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1. Executive Summary

During the period 2018 – 2022, Vi Agroforestry has been supporting local organisations in East Africa under the ALIVE Programme (Agroforestry for Livelihood Empowerment). The five-year programme has not only been supporting mobilisation of local communities from the grassroots, but also through regional and national platforms with main aim of ensuring that women, men, female and male youth, and children (boys and girls) are part of positive changes in their livelihoods, communities and environment. This new programme is drawing lessons from the ALIVE programme implementation. There has been evaluation of ALIVE programme; country stakeholders workshops, various discussions, meetings and engagements that have informed the design and structure of the programme (For information on lessons learnt and conclusions from these exercises, see further down in this section).

The programme will be implemented in partnership with local partners in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa, with regional actions related to advocacy. It will directly contribute to SDG 1 No Poverty; SDG 2 Zero hunger; SDG 5 Gender Equality; SDG 13 Climate action and SDG 15 Life on Land.

The overall objective of this programme is to ‘***improve smallholder farmer family’s food and nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality, and resilience while enhancing biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation’***. This objective will be realised through focus on the below key result areas and outcomes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Result areas** | **Outcomes** |
| *Stronger Farmer Organisations* | **Outcome 1.1:** Strengthened capacity of member-based farmer organisations to deliver rights-based services for the benefit of their members and wider community  **Outcome 1.2**: Increased participation of women, youth and other underrepresented groups in leadership and management of functional democratic farmer organisations  **Outcome 1.3**: Enhanced capacity of farmers organisation to address attitudes, norms and practices that advance gender equality and women’s empowerment |
| *Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods* | **Outcome 2.1**: Improved incomes and diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.  **Outcome 2.2**: Increased and equitable access to business development services including financial services and technologies for investment in sustainable agricultural enterprises. |
| *Resilience building through Climate Change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation* | **Outcome 3.1**: Increased smallholder farmers resilience to climate change  **Outcome 3.2**: Enhanced agroecosystems functioning, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and environmental resilience  **Outcome 3.3**: Increased adoption of water conservation technologies |
| *Food and Nutrition Security* | **Outcome 4.1**: Enhanced capacity of farmer organisations to address food and Nutrition issues  **Outcome 4.2**: Increased availability and access to diversified nutritious food |
| *Advocacy* | **Outcome 5.1**: Enhanced political will to drive meaningful evidence-based policy change at the local, national, regional and international level to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.  **Outcome 5.2**: Enhanced promotion, funding and implementation of agroforestry policies and strategies by governments.  **Outcome 5.3**: Citizens collectively engaging to hold the states accountable at local, national, regional and international levels on matters regarding agroforestry; food security; climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; conservation of biodiversity |

At the centre of implementation of the programme will be the local partners. These will be drawn from member based farmer organisations (Core partners), technical expert organisations (Technical partners), and strategic alliances and collaborations relevant to the working areas. The core and technical partners will develop their contextualised interventions, contributing to the results areas of the programme each partner bringing in their unique strengths. The design of the programme places strengthening of the farmer organisations as the means through which the other results areas will be realised.

During the development of this programme, Vi Agroforestry engaged various stakeholders and factored in the countries’ contexts. This was done through multiple interventions: a multidimensional poverty analysis; a conflict sensitivity analysis; a gender analysis; an environment and climate change situation analysis; an ALIVE programme Evaluation, country workshops, a regional workshop, among others to help in deepening the understanding of the context guiding the design of this programme.

Among the lessons learnt that have informed this programme is the urgent need to strengthen food and nutrition security beyond the increase in yield from adoption of sustainable farming practices; biodiversity; sustainable livelihoods; agroecological approaches ; and gender transformation. It was also noted that different countries have different opportunities and might have intensified focus on some areas compared to others. The result framework is therefore designed in a manner that will allow partners in the different countries to maximise on the possibilities and opportunities in their countries, guided by the priorities of their members and communities at large.

A programme risk analysis conducted for this programme has identified several risks and a management plan for the same has been developed. The risks are majorly unfavourable political environment, negative gender norms, scarcity of resources compared to prioritised areas of intervention for farmer organisations and governments, markets volatility, climate change and cultural norms. These are analysed in the risk analysis matrix attached to this programme document.

**Budget**

To deliver this programme, Vi Agroforestry seeks 22 MSEK per year from Sida CIVSAM. The aim of the sharing of cost between Vi Agroforestry and partners is that the implementing partners will get an allocation of 70% out of this funding, while 30% will support Vi Agroforestry own costs for the coordination required to this programme.

1. Context analysis

2.1 Political and institutional context

The political developments in the Eastern Africa region have a direct impact on the people as it determines the policy direction, peace, stability, and possibility of moving towards achievement of SDGs in the region. Thus it is of utmost importance for Vi Agroforestry as it sets the frames for what we may be able to do in the region. Vi Agroforestry works in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania but these countries are also very affected by what is happening in the surrounding region.   
  
There has been some positive political developments over the recent years, but also some setbacks. Tanzania is currently under a new government under President Suluhu, who currently is the only female president in the region. Some positive developments have been noted, not least in regard to human rights but also in a higher acknowledgement of the importance of the global relations. Elections in Kenya will be held in 2022, and with the current President having exhausted the 10 year limit, a new president is expected after the August general elections. Uganda has had the same President since 1986 and Museveni was re-elected last time in 2021. Uganda does not have any ongoing formal conflicts but has suffered hard from earlier internal conflicts, political tensions and terrorist deeds. Uganda is also the country that hosts the most refugees per capita in the world, where particularly the influx of South Sudanese people has been substantial.

South Sudan in turn has had elections postponed since 2015. The President term and elections have been postponed several times and the country is now looking forward to elections in 2023. Its neighbour Sudan has also experienced its fair share of instability with the expulsion of the long-time president Omar al-Bashir in 2019 and where a transitional council was leading the country. This was dissembled by the military in 2021 that is now in power. In Ethiopia the present Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed succeeded in a getting a peace agreement with Eritrea, after a war that had been ongoing for 30 years. In 2020 a cruel civil war broke out between the government and the Tigray TPLF army. Presently there is a cease-fire. The other close neighbour Somalia has been in and out of war and violent incidents for a long time and has not had a functioning central government since 1991. Clan violence, conflicts between Islamist groups, weak governments, combined with recurring droughts have made the situation for people very hard. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has just won the presidential election and it remains to be seen if the situation will improve.

All in all, this paints a gloomy picture of a region that is affected by other countries’ challenges, but that also have many things in common. A somewhat challenging situation for democracy and the effects of climate change are increasingly being felt in the countries in the region. This worsens the situation for people already in vulnerable situations. The fight for land and livelihoods often results in violence and sometimes in war.

Still, there are promising initiatives at Africa Union (AU) and in different regional economic and trade organisations.

2.2 Social and economic context

While nations across the world have been striving to achieve the sustainable development goals under Agenda 2030 to ensure quality of life for all, a pandemic – COVID-19 has added to the layer of complexity that requires to be managed. The COVID-19 is more than a global health emergency; it is a systemic **human development crisis** affecting the economic and social dimensions of development. A lot remains to be done to reverse the pandemic’s human and economic costs. The recovery post pandemic is not assured as the possibility remains that additional COVID-19 waves, further vaccination delays, mounting national debt levels, or rising inflationary pressures will continue to be key factors in the less advanced nations. There is therefore likelihood for longer term impacts that will further worsen the poverty situation and imbalances that exist today.

**A multidimensional approach** to development will be even more important now and moving forward. The inter-connectedness of health, economic, social, and environmental factors cannot be ignored. A sector-by-sector approach to development will therefore not be effective but rather a focus on the whole system and how one dimension impacts on the other factors of development will be the way to approach development.

**Local to global interventions** will continue to be important- building collective actions at community , national and global levels for long lasting positive impacts. Understanding the local context, the impacts that have been felt at local level, the approaches that have been effective and will still be relevant in the evolving situation will be important to be able to inform on effective policies and interventions.

2.3 Civil society environment and Farmer organisations development

Mobilisation and organisation of people for different purposes is one of the ways that has been proven to solidify the voices of individuals, providing a platform for engaging with government, other actors and stakeholders including other like-minded and peer organisations. Member-based organisations is one of the ways through which this mobilisation becomes possible. They create functional units for wider engagement and supporting members.

The United Nations declared **2019-2028 as the Decade of Family Farming**. This is significant as it acknowledges the important role farmers’ organizations play in shaping policies, sustainable development; service provision to their members; food security; generating employment; enhancing social integration, reducing poverty among others. Many grass-roots farmer organisations play a significant role in providing services to their members, including representing their members in engaging stakeholders.

Increasingly, farmers are playing a bigger role, not only in contributing towards eradication of hunger through food production, but also in managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and improving livelihoods. Farmer organisations become the platform through which farmers can rely on in ensuring decision making processes consider the unique situations farmers find themselves in and following up on governments commitments.

Farmer organisations become even more important **for small holder farmers** who would otherwise not be in a position to engage stakeholders individually. In an era where **shrinking space** has increasingly been observed and experienced, farmer organisations provide an important platform for securing the **space for farmers** and in the wider context, contributing towards securing space for civil society. The farmer organisations have an important role of ensuring that there is **no capture of political processes by interests of a few** individuals, compromising the larger population.

In Africa, where agriculture plays a significant role in not only feeding the population but in the wider economy as well, farmers and farmer organisations become a key part of development and poverty reduction. When they are adequately resourced and supported they can and have been proven to lead to increased productivity, food production, and improved livelihoods. Unfortunately, they are not adequately resourced. Through [**Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP)**](https://au.int/en/caadp), one of Africa Unions frameworks under Agenda 2063, African countries aim to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty by raising economic growth through agriculture-led development and increase national budget provision to the agriculture sector to at least 10% of national budgets. Almost 20 years since the **2003 Maputo Declaration** was made, many countries are yet to fulfil this commitment. During 2020 when COVID-19 hit, Africa ministers for Agriculture came together and made a declaration on **food security and nutrition** during the pandemic. The commitments made by the governments can effectively be monitored if there are strong independent farmer organisations engaging government and other actors. It is therefore critical that farmer organisations are strong and with the **right capacity** to enable them make follow ups on such **commitments made by governments**, have more say in **decision making processes**, **policy and programmes formulation** by government and other actors and stakeholders.

