

Women at the Frontline: Validating Loss & Damage Data for Just Climate Responses in Kampala



Insights from the
Climate Change Impact
Assessment and Justice Tool
(CCIAJT)
Validation Meeting — 21 May 2025,
Paradise Hotel, Kampala

Habitat Defenders Africa

Housing & Land Rights Network
Habitat International Coalition

Report on the Validation Meeting of the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) Findings

Sendawula Zone,

Kosovo Informal Settlement,

Kampala Capital City

Paradise Hotel, Lungujja

21 May 2025

Habitat Defenders Africa

Housing and Land Rights Network
Habitat International Coalition

1.0 Introduction and Background

On 21 May 2025, a Validation Meeting on the Findings of the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) was convened at Paradise Hotel in Lungujja, Kampala. The event brought together affected women heading households, local leaders, civil society actors, and development partners to reflect on the experiences of women-headed households in the Sendawula Zone of Kosovo Informal Settlement, who were severely impacted by the 2025 Kampala floods. The meeting served as a critical platform for validating field-level data on climate-induced loss and damage, enhancing collective understanding, and building consensus on community-driven recommendations for policy, planning, and climate justice advocacy.

Kampala, Uganda's capital city, has long been vulnerable to seasonal flooding, but climate change has markedly intensified these hazards in recent years. The floods of early 2025 were among the most destructive in the city's recent history. Prolonged and intense rainfall overwhelmed the city's dilapidated drainage systems, triggering widespread inundation. Informal settlements such as Kosovo in Lubaga Division were especially hard-hit, with roads rendered impassable, homes destroyed, and basic services disrupted fueling a localized humanitarian emergency.

Residents of informal settlements, especially women-headed households, were disproportionately affected. These communities often live in precarious and poorly serviced environments due to socio-economic exclusion and systemic neglect. In Sendawula Zone, families experienced significant losses ranging from shelter and personal property to livelihoods and psychosocial well-being. Many were displaced without support, and the absence of formal recognition left them outside the scope of most government and humanitarian responses.

Despite the severity of the situation, there remains a chronic lack of disaggregated, community-level data on the social, economic, and civic impacts of climate-induced disasters in Kampala. Without such data, vulnerable groups remain excluded from adaptation strategies, climate finance mechanisms, and post-disaster recovery plans. It is within this context that Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA), in collaboration with the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), initiated a pilot application of the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) in March 2025. The initiative was designed to fill evidence gaps and ensure that the lived realities of climate-affected communities particularly women are recognized and acted upon.

The CCIAJT is a rights-based and participatory methodology developed by HLRN and used globally since 2009. It empowers local communities to document and assess the full spectrum of loss and damage economic, social, cultural, and civic arising from climate-related events. By doing so, it affirms the entitlement of these communities to remedy and support, in line with international human rights law and emerging global standards under the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Mechanism.

In the Sendawula Zone pilot, the project targeted 30 women-headed households, identified based on their heightened vulnerability and central role in post-disaster recovery. A structured household questionnaire was used to gather data in six domains: household demographics, economic and property losses, changes in daily expenditures, social values affected, civic impacts, and access to state or public services. Complementing the data collection were capacity-building sessions, including an online training for youth legal researchers, and a community-led validation meeting that served as the culmination of the research cycle.

The Validation Meeting at Paradise Hotel provided an essential forum for returning the data to the community for feedback and endorsement. Participants engaged critically with the findings, shared testimonies, and explored pathways for using the evidence to engage duty bearers and advocate for just responses. The process not only ensured data integrity and accountability, but also reinforced the principle of community ownership, setting the stage for sustained grassroots advocacy on loss and damage in urban informal settlements.

Ultimately, the data and dialogue from this meeting are expected to inform both local planning processes and international policy engagement, including submissions to the UNFCCC Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). The initiative underscores the importance of centering frontline communities especially women in shaping equitable climate adaptation and resilience frameworks in African cities.

2.0 Presentation of the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT)

The core of the validation meeting was the formal presentation of findings from the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) initiative, delivered by Mr. Sebaka Derrick, the Team Leader and Africa Coordinator of Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA). This segment of the meeting was critical in verifying the accuracy of the data collected and gathering community feedback for finalization and onward advocacy.

2.1 Statement from the Chairperson Board HDA

Before the technical presentation, the Chairperson Board HDA Mr. Kamya Elvis opened with welcoming remarks and provided background on Habitat Defenders Africa's ongoing community engagement. He thanked participants for attending in large numbers and reaffirmed the importance of their voices in driving transformational change.



He elaborated that Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA) is a multidisciplinary group of professionals working locally and internationally to make communities safer and more sustainable through collaborative networks, research, advocacy, and capacity building. The Chairperson outlined the various areas where HDA has worked, including Ndeeba, Kigunga-makusa, and more recently, Kosovo's Sendawula Zone.

He highlighted HDA's mandate in defending nature, protecting rights and empowering communities such as tailoring projects and grassroots skilling. The organization also prioritizes research to bridge knowledge gaps and partnership-driven fundraising to deliver climate justice and decent housing for disadvantaged urban communities. He closed by emphasizing that HDA's work is rooted in uplifting vulnerable communities through inclusive development while promoting respect for nature and environmental justice.



Figure 1: Welcome remarks form Chairperson board Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)



2.2 Communication from Mr. Sebaka Derrick

Mr. Derrick delivered a comprehensive address emphasizing the purpose of the meeting as a critical validation step to "put a stamp" on data collected from 30 women-headed households in Sendawula Zone, Kampala. He underscored the importance of validation not only for data verification but as a platform for affected women and community members to confirm, clarify, or expand on the findings.

