - 4 pm Uganda/Finland, 6 - 7 pm Dhaka time.
- Format:** ONLINE.
- QR Code:** Located at the bottom right.
- Social Media:** Twitter and Facebook icons with the handle @actade.

## Building Climate Change Awareness and Capacities

In partnership with Plan International on the My Body My Future II Programme, we embarked on a comprehensive initiative to build climate resilience among diverse stakeholders, particularly focusing on partner civil society organisations working with out-of-school children, adolescents, and youth, as well as with in-school children in primary school. We developed a Champions of Change (COC) module on the nexus between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and a participatory activity card on climate change and SRHR, as part of the knowledge materials complementing Plan International's Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum.

These materials were developed through a consultative process with project partners, and were tailored to the specific needs and learning capacities of different age groups, aimed to deepen understanding and foster proactive engagement in addressing climate-related risks. This work was done in alignment with the improved risk knowledge pathway under the Plan International Pathways to Resilience.



ACTADE staff then conducted extensive training sessions, for Plan International and its partner staff, the young people called the champions of change and Disability Inclusion facilitators from the community, youth mentors, and teachers who are tasked with delivering the module and activity card to the children, adolescents and youth within the project. Through these sessions, participants were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively engage on climate change and offer education and mentorship on the same to children, adolescents and youth.

*“Personally, I had the privilege of witnessing the impact of these training sessions firsthand, alongside Plan International staff from Uganda and Finland, during a COC session in Alebtong district. It was inspiring to observe the dedication and effectiveness of the facilitators in delivering the training, reaffirming our collective commitment to building resilience at the grassroots level.” Susan Nanduddu, ACTADE Executive Director.*

Furthermore, our awareness creation efforts extended to parents organized in village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), mobilized by the staff of project partners. Specifically, ACTADE developed a tool dubbed “VSLAS and Climate Change - a conversation starter tool” to support project partner staff to initiate discussions on climate change and SRHR with parents during their VSLA group meetings. Through such targeted messaging and engagement, relevant climate change messages were disseminated, sparking interest in taking action within the community, and a growing demand for support. Despite the inherent challenges and limited capacities on the ground, we witnessed a remarkable surge in initiatives aimed at mitigating climate change risks and promoting sustainable practices.

In response to this heightened demand, some partners took proactive steps such as acquiring and distributing tree seedlings through partnerships, with some setting up tree nurseries to facilitate the distribution of tree seedlings to young people. Some partners promoted the adoption of energy-saving cook stoves at household level. Notably, in Alebtong district, the establishment of an Innovation hub featuring a demonstration garden, and a waste collection centre by a partner organisation continuously showcases innovative approaches to climate-smart agriculture and a circular economy through collecting and recycling waste, further exemplifying our collective efforts to building climate resilience.

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## Pictorial



## Intersectionality of Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

In collaboration with Plan International Finland, ACTADE introduced and facilitated trainings on the Body Mapping Methodology as a tool for dialogue on the intersection between climate change and young people's SRHR. The two-part tool is comprised of leading questions, which trigger dialogue on body changes and SRHR needs, which when complemented with climate change-related questions provide a visual representation of young people's concerns and experiences regarding the impacts of climate change on their SRHR. Since its introduction in 2022, the methodology has been applied by various partners across six countries implementing the Plan International-supported My Body My Future II programme namely; Myanmar, Laos, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Following positive reviews on the methodology from the MBMF II partners, ACTADE was invited by Plan International to facilitate a youth-led training on the application of the methodology for Plan International staff around the world. In a process that was documented into a demonstration video, ACTADE teamed up with two youth from partner organizations implementing the MBMF II programme in Uganda and delivered a youth-led training on the methodology. This innovative approach empowers young people to articulate their experiences and concerns at the intersection of climate change and SRHR. For example, some young men related mental health experiences to climate change impacts. The approach also informed discussions and decisions within Plan International, such as Plan International's documentation of the methodology as a case story and the adaptation of the methodology in other Plan International programmes beyond MBMF II.