Farmer organisations also play an important role of supporting small holder farmers in engaging in agribusiness; accessing market information; accessing inputs; creating possibilities to aggregate and bulk produce for larger markets; accessing extension and financial services among many other services. Being able to play this role, providing linkage to the relevant actors, requires solid governances and internal systems.

The roles and expectations of farmer organisations demand high capacity, skilled staff, adequate financing, strong structures among others, which do not come by default for majority of farmer organisations. Most farmer organisations face challenges in having adequate capacity to meet these demands, hence not allowing them to optimally operate for the interest of their members and wider farming community. It is urgent that such challenges are not taken advantage of by actors that might want to use farmer organisations for their own interests. Investment in ensuring independent, strong farmer organisations is therefore urgent.

2.4 Environment, Climate change, Biodiversity, Resilience

Today, the world is confronted with worsening poverty, hunger, ill health, and continuing deterioration of ecosystems that support life and well-being of flora and fauna. Climate change threatens every aspect of life – agricultural production systems, food security, water availability, ecosystem services and air temperature. This is further worsened by pandemics and extreme weather events, which have become more frequent and intense in the recent past which further puts peace and stability at risk. IPCC 6th report warns that the world is set to reach 1.5oC warming levels by the year 2040. A report by the East Africa Hazard Watch, June 2022, shows that many parts of East Africa region have already witnessed an increase in temperatures that almost doubles the 1.1°C warming that the globe has experienced since pre-industrial times. For instance, temperatures in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Nairobi (Kenya) have increased by 1.9°C. Climate change is causing massive disruption in East Africa ranging from frequent and intense drought, extreme heat, and floods which threaten food, nutrition and water security and livelihoods of millions of people and ecosystems in the region.

Climate change and biodiversity are inextricably linked. Climate change affects both the biodiversity and ecosystem integrity (IPBES and IPCC, 202I) while at the same time biodiversity plays a key role in moderating or reversing the negative effects of climate change. Vi Agroforestry takes cognisance of the fact that biodiversity contributes enormously to the wellbeing of human beings, animals, natural environment, and economic development. It gives food, medicine, timber, fuel and at the same time provides the ecosystem with regulatory services such as floods control, clean and quality water and air, pests and disease control and as well offers cultural and spiritual anchor to some communities. Despite all this, we are losing the biodiversity faster than it can rejuvenate. In Africa, the negative effects of climate change will have an impact on biodiversity through for example changes in genetic and species composition especially in the arid and semiarid lands. In general, biodiversity is on the decline, and this risks the agricultural genetic resources (agrobiodiversity) that contribute to food systems as well. For example, the decline in honey and bumblebees affects crop pollination, overdependency on few species and varieties, extinction of some species (both domesticated and non-domesticated species and varieties) and other organisms that support food production has a negative impact on the sustainability of our food system which in turn affect the ecosystem and human wellbeing (Soroye, et.al, 2020). The programme therefore acknowledges the need to work with nature as a partner and not just mere factor of production that should be exploited.

Coupled with limited livelihood options, the negative impact of ecosystem degradation has the highest impact on the poorest people. Humanity and people’s ability to sustain a livelihood depends on ecosystem goods and services. At the same time poverty is influenced by access, utilisation, and management of the ecosystem services. Poverty reduction can be achieved through sustainable mechanisms that protect and conserve the biodiversity and other natural resources. Since biodiversity encourages preservation of various varieties of plants and species it contributes to food security and improves our diets and nutritional values.

To counteract limitation in livelihood options, Vi Agroforestry promotes an agroecological approach- SALM based on agroforestry, which supports agrobiodiversity conservation and management by providing alternatives to conventional farming practices. Adoption of diversity-based farming practices such as SALM contributes to increased level of species diversity, climate change mitigation, support adaptation, builds resilience in production systems, and support healthy ecosystems which will be crucial for the future development of our environment. By focusing on smallholder farmers, we can harness the local agrobiodiversity for sustainable livelihoods. By using biodiversity-based solutions, we can reduce our carbon footprints, reduce the use of chemical inputs, conserve and manage soil quality, encourage pollinators, and conserve plant and animal varieties and species which are tolerant to pests and diseases as well as to extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

# Sustainability challenges in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) -The Nexus

Arid and semi-arid areas are characterised by excess heat, water scarcity and extremely variable precipitation. The East Africa territory is classified as dryland (Njenga et al., 2014). The arid and semi-arid areas cover 45-75% of Tanzania, 80% of Kenya and around 40% of Uganda. These areas have a diverse flora, fauna, and soils. The sparse vegetation is almost exclusively used for pastoral grazing although agropastoral and mixed farming are also practiced in these areas. The ASALs experience several climatic, environmental, and socio-economic challenges that increase the vulnerabilities of the communities. High seasonal and interannual climate variability coupled with high evapotranspiration rates affect agricultural productivity. This exacerbates the challenges with water, food, and nutrition insecurity in these areas. Other challenges include limited diversified livelihood systems and supportive resources such as land, low economic and infrastructure development, limited market access and at the same time low incentives for private sector investment in these areas. In addition, wars, and conflicts (related to natural resources, politics, and cultural aspect) in the region lead to human displacement and migration to neighbouring countries and to the urban areas.

Land degradation and desertification are a tough reality in these harsh and fragile ecosystems. These are highly driven by unsustainable human activities such as overgrazing, subdivision of land into uneconomical parcel sizes, cutting down trees for firewood and overexploitation of the diminishing natural resources such as sand and harvesting of medicinal trees, which are further aggravating the situation making the ASALs more vulnerable to desertification. Moreover, the impacts lead to loss of soil fertility, increased sedimentation, reduced carrying capacity of pastures, loss of habitat, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem services decline (Huang et al., 2017; Park et al., 2018).

With these ecosystem imbalances, environmental degradation, climate variability, biodiversity loss, **business as usual is in itself a risk and not an option that the world can afford to take.** While in the past focus has been on utilising resources in a manner that does not deplete and will ensure it is available for future generations, we are living at a time where negative impacts of how natural resources have been handled are being felt already today, and it can only become worse if nothing is done. Therefore, climate change mitigation, adaptation and enhancingresilience must become a central part of any development interventions in all sectors.

Climate mitigation and adaptation for strengthened resilience

In this pressured environmental situation, strengthening resilience will be crucial for smallholder farmers. In their context, strengthening resilience can mean being able to **manage and cope with risks** such as climate related risks, security risks, crop failure, among others. **Understanding the risks, the context, available opportunities, the threats, and ways to minimise or avoid them becomes critical.** This way, interventions must be designed in a manner that maximises the opportunities, while minimising or avoiding the threats as much as possible. To build climate resilience, climate mitigation and adaptation is at the core. Use of a combination of nature-based solutions for instance, agroforestry helps with carbon absorption and mitigate extreme heat. Engaging in sustainable land management practices for instance zero or minimal tillage means less soil disturbance and in the long run binding soil carbon intact.

Climate change adaptation builds resilience. Smallholder farmers are using various adaptation strategies such as planting different varieties of crops, planting drought tolerant varieties, integrated pest management, terracing, pitting, mulching, composting etc to manage risks on their farms. The wider context such as policy environment by the national and local governments will have a direct impact on the success of any intervention. This will, determine what kind of support and enabling environment is available to farmers and general population, acknowledging the **uniqueness for different groups** within the population. To scale up strengthened resilience for smallholder farmers, policy engagement can be one possibility. **Policy engagement** therefore becomes one of the ways through which assuring strengthened resilience for smallholder farmers can be scaled up. Farmer organisations have an important role to play in mobilising individual smallholder farmers to collectively engage government and other actors, ensuring their concerns are considered in decision making.

Farmers capacity building on how to cope with the threats and risks they currently face become even more urgent. This includes being able to apply **sustainable farming** practices that not only assure a good harvest, but that also contributes to the health of the ecosystem for today and tomorrow. With weather patterns variability and climate change already being experienced, learning, and unlearning old patterns and routines becomes critical so that farmers can maximise and work with the continuously changing weather patterns in planning their farms and wider landscapes.

Agroecological approaches and SALM practices based on agroforestry.

Through farmer organisations, agroecological practices and principles are being realized through sustainable agricultural land management based on agroforestry in our working areas. In the context of climate change related impacts, agroecology approaches contribute to mitigate climate change, restore degraded ecosystems, and enhance livelihoods resilience. In this case, agroecology-based approach is adopted because it supports the smallholder farmers in planning and management of their natural resources for improved farm productivity and enhanced food and nutrition security. In principle and practice, agroecology complements our work with SALM. During this programme period for example, we are keen on our contribution to biodiversity, actively focusing on diversity in all its forms (biological, institutional, and socio-economic), resource-use efficiency, resilience building, responsible and effective governance to support transition to sustainable food system, social values and nutrition, creating synergies between different components, recycling, and input reduction, soil health, effective participation of the producers in areas that matter to them.

Agroecology focuses on sustainable farming that maximises and stabilises crop production while at the same time enhance provisioning of ecosystem services such as pollination and soil health which agriculture production depends on (FAO, n.d). Being a diverse system, agroecology shall be promoted amongst farmer organisations. SALM based on agroforestry is the main means through which this programme promotes agroecology. Agroforestry is a system that organises crops, short-term and long-term trees as well as shrubs in different locations and over a certain period contributing to vertical and temporal diversity. Different agroforestry systems combine various species e.g., trees with insects, trees with crops and livestock etc to enhance agrobiodiversity. Intercropping is also promoted which is a combination of different complimentary species to increase diversity on the farm. Crop-livestock diversity system encourages diversity of local breeds which are well adapted to the climatic conditions which enhances their resilience even during harsh environmental conditions. By promoting mixed cropping, mixed grazing for instance, the programme aim is to have farmers who can have varieties of income sources and most importantly, their families are able to consume a diverse range of food types (fruits, vegetables, legumes, cereals, tubers, animal-based products etc) which contribute to improved nutrition. Building synergies within the food production system is key to ensuring freedom from hunger.

The programme advocates for a diversified system for instance where annual and perennial crops, livestock and agroforestry trees are grown on the same farmland to enhance climate change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. This biological synergy promotes ecological functioning which translate to resource use efficiency and increased resilience. Through the farmer organisations, the programme will promote various SALM practices that are tailored to meet specific context situation e.g., nutrient management practices such as cover crop for nitrogen fixing, mulching for soil improvement and water conservation; agronomic practices like tree management practices like pruning which helps to reduce competition between crops and trees for optimal production while at the same time these agroforestry tree provides other benefits such as fodder for livestock.