Mr. Derrick provided context on the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT), a human rights-based, participatory methodology developed by the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) and used globally since 2009.

The tool enables communities to systematically document and quantify the loss and damage resulting from climate-related events, with a strong focus on informal settlements. In response to the devastating floods of early 2025, Habitat Defenders Africa, in collaboration with HLRN, piloted the CCIAJT in Kosovo Informal Settlement, selecting Sendawula Zone due to its high vulnerability, poor infrastructure, and the significant impact on women-headed households.

Mr. Derrick explained that the assessment employed a structured, participatory approach, including purposive sampling of 30 affected households, data collection across six key domains, and the engagement of trained legal volunteer researchers using rights-sensitive methods.

The validation meeting, held on 21 May 2025 at Paradise Hotel in Lungujja, aimed to ensure the credibility of the findings and incorporate local insights. He expressed hope that the data would serve both to restore dignity to affected families and to inform policy dialogue with key stakeholders, including the Rubaga Division Physical Planner, the Mayor, and the LCII Vice Chairperson.



Figure 2:Presentation of the findings

3.0 Research Findings

During his presentation, Mr. Derrick provided a thematic summary of the key findings and encouraged open discussion among participants. During the session on the research findings, participants requested the use of the local language, Luganda, for emphasis and better understanding.

a. Household Demographics and Income Shifts

i. Age diversity

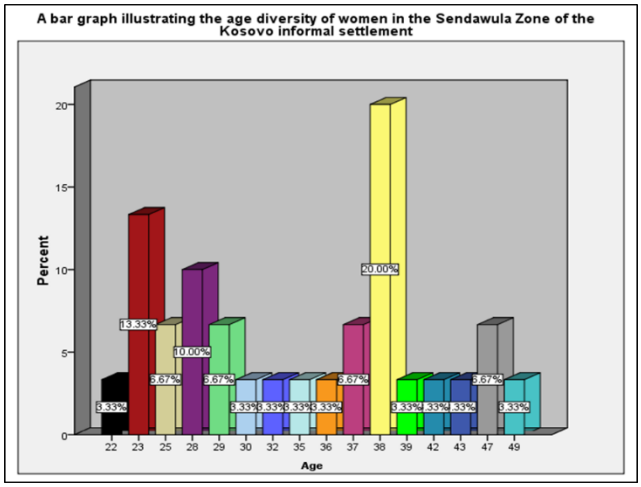


Figure 3:Showing the age diversity

The CCIAJT survey found that 29% of women respondents were aged 38, highlighting a significant presence of middle-aged women among affected households. This group faces unique vulnerabilities as caregivers, earners, and community anchors, yet their needs are often overlooked. The data underscores the need for targeted interventions such as reproductive health care, livelihood support, psychosocial services, and access to climate justice designed specifically for this demographic to ensure equitable and resilient responses to climate shocks.

ii. Household Income Changes Before and After Flooding

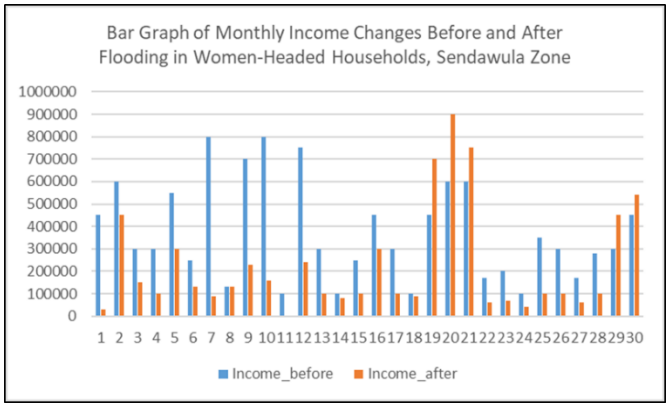


Figure 4:Household Income Changes Before and After Flooding

The CCIAJT survey found that flooding reduced average monthly income among 30 women-headed households in Sendawula Zone by 53.5%, from UGX 260,000 to UGX 121,000. Losses stemmed from destroyed businesses, job losses, and infrastructure damage, severely affecting food security and well-being. While a few households saw income increases due to aid or adaptive strategies, others faced sharp declines, revealing unequal recovery.

b. Economic Assets and Property Losses

i. Dwelling (house structure)

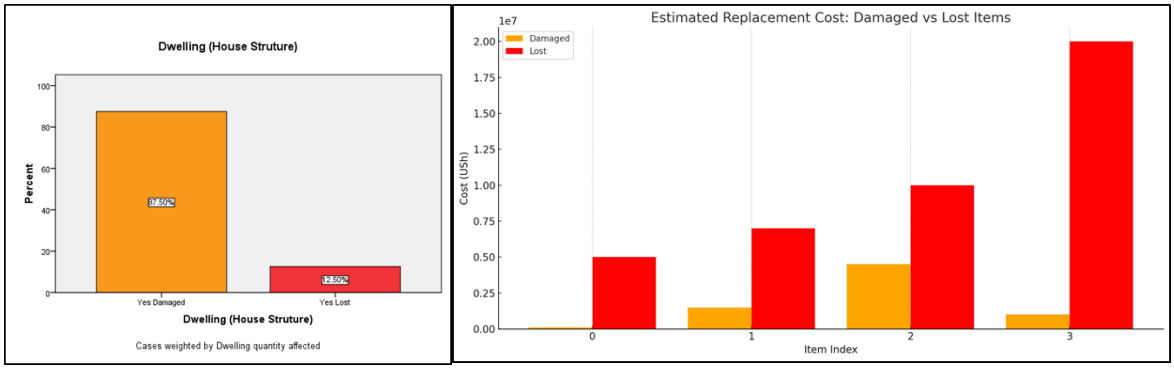


Figure 5:Estimated replacement costs of dwellings damaged or completely lost due to flooding