### Pictorial





## Advocacy for Accountable Policy and Legal Frameworks

Along the pathway of promoting accountable policy and legal frameworks, we are delighted to highlight the strides we have made in initiating engagements at various levels. Partnerships with organizations such as Growth Care Uganda (GCU), Change Lead Agency Social Support (CLASS), Friends of Goodwill (FOG), Noble Youth Foundation, Nation Youth Empowerment (NYE) and Dream Rescue Foundation (DREF) have proven instrumental in facilitating dialogues with local leaders on climate change issues. These engagements have yielded tangible commitments, including the allocation of budgets for climate action initiatives, passing of by-laws by local government councils and active pursuit of resources such as free seedlings from the National Forestry Authority.

A noteworthy development has been the collaborative tree planting efforts undertaken by leaders in conjunction with Plan International's partner organizations. This symbolic gesture not only signifies a tangible commitment to environmental stewardship but also serves as a powerful demonstration of the importance of collective action in addressing climate change. During the annual reflection meeting of partners, it became evident that a multitude of engagements are underway at the community level. This underscores the grassroots momentum and commitment to climate action within our partner communities.

As another part of our advocacy efforts, ACTADE engaged directly with duty bearers by organizing radio talk shows during which officials from the District Environment Departments were hosted. Beyond sharing district action plans on climate change, the officials addressed climate change-related issues raised during various previous engagements with community members, and by callers-in during the talk-shows. The spaces were highly welcomed and appreciated by the leaders as per one's feedback:

***"This is a great initiative! We normally are not able to have as much of these spaces as we should, and we always have so much information that our people need to know about. Especially as far as climate change is concerned as it is a relatively less understood concept." Mr. Pabious Otike, Lira District Natural Resources Officer.***

### Pictorial



Moving forward, we are committed to fostering stronger partnerships, enhancing community engagement, and advocating for policy reforms that prioritize climate resilience. By leveraging the insights gleaned from grassroots initiatives and strengthening collaboration with stakeholders at all levels, we can collectively advance towards a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

## Intersectionality and climate justice in Eastern Africa

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS  
EDITED BOOK**

**INTERSECTIONALITY  
AND CLIMATE JUSTICE  
IN EASTERN AFRICA**

**Deadline  
15 September 2023**

**HOW TO APPLY**

- extended abstract (500-1,000 words), or creative entries and provocations (no set length)
- biography (100-200 words)
- affiliation
- contact details

Send to Dr Neil Crawford

n.j.w.crawford@leeds.ac.uk

[BIT.LY/CCICJEA](https://bit.ly/ccicjea)

@GENERATE\_climate GENERATEclimate

Together with the University of Leeds' Gender, Generation and Climate Change project and the University of Nairobi, we mobilized abstracts from more than six countries in Eastern Africa. We received over thirty submissions and fifteen were selected for the workshop which featured a keynote address by Ineza Umuhiza, a youth loss and damage negotiator for the Rwanda government in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The workshop was organized virtually on 9th August 2023 around three panels: Gender, Intersectionality, and Climate Justice; Urbanism, Displacement, Intersectionality, and Climate Justice; and Law, Policy, Intersectionality, and Climate Justice.

Following the successful workshop, the partners called for submissions towards an edited book on the same topic, a project to be concluded in 2024.

## Empowering Climate Change Activists

In addition, our commitment to empowering climate change activists has yielded remarkable outcomes in 2023. Five dedicated activists, identified from our partner organizations, were mentored to engage in global advocacy efforts, alongside activists from Finland. Through an intensive program, they gained invaluable insights into the intricacies of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, learning about decision-making processes across various thematic areas, including adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage



This year, our mentees chose to focus on the critical issue of Loss and Damage, collaborating closely with Finnish activists to formulate six core asks for negotiators at COP28. These asks were not only presented to EU negotiators representing Finland but also forwarded to the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage, shaping the discourse on this pivotal issue. The significance of their advocacy efforts was underscored by the COP's historic decision to approve the operationalization of the Loss and Damage

Fund on the first day of negotiations—an unprecedented achievement that speaks to the efficacy of grassroots advocacy.

Among our mentees, Albert Okullo seized the opportunity to participate in COP28 as one of an estimated 70,000 delegates, amplifying the voices of vulnerable communities on the global stage. His firsthand experience and insights from COP28 were shared through our blog, providing a platform for reflection and knowledge-sharing. Originally published in Finnish on Plan International Finland's website, this account serves as a testament to the impact of grassroots advocacy in shaping international climate policies and decisions.