Vi Agroforestry acknowledges that for an agroecology system to be successful, local ecological knowledge plays a big role. This programme values the contribution of smallholder farmers on the context-specific physical and socio-economic dynamics and hence they are a very important actor in the co-creation of knowledge and in the implementation of innovations to address challenges that hamper sustainable food production. The programme is keen to blend indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge to create solutions for real problems that affect the smallholder farmers. At the same time, the programme is sensitive to human and social values as well as the culture and food traditions in the different programme locations. This means that values such as inclusion, gender equality, dignity and justice are well promoted within our work through agroecological lenses.

Climate Justice

The UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution recognising a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right on October 8, 2021. Unfortunately, for smallholder farmers in Eastern Africa, climate change related impacts such as extreme heat, flooding, invasive pests and diseases and pollution continue to threaten its achievement and women and children are bearing the full force of these negative impacts. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to cause chaos in the climate system disrupting all sectors of the economy including the food system, cause land degradation, human mobility, and acute stress on water resources. At the same time, most smallholder farmers are not aware of the magnitude and complexity of these challenges they face or are yet to face in the context of this global crisis.

To contribute to climate justice in the national, regional, and global context Vi Agroforestry will work with other likeminded stakeholders in advocacy to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers through awareness creation, facilitate platforms for dialogue where smallholder farmers are able to express their views while seeking to push for equity, dignity, and justice for the most affected. The programme will strive to engage policy makers/duty bearers and call for required means of implementing local and national adaptation action, sustainable investment in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and food security sectors. Through policy analysis, we will keep tabs on governments and intergovernmental achievements on their commitments to the sectors core to agriculture production.

2.5 Gender equality context

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. Girls and women have made major strides for decades since the 1990’s historical Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that put gender equality a global agenda. The challenges women and girls face are a major source of inequality. All too often, women and girls are discriminated against with negative consequences for development of their capabilities and their freedom of choice. Gender equality is a **primary marker of social and economic development**. The inequalities are characteristic of societal expectations, with males on average better positioned in social, economic, and political hierarchies. One of the biggest focuses around gender equality is highlighted in goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Underrepresentation, unbalanced education, access to and control over productive resources, pervasive social norms, employment discrimination, and physical or sexual violence** are some of the biggest challenges women and girls still face.

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have made great strides in advancing the rights of women and girls. Women’s status in social, political and economic spheres has improved considerably. The three countries have very progressive constitutions which guarantee gender equality. Unfortunately, women and girls are yet to fully realise the benefits of the rights enshrined in the legal documents. Despite the gains made towards gender equality, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania still grapple with deeply rooted structural inequality which negatively impacts on women and girls. Women still face discrimination, low social status, and lack of economic self-sufficiency.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the world has witnessed women going through ripple socio-economic effects of COVID-19 when compared to men around jobs and income, gender-based violence, reproductive health services and education. The World Economic Forum released the **Global Gender Gap 2021 Report**, one year after the onset of COVID-19. The report sheds light on how the pandemic disproportionately affected women. Across the world, at least a billion schoolchildren were learning from home at some point during the year, adding an average increase of five hours to a woman’s “workday.” The sectors most impacted by lockdowns (consumer, retail, travel, and tourism) also tended to be large employers of women. Long before the coronavirus, women and girls have faced **structural and systematic gender-based discrimination**.

COVID – 19 has reversed gains made towards gender equality in the region. This is in addition to several challenges compounded by the **intersections of poverty, age, and education** disparities remain, with stark regional disparities in gender equality. Women and adolescent girls are reported to be the most vulnerable groups. They are particularly vulnerable to poverty especially at the household and community level exacerbated by **gender-based violence, harmful cultural attitudes and beliefs around gender roles, norms, and female empowerment. Limited control over productive resources** constrains women’s successful participation in the economy, particularly as producers and market actors. Unpaid childcare and domestic work limits women’s contribution in and benefit from productive activities, constrains their mobility, and limit their access to market resources and information while participating in the economy.

Women and girls continue to face systematic barriers that make their equal and free participation in social, economic, and political life more challenging and in some instances nearly impossible. These obstacles are not uniform and women and girls from **marginalized communities face overlapping forms of discrimination** which makes them vulnerable to abuse and exclusion. **Patriarchal values have since time in memorial dictated the laws and institutions that govern communities**, which reinforces gender inequalities in the very fabric of society. Sex-discriminatory laws play a critical role in discrimination of women and girls around the world.

2.6 Poverty dimensions

A multidimensional poverty analysis conducted in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya by Vi Agroforestry, partners and other stakeholders looked into understanding who is poor, how and why people are poor. The analysis used the Sida multidimensional poverty analysis tool ( see figure 1 ). It was clear that different groups of people face different deprivations, while other having several layers of different dimensions of poverty making them more vulnerable compared to others.

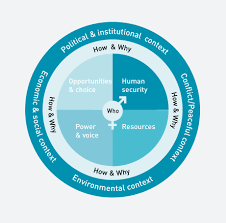


Figure 1: Sida Multidimensional poverty analysis tool

From the analysis, children, child headed households, male youths, female youths, female adults, male adults, female refugees, male refugees, teenage mothers, people living with disabilities are all facing unique challenges even when living within the same context. The programme implementation will therefore consider unique approaches when engaging the different groups.

**Human Security**

The threats to human security that were highlighted during the analysis affecting different categories of people include; lack of basic needs, vulnerable sexual exploitation, gender based violence, child labour, violations of children rights, physical violence in conflict environments, stereotyping the youth as perpetrators of violence, harassment of refugees, child trafficking and labour exports of young girls, Incidents of child sacrifices, political conflicts and abuse of the male youth, disinheritance of widows, female genital mutilation, early marriages among others.

**Resources**

Women and children in this region are more are likely to be disinherited by close family, over the reason that a male relative should take over the family and or resources such as land.

Majority of women in rural areas do not own the land and other resources they rely on to sustain their livelihoods. While they may have access to resources through marriage, they do not have decision making powers over the property; and at the same time, the set-up forces women to stay in abusive marriages for the sake of having access to land for their own and their children’s livelihood.

Not owning productive resources such as land means that the possibility to acquire financial assistance through loans for example is reduced, further reducing the chances to acquire productive resources.

For majority of women the care work at home is dictated by society to be their responsibility. This takes away or reduces the amount of time they would otherwise invest in income generating activities that can help in acquiring more productive resources.

Refugees have limited possibilities to own and access productive resources. Majority of them do not have work permits and therefore their possibility to acquire productive assets is limited.

**Voice and power**

**Women, children and youth** are often not allowed to express their views to shape decisions. Either because they are seen as too young and inexperienced; have no right to express their opinion among elders (culture); patriarchal setting perceives men and boys as superior. Their socialisation has not exposed them to role models or platforms that to enable and support this.

**Refugees** and internally displaced people do not have power in the situation they are in and often have no control over decisions made for them. They are rarely represented politically and often perceived as inferior compared to the hosting country residents.

**Opportunities and choice**

Women, children and youth are often not given the space to make decisions on matters that affect them; age, sex, patriarchal norms, socialisation, economic status, are some of the factors used to reinforce this.

Young women and men (youth) often miss out on opportunities due to insufficient experience, while the environment does not always favour them to learn and acquire this experience.

With patriarchal norms entrusting productive resources such as land to mostly men, women and female youths have limited choices when it comes to being able to utilise land for their economic empowerment. Male youths are also not likely to be entrusted with family land limiting their choices.

Other dimensions of poverty can lead to dropping out of school, further limiting the possibility for opportunities and choices that would otherwise be available for young people.

There are limited opportunities for both refugees and internally displaced people. They are least likely to be prioritised for governments investments.

**Human Development Index**

The 2020 human development index ranked Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania at place 143, 159 and 163 globally. Highlights of some of the other ranking are detailed in the table below.

Table 1: Human Development Index 2020 : country figures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Kenya | Uganda | Tanzania |
| HDI Rank | **143** | **159** | **163** |
| Life expectancy at birth (years) | 66.7 | 63.4 | 65.5 |
| Expected years of schooling (years) | 11.3 | 11.4 | 8.1 |
| Gross national income (GNI) per capita | 4,244 | 2,123 | 2,600 |
| Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) | 0.443 | 0.399 | 0.397 |
| Gender Development Index (GDI) | 0.937 | 0.863 | 0.948 |
| Population in multidimensional poverty, headcount (%) | 38.7 | 55.1 | 55.4 |
| Employment to population ratio (% ages 15 and older) | 72.7 | 69.0 | 81.8 |
| Homicide rate (per 100,000 people) | 4.9 | 10.5 | 6.5 |
| Exports and imports (% of GDP) | 33.4 | 46.0 | 32.2 |
| Internet users, total (% of population) | 17.8 | 23.7 | 25.0 |
| CO2 emissions, production emissions per capita (tonnes) | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Total population (millions) (Data refers to 2030) | 66.4 | 59.4 | 79.2 |
| Skilled labour force (% of labour force) | 40.5 | 3.2 | 5.0 |

Source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

The three countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) have similar life expectancy at birth. The years of expected schooling however is lower for Tanzania compared to Kenya and Uganda. The GNI for Kenya is almost double that of Tanzania and Uganda. Over 55% of the population in Uganda and Tanzania is living in multidimensional poverty, which is reported at 38% for Kenya. Interestingly however, the inequality adjusted human development index places all the three countries at the same level. This could therefore point to an extremely high economic inequality in Kenya compared to Uganda and Tanzania. Unemployment levels are also high with Tanzania and Kenya leading in this. A huge difference however is the percentage of skilled labour with Kenya being far ahead of the other two countries.

1. Intervention logic

**3.1 Theory of Change**

Vi Agroforestry recognises that the denial of the right to food, right to a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and equal rights between women and men violates the human rights of individuals and communities: especially women, youth and underrepresented groups. It risks their health and wellbeing, constrains their access to socio-economic opportunities, constrains their choices and agency, and negatively impacts on their ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from development.