The CCIAJT survey found that 87.5% of women-headed households experienced structural damage to their homes due to flooding, with repair costs ranging from UGX 50,000 to UGX 15 million. Most damaged homes were 2–3-room structures, with walls, floors, roofs, and doors commonly affected. Meanwhile, 12.5% suffered total loss of smaller 1–2-room homes, with replacement costs exceeding UGX 5 million and one case reaching UGX 20 million. Displaced families sought refuge in shelters like Christ for All Power Centre Church.

The findings highlight a stark contrast: partial damage was more common, but total losses carried far greater financial strain, especially for low-income households lacking insurance or savings. This disparity calls for equitable, tailored recovery support that addresses both the frequency of partial damages and the severity of full home losses. Climate justice efforts must prioritize compensation, resilience building, and restorative aid for the most affected in informal settlements.

ii. Household contents

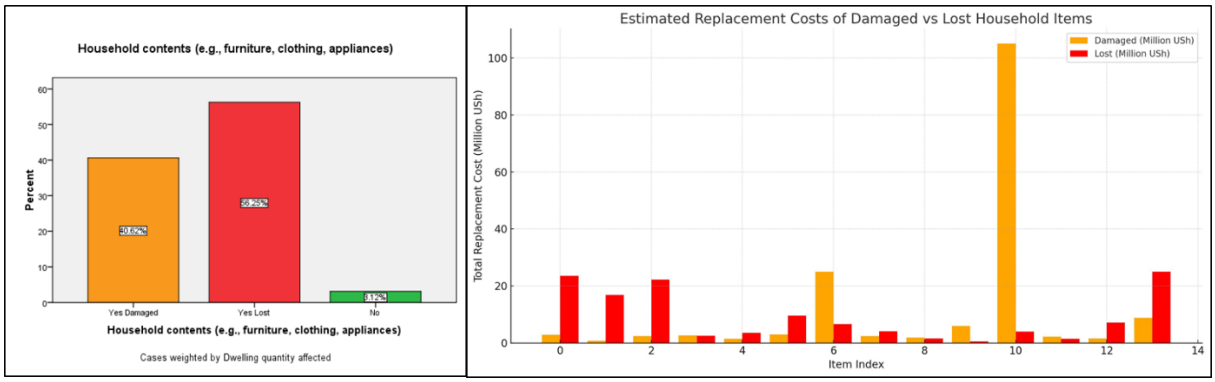


Figure 6: Estimated replacement costs of household contents damaged or completely lost due to flooding

The CCIAJT survey found that 56.25% of women-headed households lost all household contents, while 40.62% experienced damage to essential items after flooding. Commonly affected were furniture, appliances, electronics, and clothing vital for daily life and livelihoods. Damaged items, though fewer (55 total), had a higher replacement cost of UGX 65.36 million, while 129 lost items totaled UGX 23.86 million. High-value damaged items included beds and fridges, while lost items like kitchenware and children's clothing were more numerous but lower in cost.

The data reveals that while losses were frequent, damages imposed heavier financial strain. The cumulative impact disrupts household stability, dignity, and well-being, especially for low-income women without savings or insurance. Recovery efforts must consider both the financial and social toll, ensuring targeted and equitable support for affected households.

iii. Environmental goods

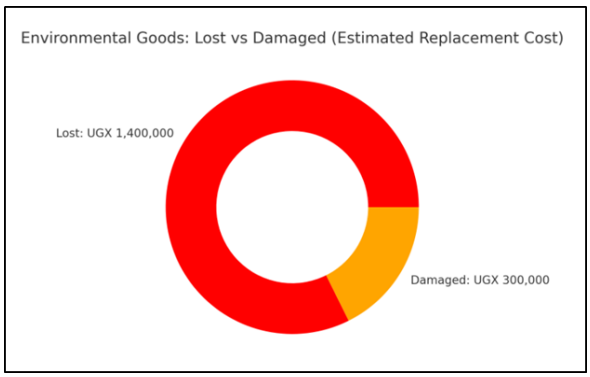


Figure 7: Estimated replacement cost of damaged versus lost environmental goods

The enumeration showed major losses of environmental goods mainly firewood and food crops among 30 women-headed households affected by the 2025 floods. Of the UGX 1.7 million total impact, UGX 1.4 million (over 80%) was due to permanent loss. This highlights the severe vulnerability of low-income women who depend on these resources for food and income.