As we celebrate these achievements, we recognize the transformative power of grassroots activism in driving meaningful change at the global level. Through continued mentorship and support, we remain committed to nurturing the next generation of climate leaders and amplifying the voices of those most affected by climate change. Together, we can strive towards a more just, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

### Key outcomes from COP28

***Three notable outcomes emerged from COP28, highlighting the integration of community voices in global policy.***

Firstly, was the unprecedented decision to operationalize the loss and damage fund on day 1 of the conference. While the work to determine how this would be done took one year, advocacy for the inclusion of loss and damage in the COPs took over 15 years!

Secondly, was the decision to appoint a youth climate champion between the ages of 18 and 35, which marked a pivotal moment in enhancing the meaningful engagement of the youth in decision making.

This champion, acting on behalf of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties, will play a crucial role in facilitating inclusive participation of young voices within the UNFCCC process. The appointment of a youth climate champion signifies a recognition of the importance of channeling messages from children, adolescents, and youth directly to the COP, amplifying their perspectives and priorities in shaping international climate agendas.

Thirdly, was the recognition of health within the Global Goal on Adaptation, underscoring the intrinsic linkage between climate change and health on a global scale. For the first time, health considerations have been integrated into COP deliberations, signaling a heightened awareness of the urgent need to address climate-related health impacts. A new target on health has been defined as part of the global goal on adaptation, aiming to enhance resilience against climate change-related health impacts, promote climate-resilient health services, and mitigate climate-related morbidity and mortality, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.

These outcomes provide a framework for our continued efforts in addressing climate change and its associated challenges. As we tailor our work to align with these targets, we recognize the importance of prioritizing initiatives that promote youth engagement and safeguard public health in the face of climate change. Over the next couple of years, we will collaborate with partners to define indicators and strategies to advance these targets, contributing to the collective endeavor of building a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

Regrettably, this highest level of policy making made very little advancement towards channeling finance to the vulnerable countries. The Developed Countries' commitments to mobilise \$100bn per year to support developing countries to address climate change, has never been met – yet the need is growing. According to UNEP's Adaptation Gap report of 2023, "The adaptation finance needed to implement domestic adaptation priorities is estimated at US\$387 billion per year". Yet the recent adaptation finance flows show that only \$21bn was made available in 2021 for developing countries. And only \$792 million was pledged towards the loss and damage finance – about 0.02% of what is currently required.

## The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)

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During the year, our contract to support the establishment phase of LIFE-AR as interim fund manager was extended from the initial 6 months in 2021, to January 2024 - nearly three years. This flagship initiative is one ACTADE is proud to support as it aligns with our advocacy messages of mobilizing and delivering adequate climate finance to the local level through a business unusual approach. Notably, it challenges the effectiveness of short-term financing; it seeks to reverse the delivery of finance to the local level from a paltry 10% to 70%, and it advocates for a whole of society approach that avoids duplication, unnecessary competition for funds and maladaptation, by working with different stakeholders from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Local Governments, civil society organisations and the academia to design, implement and monitor progress jointly, while capturing lessons learned along the journey.

During the year, the establishment phase was concluded. Milestones achieved include the set up and operationalization of the national LIFE-AR structures including the Steering Committee, the Secretariat, the Task team and its working groups (Devolved Climate Finance - DCF and Monitoring Evaluation and Learning - MEL). ACTADE serves on the DCF working group that elaborated the DCF design features, and developed a training curriculum while the MEL working group delivered the Quality Assurance framework, the National Theory of Change and set up a Community of Practice. With the institutional framework and related guidance documents complete, LIFE-AR was launched at district level in Pader in 2023, which also coincided with the launch of the pilot phase in which 12 districts will invest in adaptation goods as prioritized by the vulnerable groups, including women and youth at the local level. It is envisioned that the LIFE-AR approach will roll out to all the districts over-time, and will inform the finance delivery mechanism of choice, by the Government of Uganda.

