



one Nile - one family

THE NILE BASIN DISCOURSE

# NILE COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE (NCCR) PROJECT 2022-2023

(P132448/TF15834)

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022



Burundi



D.R.C



Egypt



Ethiopia



Kenya



Rwanda



S. Sudan



Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda





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## ACRONYMS

<b>CIWA</b>	<b>Cooperation in International Waters in Africa</b>
<b>CSO</b>	<b>Civil Society Organization</b>
<b>ENTRO</b>	<b>Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office</b>
<b>EOI</b>	<b>Expression Of Interest</b>
<b>FAQs</b>	<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>
<b>GA</b>	<b>General Assembly</b>
<b>IEs</b>	<b>Implementing Entities</b>
<b>LVBC</b>	<b>Lake Victoria Basin Commission</b>
<b>M&amp;E</b>	<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>
<b>MEL</b>	<b>Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning</b>
<b>MoU</b>	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b>
<b>NBD</b>	<b>Nile Basin Discourse</b>
<b>NBI</b>	<b>Nile Basin Initiative</b>
<b>Nile-Sec</b>	<b>Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat</b>
<b>NCCR</b>	<b>Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience</b>
<b>NEL-SAP CU</b>	<b>Nile Equatorial Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit</b>
<b>NDFs</b>	<b>National Nile Discourse Forums</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organization</b>
<b>NRMEs</b>	<b>National Resource Mobilization Experts</b>
<b>NTSEs</b>	<b>National Technical Support Experts</b>
<b>PAIA</b>	<b>Project Activities Implementation Agreement</b>
<b>PDO</b>	<b>Project Development Objective</b>
<b>POP</b>	<b>Project Operational Plan</b>
<b>RRME</b>	<b>Regional Resource Mobilization Expert</b>
<b>SDGs</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>ToRs</b>	<b>Terms of Reference</b>
<b>UNFCCC</b>	<b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>
<b>WB</b>	<b>World Bank</b>



# A TRIBUTE TO DR HELLEN NATU



With deep sorrow, NBD reminisces the untimely passing of Dr Hellen Natu that occurred in September 2022. Dr Hellen Natu joined NBD as Regional Manager in 2014 – a position she held till her demise. Dr Natu was an important piece of the puzzle in the NBD Network, sailing the organisation through the hardest of times. Although she did not leave NBD where she wanted it to be, she laid a foundation that gives the network hope for the future.

Prior to her joining NBD, Dr Natu was an Advisor at the East African Grain Council (EAGC) in Nairobi, a Lead Specialist at the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) in Entebbe and Bujumbura, Project Manager with UNOPS Entebbe, Senior Lecturer, Researcher & Consultant in Agricultural Economics at the University of Nairobi, Consultant at the World Trade Organisation, and Planning Officer at the Ministry of Trade & Industries in Kenya.

Our hearts go out to Dr Hellen Natu's family, friends and acquaintances; May God comfort all of you and fill that big gap of grief.

Fare-thee-well Dr Natu!

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2022, NBD reached significant achievements in leveraging platforms for cooperation on the Nile, engaging young professionals, mobilizing flood prone grassroots communities, mobilizing grassroots women to form networks, and engaging the National Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) on capacity building and sustainability.

NBD leveraged various platforms to fulfil the mandate to communicate benefits of Nile cooperation and risks of non-cooperation. These include: the Regional Nile Day 2022 celebrations, the Nile-COM meetings, the World Water Week, and the COP27 conference.

To expedite NBD's outreach programmes and knowledge sharing, NBD ran a pilot youth internship programme in the Eastern Nile Basin Countries. The programme recruited young university graduates to closely work with NDFs in Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan; collecting real-time data and information on the priorities and concerns of grassroots women and youth mainly focusing on the NBD-NCCR project thematic area 2: Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation.

In order to amplify the voices of flood affected grassroots communities in the policy-making processes of governments and inter-governmental agencies such as NBI, NBD mobilized flood prone grassroots communities in Ethiopia and Sudan to interact with experts from both governments of the two countries and NBI's NELSAP-CU.

Additionally, NBD mobilized grassroots women in member countries to establish fit-for-purpose networks at both national and regional levels. The networks will play key roles in effective uptake and sustainability of the NCCR project outcomes, and serve as a regional Task Force working with NBD and NBI on issues related to water and Women in line with the NBI Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

During the fiscal year, NBD effectively liaised with and technically supported NDFs to mobilize stakeholders to inform the NCCR project especially flood-prone communities, recruiting young interns, formation of grassroots women networks, and in preparing monthly User Generated Content (UGC).

Aside the NCCR project context, NBD registered two achievements: (i) NBD became a member of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), a status that gives NBD the opportunity to participate in the African civil society platform on climate change and sustainable development; and (ii) NBD secured a small seed funding from GIZ via Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) and implemented the project in collaboration with Community Initiative for Transformative Action-Uganda (CITA-Uganda) - a member of the Uganda NDF.



## THE NBD INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) is an independent voice of grassroots people with over 600 CSO members. It links communities in 10 countries along the Nile with governments and intergovernmental organizations, informing and enriching projects, programs & policies at national and trans-boundary levels. NBD was established in early 2000s to strengthen civil society participation in NBI development projects, processes, program and policies. Its member organizations are local and national CSOs/NGOs working and advocating on a range of issues relevant to Nile cooperation including: climate security, environmental conservation, agriculture, energy, gender equity, livelihoods, poverty reduction, and other related fields. The CSOs/NGOs are members of chapters at national levels referred to as National Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) established in each of the Nile riparian states namely: Burundi, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The NDFs in turn form the NBD Network, which is coordinated by a Regional Secretariat based in Entebbe, Uganda.

NBD provides national and regional fora for dialogue on Nile issues to strengthen the influence of civil society in cooperative development and management of the water resources in the Nile Basin.

NBD envisions a Nile Basin in which there is sustainable social and economic development for all peoples of the Nile Basin, free of conflict, leading to achievement of justice, human rights, good governance, poverty eradication and protection of the environment. Through its mission “to ensure that a fully informed and basin-wide civil society develops and plays a key role in achieving the vision, through pro-active and critical influencing of projects, programs and policies of the Nile Basin Initiative and other development processes,” NBD plays a critical role in ensuring that development is human-centred, inclusive and sustainable.

