

TRACKING, LEARNING AND SHARING FOR THE ARA GRASSROOTS ACTION RESEARCH MICRO-GRANTS

Baseline report

Authors:

Moreiras, M. Soledad; Deambroggio Garrett, Cynthia; Malcolm, Clara; Abram Alberdi, Laura; Reibel, Sofía.



Date: August 2023

Funders:

ARA funded by:



ARA Secretariat:



SOUTH
SOUTH
NORTH

Table of Contents

Summary of Key Findings	4
1 Introduction	6
1.1 The Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants	6
1.2 Tracking, Learning and Sharing (TLS) strategy and plan	6
2 Scope and Methodology	8
2.1 Scope.....	8
2.2 Theory of Change.....	9
2.3 Approach and methodology	11
2.4 Limitations of the analysis and mitigation strategies.....	11
3 Key Findings	13
3.1 Overview of the Portfolio of ARA micro-grants	13
3.2 Planned activities	19
3.3 Contribution to the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles	23
3.4 Key national and local actors to engage	24
3.5 Expected outcomes	27
3.6 Role and value of action-oriented research	28
3.7 Gender and Social Inclusion.....	29
Synopsis and Conclusions	42
Annex 1: List of Grants per Region, Country, and Partner Institution	45

List of Tables

Table 1. Grants per region and number of countries.....	13
Table 2. Type of applicant organisation per region.....	14
Table 3. List of applicants subsequently benefiting from Round 1 and 2 of ARA micro-grants.....	15
Table 4. Applicant benefited from the First Round of action-research micro-grants.....	15
Table 5. Type of partner organisation per region.....	16
Table 6. Number of partner organisations.....	17
Table 7. Co-funding of the counterpart.....	17
Table 8. Thematic focus of the micro-grant.....	19
Table 9. Number of micro-grants per region that include relevant intersections and other identities in their activities' description.....	22
Table 10. Number of micro-grants per thematic focus that include relevant intersections and other identities in their activities' description.....	23
Table 11 . Number of micro-grants per Adaptation Research for Impact Principle.....	24
Table 12. Type and Name of the actors to be engaged.....	25
Table 13. Number of micro-grants per region that include relevant intersections and other identities as part of the issue to be explored.....	30
Table 14. Detail of climate change planning micro-grants that target relevant intersections and other identities.....	34
Table 15. Detail of food/agriculture micro-grants that target relevant intersections and other identities.....	34
Table 16. Relevant intersections targeted in micro-grants activities per region.....	35
Table 17. Number of micro-grants per region that provide general or specific description on how relevant intersections and vulnerable groups are targeted as part of their GESI approach.....	37
Table 18. Number of micro-grants per thematic focus that provide general or specific description on how relevant intersections and vulnerable groups are targeted as part of their GESI approach.....	38
Table 19. Number of micro-grants per region 50% (or more) females in its project teams.....	39
Table 20. Number of micro-grants per thematic focus 50% (or more) females in its project teams.....	39
Table 21. Number of micro-grants per region with females in lead positions.....	40

List of Figures

Figure 1 Draft reconstructed Theory of Change	9
Figure 2: Regional coverage of the approved ARA micro-grants.....	13
Figure 3: Type of applicant organisation of ARA micro-grants	14
Figure 4: Type of partner institution	16
Figure 5: Number of partners per grant.....	16
Figure 6: Thematic focus of the ARA micro-grants.....	18
Figure 7: Activities uptake per region.....	21
Figure 8. Distribution of micro-grants per region that mention relevant intersections and other identities in activities description.	33
Figure 9. N° of micro-grants per thematic focus target relevant intersections and other identities in their activities.	33
Figure 10. N° of grants per thematic focus with females in leading positions.....	41

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARA Adaptation Research Alliance