The lack of recovery support and limited coping capacity calls for urgent, gender-responsive climate justice measures, including loss and damage reparations and resilience programs tailored to informal urban communities.

iv. Livelihood/business losses

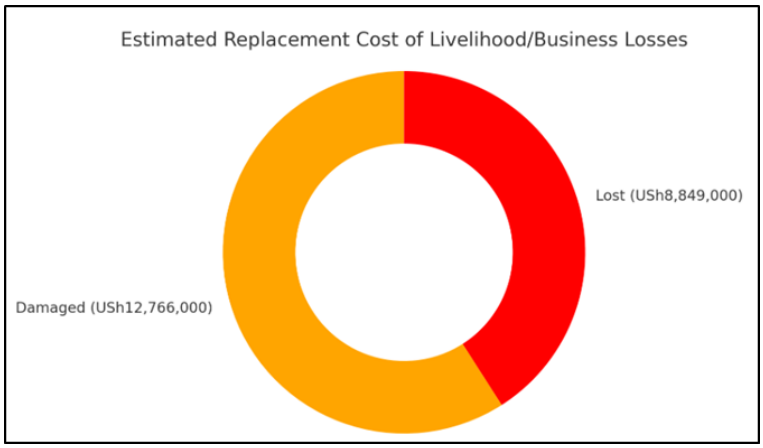


Figure 8:Estimated replacement cost of livelihood and business losses

The CCIAJT survey found that 58.6% of the total estimated replacement cost was due to damaged livelihoods and business assets, while 41.4% was from complete losses. Damage primarily affected merchandise, stock, and small-scale business infrastructure key to income in informal economies. Damaged assets totaled UGX 12.07 million, while lost livelihoods amounted to UGX 8.53 million.

Though total losses were significant, the broader financial burden came from widespread damage requiring repair and reinvestment. These findings underscore the need for targeted recovery support such as microfinance, asset replacement, and business continuity planning to restore livelihoods and reduce long-term economic disruption.

c. Post-flood Household Expenditures

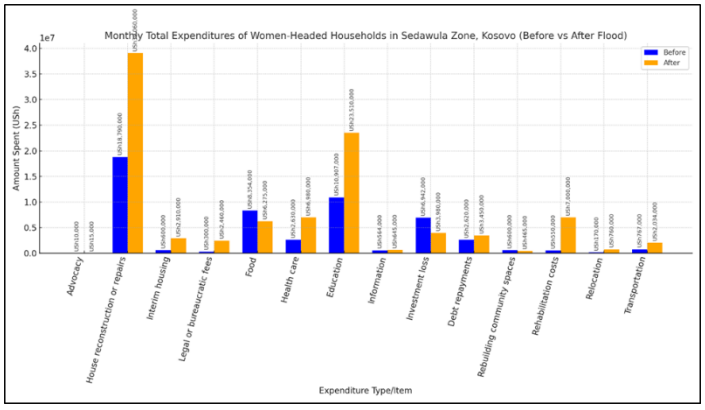


Figure 9: Showing the monthly total expenditures of women-headed

The CCIAJT survey found that after the flooding in Sendawula Zone, household expenditures among 30 women-headed households rose sharply across most essential categories, even as incomes declined. Spending on home repairs more than doubled (UGX 18.79M to UGX 39.06M), while costs for temporary housing, legal fees, and health care nearly tripled driven by displacement, illness, and bureaucratic hurdles.

Education expenses also doubled, reflecting recovery needs. Food costs, however, decreased (UGX 8.35M to UGX 6.28M), likely due to reduced purchasing power, signaling growing food insecurity. Other rising costs included rehabilitation, transport, and relocation, showing the depth of disruption. Declines in community rebuilding and investments suggest households prioritized immediate survival. These trends reveal intense economic and social strain on women-headed households and highlight the urgent need for targeted recovery support such as housing grants, healthcare subsidies, food aid, and education assistance to promote equitable and resilient recovery.

d. Impacts on Social and Cultural Assets

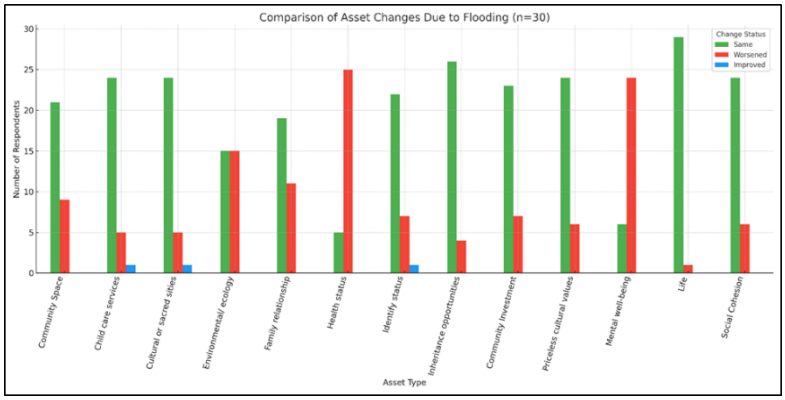


Figure 10: Reported changes in each type of asset as a result of flooding.

The CCIAJT survey revealed that flooding in Sendawula Zone severely disrupted social and cultural assets, with mental well-being most affected nearly all respondents reported increased anxiety, trauma, and depression. Childcare services, community investment, and cultural sites also suffered, placing heavier caregiving burdens on women and disrupting traditional practices. While identity, inheritance, and life status were mostly unchanged, the loss of cultural cohesion and support networks highlighted a deeper erosion of community life. These findings underscore the need for recovery strategies that restore mental health, rebuild social infrastructure, and protect cultural heritage especially for women-headed households.