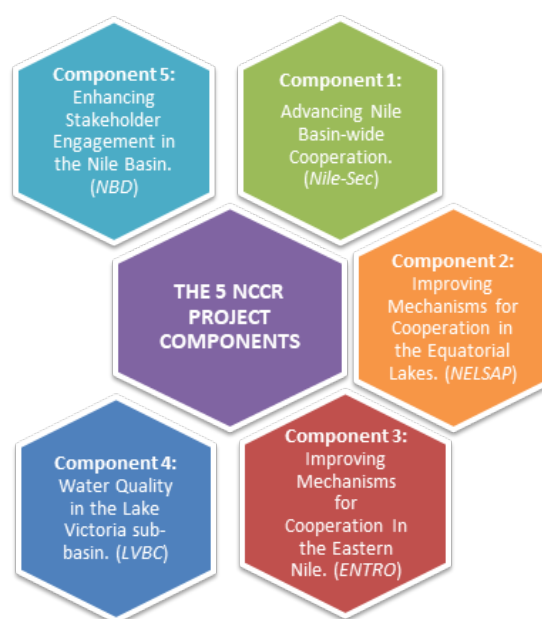
## KEY INITIATIVES

NBD received US\$750,000 (Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars) from the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA); a Trust Fund administered by the World Bank (WB) towards participation in the implementation of the “Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) Project.” NBD’s work in the NCCR project commenced in January 2022 with the mandate to enhance stakeholder engagement to improve cooperation and a shared understanding of water issues in the Nile Basin.

### 1. THE NCCR PROJECT

The Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) is a five-year (2021-2025) project that aims to improve mechanisms for cooperation on water resources management and development in the Nile Basin. The project is jointly implemented by the Nile-Sec, ENTRO, NELSAP-CU, LVBC, and NBD.

**Figure 1. The 5 Components of the NCCR Project**



**Figure 2. Thematic Areas of the NCCR Project**

Thematic Area 1	Thematic Area 2	Thematic Area 3	Thematic Area 4	Thematic Area 5	Cross cutting issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platforms For Cooperation</li> <li>• Coordinated by Nile-Sec</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood And Drought Risk Mitigation</li> <li>• Coordinated by ENTRO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam Safety Capacity Building</li> <li>• Coordinated by NELSAP-CU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative Information Services For Climate-resilient Investment Planning</li> <li>• Coordinated by Nile-Sec</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Quality Investment Planning and Prioritization</li> <li>• Coordinated by LVBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender Aspect of the NCCR Project</li> <li>• Communicating Benefits of Cooperation and Risks of Non-cooperation</li> </ul>

## 1.1 NBD'S ROLE IN THE NCCR

NBD is responsible for Component 5 (Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement in the Nile Basin) specifically in Thematic Areas 1 and 2; and in the cross-cutting issues of engendering gender in the NCCR and communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation.

## 1.2 THEMATIC AREA 1: LEVERAGING PLATFORMS AND FORUMS:

Under this theme, NBD is to organize/use existing platforms to facilitate inclusive stakeholder dialogue, and communicate benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation for increased understanding of transboundary cooperation in the Nile Basin. Specifically, NBD is to leverage on Council of Ministers (COM) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) platforms, Nile Day celebrations and other Platforms



to contribute to dialogue towards decision making on key water management challenges of the Nile Basin; bringing civil society perspectives, approaches and experiences in climate resilient water resources management from the ground, for uptake in water management policy formulation and decision-making by the COMs, TACs, and other similar bodies.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER THEMATIC AREA 1 - LEVERAGING PLATFORMS AND FORUMS:

### I) NBD LEVERAGED THE 16TH REGIONAL NILE DAY CELEBRATIONS 2022

NBD reached out to over 1500 people constituting diverse stakeholders including: Ministers for water Affairs from the Basin countries, members of diplomatic corps, representatives of development partners, international and regional organizations, religious leaders, media houses, local communities, and members of parliament of the host country, and regional and district commissioners as well as public servants of the host country.



Photo: The NBD Board Chairperson addressing participants at the Regional Nile Day 2022 celebrations

The NBD network delivered a statement touching on the Nile Day 2022 theme and NBD's mandate; highlighting that, the theme of the Nile Day 2022; ***"The Nile: Our Heritage for Peace and Prosperity"***, is a timely reminder to Basin citizens to focus on cooperative management and development of the common Nile Basin water and related resources as a foundation for peace and prosperity. The theme is also aligned with ***"Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want"***, in which Aspiration number 4: "We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall have: an entrenched and flourishing culture of human rights, democracy, gender equality, inclusion and peace; prosperity, security and safety for all citizens; and mechanisms to promote and defend the continent's collective security and interests."

At the event, NBD reaffirmed commitment to continue complementing the NBI on development and cooperation of the Nile Basin. Therefore, NBD will continue its work of empowering and enhancing participation at grassroots level on trans-boundary shared waters of the Nile while NBI targets the Nile Basin countries as evidenced in the implementation of the joint Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR) project.

NBD mobilized a total of 33 members (18 - female and 15 – male) including community representatives from the host country-Tanzania, members of the NBD Regional Board, Gender representatives to the Board, and the NBD Secretariat Staff.



Photo: NBD's participants at the Regional Nile Day 2022 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## II) NBD REGIONAL BOARD ANNUAL MEETING HELD BACK-TO-BACK WITH NILE DAY 2022

The NBD Board held its annual meeting in Dar-es-Salam, on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022, back-to-back with the Nile Day 2022 celebrations. The board approved Minutes of the previous meeting, handled matters arising, guided on the framework for preparation of the ICR for the NBD - CIWA/WB Project (Engaging Civil Society for Social and Climate Resilience in the Nile Basin Project 2014-2021), approved the annual work plan 2022 for the NCCR project, and reviewed NBD's existing Governance Manuals and Policies.

## III) NBD LEVERAGES THE NILE-COM MEETING, 17TH - 20TH AUGUST 2022, DAR ES SALAAM TANZANIA

On behalf of the NBD Network, the NBD Board Chairperson Ms. Verdiane NYIRAMANA delivered a statement at the plenary of the ordinary 30<sup>th</sup> Nile-COM, 25<sup>th</sup> NEL-COM, and 34<sup>th</sup> ENCOM annual meeting.