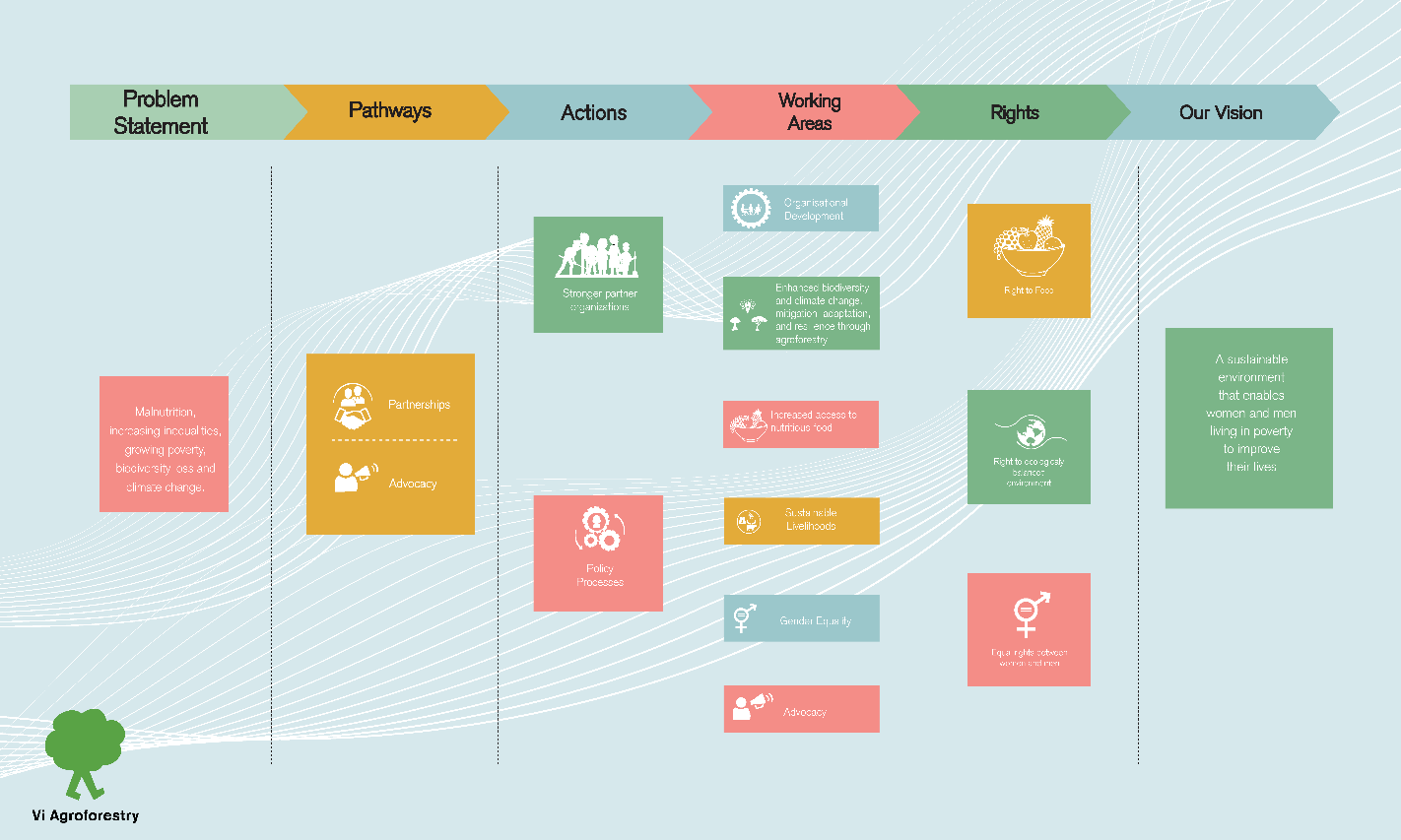
In East Africa, where Vi Agroforestry operates, this situation thrives and is further compounded in a context of global food system politics, shrinking civic space, and conflict both relating to climate induced human displacements, fighting over natural resources and civil conflict.

Some of the barriers that exist and should be tackled in any attempt to change this situation include inadequate food production and access; land use change; unequal and inadequate access to appropriate technology, skills and room for innovation; corruption; poverty; unfavourable policies; weak organisations; marginalisation of groups of people - youth, children, women; gender inequality; climate change; environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Vi Agroforestry operates through two impact pathways; **Partnership and Advocacy**. The programme will work with strategically selected farmer-based organisations and other programme partners to support the implementation of locally led, demand driven innovative and sustainable solutions. The programme will use advocacy to promote policy coherence through multistakeholder dialogues, to find a win-win solution in agri-food systems. These pathways will be implemented through the following working areas: **Stronger Farmer Organisations; Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods, Climate Change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation; Food and Nutritional Security; and Advocacy**. The aim is to contribute towards strengthening:

* Resilience of communities especially, women, youth, and children through; sustainable agriculture based on agroforestry; and increased biological diversity that supports ecological and socioeconomic systems, reducing vulnerabilities
* Farmers’ organisations capacity to contribute to food and nutrition security through supporting their members to sustainably increase food production
* The capacity of member-based organisations to empower smallholder farmers with; sustainable production practices, marketing skills, facilitating participation in sustainable value chains, and access to financial services. Build capacities for green jobs, enterprise development and enable smallholder farmers to increase their incomes, profitability and diversify their livelihoods
* The capacity of communities to identify and address the root causes of inequalities that limit active and meaningful participation of women, youth (young women and men), children (girls and boys), vulnerable and marginalized groups to enable them to exploit their potential in sustainable development practices in the social, environment and economic spheres.
* Building the political goodwill to drive meaningful evidence-based policy change at the local, national, and international level to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.
* The capacity of member-based farmer organisations to mobilise, deliver rights-based services including advocacy for the benefit of their members and wider community that centres on SALM (sustainable agricultural land management) based on Agroforestry, Sustainable livelihoods, Gender equality, Increased Resilience, food and nutrition security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, Biodiversity.

The collaborative implementation of the working areas and contributions from the farmer member based organisations and program partners will lead to achievement of the key objective of the programme which ‘To improve smallholder farmer family’s food and nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality, and resilience while enhancing biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

**3.2 Programme objective and expected results**



The **Programme Objective** is to improve smallholder farmer family’s food and nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality, and resilience while enhancing biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation This objective will be achieved through the following results areas.

**Result Area 1: Stronger Farmer Organisations**

* Outcome 1.1: Strengthened capacity of member-based farmer organisations to deliver rights-based services for the benefit of their members and wider community
* Outcome 1.2: Increased participation of women, youth and other underrepresented groups in leadership and management of functional democratic farmer organisations
* Outcome 1.3: Enhanced capacity of farmers organisation to address attitudes, norms and practices that advance gender equality and women’s empowerment

Strong capacity of farmer organisations is an important factor for improvement of small holder farmers livelihoods. It is through strong farmer organisations that advocacy and support to members is made possible. The programme will support farmer organisations to strengthen their organisational systems to be able to deliver service to their members and wider community. The programme will also be focusing on enhancing leadership by women, youth and under-represented groups (people living with disabilities, people living with albinism, elderly, culturally excluded groups, ethnic minorities etc) in the organisations. This will be done through ensuring the organisational policies take into consideration the importance of diversity and inclusion in their leadership, providing the required environment and support. In order to ensure the participation of women, the programme will enhance the capacity of the organisations to address societal norms and attitudes that hinder gender equality and women empowerment.

**Result Area 2: Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods**

Outcome 2.1: Improved incomes and diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.

Outcome 2.2: Increased and equitable access to business development services including financial services and technologies for investment in sustainable agricultural enterprises.

**Outcome 2.1: Improved incomes and diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.**

The program aims to build the capacity of smallholder farmers and support Farmer Organisations (FOs) to grow sustainable enterprises, increase income, grow assets and generate local employment as an effective approach to promote improved, secure, and sustainable livelihoods. This will entail strengthening the institutional capacity of the FOs to enable them to have viable business entities through market facilitation support that will lead to integration of smallholder farmers with agricultural markets, to increase their incomes and lift themselves out of poverty. In this regard, the program will continue to build the capacity of the FOs to become active market players in agricultural value chains. Besides support towards improving efficiencies in smallholder production system, it will also aim to improve market access and information for the farmers across target value chains. Enterprise development support towards women and youth will be given key emphasis in the program. The program will support women and youth led enterprises to become viable and sustainable enterprises. This will include support towards enhancing their technical  
 capacity, access to productive resources, connection to market, enable inclusion in business processes, facilitating access to relevant networks for skills development and support to develop their enterprises. The program will also promote diversification of the sources of livelihood in order to enhance the resilience of the smallholder farmer families to climate change shocks.

**Outcome 2.2: Increased and equitable access to business development services including financial services and technologies for investment in sustainable agricultural enterprises.**

The program will support initiatives that improve smallholder farmer enterprise performance and growth. Particular focus will be given to business development services, both financial and non-financial as well as technologies that enhance smallholder farmer enterprise competitiveness and expand markets for farmer products. In this regard, the program will facilitate access to business development services and relevant technologies by establishing linkages with different support services and actors including public, private and development sectors. Business development services will include market access (e.g. product packaging), Input supply (e.g., linking farmers to input suppliers for bulk discounts and embedded extension support), Infrastructure (e.g., post-harvest management / storage solutions), financial (e.g., strengthening of VSLAs and links to mainstream financial services). FOs will also be equipped to leverage technology enabled solutions to for example empower and connect farmers to agricultural input and output markets.

**Result Area 3: Resilience building through Climate Change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation**

Outcome 3.1: Increased smallholder farmers resilience to climate change

Outcome 3.2: Enhanced agroecosystems functioning, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and environmental resilience

Outcome 3.3: Increased adoption of water conservation technologies

**Outcome 3.1 Increased smallholder farmers’ resilience to climate change** will focus on promoting sustainable agricultural land management practices to: Produce diversified and nutritious food crops; Increase and sustain productivity within the existing cultivated lands; As well as increase the adaptive capacity to climate change. These interventions all lead to an enhanced resilience to climate change. Vi Agroforestry’s SALM practices package has nine land management practices that are adaptable to various agroecological zones. Through the farmer organisations, farmers are trained on the various SALM practices through demonstrations. At farm level, the farmers can adopt several strategies and practices depending on individual's requirement. The programme acknowledges that extension services continue to be fundamental in successful farm production. In our working areas, agriculture extension services are coordinated by the farmer organisations who work with the government experts. However, an evaluation previously carried out by the organisation revealed the need for better coordination between the farmer organisations (representing the smallholder farmers) and the government extension service providers. In this programme period, focus will be put to the capacity building of the farmer organisations to equip them with knowledge and skills necessary to provide adequate coordination for extension services to their farmers.