e. Civic Impacts and Political Responses

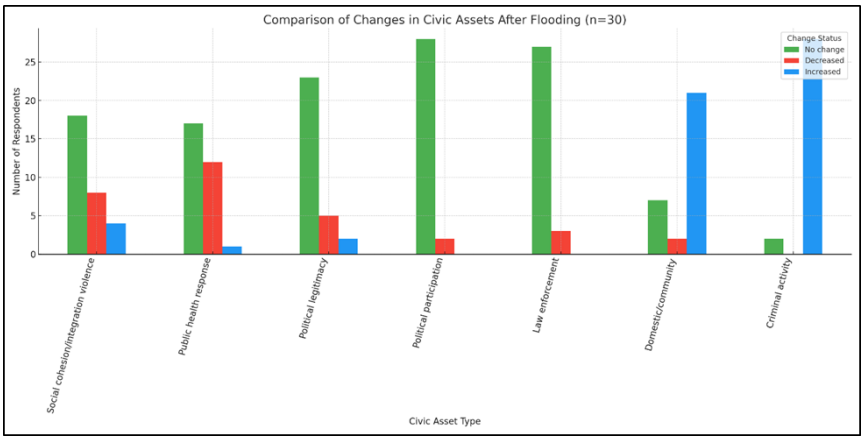


Figure 11: The comparison chart illustrates how civic assets were affected by flooding

The CCIAJT survey found that flooding in the Sendawula Zone severely disrupted civic stability. Key findings showed declining civic trust, political disengagement, and growing frustration over delayed government response and ineffective warning systems. Many residents felt neglected despite some local leadership efforts. Rising crime and domestic violence especially in overcrowded shelters further eroded community safety, with women particularly affected. While perceptions of law enforcement and public health remained mostly unchanged, trust in institutions weakened due to slow intervention and low visibility.

f. Public and State Service Delivery

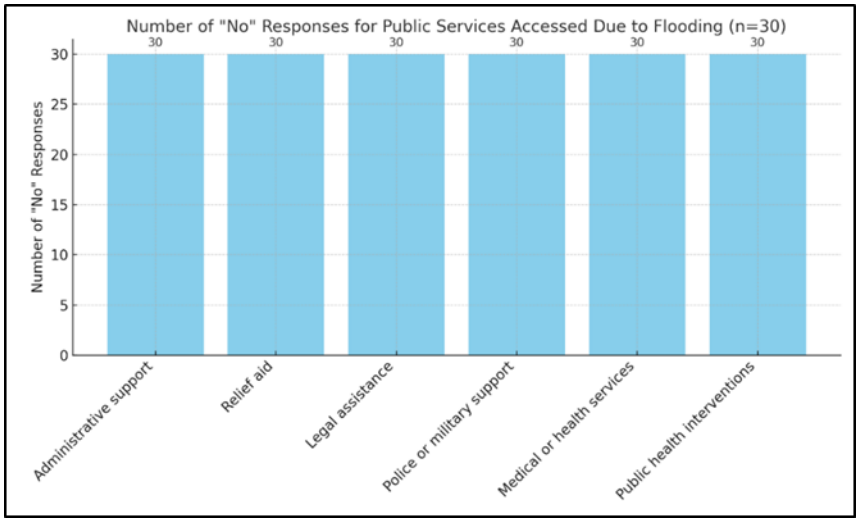


Figure 12:showing that none of the 30 respondents accessed or paid for any listed public services in response to flooding

Enumeration using the CCIAJT revealed that none of the respondents accessed or paid for any formal state or public services following the flood. The accompanying graph shows zero engagement across all categories administrative support, emergency aid, legal assistance, security, medical services, and public health interventions indicating no public expenditure on these services during the disaster response. This highlights a serious failure in public service delivery.

Affected households received no help replacing lost documents, no legal support for displacement issues, and no medical aid despite health risks from water contamination and poor sanitation.

4.0 Testimonies from Affected Women-Headed Households

TESTIMONY 1: Mrs. Nabbosa Allen



Figure 13: Mrs. Nabbosa Allen giving her testimony

"I am a 38-year-old lady married to a man who does not have a permanent job for he is servant of God. We have been married for a while now and have resided in Kosovo sendawula zone for a period of 8 years now. By the time we came to Kosovo sendawula zone it was a good community to settle in and was not affected by floods as it is today. And for all the 8 years we have been here we have been renting the same house that we live in today, however around 2018 things started changing, whenever it rained there would be water on the roads but at that point, it wasn't entering the houses yet from 2019 to 2020 things started worsening, the water levels increased every time it rained, the floods would enter the house, soil would be carried in the water and deposited in the compounds the verandas that were high and would allow for sitting during leisure started disappearing since soil kept piling in the compound every time it rained. The furniture in the house for example chairs would get soaked so would the beds and mattresses. We started having arguments with my husband over time whenever it would rain because he always left the work of cleaning out the water from the floods entirely to me. He would only return after I was done. To top it, my landlord just kept on increasing rent for the house with not much renovations. There was one time it rained heavily and I was at church, came home and found the hair dryer for my business completely soaked in water which dragged my hair dressing business backward. Whenever it rains we keep awake because of the fear of thieves trying to enter houses thinking they've been abandoned. It's an emotional roller-coaster living in Kosovo sendawula zone during the rainy season and I wish you had come during the rainy season to witness it firsthand because seeing is believing."



Figure 14: Mrs. Tibenda Dorothy giving her testimony

TESTIMONY 2: Ms. Tibenda Dorothy

"I was pregnant the first time that I witnessed flooding in Kosovo sendawula zone. I had always heard stories of people being affected and I had never believed it but now here I was a victim and heavily pregnant at that time. Ever since then it has been continuous. We are always worried whenever it rains, the local bridges are destroyed, children are affected, and houses are destroyed or damaged. I even had to take out a loan from the bank to try and make a few renovations on the house to prevent water entering and also cater for food but this is not a solution i can take every time it rains we need a permanent solution."