CSO Civil Society Organisation

CT Consulting Team

GESI Gender and Social Inclusion

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

PWDs Persons with Disabilities

QA Quality Assurance

TLS Tracking, Learning and Sharing

ToC Theory of Change

Summary of Key Findings

- In its second round, the **ARA's Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme** has extended their duration from three months in total, to 13 months (eight months for implementation, two months up front for contracting, and three months at the end for processing the final payment), and increased the amount of the grants from 25 to 30.
- New Portfolio: **30 micro-grants**, with Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean each contributing 10 grants (33.3%) in **23 countries** (Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). **Six grantees have received support in the previous round¹.**
- **Grantees organisations** are predominantly **grassroots action organisations** across all regions, constituting 20 out of the 30 total micro-grants grantees. This is followed by research organisations with seven micro-grants and intermediary organisations with three micro-grants.
- Grantees plan to establish partnerships with a total of **56 collaborating institutions**.
- 24 grantees have expressed their **intent to allocate co-funding, of which 19 mention this is allocated to achieve the objectives of the grant.**
- The grants cover nine thematic areas. The **cross-sectoral focus² of multiple thematic areas** leads with eight micro-grants (**27%**), closely followed by **adaptation planning** with five micro-grants (**17%**). **Food and agriculture** have four micro-grants (13%), while **flood management** and **health** each have three micro-grants (10%). **Coastal management, forest restoration, and water resources** each with two micro-grants. Only one micro-grant related to **climate resilient infrastructure**.
- The Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme portfolio is **stakeholder driven and context focused. All projects will involve activities centred around engaging affected communities.** Around 80% of the grants aim to implement activities encompassing "Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings" and "Knowledge co-production with primary stakeholders/community". Additionally, 17 projects have outlined plans for research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures.
- The majority of the micro-grants (90%) follow the principle of impactful, needs-driven research for climate change adaptation (Principle 1), with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement, while 77% adopt transdisciplinary research methods involving various stakeholders (Principle 2). Additionally, 60% prioritise long-term capacity development (Principle 4), 46% focus on societal impact and measurement (Principle 3), while addressing structural inequalities and ongoing learning are found in 40% (Principle 5) and 11% (Principle 6) of projects respectively.
- The projects will engage with over **115 organisations as stakeholders** from national government institutions, local government, research and academic institutions, grassroots action organisations, NGOs, and other civil society actors (see list in Annex 1).
- Across the spectrum of micro-grants, a recurring theme emerges: **a commitment to ongoing collaboration and sustained partnerships.** The various micro-grants underscore their intention to **expand and replicate successful practices** and learning through the acquisition of new funding

¹ St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine - William H. Quasha Memorial; Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI); Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.; ICLEI Colombia; Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO); Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE)

² Cross-sectoral focus addresses a comprehensive spectrum of thematic areas, such as the interplay of water, food, and energy; the principles of circular economy; climate mobility; nature-based solutions; urban planning; waste management; risk and disaster management, climate change information to enhance building resilience and population well-being, land and territory rights, ecological food systems, sustainable productive activities, educational and health practices, among others.

sources, **advocate project outcomes with local and national decision-makers** to influence policy and planning and **empower communities**.

- The baseline analysis has revealed that out of 30 micro-grants, 18 of them (60%) make specific references to **gender and diversity** within the *summary of the issues to be explored* among the targeted population. Moreover, 16 micro-grants (53.3%) explicitly integrate considerations of relevant intersectionalities within their activities, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity during implementation.
- Within the descriptions of micro-grant activities, **women and youth emerge as prominently featured groups**. These micro-grants span all three regions, although the **Asia-Pacific and Africa regions stand out**, concentrating micro-grants that exclusively involve women within their activity descriptions (three micro-grants in each region). Youth inclusion is detailed in two projects within both the Asia-Pacific and Latin America, as well as the Caribbean regions, and in three projects within Africa.
- 23 micro-grants (76.7%) provide explicit specifications on how they intend to address **relevant intersections** during implementation, while micro-grants (23.3%) lack detailed plans for incorporating these groups into their activities.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global collaborative effort consisting of over 200 members (and growing) that seeks to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research to strengthen evidence-based action that supports effective climate change adaptation.

The ARA's Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme (ARA micro-grants) seeks to elevate and identify knowledge gaps, ideas, and opportunities from the affected communities themselves – and facilitates a research process where communities and researchers explore appropriate responses together. It is an effort to unearth ideas and opportunities for adapting to climate change in local contexts in the Global South, through a micro-granting process linking action and research partners to adapt to and build resilience against a changing climate.

The first round of the ARA micro-grants was officially announced at COP26 in 2021 and provided an opportunity for 25 grantees from the Global South to explore burning climate adaptation issues faced by local communities including issues related to water scarcity, coastal areas, informal settlements, health, and knowledge gaps. The 25 micro-grantees - hailing mainly from research institutions, non-governmental organisations, and government partners - received GBP 10,000.00 each and their projects were officially implemented over a three-month period.