**Outcome 3.2 Enhanced agroecosystems functioning, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and environmental resilience** aims to achieve increased resilience of the physical ecosystems, biodiversity, and agricultural landscapes to the impacts of climate change such as increased temperatures and heavy rains by reducing the risk of floods, landslides, mudslides, and droughts. This will be done through of agroforestry and adoption of SALM practices both on the farmed and range lands. The growing of a variety (types and species) of indigenous agroforestry trees as well as collecting and saving seeds from these trees will be highly encouraged. Agroecological approach will be adopted to realise a regenerative management of the farms and the landscape through collaboration amongst multiple stakeholders.

**Outcome 3.3 Increased adoption of water conservation technologies** is key to an enhanced resilience of the smallholder farmers and their farms for domestic and agricultural use. The programme will work with strategic partners who are either experts in water management or implementing water related programmes to increase water availability, access, and utilisation efficiency within our programme location. The programme will also liaise with local structures such as the rural water users' associations and the local government sector leads to build on the sustainability of the programme. In addition, the farmers will be trained in on-farm rainwater harvesting which can be crucial to increase the availability of water during the rainy season. Soil and water conservation techniques based on our SALM methodology will be utilised and tailor made to meet the specific needs of farmers in various zones of the programme. Soil and water conservation techniques will include but is not limited to, pitting, contour farming, water pans, ponds, weirs, gutters, and tanks. Proven adaptive crop production practices to conserve soil and water such as intercropping, crop residuals and mulching, shade-crop farming and conservation agriculture practices will be promoted.

**Results Area 4: Food and Nutrition Security**

* Outcome 4.1: Enhanced capacity of farmer organisations to address food and nutrition issues
* Outcome 4.2: Increased availability and access to diversified nutritious food

**Outcome 4.1 Enhanced capacity of farmer organisations to address food and nutrition issues.**

Farmer organisations work with farmers to build their capacity on SALM based on agroforestry for increased farm productivity and achievement of food and nutritional security in their households. During this programme period, food and nutrition security will be a key pillar. Farmer organisations will be trained and encouraged to adopt sustainable practices to enhance food and nutritional security. One way for organisations to achieve desired outcomes is by putting in place plans that guide the process. In this case, farmer organisations will be encouraged to put in place food and nutrition security policies, strategies, and action plans to allow them allocate resources required to support this goal.

**Outcome 4.2 Increased availability and access to diversified nutritious food**

Smallholder farmers access food either by growing crops or rearing of livestock on their farms or by selling their farm produce to buy food items that they are not growing themselves. The food system is affected by several anthropogenic factors e.g., wars, socio-economic crisis, climate change as well as natural factors such as droughts, floods, invasive pests, and diseases. Harsh climatic conditions cause crop failure and/or death of livestock due to drought. Above this, smallholder farmers lack adequate structural support such as access to sustainable market systems which leaves them at the mercy of market brokers who offer very low prices for their produce. All these factors together show the vulnerability for the smallholder farmers to food insecurity. Therefore, interventions related to food and nutrition security must consider all parameters that pertain to food production and be tailor made to the different agroecological zones, production system and scale of operation.

The programme envisions a diversified production system for smallholder farmers that support continued availability and access to food even during the lean period. The programme will support access to diversified (varieties and species) food crops, indigenous vegetables and agroforestry trees, seed saving, adoption of SALM including sustainable management of high value perennial food crop species, planting of drought-disease-and pest resistant varieties for generation of multiple ecosystem goods and services. Farmers organisations are encouraged to engage in agriculture based and nature-based (e.g., apiculture) income generating enterprises to increase production diversity.

We acknowledge that for individuals to be food secure, they not only should always have stable access to food, but this available food should be nutritious as well. In this programme period, nutritional value of agricultural production will be considered by the farmer organisations for implementation by their members. The move from just calorific production to incorporate food crops that have key micronutrients will be emphasised. The idea is to increase intake of nutritious and diversified food which will be produced by the farmers. The programme promotes production of diversified food including but not limited to traditional vegetables, fruits, legumes, and cereals. On top of the production, nutrition education and awareness e.g., on improved food recipes, nutritious food preparation and nutrition for vulnerable groups such as children and expectant mothers will be promoted in the programme areas.

**Result Area 5: Advocacy**

Outcome 5.1: Enhanced political will to drive meaningful evidence-based policy change at the local, national, regional and international level to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.

Outcome 5.2: Enhanced promotion, funding and implementation of agroforestry policies and strategies by governments.

Outcome 5.3: Citizens collectively engaging to hold the states accountable at local, national, Regional and international levels on matters regarding agroforestry; food security; climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; conservation of biodiversity

Advocacy is one of the important pillars in this programme. Advocacy provides the possibility for influencing duty bearers to take into consideration issues of concern in the policies, budgetary allocations, providing enabling environment and much more.

This programme will focus on advocacy in areas related to agroforestry; food security; climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; conservation of biodiversity through gender transformative approach.

**Outcome 5.1: Enhanced political will to drive meaningful evidence-based policy change at the local, national, regional and international level to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmer families.**

The intention of this outcome is to work towards ensuring that governments own, support and drive the implementation of the thematic areas prioritised in this programme, for scale up and incorporating them into government structures and systems. Governments operate through policies. Therefore, it is important that the policies guiding implementation by government is in place and that they are being implemented and updated.

Where these policies exist, it is important to create awareness among the farmer organisations and other stakeholders, as it gives the legitimacy to demand action. Where the policies have gaps, it is important to carry out proper reviews to highlight the gaps for purposes of engaging governments to address these gaps. Where these policies do not exist, efforts should be put to have them in place. These could be at national levels, or subnational levels in the countries such as regions, provinces, counties etc.

Having champions that are at the political or policy making levels that understand the issues being raised and can carry with them in their work, will help to ensure that this is being ingrained into the working processes in governments – and not ending at the dialogues sessions. Ensuring continuity of engagement and action beyond the dialogue sessions will largely depend on the goodwill of these champions.

**Outcome 5.2: Enhanced promotion, funding and implementation of agroforestry policies and strategies by governments.**

The previous Vi Agroforestry programme, (ALIVE programme) made progress in the development of agroforestry strategies and policies in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. This programme will follow this up to advocate for the adoption and implementation of the same including providing technical support where this could be relevant.

With the governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania having been signatories of the Malabo declaration that commits at least 10% of the GDP to agriculture, this programme will monitor this by analysing the national and subnational budget levels and utilization in agriculture. The programme will also follow up on how much out of this is allocated for sustainable agriculture and overall how this translates to contribution towards food security in these countries.

The programme will have a champion advocacy partner in each country who will come together in an alliance to be able to have a joint regional analysis for joint advocacy. *This action will also involve Vi Agroforestry as a direct actor to support local to global linkage*.

**Outcome 5.3: Citizens collectively engaging to hold the states accountable at local, national, regional and international levels on matters regarding agroforestry; food security; climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; conservation of biodiversity**

Accountability processes such as (Social Accountability Monitoring, score cards, etc help to structure the monitoring of budgets, public expenditures, public performance, public integrity management, and the work of oversight bodies including auditors etc. The programme will support these processes driven by the local implementing partners in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

1. Programme partners

**4.1 Partnerships**

The programme will be implemented in partnership with organisations in the region. This will include core and technical partners and with strategic alliances and collaboration with relevant organisations.

*Core partners*:

These are the small holder member based farmers’ organisations. The membership in these organisations enables the reach to the grassroots. The focus here is to

strengthen the capacity of these organisations to engage duty bearers, while at the same time having the ability to provide a support system to their members. Economic empowerment through value chain development is mainly with this category of partners including capacity building on SALM based on agroforestry; food security; climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience; and conservation of biodiversity. Women empowerment and children and youth issues are also a key focus.

*Technical partners*

This comprises of organisations that might not necessarily be member based but have specialised capacity and skills that could be a gap for the core partners. Issues such as, value chain & business development, children and youth engagement might require support from organisations who are specialised in this. Vi Agroforestry will engage technical partners to provide the required capacity and support to the core partners when it is efficient to do so.

*Strategic* *alliances and collaboration partners*

These are regional bodies, research organisations, universities, peer organisations, among others that are relevant to our working areas. Vi Agroforestry is keen on strengthening alliances and building relationships that make it efficient to jointly take action such as co-designing interventions for bigger impact.

To help in identifying the specific partners that will be implementing this programme, a call for expression of interest for partnership has been done. This has been followed by shortlisting of potential partners from the applications of interests received. From these applications, we have a rich data base of partners that is further being assessed to come up with a priority list of potential partners ( this list is provided in the annex). Some of the ongoing partners are also assessed for suitability to be part of this programme. The prioritised list of partners including the current partners that will be considered to continue will be further assessed using our due diligence tools and other on-boarding processes before they are invited to develop their proposal of interventions through designing a project.

The partners proposals will form the basis for further engagement, including development of an *individual partner organisation sustainability plan* that will guide the engagement with Vi Agroforestry during the partnership period. The sustainability plan is a clear action targeted at the organisational development and key achievements that will happen at partner organisational level, with the intention that after the partnership has come to an end, the partner organisation is in a position to continue with the interventions beyond this programme period. After this is finalised, the partnership agreements process will then commence, leading to funding decisions that will guide the funding of the partnership during the agreement period.

**4.2 Capacity building of partners**

The engagement with local partners is key to delivering successful results in this programme. The capacity levels of the organisations are an important result and at the same time a key factor in delivering the other results areas. The sustainability of interventions is also dependent on the capacity of partners. This programme will support capacity development of partners right from the beginning, ensuring their engagement and defining their priority areas in line with this programme.

Initial steps with a potential implementation partner is a due diligence and capacity assessment, which will identify the individual partner organisations capacity gaps. This will form part of the basis for developing a capacity development plan that will be incorporated into the partners plans for ease of tracking progress.