NBD remarked on the time-tested NBI-NBD partnership that has now advanced to a level where both organizations are jointly implementing the 5-year Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience (NCCR), 2021 - 2025. In the NCCR, NBD complements NBI's undertakings in the areas of: leveraging available platforms and forums by communicating benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation on the trans-boundary shared water resource of the Nile; mobilizing grass roots communities to inform the



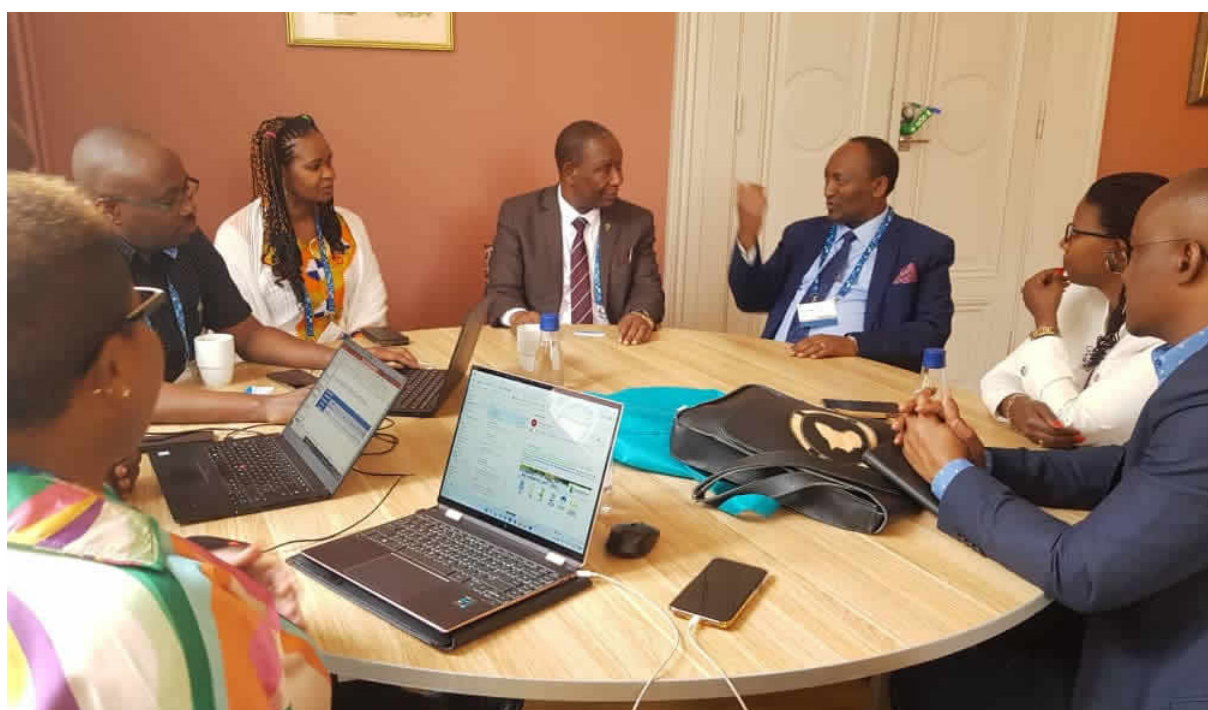
NCCR project on the current utility of the flood and drought early warning system; and mobilizing and establishing grassroots Women Networks to contribute to the operationalization of NBI's Gender mainstreaming Strategy, among others.

The statement reiterated NBD's commitment to complement NBI to the realization of the Shared Vision: "to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources," through community mobilization, awareness-creation and capacity building for meaningful contribution to the successes of trans-boundary shared projects, programmes, and policies under the auspices of NBI and basin governments.

#### IV) NBD AT THE WORLD WATER WEEK, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (27TH AUG., 2022- 1ST SEP. 2022)

NBD participated in the World Water Week - 2022, under the theme "*Seeing the unseen: The value of water*"

During the Week, the NBD Board Chairperson Ms. Verdiane NYIRAMANA attended a Stakeholders' meeting hosted by NBI and the World Bank, emphasising NBD's key role in complementing NBI's activities towards realizing its Shared Vision and Objectives. She also approached various donors and NGOs in Sweden, showcasing the impactful work of NBD.



NBD Board Chairperson (2nd - right) at a round table meeting with donors and partners in Stockholm, Sweden, Aug. 2022

#### V) LAUNCH OF NBD'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Under the NBD-NCCR project, NBD is piloting a young professionals internship programme in the Cluster 1 countries of Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan – learning from ENTRO's experience. The goal of the internship program is to enhance NBD's outreach programme by linking young university graduates to the youth and women at grassroots.

The specific objectives of the internship program are to: (i) enhance learning and increase the experience of interns on how Civil Society engages with grassroots communities, inter-governmental and governmental bodies as well as other stakeholders on the Nile water resource management; (ii) enable gathering of real-time evidence from the grassroots youth and women on the three thematic areas of the NBD-NCCR project mentioned above, especially on the concerns and priorities of grassroots communities with regard to policy, project and program formulation, and implementation. The 4 interns are now placed in and working closely with the respective NDFs in the 4 countries.

## VI) NBD AT COP27, SHARM EL-SHEIKH-EGYPT (8TH - 18TH NOVEMBER 2022)

The NBD delegation to COP27 included one (1) EC member, two (2) NBD Secretariat staff, and the Egypt NDF Governance team. NBD used the platform for publicity, connectivity, and learning. NBD's presence at COP27 was through its member organisation - Arab Network for Environment and Development which is accredited with Observer status by UNFCCC.



NBD Chairperson and the Ag. Regional Manager addressing audience at various side events



NBD made presentations at side events and appeared at discussion panels organized by various entities (civil society, government, and research institutes); sharing achievements and experiences amassed over the last 20 years. Updates of these events were also shared live on NBD's social media platforms. In prospect for partnerships, NBD reached out and established contact with over 20 stakeholders and development partners.

The NBD delegation attained updated information on climate actions which would effectively impact NBD's future strategies in terms of project and programme approach.

### 1.3 THEMATIC AREA 2: FLOODS AND DROUGHT RISK MITIGATION

Under this thematic area, NBD mobilized stakeholders to contribute information on the current utilization of the existing early warning system, identify gaps, and establish two-way communication for enhanced service delivery between communities and providers to improve stakeholder awareness of hydro meteorological hazard preparedness in the Nile Basin.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER FLOOD AND DROUGHT THEMATIC AREA:

##### I) NBD PARTICIPATED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE REGIONAL FLOOD AND DROUGHT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP WORKSHOP.



Participants of the Regional Workshop in Nairobi - Kenya, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

NELSAP Organized the 'First Regional Workshop for Flood and Drought Technical Working Group - June 2022 in Nairobi - Kenya.

NBD leveraged the workshop to influence the methodologies of: (i) collecting preliminary information on frequent flash-floods prone areas in the Nile Basin countries, (ii) discussing flash-flood appropriate dissemination tools at national level, (iii) collecting available observed historical hydro-meteorological data; and (iv) discuss and approve the inception report on the Basin-Wide Flash-Flood Assessment in the Nile Basin Member Countries.