In October 2022 a second round of ARA micro-grants was published and in May 2023, the ARA selected 30 Global South projects as recipients of its 2023 Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants. The projects will receive up to GBP 15,000.00 to carry out inclusive, locally led action research for identifying needs and opportunities for building resilience within a timeframe of eight months for implementation, and a further five months for setting up contracts and ensuring payments have been received.

Finally, adaptation implementation efforts do not pay sufficient attention to iteratively learning and tracking progress using metrics, leading to a lack of dynamic understanding about the benefits and effectiveness of adaptation interventions as they unfold. This is an important challenge as operational contexts, particularly those that are highly exposed to climate impacts, can shift iteratively and it is crucial to ensure that those running adaptation initiatives are constantly learning about these changes to adjust and tweak their interventions (Arora 2019). This is why the Principles nudge institutions to learn-while-doing and integrate emerging lessons on what is working and what is not through iterative research processes and feedback loops that enhance the effectiveness of actions.

1.2 Tracking, Learning, and Sharing (TLS) strategy and plan

As part of the implementation of the ARA micro-grants, a specific Tracking, Learning, and Sharing (TLS) strategy and plan were developed as the guiding framework for tracking and documenting the intentions, activities, and progress of micro-grantees participating in the second round of the ARA's micro-grants, as well as enabling learning. Recognising the programme's relative novelty, the framework is specifically designed to embrace an adaptive research approach for data gathering and analysis. This approach enables the continual refinement of tools and methodologies throughout the TLS process in response to the knowledge gained during its execution.

Within this strategy a baseline, midline and endline report will be developed, as well as two learning workshops for sharing and learning among micro-grantees. The present document **summarises key findings for the baseline of the ARA micro-grants.**

2 Scope and Methodology

2.1 Scope

The Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme operates within an eight-month implementation timeframe, with a budget allocation of GBP 15,000.00 per grant for 30 grants. Significantly, the programme embraces a pronounced emphasis on Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), aligning with the ARA's underpinning values. This approach strives to establish an inclusive environment that fosters enduring solutions, advocates for parity in opportunities, facilitates participation, and ensures adequate representation.

The baseline report includes key insights derived from the micro-grant application forms, encompassing the following dimensions:

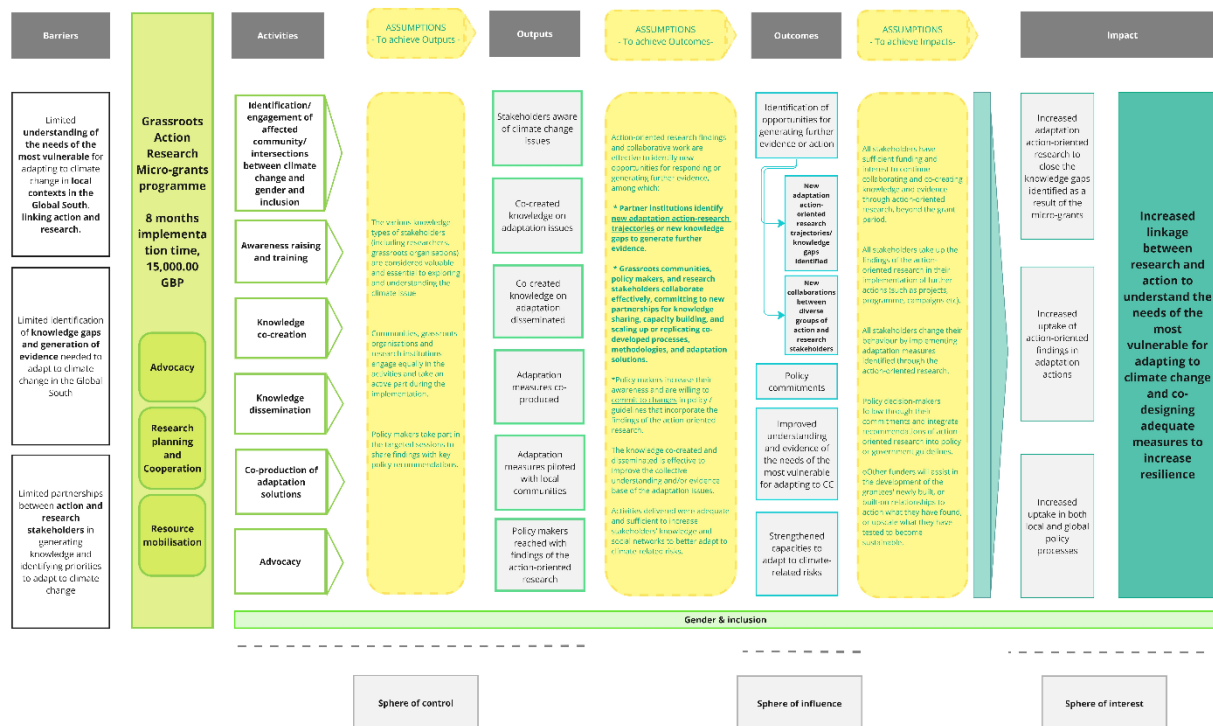
- Portfolio Composition: This section delineates the regional distribution of approved micro-grants, applicant categorisation, partnering institutions, previous participation history within the micro-grant programme, and the thematic focal points.
- Projected Activities, Associated Outputs: The report summarises the activities uptake across micro-grants which will deliver associated outputs.
- Envisaged Outcomes: This section analyses anticipated results outlined in alignment against the Theory of Change (detailed in the subsequent section).
- Gender and Social Inclusion with an Intersectional Approach: In the context of ARA and the micro-grants, Gender and Social Inclusion adopt an intersectional approach, extending beyond gender disparities to encompass other identities and marginalised voices highlighted as significant by grantees, such as the elderly, women with disabilities, migrants, youth, among others. The baseline assessment evaluates the integration of this intersectional approach into activity formulation and its alignment with the intended outputs of the micro-grants.
- Contribution to the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles: This section assesses how the micro-grants contribute to the Principles.
- Stakeholder Engagement and Role of Action and Research: The report will delve into the anticipated stakeholders to be engaged and the interplay between action and research within the proposals.

Conducted between 11 July and 11 August 2023, the baseline assessment represents an important milestone in the evaluation process.

2.2 Theory of Change

As part of the development of the Tracking, Learning, and Sharing (TLS) strategy, the consulting team together with the ARA Secretariat reconstructed a draft version of the Theory of Change (ToC) of the micro-grants. The exercise is still a work in progress since it was agreed that the TLS of the second round of the micro-grants would be used to update and finalise the draft ToC. Nonetheless, the draft version is useful to further guide the TLS plan and has been used by the consulting team for the development of the baseline report (see Figure 1).

Figure 1 Draft reconstructed Theory of Change



Source: Viridia Projects own elaboration based on discussions and feedback with the ARA Secretariat

The expected **impact** of the Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants programme is an **increased linkage between research and action** to understand the needs of the most vulnerable for adapting to climate change, and potential opportunities and actions for increasing resilience and adapting to climate change. This could be further disaggregated in:

- Increased adaptation action-oriented research to close the knowledge gaps identified as a result of the micro-grants;
- Piloting of action-oriented research findings in adaptation actions; and
- Uptake of action-oriented research findings in both local and global policy processes.

To achieve this impact, the ToC identified the following common **activities** taken up differently across grants to achieve the expected changes:

- Identification/ engagement of affected community/ intersections between climate change and gender and inclusion
- Knowledge co-creation

- Knowledge dissemination
- Co-production of adaptation measures
- Advocacy
- Awareness raising and training

The expected **outputs** of the project include stakeholders' awareness of climate change issues, co-created knowledge on adaptation issues, dissemination of co-created knowledge on adaptation, co-production of adaptation measures, piloting of measures with local communities, and reaching policy makers with the findings of the action-oriented research.