Figure 15: Mrs. Sarah Sheila giving her testimony

TESTIMONY 2: Ms. Sarah Sheila

"I want to thank God for the organization, because what is in Kosovo is not something you can explain unless you face it yourself. There has been; Destruction of property, books and clothes, Displacement to the church, Documents have been lost in the floods, even with guards at the door water still goes over and Snakes enter houses

There is worry for children every time it rains. One day a child was almost washed away in the water if it wasn't for a gentleman who saved the child by offering his leg for the child to hang on to it and pull himself out. We lost a child last year who got an attack but since it had rained the parents could not cross the bridge that was covered by water fully. They went to a clinic that said the situation was beyond them, as they were trying to figure out what to do as they wait for the water levels to reduce the child died right in his father's hands in front of the water channel."

4.1 Question and Answer Session and Presentation (Group Work)

During the validation meeting, participants were divided into five groups to discuss key issues based on guiding questions. Each group presented their reflections, lived experiences, and community-based recommendations as summarized below:



Figure 16: Group 1



Group 1: Input on Questionnaire Improvements

Question: *Highlight the things that you think could have been added in the questionnaire.*

Responses

- Inquiry on how residents get to work and how children access school during the rainy season.
- Access to medical care during periods of flooding.
- Support mechanisms for out-of-school children when businesses collapse.
- Number of meals a household typically has during flood periods.
- How other community members, especially those not included in the survey, can also be supported.



Figure 17: Group 2



Group 2: Causes of Climate Change in the Community

Question: *What are the causes of climate change in the environment?*

Responses

- Poor waste disposal practices.
- Burning of scrap materials that emit toxic fumes.
- Deforestation.
- Encroachment on wetlands.

- Unregulated industrialization.

Group 3: Strategies for Environmental Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction





Question: *How can we protect the environment from disasters like floods?*

Responses

- Avoiding construction in wetlands and along water pathways.
- Stopping the dumping of rubbish in drainage channels.
- Mobilizing community efforts to raise funds for building infrastructure like culverts.
- Relocating from flood-prone wetland areas.
- Collaborating with multiple stakeholders to improve environmental resilience.

Group 4: Community Expectations from Leaders

Question: *What do you want your community leaders to do about the situation you faced?*



Figure 18: Group 4

Responses

- Construct proper drainage and water ways.
- Expand and improve road infrastructure to reduce accidents during floods.
- Upgrade health services in public hospitals.
- Provide vocational skills training for women.
- Introduce capital support schemes for small businesses.
- Offer free essential health services like mama kits and food rations during floods.
- Deploy garbage collection trucks at least once a month.

Group 5: Community Expectations from Habitat Defenders Africa



Question: *What are the most important issues you'd like Habitat Defenders Africa to help you solve?*

Responses

- Equip women with hands-on skills such as tailoring.
- Provide educational sponsorships for children to attend boarding school, especially during the rainy season.
- Facilitate access to free health services.
- Deliver financial literacy training to women to improve household income management and investment.

Figure 19: Group 5

Summary and Reflections

Some reflection points from the validation meeting to further guide stakeholder discussions and actions include:

1. The climate-related loss and damage reported by women in Sendawula Zone is the result of the convergence of three core issues: unplanned urbanization, inadequate drainage and infrastructure, and institutional neglect of informal settlements.
2. The testimonies from women-headed households revealed multi-dimensional impacts loss of shelter, income-generating assets, increased healthcare costs, and disruption of children's education highlighting the intersection of environmental harm and economic injustice.
3. Displacement due to flooding has created a cycle of vulnerability, as families face increased rent, loss of personal identification documents, and insecurity, especially at night.
4. Women, children, and persons with disabilities bear the heaviest burden of climate-induced displacement, reinforcing gender and social inequalities and deepening long-term psychological and physical distress.

5. The absence of clear drainage and land-use planning in Sendawula Zone signals a broader failure of urban policy to integrate informal settlements into city-wide resilience strategies.
6. A lack of information sharing between local authorities and affected communities contributes to poor preparedness and weak responses during flooding episodes.
7. While local leaders showed willingness to intervene, the lack of a coordinated multi-sectoral strategy impedes sustained action and accountability.
8. Participants emphasized the need for community-driven early warning systems, disaster preparedness training, and localized infrastructural upgrades such as culverts and footbridges.
9. The demand for legal aid and psychosocial support reflects the complex and prolonged nature of the displacement, particularly as households struggle to reclaim identity and stability post-disaster.
10. This case highlights the critical need to center the lived experiences of informal settlement dwellers especially women in climate adaptation planning, policy design, and budgetary allocation processes at all levels.

Plenary Discussion feedback

Following the experience-sharing and presentations, participants engaged in a plenary discussion to propose solutions and chart a way forward. Below are the key points raised, responses from duty-bearers, and agreed next steps.

Security Concerns and Police Engagement

- **Increased Patrols During Rainy Season**

The OC representative committed to enhancing police patrols in the area during the rainy season to curb theft, acknowledging that insecurity increases during this time.

- **Community Policing & Collaboration**

He emphasized the importance of community policing and encouraged residents to report wrongdoing promptly and support police operations by providing witnesses.

- **Time of Arrests**

Concerns were raised about the timing of police operations resulting in the arrest of innocent children. The OC acknowledged this and mentioned an incident involving wrongful arrests during an 8:00 PM operation. He proposed adjusting the timing of future operations to start at 11:00 PM.

- **Mob Justice & Treatment Costs**

Participants questioned why complainants are made to pay for the medical treatment of suspects injured by mob justice. The OC urged community members to avoid mob justice and instead use lawful channels, assuring them that proper follow-up and witness support would strengthen their cases.