At the initial stages of the partnership engagement, a partner sustainability plan will be developed together with each partner. This clearly indicates the shared ambition between the partner and Vi Agroforestry on how the partner will strengthen their capacity during the partnership period. This informs the partner capacity building plans, and is based on the gaps identified during the partner assessment. Sustainability plan for each partner will also be an important part of the agreement with the partner. This is to ensure that there is a clear path of the kind of development the partner and Vi Agroforestry will be pursuing during the partnership, and in a manner that will ensure sustainability even after the partnership has come to an end.

Peer to peer learning and engagement of the organisations will also be encouraged. Being able to learn from other organisations is an easy practical way of increasing the learning.

Joint partner implementation review meetings of progress for sharing and cross learning will also be done. This will be both at country level and also beyond to enhance and expand learning beyond the country. The implementing partners will be spread in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

Follow ups, monitoring visits, and holistic monitoring will be done help to further ensure that the capacity development plans, and sustainability plans are still relevant and updated accordingly depending on areas identified during the implementation.

The partnership model in this programme is in such a way that partner organisations will be supported beyond the financing, but rather technically as well including being able to have joint actions for example in advocacy.

1. Cross-cutting issues
   1. Gender equality

Gender equality is an integral part of Vi Agroforestry’s programme, where it is addressed as a cross-cutting issue. A gender transformative approach will be applied to ensure that the programme makes important contributions to gender equality where we will tackle the root causes of inequalities (such as discriminatory gender norms and roles, unequal power relations and unequal social structures) that negatively affect gender equality. At the core of our approach are human rights that will ensure accountability, participation, linkages, accountability, empowerment and transparency in all our work. Initial efforts aimed at mainstreaming gender equality led to the inclusion of women and youth in programme interventions. Proposed interventions will ensure gender equality over time, as we will gradually break down barriers to gender equality. Our gender transformative approach will aim to remove the barriers that hold women and girls back from achieving their full potential and exercising their rights. We will work with men and boys to advance and fulfil the rights of women and girls as we break the barriers that prevent men and boys from embracing gender equality.

Gender inequalities are often deep-rooted, the programme will focus on addressing the root causes of inequalities and seek long-term changes in gender relations and power dynamics at household and organisational levels. It will create opportunities for individuals to actively challenge social gender norms that limit the active and meaningful participation of women in food production systems and deny them and their families their right to nutritious food. We are aware that women and children have specific dietary needs. The infringement on the right to adequate food for women of childbearing age, including adolescent girls, could lead to life-threatening complications during pregnancy or delivery. Malnutrition of expectant and breastfeeding mothers can also result in the malnutrition, as well as physical and mental impairment, in their children.

A gender analysis will be conducted at the onset of the programme to better understand gender relations, power, voice and agency whilst tackling discrimination women and girls face in terms of access and control over productive resources, benefits, decision-making, and influence. The programme will work with men and boys in promoting gender equality. It will support men and boys to understand how dismantling rigid gender norms and promoting gender equality benefits them, even when they have to surrender certain privileges in the process. This will include work on “masculinities” — such as helping men/boys to reflect on their perceptions of masculinity and its influence on unequal gender norms whilst encouraging men/boys to move from harmful to positive definitions of what it means to be a man, such as being involved in care-giving and other domestic work. We will also work with women and girls’ misconceptions of masculinity and femininity, particularly with norms and attitudes that reinforce negative gender stereotypes. As we continue to learn about the context of our gender-transformative work, we will likely identify additional ways that our work can maximise our impact on gender equality. For example, climate change intervention efforts can lead to shifts in traditional gender roles and offer opportunities that will contribute to gender equality.

Within our partnerships, gender audits will be conducted to assess the extent to which gender equality is effectively institutionalized in the policies, projects, organisational structures, and proceedings (including decision-making processes) and in the corresponding budgets. The programme will also ensure that women benefit from organisational activities and resources such as technical trainings on SALM practices, leadership, and governance etc. Our approach to gender equality encourages the use of methodologies that help people to develop positive attitudes and behaviours that are consistent with gender equality. The Household Road Map(HRM) tool will be applied since it allows both men and women to participate in training, promotes new gender dynamics in the family through joint visionary planning and ultimately creates an opportunity for families to dialogue on gender inequalities.

* 1. Environment and climate

Vi Agroforestry acknowledges the need for smallholder farmers to be able to respond to extreme weather events for increased ecological and social resilience. The organisation uses Sustainable Agriculture Land Management (SALM) based on agroforestry, to support mitigation, adaptation, and resilience to climate change. Agroforestry is identified as a sustainable land management system and an adaptation strategy as it helps smallholder farmers address a myriad of challenges. For instance, agroforestry helps farmers adapt to extreme weather shocks and stresses while increasing farm productivity with zero use of conventional fertilisers. Increased productivity means that the farmers will have enough for their consumption and surplus which they sell and get income. In the end, the smallholder farmers are empowered to reduce their own vulnerabilities as they can access other services such as health, education for their children or even additional nutritional requirements with the income from the surplus. The programme will also promote agroforestry to enhance the role of trees in greenhouse gas emission balance and in combating desertification.

Through SALM, the programme offers numerous nature-based solutions that help with carbon capture, storage and biogeochemical cycles which enhance ecosystem services. The programme will promote soil-friendly practices such as nutrient management, soil, and water conservation by use of mulching, intercropping, crop rotation, animal manure, composting, zero tillage, terracing, and contour farming among other sustainable land management practices to tackle soil degradation.

The combination of agroforestry and SALM creates resilient ecosystems that resist or tolerate the impacts of climate change, invasive pests and diseases through innovations and techniques for the rehabilitation and restoration of biodiversity. Some of the innovations to be adopted will include but not be limited to water and soil conservation practices, promotion of drought and disease resistant varieties, use of renewable energy, natural and assisted regeneration, enrichment planting, enclosures in the arid and semi-arid areas, and integrated livestock management practices.

On disaster risk reduction, the program acknowledges that climate and disaster risks exacerbate the socio-economic vulnerabilities of smallholder farmers. In the spirit of ‘Leaving No One Behind,’ we appreciate the fact that these risks may affect all exposed, but they do not affect everyone in the same way. Local contexts analysis is therefore a key strategy for the program to understand and work with smallholder farmers to increase their resilience to climate shocks and hazards. The program will adopt a participatory approach to make the disaster risk management process as inclusive as it can be by addressing local needs. The program will build capacities of the vulnerable people to anticipate and manage risks in a way that responds to their specific challenges. The program will also work closely with climate services providers to tap into the critical scientific knowledge and information on climate change and associated risks which will inform the farmers on localised climate projections to inform their preparedness and response. The early warning information dissemination to farmers is a critical aspect that helps farmers plan for response. For instance, on adoption of weather-informed planting, cropping, and harvesting practices; adoption of indigenous and improved cultivars that are drought and pest resistant; mulching; use of cover crops; adoption of integrated nutrient management including composting; use of animal and green manure and use of rain harvesting techniques, among others. Participation of all stakeholders including youth and women will be paramount to make it possible for the program to benefit from local knowledge and as well make sure that the program intervention plan is tailored to meet local needs and is compatible with local traditions and farming systems.

**Measures to mitigate adverse environmental effects**

The program will conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA.

* 1. Conflict sensitivity

Peace and stability are key factors for any development to occur. External efforts towards development can be a driver or a divider depending on how this is introduced and implemented in the community. Conflict sensitivity analysis is therefore a crucial step towards ensuring that development work is not causing tension and is instead contributing to peace and development.

The programme will be implemented in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa. The East Africa region is home to South Sudan and Somalia who have had a conflict situations for many years, leading to refugees fleeing into the neighbouring countries. Sudan and Ethiopia are also going through several internal conflicts leading to unstable political transition and protracted economic crisis. Refugee communities from Somalia , Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan are therefore quite common either in refugee camps or integrated into the communities especially in urban areas and market centres.

Political related violence is also another likely risk linked to elections. Politicians tend to polarize the masses leading to heightened risk of violent situation around election seasons.

While Al-shabaab attacks have generally reduced in the region, they still remain a risk and of concern in the region. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has recently been admitted into the East Africa Community (EAC). It is not yet known whether this will have an effect on peace situation in the EAC, even as the economic block is eager to have the country stable to allow for more economic activities and movement of people, goods and services.

The impact of climate change, prolonged droughts and scarce pasture and water is still a trigger for conflict between pastoral nomadic communities and settled communities, as they move from place to place in search water and pasture for their animals. Extreme low levels of employment among the youth is also another likely trigger to violence, through driving crime levels up. The same youths are also vulnerable to being mis-used by terror groups and politicians for a promise of cash.

This programme focuses on result areas that will contribute towards minimizing the triggers of conflict. Sustainable land use management for example can help in improving pasture management thereby minimizing conflict between pastoral communities and settled communities. Supporting in agribusinesses with an increased focus on youth will contribute towards self-employment by the youth, thereby reducing their vulnerability to being abused and falling into crime.

Gender Transformative Approach that will be used in this programme is likely to go against the patriarchy set up among most communities in the region. There is a risk that this can cause conflict between different groups in the communities; men, women, young and old. To manage this, discussions with implementing partners when they are designing their interventions will be important to ensure potential risks are identified beforehand and mechanisms are put in place to manage them.

* 1. Civil society strengthening and civic space

Civil society organisations play a crucial role in this programme. Member based farmer organisations have the dual role of supporting their members to improve their livelihoods and while doing so, mobilizing the voice at grassroots level for accountability from duty bearers. Advocacy actions will require that the organisations also work in solidarity with other advocacy actors to synergise their efforts towards contributing to positive change and sustainability. Strengthening of the organisations to be able to play this role is therefore one of the important result areas in this programme. This will be through supporting in capacity development at the organisation level, guided by the areas or gaps identified at the beginning of the partnership, and during implementation.

The governance and internal systems of the partner organisations requires to be strong enough and running efficiently, to ensure that they are able to play their role and strongly voice the issues of their members, without the risk of being held back by own internal issues. This will be one of the areas the programme will also be supporting the partners in.

Advocacy is a crucial pillar in this programme. Partner organisations will in their own right and in alliance with other organisations, including Vi Agroforestry play an important role in this at local, national, regional and international levels. Where necessary to do so, advocacy actions will be in collaboration and guidance of other like-minded organisations thereby reducing the focus and attention on one organisation that might lead to victimization by authorities in contexts where shrinking space for civil society hampers the efforts. Collaboration and alliances will also be sought to mobilise a bigger united voice for bigger impact.