At the **outcome level**, the activities and outputs delivered by the programme are expected to achieve:

- Identification of opportunities for generating further evidence or action
 - New adaptation action-oriented research trajectories/ knowledge gaps identified.
 - New collaborations between diverse groups of action and research stakeholders.
- Policy commitments demonstrated by decision makers.
- Improved understanding and/or evidence of the needs of the most vulnerable for adapting to climate change
- Strengthened capacities to adapt to climate-related risks

To realise the expected outcomes, the **assumptions** are:

- Action-oriented research findings and collaborative work within the framework of the micro-grants are effective to identify new knowledge gaps, opportunities, and action among which:
 - Partner institutions identify new adaptation action-research trajectories or new knowledge gaps to generate further evidence.
 - Grassroots communities, policy and research stakeholders work effectively and thus commit to new collaborations such as knowledge sharing based on research findings, capacity building, upscaling and replication of the processes, methodologies, and co-developed adaptation measures.
 - Policy makers increase their awareness and are willing to commit to changes in policy / government guidelines that incorporate the findings of the action-oriented research.
- The knowledge co-created and disseminated is effective to improve the collective understanding and/or evidence base of the adaptation issues.
- Activities delivered were adequate and sufficient to increase stakeholders' knowledge and social networks to better adapt to climate-related risks.

The outcomes are expected to lead to realising the expected impact. For this, the key assumptions are:

- All stakeholders will be able to secure sufficient funding and interest to continue collaboration and the co-creation of knowledge and evidence through action-oriented research, beyond the grant period.
- All stakeholders take up the findings of the action-oriented research in their implementation of further actions (such as projects, programmes, campaigns etc).
- All stakeholders change their behaviour by implementing adaptation measures identified through the action-oriented research.
- Policy decision-makers follow through their commitments and integrate recommendations of action-oriented research into policy or government guidelines.

Other funders will assist in the development of the grantees' newly built or built-on relationships to action what they have found, or upscale what they have tested to become sustainable.

2.3 Approach and methodology

The original plan for the baseline study encompassed a blend of secondary data sourced from application forms, a baseline survey, and interviews. Following consultations with the ARA Secretariat and cognisant of the truncated timeline for ARA micro-grants implementation, the consulting team opted to streamline the data collection process. This decision aimed to process secondary data derived from the application forms submitted by grantees, alleviating them from potential information overload amid the constricted timeframe.

Consequently, the consulting team undertook an exhaustive review and analysis of all "Application Forms - ARA Micro-grants" submitted by grantees in December 2022. In addition, the consulting team delved into the impact Principles, ARA's Theory of Change, and the "Report on Reflections and Lessons Learnt" from the inaugural round of ARA Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants.

By harnessing the data inherent within the application forms, this report encapsulates project specifics that are of critical importance. These encompass the targeted issue, involved actors and stakeholders, overarching project objectives, and planned interventions, including considerations for gender and social inclusion. This approach furnishes invaluable insights for monitoring, learning, and adaptive management of projects, all while acknowledging the temporal and resource constraints inherent in the micro-grants programme. However, it's worth noting that this approach also carries inherent limitations, as detailed in the subsequent section.

For data analysis, the consulting team employed a qualitative matrix, strategically categorising information to enrich the qualitative analysis. Descriptive quantitative data, on the other hand, underwent analysis via MS Excel. This facilitated the execution of descriptive statistical analysis, fostering the generation of tables and graphs.

The midline and endline e-surveys and interviews have been meticulously structured to gather data for subsequent comparative analysis, guaranteeing an extensive comprehension of project progression over time. This longitudinal study—entailing the scrutiny of data collected from the same grantees and topics on multiple occasions—equips the consulting team to evaluate micro-grant advancements, pinpoint barriers, and unearth opportunities for future programming.

2.4 Limitations of the analysis and mitigation strategies

The baseline assessment relies solely on the review of secondary information provided by grantees during the application process. The application form predominantly comprises open-ended questions, prompting grantees to expound upon various facets of their proposals and intended interventions. However, this format restricts the consulting team's ability to synthesize data and categorise observations effectively. Furthermore, the collated information underscores the absence of a uniform understanding among grantees concerning the delineation of activities, goals, and anticipated outcomes.

While certain grantees have furnished meticulous descriptions of activities and envisaged short-term outputs, others have adopted a broader perspective, alluding to long-term transformative changes that may not fall directly

within the purview of micro-grant actions. This divergence is compounded by discernible disparities in language usage; given that a majority of grantees are non-native English speakers, this factor could potentially impede the extraction of key baseline insights.