## II) NBD LEVERAGED THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DROUGHT GAPS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In July 2022, ENTRO organized a Consultation Workshop on Drought Gaps and Need Assessment in the Nile basin at Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

The workshop aimed at introducing a Nile-wide Drought Risk Mitigation sub-project to stakeholders including the Nile Basin Flood and Drought Technical Working Group, the NBI Centres, NBD, and the experts from the World Bank. The workshop focused on drought gaps and needs assessments that are intended to strengthen the NBI regional offices and Nile Basin countries' capacity in drought monitoring and forecasting, and to provide information that is useful for decision-makers for both central and local governments.

NBD leveraged the workshop by bringing civil society views, concerns, and priorities with regard to the current utility of the existing early warning system; emphasizing the need to include community views in identifying gaps and needs in the early warning systems, and to establish a two-way communication for enhanced service delivery between communities and providers.

Additionally, NBD influenced the drought gaps and needs assessment through mobilizing over 50 member CSOs in responding to a survey and participating in oral interviews with the ENTRO consultant. The views from CSOs are to support the designing of a comprehensive and effective drought early warning system that serves the benefits of the grassroots communities who are the primary victims of drought hazards.

## III) MOBILIZING FLOOD-PRONE GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES IN ETHIOPIA FOR CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 2022

NBD mobilized grassroots communities from the selected flash-flood prone sites in Ethiopia to interact with a study and consultations towards developing a flash-floods early warning system for the Nile Basin. The team comprised of NELSAP-CU officials and the Consultant, the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Water and Energy, NBD/Ethiopian NDF, and Natural Resource Management experts from the flood prone district. The team interacted with designated community representatives from the selected flash-flood prone sites.

Community meetings were preceded by Stakeholder consultations held with key Ministries, Agencies, and Departments of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

**Meeting with Flood and Drought Technical Working Group (TWG) from the Federal Ministry of water and Energy:** The meeting focused on the causes of flash-floods, impacts, and preparedness and response by government, other partners, and affected communities. The ministry shared information on flash-floods occurrences in Ethiopia, the early warning information systems in place, and the flow of information to communities for preparedness. Early warning information is generated by the Meteorology Agency and disseminated by the Disaster Commission & local government structures via mainstream media (Radio, Television), and rarely via social media platform like Telegram.





Meeting the TWG team at the Ministry of water and Energy, Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Consultations with flash-flood prone grassroots communities:** The team visited 4 flash-flood prone sites and held focus group discussions with representatives of these communities. The sites visited include: Dankore Kebele, Buta Dalecha Gada Kebele, Bekaktu Mome Kebele, and Koka Gifawossen Kebele. Overall, from the 4 sites, 20 representatives (50% Women) participated in the focus group discussions.



The team having a focus group discussion with designated community members of Dankore Kebele flash-flood site.





The team on a site visit to some of the areas that were heavily affected by floods

Three issues were discussed: (i) Genesis of the flash-Floods; (ii) Impacts of the floods; and (iii) Communities' preparedness.

**Genesis of the flash floods:** From the communities' perspective, flash-floods are caused by heavy rainfall; flooding water reaches homes, farms, and farmlands within 30 minutes, giving little or no time for preparation to rescue lives and property.

**Impacts of flash-floods:** Communities in all the Four (4) sites listed the following as the major impacts of flash floods:

- a) Loss of human life and livestock: Community representatives interviewed in all the Four (4) sites asserted that several people and animals are being washed away by the sudden flash floods every year.
- b) Damage to property - mainly houses: The frequent occurrences of flash floods have always resulted in the destruction of crops, farmlands, and the environment at large, causing low crop production and productivity, shortage of animal feed, and degradation of the environment.
- c) Damage to infrastructural facilities: Flash floods created big gullies following landslides and heavy soil erosion thus damaging roads & bridges which disconnected communities from reaching market places, churches/Mosques, local administrative units, and schools.

- d) Depletion of ground water and scarcity of clean water: The frequent occurrences of flash floods in the area have washed the topsoil away. This has resulted in the depletion of ground water. The communities in the area are suffering from lack of potable water, and thus, over 2000 people in one area are forced to use only one water source for both humans and their animals.



Scenes of destroyed homesteads, degraded environment.

**Communities' preparedness:** To prevent and protect impacts of flash floods, communities have been constructing check dams using gabion & stone, soil bund structures, water ways, digging water ponds, Soil & Water Conservation structures, and area access closure & planting trees. Communities also made efforts to re-locate their houses to upland areas, and move their agricultural produce & cattle to the upland areas whenever they anticipate heavy rain. The conservation works such as area access closure, tree planting, gully treatment and pond construction in the kebeles around the mountains/ upper catchment have to some extent minimized the intensity of the flood to the lower catchment communities. However, communities also uphold that their efforts are not enough to curb the impacts of heavy flash-floods. They have limited capacity to access gabion and other materials for the intended conservation activities.

**Proposed Sustainable solutions:**

**(a) Structural solutions:** While the proposed flash-floods early warning system shall be beneficial, communities proposed that structural solutions such as building check dams to reduce the speed of flash-floods is more sustainable. These should be supported by biological solutions (like tree planting, area access closure, etc.).

**(b) Connectivity:** Communities underlined connectivity as a challenge due to damages on the road infrastructure; thus, the urgent need to rebuild damaged bridges to re-connect communities to social and economic service centres.



### ***Debriefing and end of the field visit:***

At the debrief, a summary of mission report was presented by the NELSAP consultant followed by discussions. The team proposed possible solutions to the challenges which include: implementing proper land management measures, developing water schemes, dissemination of early warning information produced by the ministry of Water & Energy, and putting protection structures.

## **IV) MOBILIZING FLOOD-PRONE GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES IN SUDAN FOR CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 2022**

NBD's Sudan Nile Discourse Forum in collaboration with the Sudan Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources mobilized flood prone communities in Sudan to contribute to the preliminary study by NBI/NELSAP-CU for the creation of a Flash-Flood Early Warning System for the Nile basin countries. The site visit team included Officials from the Sudan Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, the NBI/NELSAP-CU, and NBD as the lead link to communities. This activity included a series of meetings with government entities in Sudan including: Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, the National Meteorological Agency, the ministry of Civil Defence, and the Hydraulics Research Centre (HRC). The visited flash-flood prone communities include: Wad Ramli, Wad Soba, Wad Hasib, and El Managil Plateau.

### **Meeting with officials at Ministry of Water Resources:**

In the meeting at the ministry, the team presented the aim of the field visit and highlighted the outcomes of a similar exercise done earlier in Ethiopia. From the discussions, it was emphasised that almost all Sudan is prone to Flash-floods and the years 2013, 2016, 2017 and 2021 were worse. The officials at the Ministry welcomed the idea of the flash-floods early warning system adding that riverine floods have been dormant for a while now but they are also influenced by heavy rains. Therefore, an early warning system with emphasis on a module to predict heavy rainfall would be of great importance.



