

FINAL VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED GROUP FRAMEWORK FOR MATANDA & ENENGO IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN KANUNGU DISTRICT

The Government of Uganda (GoU) is prioritizing development of irrigated agriculture systems in the country to provide water for irrigation in areas with unreliable water sources to increase agricultural production and farmer's resilience to climate change. The Government has also secured funds towards undertaking feasibility studies (Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)) for development of the Matanda and Enengo Irrigation Schemes in Kanungu District. This will further foster Government program of modernizing agriculture that aims at increasing incomes and improving the quality of life of poor subsistence farmers and their households. It will further ensure food security and provision of gainful employment through improved agricultural enterprise development and promotion of sustainable land use and management of natural resources. The project design is hinged on community-based participation with the districts and sub-counties as focus of implementation, and the private sector as main technical service providers. Irrigation and drainage projects are listed No. 4 in the Third Schedule of the National Environment Act (NEA 1995) which is considered to have significant Environmental Impacts, and thus subject to environmental impact assessment.

The area under assessment for the Matanda and Enengo Irrigation Schemes extends over 19,000 ha that cuts across some sub counties known to host Batwa peoples. It is expected however that area to be developed for irrigation will be smaller, based on availability of water resources, and the on- going feasibility studies. Matanda might cover area with presence of Batwas – more specifically in the Kengoma and Kanyashande cells, Kanyantorogo sub-county, Kanungu District. The physical works planned under Component 1, sub-component 1.1 are not expected to directly affect the Batwas through physical or economic displacement. However, depending on the settlements' proximity to the eventual command area, they might be impacted by risks associated with the expected influx of labor into the area such as spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, labor exploitation, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Child Labor, etc.

As such, the project has triggered the World Bank's Operational Policy.4.10 (OP 4.10) for the identification of indigenous peoples. In as much as the Bank policy OP 4.10 identifies these groups as indigenous, the Uganda Constitution refers to them as vulnerable and marginalized.”

To ascertain the existence of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups (VMG) in the project area (Matanda and Enengo irrigation scheme sites), the Ministry of Water and Environment has prepared a Vulnerable and Marginalized Group Framework for the project as a separate document conforming to World Bank's Operational Policy.4.10 (OP 4.10) which has been cleared by the World Bank.

As a requirement by the ***World Bank's Policy on Access to Information*** to publicly disclose such documents before Project Appraisal, this is to disclose Vulnerable and Marginalized Group Framework for Matanda and Enengo Irrigation Schemes to the general Public and Interested Groups.