Consequently, the consulting team has encountered limitations in its attempt to appraise the baseline situation of the aggregated micro-grant portfolio. A primary strategy to surmount these challenges involves introducing categorisations to systematise and aggregate primary observations extracted from the assessed sections. This strategy is complemented by the integration of follow-up queries, aimed at addressing these classifications within the forthcoming midline and endline assessments. Moreover, pivotal inquiries have been incorporated to more comprehensively envision grantees' experiences vis-à-vis the baseline situation, thereby enhancing the interviews scheduled for subsequent phases.

In light of language barriers, an improved approach has been devised for the midline and endline assessments. These processes, encompassing e-surveys and interviews, will be conducted in three languages: Spanish, English, and French. This trilingual approach will facilitate more profound discussions and enable grantees to articulate their perspectives more effectively. Nonetheless there are still language limitations given the diversity of language needs in Asia-Pacific and Africa. It has not been possible to meet all these needs considering logistical and financial barriers.

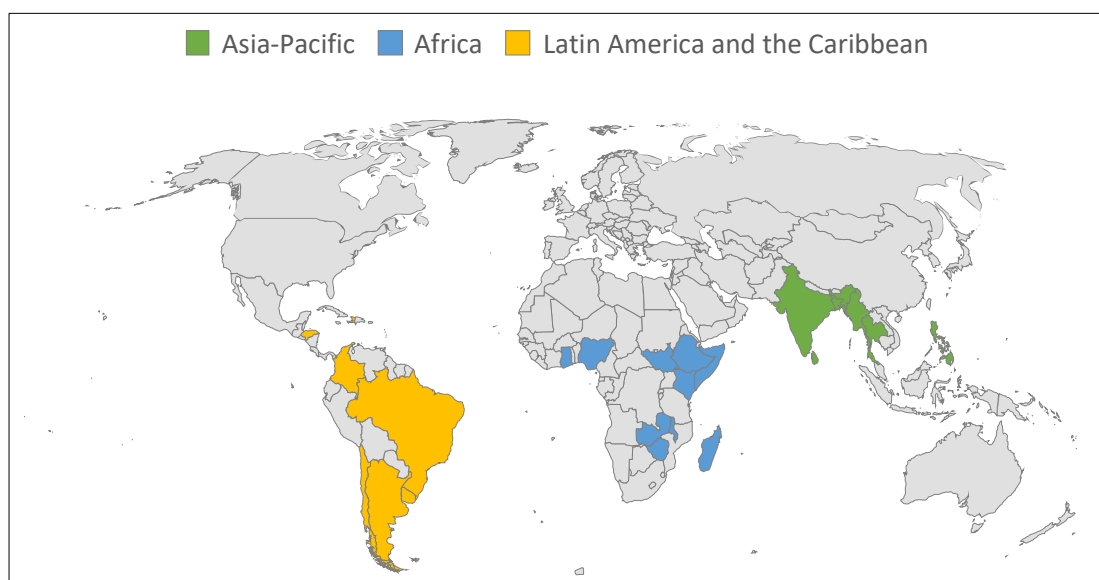
3 Key Findings

3.1 Overview of the Portfolio of ARA micro-grants

Coverage of grants per region

The ARA micro-grant portfolio encompasses a total of 30 grants, with Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (see Figure 2) each contributing 10 grants (33.3%). In terms of geographical coverage, the portfolio spans 23 countries, as indicated in Table 1 below. For an exhaustive compilation of grants sorted by region and country, along with comprehensive details of applicants and partner institutions, please consult Annex 1: List of Grants per Region, Country, and Partner Institutions.

Figure 2: Regional coverage of the approved ARA micro-grants



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Table 1: Grants per region and number of countries

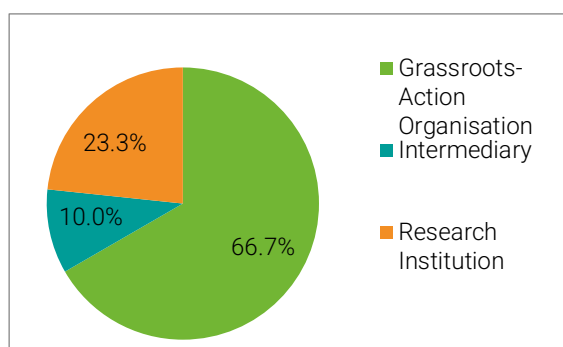
Region	# Grants	# Countries
Africa	10	10
Asia-Pacific	10	6
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	7
Total	30	23

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Type of applicants and previous participation in the ARA micro-grants

Applicant organisations for the implementation of ARA micro-grants are predominantly **grassroots action organisations across all regions**, as detailed in Table 2. Notably, all micro-grant applicants from Africa exclusively involve grassroots organisations. In consideration of the overall portfolio, a significant 20 micro-grants (66.7%) feature grassroots organisation applicants, followed by research institutions accounting for seven micro-grants (23.3%). Conversely, only three micro-grant applicants are represented by intermediary³ organisations (as illustrated in Figure 3).