**Participants of the meeting at the Sudan Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources**

## Meeting with the National Meteorological Agency

The National Meteorological Agency (NMA) is the main source of weather prediction data for all institutions in Sudan. The NMA will still be the main source of data for the proposed Flash-Flood Early Warning System.

The Agency is already preparing a flood risk area map of the country and this was identified as a benefit to the Early Warning System project. Data sharing for the input of the system also came up as an issue to consider; NBI has no direct working relationship with the National Meteorological Agency but instead with the Ministry of Irrigation; this would present challenges with data sharing. The ministry shall have discussions with the two entities to resolve the issue.

## Meeting with officials at High Council of Civil Defence

The High Council of Civil Defence is the supreme body that coordinates disaster management and decision making in the case of disasters in Sudan. The Council is composed of 16 Ministries, the Governorate of Khartoum State and the Civil Defence Administration. It is a disaster response body and not a policy maker. It releases daily reports during flood seasons and monthly reports in non-flood seasons. The reports detail statistics on loss of lives, property, and public infrastructure as a result of the disaster.



Participants of the meeting at the Sudanese Civil Defence Office

## Meeting the flash-flood prone Community of Wad Ramli

Wad Ramli is a low land located between the Nile River bank and a higher altitude surrounding, from which water flows during heavy rains and thus floods into Wad Ramli. The village is mainly occupied by farmers who grow fruits, potatoes and onions along the banks of the river. The location of Wadi Ramli makes it face a double tragedy; Flash floods from one side and Riverine floods on the other. In August each year, floods are anticipated however, in the year 2021, the floods were ferocious - covering almost 2 metres above the ground.

**Impacts of flash floods:** The impacts of the past flash-floods in the area are huge; (i) They left about 600 houses partially or completely collapsed; (ii) Floods displaced residents to other areas inside or outside the locality. Some still live in camps since their homesteads were completely ravaged. (iii) floods brought about not only economic but also social impacts.

**Preparedness and support communities received:** Communities received relief aid from the Red Cross Society and the Khartoum Oil Refinery but nothing directly from government. They have challenges accessing health services more so during flood seasons – the nearest health centre being an hour to Khartoum; the community has pooled resources to build a health centre on their own. They need assistance to buy equipment and staffing for the facility. They are also using local knowledge such as piling barriers for flood control around the village to mitigate flooding into their homes. Government has provided alternative land for the village to relocate however the land is located near the oil refinery and the community claims that the surrounding is polluted by gasses from the oil refinery. Additionally, the community is not willing to relocate due to other reasons: - It is their ancestral land to which they have historical attachment. Being farmers, the land is adjacent to the Nile River and is very fertile for cultivation – they can hardly find such land elsewhere and they urge government to provide all the necessary support for them to stay in their land.

**Sustainable Solutions Proposed:** Displacing the population to another area to ensure that the disaster does not recur again (a few residents agreed but majority were against the proposal); making gullies to drain rain and flash flood waters from wad Ramli area; and establish an early warning unit.

The discussion at Wad Ramli was attended by over 50 people (*Men: 13, Women: 16, and Children: 20+*)



**Photos from the site:**



**A tour around Wadi Ramli with Community leaders to see the contour barriers erected**



**A clear view of heaped gravel contour barriers erected around Wad Ramli to block floods**

## Meeting the flash-flood prone Community of Wad Soba

Wad soba covers almost 45 villages and falls within a semi-desert climate with high temperatures. The land is flat with gentle slopes less than 5 degrees. This means there is low water flow in the valley. Water flows outside canals and streams of the valley in the form of surface runoff, thus causing flooding in the basin. The field team met the village development committee and some residents from the community, the residents spoke about the area's exposure to the danger of recurring flash floods since 2013.

**Causes of flash floods:** The floods are a result of recurring heavy rainfall dating as far back as the year 2013. The heavy rainfall causes flash-floods that sweep villages located in the course of the torrent, causing loss of property and lives.

**Impacts of flash floods:** The 2013 floods caused excessive loss of property and lives mainly because it came unexpected. The floods in the following years of 2016 – 2017 – 2020 – 2022 were also disastrous but with minimal damage since communities were expectant and had taken first level steps and measures to survive. Floods affect all aspects of the communities (economic, social, environment, and health) in addition to the loss of public facilities (Schools – water station – health centres).

**Community preparedness and support received:** The villages get to know about oncoming floods disaster mainly through phone calls from nearby villages that may have been affected first. There is no streamlined early warning before the disaster. Communities claim to not have received any support from the government, except from neighbouring communities and some humanitarian organizations.

**Proposed solutions:** The locals propose a periodic maintenance of the Wad Hasib Dam so that it can take up as much water as possible. When this was first constructed in 2016, it reduced the amount of flash floods in the area, although it did not eliminate it completely. The dam has been filled by erosion over time. The community also proposes a construction of a large drain gulley to effectively drain water from the villages to counter flash flooding. The locals welcomed the idea of an early warning system that will help inform citizens of oncoming flash-floods and reduce the population's exposure to disaster.



Photos from the site: The discussions at Wad Soba were attended by over 70 people (*Men: 12, Women: 11 & Children: 50+*).



Members of Wad Soba community share their experience with floods and how they are coping in the aftermath.



Learners in one of the classrooms at a flood affected school in Wad Soba. The level and effect of flood water is still visible on the walls.

## Meeting the flash-flood prone Community of Wad Hasib

Wad Hasib is a village in the East Nile locality, approximately 80km from Khartoum city. The village is composed of close to 500 households and is specifically a settlement area without much economic activity. The majority of residents commute to work in the city of Khartoum.

**Causes of flash floods:** According to the locals, the village has been exposed to heavy rains yet the basin-like landscape of the area has no clearance for the excessive water to run-off and hence the flash-floods in the years 2013, 2016, 2017 and 2021. Notably the vulnerability to floods however decreased after the construction of Wad Hasib Dam in 2015-2016; but just like in Wadi Soba, the laxity in maintenance of the dams and the drainage channels to the dam caused significant damage in 2021.

**Impacts of flash floods:** Like the rest of the sites, the resulting flash-floods damaged houses and public facilities including schools, places of worship and a health centre.

**Community preparedness and support received:** In 2013, the locals received no warning of oncoming flash floods disaster but in the later years, they receive warning by phone call from other villages, between 6 to 12 hours before – depending on the magnitude of the rain. Usually, there is less time to prepare for escape. With water usually one metre high from the ground, the entire village takes refuge at a mosque because it is at a raised ground compared to the surrounding. Government profiled the occurrence of floods in 2013 and supported a few families with concrete blocks to rebuild their houses. There is a government health facility in place but it is not functional to take care of victims. Victims are instead taken to Khartoum city. The community has not received any training on how to respond to disasters; each household responds based on how they think fit to save their lives.