Environmental and Health Issues

- **Upstream Waste Problem**

Residents highlighted that trash and water runoff from Kitunzi and Lugula flow into Kosovo, causing floods and poor sanitation. Ssalongo Bbosa acknowledged the issue and emphasized the need for collaborative action, not confrontation. He cited ongoing monthly clean-up activities led by himself and Counselor Derrick as efforts to address the waste issue.

- **Health Services and Communication Gaps**

Although free health services are reportedly available, many residents said they are **not informed** about them. Bbosa promised to coordinate with Mwami Lukenge to ensure health-related announcements reach all zones.

- **Need for Red Cross Support**

A suggestion was made to establish a Red Cross presence in Kosovo to support emergency health cases during crises such as floods or mob incidents.

Infrastructure and Urban Planning

- **Bridges and Infrastructure Requests**

A question was raised about whether police could help with bridge construction. The OC clarified that police are only responsible for security, not infrastructure development.

- **Flooding and Sewage Management**

Counselor Derrick addressed flooding in Sendawula Zone, revealing plans to:

Form a committee with Nabugabo to address sewage issues.

Follow up on a 2022 survey and initiate affordable sewage connections for residents.

He acknowledged the delay was partly due to geographic challenges (the zone is in a valley) and bureaucratic setbacks.

- **Drainage and Waste Management**

The Physical Planner praised the active participation of women in the dialogue and noted that the poor waste disposal remains a top challenge.

She reported that KCCA is in the process of acquiring land to restore and expand the Nabisasiro drainage system, which has been encroached upon this has been the main cause of drainage delays.

Way Forward

1. Enhance security measures during the rainy season through more coordinated patrols and improved community-police collaboration.
2. Adjust police operation times to minimize wrongful arrests, particularly of children.
3. Promote legal redress over mob justice, ensuring complainants are supported through follow-up and witness mobilization.
4. Improve communication channels for health and development announcements at the zonal level.
5. Support ongoing environmental clean-up campaigns and explore cross-zone coordination to address upstream waste impacts.
6. Engage Red Cross and other emergency services to support disaster-prone areas like Sendawula Zone.
7. Fast-track urban planning processes, including the drainage project and affordable sewage connections, with a special focus on addressing delays due to topography and land access.

Remarks from Mayor Mberaze Mawula Zacchy, Mayor of Rubaga Division

In his address during the validation meeting, Mayor Mberaze Mawula Zacchy commended the efforts by HDA and HRLN in documenting the lived experiences of women-headed households in Sendawula Zone, Kosovo Informal Settlement. He acknowledged the critical role such initiatives play in exposing the invisible impacts of climate change on marginalized communities.



Figure 20: Mayor of Rubaga Division detailing his remarks

Mayor Zacchy noted that informal settlements, particularly within Rubaga Division, have long suffered the consequences of poor urban planning, environmental degradation, and limited service delivery. He emphasized the urgent need for coordinated action between community actors, local government, and national authorities to prioritize resilience-building in these high-risk areas.

He further stated:

"Climate change is no longer a future threat it is a present danger that is displacing our mothers, destroying livelihoods, and destabilizing our communities. We cannot allow informal settlements to remain zones of vulnerability and exclusion. It is our responsibility as leaders to listen, to act, and to ensure no one is left behind."

The Mayor pledged his continued support for inclusive urban development and called on stakeholders to work collaboratively in designing and implementing interventions that reflect the real needs of the people. He also reiterated the importance of data-driven planning and the need for platforms that amplify the voices of women and other vulnerable groups affected by climate-related disasters.

Remarks from Mrs. Nava Maria Mirembe, Vice Chairperson LC II (Omutongole we Wakaliga Zone 7)

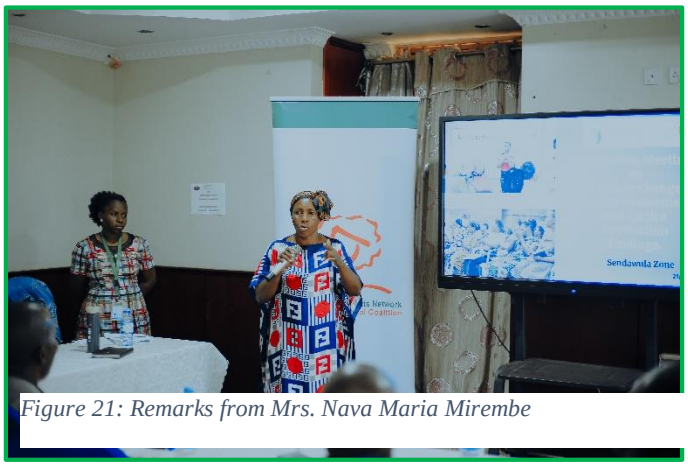


Figure 21: Remarks from Mrs. Nava Maria Mirembe

Mrs. Nava Maria Mirembe, in her remarks at the validation meeting, expressed deep appreciation for the climate impact assessment conducted in Sendawula Zone. As a local leader familiar with the everyday struggles of women-headed households in informal settlements, she underscored the importance of centering local voices in policy and planning processes.

She emphasized that the flooding and displacement affecting residents of Kosovo Informal Settlement are not isolated events but rather manifestations of long-standing neglect, limited infrastructure, and insufficient social protection mechanisms. Mrs. Mirembe noted the emotional and physical toll these climate events have on women and children, who are often the most vulnerable during disasters.

She stated:

"Our communities need more than promises we need action, inclusion, and justice. The suffering of our women in these settlements must inform the programs and budgets of local authorities. This report is a powerful tool, and I urge all stakeholders to use it wisely."