Figure 3: Type of applicant organisation of ARA micro-grants



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Table 2: Type of applicant organisation per region

Region	Type of applicant organisation					
	Grassroots-Action Organisation		Intermediary		Research Institution	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	10	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asia-Pacific	5	50.0%	1	10.0%	4	40.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	5	50.0%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%
Total	20	66.7%	3	10.0%	7	23.3%

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

In 2022, the inaugural round of Grassroots Action-Research micro-grants was successfully funded. Out of the total 30 applicants who secured funding in this subsequent round, six **(20%) have previously received support from the first round of micro-granting** (see Table 3). Notably, the Latin America and the Caribbean region hosts three of the second-round applicants, representing 30% of the total count. This is followed by the Asia-Pacific region with two applicants, while Africa presents one applicant (as detailed in Table 4).

³ Intermediary organisations include an NGO, a global network and a foundation, which will not be directly involved in the technical implementation of the grant's activity but only in the administration of the grant.

Table 3: List of applicants subsequently benefiting from Round 1 and 2 of ARA micro-grants

Region	Country	Applicant organisation
Asia-Pacific	Philippines	St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine - William H. Quasha Memorial
		Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)
Africa	Kenya	Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.
Latin America and the Caribbean	Colombia	ICLEI Colombia
	Argentina	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)
	Haiti	Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE)

Table 4: Applicant benefited from the First Round of action-research micro-grants

Region	Applicant benefited from the 1 st Round of micro-grants			
	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Africa	9	90.0%	1	10.0%
Asia-Pacific	8	80.0%	2	20.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	70.0%	3	30.0%
Total	24	80.0%	6	20.0%

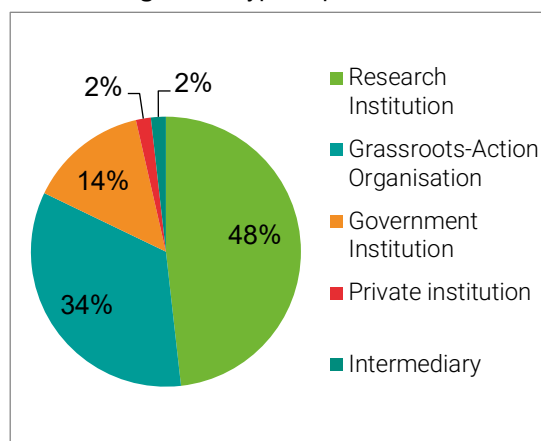
Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Type of partner organisation

Regarding partner organisations, grantees have identified a total of **56 collaborating institutions**. Among these, 27 (48.2%) are research institutions, 19 (34%) are grassroots-action organisations, eight (14.3%) are governmental partners, while only one private institution and one intermediary are engaged as collaborators (see Figure 4).

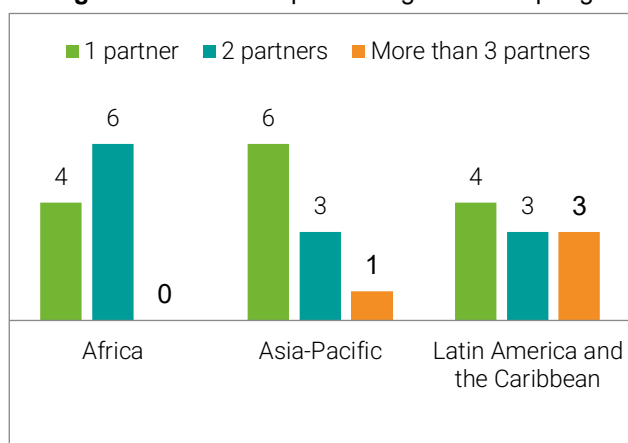
Out of the total, 14 micro-grants (46.6%) have partnered with only one other institution/entity, with this trend being more pronounced in the Asia-Pacific region, where 60% of grants exclusively partner with one institution. In contrast, 12 micro-grants (40%) have forged alliances with two partners, a pattern that prevails predominantly in Africa, where 60% of micro-grants follow this arrangement. Conversely, four grants have established collaborations with three or more partners (13.3%). Refer to Figure 5 for a visual representation of this distribution.