**Proposed solutions:** The community proposed to government to widen drains to effectively evacuate rain and flash-flood water, and to increase the capacity of the flood dams to double the current so that floods are further reduced and the reserve water can in turn support in agriculture and household use. They also requested for establishment of an emergency centre for early warning and refugee in addition to the mosque in case of flash flood disaster. They welcomed the idea of a flash-floods early warning system but also raised concern that lifesaving interventions are also very important during disasters, software alone is not sufficient to bolster people from the dangers of flash floods. They requested for assistance on developing a landscape map of high and low places so that the village can place public buildings such as schools and health centres in high areas to reduce their exposure to future disasters.

Over 90 people attended the discussions at Wad Hasib site (Men: 19, Women: 23 and Children: 50+).



Meeting with the general community and school children before the focus group discussions.





Indoor focus group discussion with community leaders and school teachers at Wad Haseib

### Meeting the flash-flood prone Community of El Managil Plateau

El Managil is located in the state of Gezira - central Sudan, about 156 km from Khartoum and about 62 km from the city of Wad Medani. It is one of the largest industrial cities in Sudan but also forms the largest part of the Al-Gezira agricultural project.

**Causes of flash floods:** In 2022, El Managil was exposed to heavy rains that caused the overflow of Gezira irrigation scheme canals and thus causing flash-floods that led to disaster in many villages; affecting over 70% of farmland in the 2022 agricultural season. After the rains, the flood water stayed for about two months in the affected areas. In addition to heavy rains, lack of water drains in the area, lack of gear to reduce the speed of water flow, and the location of some villages in low-lying areas that collect all the run-off water from the higher areas around them. Lack of an early warning mechanism to the communities made the situation worse.

**Impacts:** Huge damage to human life, farmland, animals and destruction of properties and infrastructure – mainly roads, schools, industries and homes.

**Proposed solutions:** The community suggested the establishment of water storage stations to harvest the would-be flood water. Build larger drains with good specification; and run effective periodical maintenance of the canals in the Gezira irrigation scheme. They also suggested that authorities should increase the number of interception gear to reduce the flow-speed of water runoff.

Over 30 people attended discussions at El Managil (*Men: 18, Women: 12 and Children: 8+*).



Focus group discussion with community leaders of El Managil - Gezira region





In the background - Temporary structures built by families whose homes were destroyed by floods

### Meeting with Flash-floods Technical Working Group for debrief

The field team held a debrief meeting to share findings of the field trip with the floods technical working group at the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Recourses. Participants shared their observations from the field trips, highlighting some of the issues raised by communities including the causes of the disastrous flash-floods and the proposed solutions to remedy their occurrence or reduce on the effects.

## 1.4 THE COMMUNICATION CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE

**Communicating Benefits Of Cooperation And Risks Of Non-Cooperation:** As a civil society entity, NBD uses various platforms and forums to advocate for emerging issues related to benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation; and mobilizes communities and presents Civil Society's perspectives and contributions to basin water resources management, and climate change/adaptation/resilience.

## 1.5 THE GENDER ASPECT IN THE NCCR PROJECT:

Under the Gender aspect, NBD is tasked to mobilize Grassroots Women in the Nile basin, bringing them together to form fit-for-purpose Networks to interact with NBD and NBI programmes; this new platform contributes to the broader community networks that will use the proposed floods and drought early warning systems. Grassroots Women mobilization will be done at both national and regional levels.

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO FORMATION OF GRASSROOTS WOMEN NETWORKS:

NBD organized in-country grassroots women workshops in the ten Nile Basin countries and established National Nile Women's Networks that will interact with NBD and NBI programmes as a new and sustainable platform to sustain the NCCR project outcomes, and other integrated water resource management initiatives. The Networks are mainly to provide linkage to the grassroots in floods and droughts risk mitigation programs.

The plan for 2022 was to create and strengthen three (3) Women Networks in cluster<sup>1</sup> 3 countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. However, the achievements have exceeded the plan; NBD has already established 10 grassroots Nile women's networks as noted herein.

## I. KENYA NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



Participants attending the National Nile Women Network workshop in Kenya

<sup>1</sup> For the sake of simplifying its operations, NBD has classified the 10 Nile Basin countries into three (3) clusters. Cluster 1 countries are: Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan; cluster 2 countries are: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; and cluster 3 countries are: Burundi, DRC, and Rwanda.



The Kenya National Nile Discourse Forum (KNDF) organized and conducted a one-day women workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Kisumu where 29 Women drawn from different localities attended. This one-day women's meeting reinforced the results of the 2021 training that KNDF provided for women on water for environmental sustainability and climate resilience in the Nile basin.

Participants discussed the NCCR Project in general and Gender and water issues in particular, including flood and drought risk mitigation as well as benefits of cooperation and risks of non-cooperation in the Nile in order to capture their voices in the subject matter. They were also sensitized on Gender and climate/water issues in NBI institutions and how to promote country level dialogues at all levels of NBI structures, national ministries and departments within Kenya to take action and mitigate vulnerabilities that cause gender imbalances in the water/climate sector. Participants were also briefed on efforts being taken by the department of gender and special programmes within the County Government of Kisumu towards mainstreaming gender across the departments such as developing and operationalizing the Gender Mainstreaming Policy in 2020, and establishing a Gender Committee that ensures all projects, especially within the water and agriculture sectors, are gender-responsive.

As a key **output** from the women's meeting, the National Nile Women's Network was formed and the Steering Committee members to lead the Network, composed of: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary General, were elected.

## II. SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



Grassroots Women Network formation workshop participants in South Sudan

The South Sudan Nile Discourse Forum (SSNDF) mobilized its Women-led organizations for a one-day workshop to discuss and establish the National Nile women's network in South Sudan. The one-day workshop, held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, was attended by 21 Women drawn from civil society organizations as well as government line Ministries.

**The key outputs of the workshop included:** (i) Women participants gained awareness on the challenges and opportunities presented to women in the water sector, including insights into the NCCR project objectives; (ii) The South Sudan National Nile Women's Network was established and leaders elected; and (iii) A social media group for active functioning of the Network was created.

### III. TANZANIA NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



Participants of the Tanzania Nile Women's Network Workshop, Tanzania

Tanzania Nile Discourse Forum (TNDF) held a women's workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022 in Mwanza where 25 Women drawn from TNDF Members, Local Government Authorities, women representatives from the Water User Associations, representatives from women farmers, and representatives from small scale women miners.