To further increase focus on this, in addition to scanning potential partners in the relevant technical working areas, Vi Agroforestry will in this programme also scan for potential partners specifically working with advocacy in the working areas prioritised in this programme. This is to ensure that the farmer organisations have an easier way to create alliances with those organisations that have stronger capacity in advocacy, thereby providing practical mentoring and further capacity building, even as they together join hands in the advocacy efforts.

* 1. Human Rights Based Approach

Climate change and poverty impacts are negatively affecting the realisation and enjoyment of a variety of human rights (including the right to food) and they will increasingly do so in the future. The right to food is an inclusive right. It is not simply a right to a minimum ration of calories, proteins and other specific nutrients. It is a right to all nutritional elements that a person needs to live a healthy and active life, and to the means to access them. It is therefore intentional that Human rights values, standards and principles have been incorporated in all aspects of our work.

Vi Agroforestry adopted a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming in 2017 and seeks to ensure that all programming is based on the human rights principles of Participation, Links to human rights, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment and Transparency (PLANET) derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments (including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)), with the aim of developing the capacities of right-holders to claim their rights and duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations.

Ensuring food security requires action in multiple dimensions, the programme will address this by supporting partners through capacity development, advocacy, social transformation, livelihood improvement and empowerment at all levels. Vi Agroforestry will continue to uphold and protect the human rights of small holder farmer families. This will have undeniable added value as not only will it help build communities’ capacities over time, but it will also build duty bearers capacities to respect, safeguard and demonstrate accountability of human rights. Vi Agroforestry recognizes that persisting inequalities between men and women are not only an unacceptable violation of human rights, but also a major obstacle to food and nutritional security for all. The programme will focus on the people being left behind, provide a better understanding of the causes of inequalities that need to be addressed, and help ensure duty bearers play a central role in facilitating empowerment and institutionalizing engagement and accountability mechanisms. It will ensure real participation and accountability between rights-holders and duty bearers. Accountability between duty-bearers and rights-holders is also the best way to hinder corruption and is one of the major obstacles to the realisation of the right to food. The programme will build the capacity of both rights-holders and duty-bearers as a means to promote accountability.

The programme will focus on raising levels of accountability and transparency by identifying rights-holders (and their claims) and corresponding duty-bearers (and their obligations). Through HRBA we will address both the “positive” obligations of duty-bearers (to recognize, respect, protect, promote, and provide rights) and their “negative” obligations (to abstain from rights violations).

## Plan for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (PMERL)

During the previous programming period, Vi Agroforestry developed, improved and simplified its PMERL framework by extensively using information and communication technology (ICT) methods and tools. In this programming period, Vi Agroforestry will build on gains achieved so far while continually seeking to further improve the systems and tools to bridge existing gaps and making learning and integral part of PMERL. In this respect, the regional office in Nairobi will coordinate general guidelines on programme planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMERL). The countries will support partner organisations to develop their PMERL systems both as part of the organisational development and for results quality assurances purposes.

## System, methods**, and tools for PMERL**

**6.1.1 System**

For the programme, Vi Agroforestry will develop a PMERL framework based on adaptive programme management (APM). APM is an evidence-based approach to programme design and implementation increasingly used in international development programming. Central to APM is a built-in strategy to continuously learn, iterate and adapt to enhance programme relevance and effectiveness throughout the programme cycle. To actualise the PMERL framework, various cloud-based systems accessible to both Vi Agroforestry and partner organisations but giving partner organisations complete control of their PMERL system will be explored and adopted. The PMERL systems will have ability to aggregate data/information while linking programmatic results to finances at all levels (partner, country, and region) giving managers at various levels customisable dashboards for improved management and decision making. The framework will make learning a central component by ensuring in-depth analysis of data to inform future programming get better understanding on how programme works including the theory of change.

**6.1.3 Methods**

The programme will adopt diversified portfolio of methods and strategies in planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning. Adaptive programme management coupled with participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation will guide programme implementation. The programme is build using the log frame approach and results-based management methodology. However, during the programme evaluations, output mapping, most significant change, and qualitative research methodologies will also be used.

**6.1.2 Tools**

Some of the tools that will be used include scheduled system audits, holistic monitoring tool, octagon tool, due diligence tool, baseline surveys and progress survey tools.

## Planned learning exercises and how to use lessons learnt to adapt programme

During the programming period, Vi Agroforestry will adopt bi-annual learning fora incorporating Vi Agroforestry and partners’ staff supported by different subject matters experts to analyse and synthesise programme information, resulting to incorporation of design changes to the programme based on lessons learned. Data building on lessons learned will continuously be generated and documented throughout the programme cycle. This will be built in from all the projects under the programme.

## **Accountability mechanisms to partners and rights holders**

Vi Agroforestry uses the HRBA approach to development of which one of the key pillars is accountability. During the programme period Vi Agroforestry will be accountable to partner organisations, rights holders, and other stakeholders through regular communication and feedbacking sessions and use of open data sharing platforms such as open data watch.

## Programme management structure, capacity and resources

To deliver its mandates to the ultimate beneficiaries, the smallholder farmers,

Vi agroforestry works through local partner organisations who will receive technical and financial support through this programme. Vi Agroforestry as an organisation also has key roles to play directly towards stakeholders, donors, governments and most importantly towards the smallholder farmers through the implementing partners. To be able to do this,

Vi Agroforestry is structured to have three different levels, each contributing uniquely to the whole organisation. Head Office based in Stockholm, Sweden; Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya and Country Offices, currently in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The office in Rwanda will be closed during the year 2022. Each unit has its clear role and mandate.

**Stockholm Head Office**

The head office in Stockholm has overall responsibility for the organisation. The office is responsible for the high level quality assurance on; programme implementation, compliance with donor requirements and reporting, compliance with organisation policies and procedures. The development of organisational policies and methods are coordinated from this office.

It also undertakes financial monitoring of the regional office and spot checks to ensure internal controls are working as intended. This includes development of audit instructions that are used by external auditors in the region, country offices and partners.

The office works to strategically position the organisation globally including facilitating global partnerships; coordinating and quality assuring resource mobilisation from donors.

The communication, global advocacy, Agroforestry Network and general fundraising are as well coordinated from this office.

**Nairobi Regional Office**

The regional office in Nairobi will act as the bridge between head office in Stockholm and the country offices in Sub-Saharan Africa. The office provides technical back-stopping to country offices and coordinates the resource mobilisation in the region.

The office has the responsibility of quality assuring the country offices and programme implementation ensuring compliance with donor conditions and organisational policies and procedures. Quality assurance of donor reports is also done in the regional office before submission to head office.

It undertakes financial monitoring of the country offices, spot checks to ensure internal controls are working as intended, follow up on implementation of audit recommendations and actions plans arising from financial monitoring, organisation assessments etc. It is also responsible for the regional budgeting, monitoring utilisation to ensure it is within set budget limits and utilised for the intended purpose.

Procurement and commissioning of external audits for the regional and country offices is also the responsibility of this office.

The office ensures the organisation is strategically positioned in the region linking up with various stakeholders at the country and regional level, including ensuring participation in various fora and platforms e.g. UN forums, embassies engagements among others

The office supports in knowledge management systems in consultation with head office e.g. to improve on approaches and methods, harmonize use of technical terms in our programming, ensure relevant manuals and guidelines have updated content among others.

Strategic communication in the region e.g. creating visibility for the organisation through press, web and social media, and increasing awareness among key stakeholders about the Vi Agroforestry and partner is coordinated in this office. This also includes providing communication content to head office for marketing and advocacy purposes.

**Country Offices**

The country offices will be directly engaging with implementing partners in each country. They have the oversight role and management of the country office and the country programme/projects.

They undertake partner assessment, due diligence before onboarding partners to ensure they meet set minimum criteria for partnership on governance, human resource management and that financial systems and internal controls are in place. Where gaps have been identified, together with the partners they come up with capacity development plans to structure the technical support required by the partner.

They follow up with the partners on project planning, monitoring and evaluation while continuously providing the technical support that partners may require from time to time.

The country offices coordinate the flow of funds and accountability of the same towards the partners, while support them in ensuring timely and efficient implementation of the programme. To widen the cross learning and support available to partners, they coordinate country technical working groups and liaise with regional office in coordination of regional technical working groups.

They are responsible for resource mobilisation in the country and ensuring that the organisation is strategically positioned at the national level through being active in various networks, embassies engagements, etc.

They support local organizations to create and or be active in relevant networks and maintain linkages with key actors including government agencies, universities, research institutions among others.

## Development effectiveness

The programme will be guided by  the Paris Declaration’s principles for aid effectiveness towards ensuring coordination and harmonisation with other donors to the partners:

* **Ownership:** The partner organisations develop and own their own strategies that inform their engagement with all donors and other actors.
* **Alignment:** Vi Agroforestry will align with the local systems, local context, as described by the partner organisation. Other donor organisations working with the partners should also align with this.
* **Harmonisation:** Vi Agroforestry will coordinate and simplify procedures, including sharing information to avoid duplication of work with other donors.
* **Results:** The results of the programme will be measured to ensure effectiveness and inform where strategies need to be adjusted for efficiency, where necessary to do so.
* **Mutual** **accountability:** The partner organisations and Vi Agroforestry are together accountable for results.

## Alignment

Vi Agroforestry partnerships are based on projects designed by partner organisations in line with their strategic plans. Support for implementation and monitoring throughout the project lifecycle is linked to partners operational systems and processes and the organization's mission and goals. Through dialogue, period plans for project monitoring and reporting are developed and agreed upon in line with the project implementation plan.

The financial audits are also aligned with the partners processes.

## Local ownership

Vi Agroforestry will foster stakeholder involvement in the programme to ensure that all stakeholders who are affected by, have a role in, or are interested in programme thematic areas have the opportunity to be involved and have ownership of the programme. The programme will promote multi-stakeholder collaboration in the design and implementation of projects, including effective collaboration with Government, NGO, private sector and communities. The programme will also ensure that the policies, plans and strategies produced during the programme period are developed and implemented effectively with the support and collaboration of stakeholders. Mechanisms for community involvement will be strengthened and engagement of stakeholders in experiences sharing and dissemination of the results of the programme activities will be supported to promote good environmental governance mechanisms, including transparency, accountability, cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders as well as foster ownership.