## New Project: Building Community Resilience through Agricultural Adaptation Knowledge Systems in Uganda (CRAKS)

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The year marked an exciting achievement as we were delighted to secure a successful funding acquisition from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) under their Step Change program with funding support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands (MoFA) towards the CRAKS project. The project, is implemented by ACTADE in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). We joined IDRC and 7 other projects in the Stepchange inception workshop in November 2023 which was held online. In addition, four projects were represented at COP28 and participants met the representative of IDRC. We got to know each other and ACTADE and IED of Senegal agreed to collaborate closely to leverage synergies. You can read more about Stepchange on the project webpage [here](#).

### CRAKS project Overview

The CRAKS project is a 3-year project (2023-2026) aims to strengthen agricultural adaptation knowledge systems to enhance community resilience to climate change impacts. By leveraging indigenous knowledge, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and promoting gender-responsive practices, CRAKS aims to empower vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth and other marginalised groups, to adapt and thrive in the face of climate challenges. This research initiative will focus specifically in the districts of Kalungu, Alebtong and Tororo.

### Partnership with IIED

ACTADE is proud to partner with IIED, a renowned global research institute with extensive experience in environmental and development issues. Together, ACTADE and IIED bring complementary expertise and resources to the CRAKS project, ensuring its success and sustainability.

**Expected Impact:** The CRAKS project holds the potential to catalyse significant change in agricultural adaptation practices, ultimately enhancing the resilience of communities to adapt to climate change impacts and improving livelihoods. By empowering local stakeholders, promoting gender equality, and leveraging indigenous knowledge, CRAKS aims to contribute to sustainable development in Uganda and beyond.

# Who we are

African Center for Trade and Development (ACTADE) was initially established in November 2000 as a technical discussion group for trade related issues. At the time, trade discussions were dominated by International negotiations and international actors, thus the need to have a domestic and indigenous voice. It was established for the purpose of influencing and facilitating the development and promotion of trade and sustainable development through generating innovative policy ideas and policy alternatives in order to address both short and long term public policy challenges in the ever changing global, regional, national and local contexts.

In June 2003 it was registered under the Company's Act (Cap. 85) as a Company Limited by Guarantee - having no shareholding (No. 61534) and in December 2003 ACTADE was registered as a non-governmental organisation (S. 5914/4516).

ACTADE is one of the leading NGOs working on issues of trade, climate change action, Policy and development issues. ACTADE has focused on strengthening stakeholders' capacity to influence trade, citizen participation in national budget processes and related policies at Local, national and regional levels for sustainable development and improved livelihoods in Uganda and the East African region. We also work to influence the promotion and enjoyment of social, political and economic rights by all and advise government on a) priority setting for the national budget and monitor its implementation in selected sectors and districts; b) climate change adaptation measures that support communities to anticipate and build resilience to impacts of climate change; c) ensure that no one is left behind, especially not the women, youths, nor persons with disability.

# Meet Our Team in 2023



**Susan Nanduddu**  
*Executive Director*



**Viola Musiimenta**  
*Director of Programmes*



**Andrew Ojoon**  
*Accountant*



**Allen Lunkuse**  
*Programme Officer*



**Jonathan Angura**  
*Programme Officer*



**Joyce Ageno**  
*Administrative assistant*



**Collins Nakibinge**  
*Logistics Officer*



**Farouk Kitumba**  
*Finance manager*



**Sandra Coote**  
*Programme Officer (Left)*



**Sarah Nabiryo**  
*Accountant (Left)*



**Charles Mudebo**  
*Support staff*



**Leon Franz**  
*Volunteer*



**Aisha Naluga**  
*Finance and Administration (Left)*



# Board Members



**Elly R. Twineyo Kamugisha, PhD**

*Chairperson Board*



**Matovu Katiti Ovia Lily (Mrs.)**

*Treasurer*



**Rev. Fr. Kyaligonza Bonaventure, PhD**

*Member*



**Clayton Arinanye**

*Member*



**Elizabeth Tamale**

*Member*

# Vision

A vibrant society trading favorably for sustainable development

# Mission

We work with communities to influence trade policy and practice through capacity building, advocacy, research, dialogues and collaborations for sustainable development.

## Contact us

- Plot 2, Agape Close Ntinda, Kigoowa on Kiwatule Road. P.O.BOX, 16452, Kampala Uganda

+256 414 664 616

info@actade.org

X [in](#) [f](#) @actade