Mrs. Mirembe also highlighted the need for stronger community organizing, local leadership empowerment, and sustained dialogue between residents and government actors. She called for targeted support to improve drainage systems, sanitation services, and affordable housing within informal zones and pledged to continue advocating for the rights and dignity of the affected families.

Remarks from Dr. Michael Mawadri, Uganda National NGO Forum



Figure 22: Remarks from Dr. Michael Mawadri

Dr. Michael Mawadri, representing the Uganda National NGO Forum, offered insightful reflections during the validation meeting, emphasizing the critical role of civil society in amplifying community voices and promoting climate justice. He lauded the Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) as a timely and innovative initiative that brings visibility to the often-overlooked suffering of informal settlement dwellers, particularly women-headed households.

Dr. Mawadri noted that climate-induced displacement and flooding in urban informal settlements are not merely environmental issues they are deeply rooted in governance, inequality, and systemic exclusion. He remarked:

"The data shared here is not just numbers it is a call to action. It is evidence of a broken system that must be fixed through inclusive planning, meaningful participation, and climate-resilient policy frameworks."

He emphasized the importance of community-centered approaches, urging that findings from the assessment should inform the national and local government budget allocations, urban planning decisions, and disaster preparedness strategies. Dr. Mawadri further encouraged partnerships between CSOs, local leaders, academia, and government bodies to ensure the sustainability and scalability of such initiatives.

In closing, he reaffirmed the Uganda National NGO Forum's commitment to supporting people-centered advocacy and fostering a stronger policy environment where the rights of marginalized urban communities are protected and prioritized.

Remarks from Ssalongo Lomwa Bbosa, Representative of the Buganda Kingdom (Mutuba Mukaga – Lungujja, Kikandwa Zone)

Ssalongo Lomwa Bbosa, representing the Buganda Kingdom as *Mutuba Mukaga* (Clan Head) of Lungujja in Kikandwa Zone, delivered culturally grounded and community-centered reflections during the validation session. He welcomed the initiative to document the experiences of flood-affected women-headed households and emphasized the Kingdom's longstanding commitment to protecting the dignity, livelihoods, and environment of *Abataka* (community dwellers).



Figure 23:Remarks from Ssalongo Lomwa Bbosa

In his remarks, Ssalongo Bbosa stated:

"As a Kingdom, we believe that land, water, and life are interconnected. When our wetlands and lakes are abused, our people suffer. This study shows the real consequences of ignoring traditional knowledge and local voices in planning."

He acknowledged the persistent marginalization of informal settlement communities and called for greater recognition of indigenous leadership structures in policy dialogues and urban planning processes. Highlighting Buganda Kingdom's role in environmental stewardship, he encouraged stakeholders to integrate cultural institutions in developing community resilience and restoring degraded ecosystems.

Ssalongo Bbosa concluded by affirming the Kingdom's readiness to collaborate with civil society organizations, local leaders, and government agencies in supporting women and vulnerable populations facing the brunt of climate change. He also urged participants to uphold *obuntubulamu* (humanness and solidarity) in all efforts toward climate justice and inclusive development.

Closing Remarks by Mr. Kamya Elvis, Chairperson Board of Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)

Mr. Kamya Elvis, Chairperson of the Board of Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA), officially closed the meeting with heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders who took part in the validation exercise. He commended the Rubaga Division leadership, particularly the Mayor, for his commitment and presence, as well as the technical teams and civil society actors whose insights enriched the dialogue.

Mr. Kamya emphasized that the collective voices of flood-affected women in informal settlements must not be ignored and that this exercise is a step forward in advancing climate justice, equity, and dignity for vulnerable urban communities. He called on the community to remain engaged and to actively follow up on the pledges and recommendations discussed. He also urged them to continue seeking partnerships and support from government agencies, NGOs, and development partners to turn dialogue into action.

In his final words, Mr. Kamya reminded all present that transformative change requires persistence, collaboration, and accountability. He reaffirmed HDA's commitment to walk alongside the community in advocating for inclusive solutions to climate change-induced challenges, ensuring no one is left behind.

Media Coverage and Public Awareness

The Climate Change Impact Assessment and Justice Tool (CCIAJT) conducted by Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA) in Sendawula Zone, Kosovo Informal Settlement, Kampala, garnered significant public attention through media coverage, which played a crucial role in amplifying the voices of affected women-headed households and elevating the issue to a national level. Major Ugandan broadcasters including Bukedde TV (under Vision Group) and BBS TV (under the Buganda Kingdom) provided in-depth features on the findings and community experiences uncovered by the assessment. These segments not only showcased the scale of flooding-induced losses ranging from destruction of shelter, disruption of livelihoods, and health risks but also humanized the climate crisis by sharing firsthand testimonies from women living at the frontline of vulnerability.

The broadcast by Bukedde TV was featured in their prime-time news segment *Agabuutikidde*, while BBS TV ran a detailed feature under their community development and news programs. [Watch the Bukedde TV coverage here]



Figure 24: Bukedde TV news

and the BBS TV report here.



Figure 25: BBS TV news

These media exposures helped break the silence around urban climate injustice and triggered broader conversations around climate resilience, gender inequality, and urban planning. The widespread broadcast of these stories has since drawn the attention of policymakers, civil society, and potential development partners to the urgent need for targeted interventions, inclusive planning, and justice mechanisms for vulnerable communities affected by climate change. This unprecedented visibility has become a cornerstone for sustained advocacy and follow-up action, validating the use of the CCIAJT as not only a diagnostic tool but also a platform for elevating community struggles to the public agenda.