The capacity building process for transitioning from project support towards programme and/or core support will continue to be supported. Pilot projects of core or program support will be developed during the program period and lessons that will be learnt from these pilots will be used to strengthen the structure, coordination, and response to the needs of partner organisations. This will ensure that the gains made are sustained and to fast track the transition towards core support and gradually grow the portfolio of partners under core support.

## Coordination and harmonisation

Harmonisation between Vi Agroforestry and other donors to coordinate, simplify procedures and share information in the programme areas: In previous programme periods, Vi Agroforestry has supported many administratively weak partner organisations where Vi Agroforestry has been the only donor organisation. Vi Agroforestry’s funding has been instrumental in laying the foundation for partners to build broader relations with other donors. In this regard, where multiple donors are involved, the programme will seek to promote coherent and effective development and aid coordination with other donors by creating conditions for engagement, coordination, and share information in the programme areas.

## Predictability

Vi Agroforestry strives to sign long-term funding agreements with partner organizations in order to create the best possible development conditions. To improve predictability and sustainability, Vi Agroforestry uses different agreement periods for different partners, ranging from one to three years. Partnership guidelines have been developed and are used to guide the engagement of various types of partners in the programme.

Predictability is also enhanced by responsible phase out. As a result, Vi Agroforestry is looking into developing guidelines on how to phase-out support to partner organizations, including guidance on how this should be incorporated into the collaboration's planning.

## Plan for sustainability

Vi Agroforestry is aims at having a long-term partnership with partners. At the same time, the support to partners is built on the conviction that the Vi Agroforestry will not be present indefinitely in the programme area but rather that the partners will continue with interventions beyond the programme support. The sustainability of the programme and partners situation will be achieved by ensuring that partners obtain the skills, capacity, own funding opportunities and networks needed. The participation of women and youth farmers, and farmer cooperatives in the action, will promote local ownership, which is important for sustainability of this action. Building capacity of smallholder farmers and cooperatives to gain knowledge and skills in promoting agroforestry, SALM, and post-harvesting practices will ensure continuity of implementation even after the end of the project. Hence, knowledge development is a recognized locally and globally as a key ingredient for sustainable development.

**Economic Sustainability:** this programme will contribute towards an inclusive and improved living conditions for women and men living in poverty in rural areas. This will be done through actions that are relevant and effective in the rural areas, with local farmer organisations being key partners. Engagement with government structures to enable an environment for these actions to thrive will be sought. Opportunities for women and youth will be given more emphasis as they have been identified as being the most deprived in terms of economic empowerment in the multidimensional poverty analysis. Participation of young women and men in the action will enable them to get access to information about financial services and products that are user-friendly, and knowledge on the management of resources. Such initiatives will support them in future to expand their business and create opportunities for growth thereby ensuring employment along the agricultural value chains for young female and male farmers. From a programme perspective, lessons learnt from linkages with financial institutions will be shared with others for purposes of continued implementations. Young women and men will be linked to access financial services for their continuous empowerment even beyond the action. The adoption of improved farming practices and strengthening of value chain linkages will ensure diversification of income sources at the smallholder farmers’ level. This will, in turn, support financial services at the farming cooperatives, hence financial sustainability at the community level.

Institutional sustainability**:** Democracy and governance in farmer organisations will be among the key capacity building interventions by this project. This will enable them to also engage duty bearers in ensuring accountability. This will be achieved through long term structures and skills transferred to farming cooperatives and relevant stakeholders for local ownership. The project will promote the participation of various public sector players, active in the fields of agriculture, gender, health and community development. These sectoral players will be involved in planning, implementation, monitoring, review and reporting. Vi Agroforestry will sensitise stakeholders on implementation approaches and the expected outcomes at various levels. The programme partners will sensitise and offer technical support to cooperatives, women, young women and men during the implementation process. This will ensure local ownership and continuous engagement between value chain actors, district authorities and relevant duty bearers on the farming issues affecting young women and men farmers, beyond the project’s lifetime.

The initiatives promoted by this action will be incorporated into the implementing partner organizations routines through having relevant policies and in place or updated. This will ensure continuity beyond the action period.

Government authorities at local and national levels will be engaged during the action to ensure they take this up through having in place policies, by-laws, strategies etc that support continuity and wider take up of the initiatives promoted by the action.

*Partner sustainability plans*; Specifically for each implementing partner, there will be a clear plan of what is to be realised in terms of organisational growth, during the partnership. This will be based on the capacity development plans developed during the initial assessment and reviewed progressively during the partnership. This is to ensure that at the end of the partnership, the organisations are in a better and improved position to continue with the interventions beyond the programme period.

Policy level sustainability**:** Farmer organisations will support and encourage female farmers, smallholder female and male youths farmers to participate in advocacy meetings, in order to get their needs translated into policies, supported by budget lines beyond the implementation phase. Their increased participation will eventually establish a lasting culture of dialogue and cooperation amongst young people, stakeholders and decision-makers. Farmer organisations will put a continuous pressure on the government to ensure relevant policies are reviewed and promoted for implementation. The action will, therefore, contribute to policy change and enforcement. The efforts of this action are aligned with various country strategies and complemented by those stipulated by the EAC, African Union and various international conventions, treaties, protocols and agreements, focusing on reducing marginalisation and increasing participation of young people. The implementation of this action will be guided by three-step community participation approach, with the first step being the ‘community mobilisation’, wherein young smallholder farmers conduct a joint impact analysis of the governing documents such as National Agriculture policy, Environmental policy, Health policy and other constitutional mechanisms. The second step will be a ‘dialogue for change’ between rights-holders and duty-bearers, to strengthen smallholder farmer capacities to claim their rights, and to strengthen overall democratic structures. If successful, the community action plan results in an agreement between rights-holders and duty-bearers. The third and final step will be the ‘implementation of the joint agreement’, and involves decisions on shared structures for co-ordination, decision taking, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. This will provide the legal ground and basis for equality in resource allocation to support programs that promote empowerment of women, young women and men and ensure there is equitable share of value chain benefits among the actors.

Environmental sustainability**:** Promotion of agroforestry value chains and sustainable agriculture land management practices will maintain the natural environment and the involvement of the smallholder farmers, farmer cooperatives and stakeholders in the process will help to make the practices long term. The adoption of these practices will result in reduced land degradation and increased yield for smallholder young women and men farmers, which in-turn enhance climate change adaptation and resilience as well as environmental sustainability. Such efforts also have huge potential in conserving natural resources by increasing trees and shrubs, while reducing deforestation, for increased carbon sequestration. This reduces adverse impacts of climate change from emissions and improved biodiversity. The involvement of government departments and other stakeholders in the action will also ensure policy and law enforcement for environmental sustainability. This will result to reduced land degradation, enhance environmental sustainability and build resilience to climate change.

## Appendices

## [Programme results framework matrix 2023-2027](https://weeffect.sharepoint.com/sites/ViAgEARegionalOffice/Files/PMEL/Programme%202023-2027/Draft%20Programme%20Documents/Programme%20Results%20Framework%20-%20Final%20Submission%20Copy%2020072022.docx)

## [Programme Indicators Definition Table](https://weeffect.sharepoint.com/sites/ViAgEARegionalOffice/Files/PMEL/Programme%202023-2027/Agroforestry%20for%20Sustainable%20Livelihoods%20and%20Biodiversity%20(%20ASILI-B)/Programme%20Indicators%20Definition%20Table%20.docx)

## [Vi Agroforestry Partner organisations](https://weeffect.sharepoint.com/sites/ViAgEARegionalOffice/Files/PMEL/Programme%202023-2027/Draft%20Programme%20Documents/Annex%202%20Vi%20Agroforestry%20Partner%20organisations.xlsx)

## [Risk Register-Programme](https://weeffect.sharepoint.com/sites/ViAgEARegionalOffice/Files/PMEL/Programme%202023-2027/Agroforestry%20for%20Sustainable%20Livelihoods%20and%20Biodiversity%20(%20ASILI-B)/Risk%20Register-Programme%202327.xlsx)

## Conflict sensitivity Analysis of the programme : Dividers and Connectors

A conflict sensitivity analysis has been carried out during the development of this programme . Some of the dividers and or likely causes of conflict that have been identified during the participatory analysis include;

• Local communities clan or ethnic tensions, especially related to land, politics, resources access

• Cultural norms that are in conflict with human rights e.g. tolerance for gender based violence; female genital mutilation

• Invasion into private lands for grazing especially during prolonged dry seasons leading to conflict between crop growing communities and pastoral communities.

• Human- wildlife conflicts

• When those in authority act in ways that is not in line with human rights, out of self-interest and abuse power, the people can push back

• Unequal distribution of resources and support leading to some groups of the communities feeling left out

• Ineffective communication leading to misunderstanding

• Lack of involvement of the affected populations in decision making processes

• Impacts of lockdowns related to COVID-19 protocols

• Weak policies and systems in organisations

• Policy inconsistencies at national level, organisation level, etc for example when compared to internal environmental policies that strives for more, compared to different organisations.

• When there is shrinking space for civic actors in a country; government interference

• Differing approaches and ideologies between different actors

• Corruption

• Discrimination

• Overlapping responsibilities among different actors

Actions identified as necessary to contribute to peace in the context of this programme implementation include ;

• Being aware of potential conflict situations and putting in place measures to address them

• Conducting Environmental Social Impact assessment to be aware of the effects caused by interventions

• Ensuring participatory planning and implementation of activities among different groups in the communities and actors.

• Support development of conflict resolution policy-with a conflict management committees in organisations and having grievance handling mechanisms at different levels

• Carrying out risk analysis and having in place risk management plan

• Respect for human rights

• Development, review and implementation of policies to guide operations, ensuring clarity.

• Transparency and accountability at all levels

• Clear roles and responsibilities among different actors with synergies mapped and defined

• Good relations and respecting rights of others regardless of position

• Clear and timely communication and information flow

• Strengthening organisation systems and structures

• Map and engage relevant stakeholders for harmonized interventions, including strengthening multi-stakeholders platforms/dialogues.

• Ensuring inclusion of all in the interventions

• Strengthening effective communication among stakeholders

• Enhance participatory land use planning.

Partners will be required to do a conflict sensitivity analysis for their individual interventions as well, to be sure to put in place appropriate measures to manage the risks identified.