Participants were exposed to information about: the roles of Women in the water sector and the need for gender responsive planning, implementation, budgeting and reporting at all levels in development projects; gender mainstreaming in the Nile Basin as per NBI's Gender Mainstreaming policy and Strategy; and impacts of flood and drought on women.

**Key outputs of the workshop were:** (i) Formation of the National Nile Women Network in Tanzania; (ii) Resolution made to have a visiting study to Magu for fish caging in the lake; and invitation was offered by the Magu District Council; (iii) Awareness raised for the grassroots women on Gender and Water Resource Management, focusing on floods and drought mitigation around Lake Victoria Basin; and (iv) The Network members formed a social media group for information, knowledge, and experience sharing among themselves.



#### IV. BURUNDI NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



The National Discourse Forum of Burundi mobilized 28 grassroots Women representatives for the Women Network formation workshop on October 7, 2022.

At the workshop, presentations and discussions were held on: the definition of gender, roles of women in the water sector, roles of development projects in gender mainstreaming, and how to mitigate gender inequalities in the water sector. Participants underlined that culture ultimately plays a role in different areas, including the water sector. By assigning roles and responsibilities to boys and girls in the family, culture has instilled inequalities between girls and boys from a young age. Gender then is defined as that which defines the roles, responsibilities and opportunities given to people in society, and very often determines what they can achieve. This determines one's relationship to water as it shapes the needs, access, use and benefits of this vital resource.

As the key output of the workshop, the National Nile Women's Network was established and a Steering Committee was elected to lead the Network.

## V. THE D. R. CONGO NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



The DRC NDF mobilized grassroots women and conducted a women's workshop that led to the formation of the Nile women Network in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The workshop was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 in Butembo city and was attended by 28 Women.

At the workshop, experts made presentations on women and water management for environmental sustainability and climate resilience; increasing women's participation in decision-making and negotiations on water management; Women, sustainability and better water management, causes and consequences of water scarcity and possible solutions; and actions to be taken to mitigate the challenges that are causing gender imbalance in the water sector.



After the presentations, participants discussed the way forward for a sustainable and gender-inclusive management of water resources in the country.

As a key output of the workshop, the National Nile Women's Network was established, and its Steering committee was elected into office.

## VI. SUDAN NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK

The Sudan National Discourse Forum mobilized grassroots Women and conducted a workshop on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 where 26 Women participated and discussed the roles of women in the water sector, the plans at the level of ministries that support the empowerment of women, the concept of gender mainstreaming and raising awareness of the principle of equal opportunities and gender equity, and strategies and development plans, taking into account a gender perspective.

Finally, the workshop established the Sudan National Nile Women's Network and elected a Steering Committee that would lead and govern it.

## VII. EGYPT NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



The Egypt National Discourse Forum organized a grassroots women workshop on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on issues relating to the impact of climate change on water resources, especially floods and droughts. The workshop gathered a total of 30 women drawn from NBD member organisations, and several media professionals.

Several presentations were made including: The role of Women in Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa and the Nile Basin; Impact of Climate Change in the Nile Basin Countries, especially in the form of floods, torrential rains and droughts and their disastrous impact on women, and Economic and Social Effects of Climate Change on Women.

Participants also had round table discussions on the goals, tasks and formation of the women's network. The workshop concluded with the formation of the National Nile Women's Network and the election of the Steering Committee members to carry it forward.



## VIII. RWANDA NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



The Rwanda National Discourse Forum mobilized grassroots Women and conducted a workshop to discuss women and climate change impacts especially Flood and Drought Risks. The workshop was held on 23rd September 2022 with over 26 participants. Participants were drawn from representatives of feminist civil society organizations and NGOs (Women Headed CSOs/NGOs), selected Climate Resilience Champions from the 2021 Women training, Women with knowledge on Gender responsive planning, implementation, budgeting and reporting of development projects, Women journalists, Women Teachers/researchers, and Women from flood and/or drought prone areas.



The presentations of the day focused on: Gender linkages to integrated water resources management, collaborative framework between public institutions involved in water resources management and climate resilience, and need for gender responsive planning, implementation, budgeting and reporting at all levels in development water projects in Rwanda.

At the end of the workshop, participants formed the National Nile Women's Network that aims at advocating for women's rights in the water sector in Rwanda; as a result, a steering committee was elected to lead the Network.

## IX. UGANDA NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



On August 16<sup>th</sup> 2022, Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF) mobilized and conducted a Women's workshop bringing together 22 participants.



Presentations were made on: actions to be taken to eliminate vulnerabilities that cause gender imbalances in the water sector in Uganda; the need for gender responsive planning, implementation, budgeting and reporting at all levels in development projects; importance of women networking and advocacy for Gender equity at all levels, and other related matters with regard to gender and women in Uganda.

It was noted that the constitution of the Republic of Uganda clearly explains the roles of women in attaining the SDGs and with other policies like the National Development Policy, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy. Women's fundamental roles such as reproductive roles, productive roles and Community roles were highlighted. Once these roles are properly done and fulfilled according to the natural law, there will always be no conflict in between.

The workshop participants finally established a National Nile Women Network in Uganda with elected Steering Committee members that will advocate for Gender equity at all levels (local, national and regional) in alignment with the NBI Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and provide a platform for the identification and selection of women who will represent UNDF at the Regional Nile Women's Network.

## X. ETHIOPIA NATIONAL NILE WOMEN'S NETWORK



The Ethiopia National Discourse Forum mobilized 29 women for the workshop, all from 20 civil society organizations working in the areas of water resource development, climate resilience, gender mainstreaming, and integrated development. The workshop was held on October 24th, 2022.

During the workshop, participants gained awareness on gender equality issues in the development and water sector; Gender analytical tools; Networking and women (including importance of networking, how networks are formed, principles of networking, types of networking, stages of networking, opportunities & challenges of networking and effective networking guidance and indicators); the NCCR project; the NBI Gender mainstreaming policy and strategy.

Finally, the Ethiopian National Nile Women's Network was established and 7 steering committee members were democratically elected to lead the network.

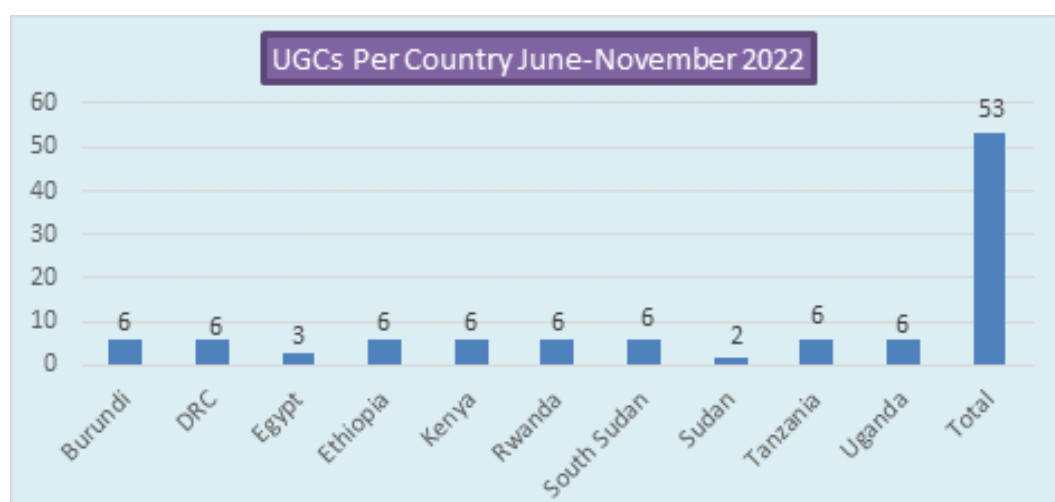


## 2. ENGAGING THE NATIONAL NILE DISCOURSE FORUMS (NDFs)

NBD procured National Technical Support Experts (NTSEs) for the 10 NDFs to serve as focal persons essential for engaging NBD Network members in the NCCR project via NDFs, and to facilitate knowledge generation, management, and sharing through monthly User Generated Content (UGC).

NTSEs have thus been crucial for mobilizing grass roots stakeholders to inform the NCCR project, especially on mapping flood - prone communities, recruiting for the internship programme, grassroots women, and in preparing and submitting monthly User Generated Contents (UGC).

Out of expected total 60 UGCs for the period June-November 2022, NTSEs submitted 53 UGCs (88.3%) which are reviewed for editorial by NBD Secretariat. These stories are published on the NBD website.



## 3. EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021 – 2022

The audit firm, PKF Uganda, started NBD's external audit on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2022; the entire audit process ended on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022. As a result, the draft NBD Audited Accounts report was shared and reviewed by NBD. The final audited accounts were signed and submitted to World Bank through the Client Connection portal. A copy of this is also uploaded on the NBD website.

## 4. THE PILOT COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PROJECT IN FORT PORTAL- UGANDA

In May 2022, NBD signed a Seed Funding Grant amounting 5,967.50 Euros with the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) for a short-term six (6) months project: *"Baseline and Market Assessment exploring Biogas Business Opportunities for Women Living around Mpanga River."*

The project was jointly implemented by NBD and Community Initiative for Transformative Action-Uganda (CITA) - a member of the Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF). NBD did oversight and management of the project while CITA was responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project activities with technical support from UNDF.

The project was implemented in Fort Portal City, Kabarole District, western Uganda, where there is potential for significant conflict between the energy, environment, and water supply sectors over the utilization and management of the ecosystem within and around Mpanga river. The potential conflict is likely to be exacerbated by the limited socio-economic development and climate change effects, both of which will place significant additional stress onto social and livelihood systems in the area.

A number of abattoirs built in Kabarole district have had growing effects regarding their discharge to the environment which are now impacting the health of Mpanga River, the primary water source in the district.

Harnessing this waste as a resource for the production of biogas and bio-fertilizer could contribute to curbing the environmental menace and to addressing the problems of energy and food deficits. This project thus envisaged empowering women through the use of biogas from slaughterhouse waste as a smart investment for livelihood enhancement. The project: (i) developed a baseline study for the effects of abattoir operations in the Mpanga River catchment area; (ii) assessed the market for viable small-scale businesses that acquire/use waste from the abattoir(s) value chain; (iii) organized CITA women group into ‘business units’ and trained them on: a) participatory action research; b) financial literacy; and c) business and entrepreneurship.

## 5. NBD JOINS THE PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

NBD joined the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) – an African continental coalition of civil society with diverse membership comprising of NGOs, Foundations, Trusts, CBOs, faith-based networks, national coalitions and regional networks from 45 African Countries. PACJA aims to unify isolated civil society efforts on climate change advocacy and coordination in Africa, to ensure that pro-poor and people-centred response measures are put into consideration as governments in Africa seek to mainstream climate change into national development strategies.

Joining PACJA expands NBD’s reach and partnership with like-minded civil society organisations, regional economic integration bodies, and national governments across Africa; to enhance the continent’s voice in international dialogue process, as well as driving climate-related policies. NBD will also benefit from the strengths and experience of a diverse and growing number of organizations at both continental and global levels.

## CHALLENGES THROUGH THE YEAR 2022

**Activity Coordination with Partners in the NCCR:** NBD has been implementing activities in the NCCR project with other Implementing Entities (IEs), synchronizing implementation timelines, especially for activities under thematic area 2 (Flood and Drought Risk Mitigation) has proved challenging. As a result, some of NBD’s activities in that thematic area have been postponed. This is a huge setback given NBD’s grant agreement ending in August 2023.

**Human Resource Gaps:** The resignation of the Regional Communications and Media Officer and the recent passing of the Regional Manager have both impacted NBD’s operations. The existing Secretariat staff, especially in the programmatic and communication area is overstretched with far reaching effect on the pace and quality of NBD’s work.

**Funding Gaps:** Resource mobilization remains a critical challenge for the NBD network, which necessitates enhancing collective responsibility for effective resources mobilization for the network; involving the Board, Secretariat and the NDFs.

Policy influencing, awareness-raising, and capacity building initiatives take time and therefore need a continuous and sustainable funding base beyond project duration to ensure that the work is not interrupted. Therefore, NBD needs funds to sustain and continuously monitor such initiatives; unfortunately, NBD's sustainability remains a major challenge that needs utmost attention from all stakeholders (NBD management, membership, basin governments, and development partners alike).

## LESSONS LEARNED

In the year 2022, NBD has been working more closely with the Nile Basin Initiative (Nile-Sec, ENTRO, NELSAP) and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission; the lesson from this close collaboration is that joint project implementation enhances synergy, efficiency, and opportunity for knowledge and resource sharing.

Although this close collaboration is a positive development in adding value and quality to project achievements, significant gaps in inter-agency coordination led to delays in project implementation.

Therefore, coordination among Implementing Entities needs to be strengthened to expedite project implementation and reporting process.









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# Nile Basin Discourse

Nile Basin Discourse  
Plot 32, Nsamizi Rd  
P.O. Box 185, Entebbe - Uganda  
Tel +256 414 322 432, +256 39 3252161  
Email: [info@nilebasindiscourse.org](mailto:info@nilebasindiscourse.org)  
Website: [www.nilebasindiscourse.org](http://www.nilebasindiscourse.org)