Figure 4: Type of partner institution



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Figure 5: Number of partner organisations per grant



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Table 5. Type of partner organisation per region

Region	Type of partner organisation									
	Research Institution		Grassroots-Action Organisation		Government Institution		Private institution		Intermediary	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	11	68.8%	3	18.8%	2	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asia-Pacific	6	40.0%	6	40.0%	2	13.3%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	40.0%	10	40.0%	4	16.0%	0	0.0%	1	4.0%
Total	27	48.2%	19	33.9%	8	14.3%	1	1.8%	1	1.8%

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Table 6. Number of partner organisations

Region	Number of partner organisations					
	1		2		More than 3	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	4	40.0%	6	60.0%	0	0.0%
Asia-Pacific	6	60.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	4	40.0%	3	30.0%	3	30.0%
Total	14	46.7%	12	40.0%	4	13.3%

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Counterpart funding

The ARA micro-grant call for projects does not necessitate grantees to contribute co-funding for grant implementation. Nevertheless, **24 grantees have indicated their intention to allocate co-funding towards achieving the objectives** outlined in the application form with an explicit mention of providing counterpart funding in the application form (refer to Table 7). Notably, this co-funding commitment is particularly pronounced in grantees situated in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, where nine (90%) micro-grants fall under this category. This is followed by the Africa region, where eight (80%) micro-grants exhibit similar co-funding intentions, and the Asia-Pacific region, which has seven grants (70%) falling into this bracket.

A total of 19 grantees (79%) clarify that the co-funding will be allocated to achieve the objectives of the grant, only one grantee (4.2%) mentions the co-funding is for longer-term results and four (16.6%) do not clarify the objective of the co-financing. In a majority of instances, the co-funding that has been pledged is linked to in-kind contributions, primarily pertaining to the staff costs and equipment of participant institutions. This commitment is aimed at fulfilling administrative, technical, and reporting requirements.

Table 7: Co-funding of the counterpart

Region	Counterpart co-funding			
	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Africa	2	20.0%	8	80.0%
Asia-Pacific	3	30.0%	7	70.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	10.0%	9	90.0%
Total	6	20.0%	24	80.0%

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

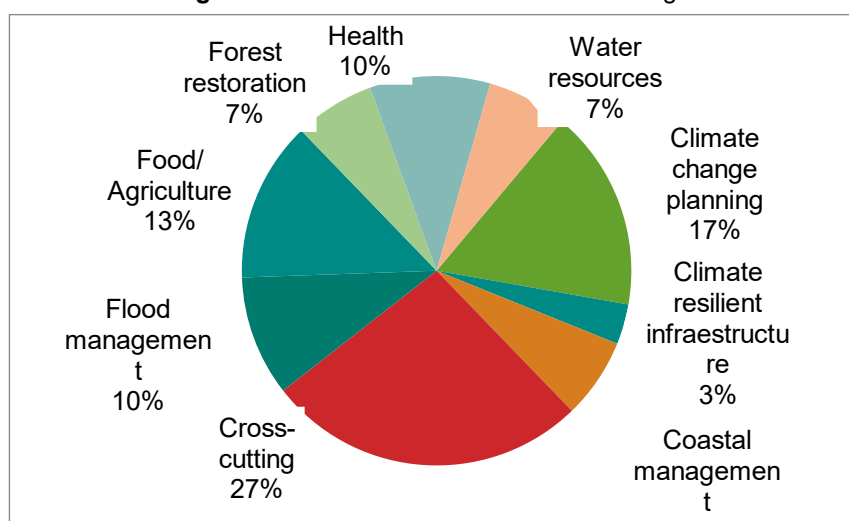
Thematic focus

The thematic scope of the grants encompasses nine distinct areas. Notably, the cross-sectoral⁴ focus has garnered the highest level of engagement, securing eight micro-grants (27%). Following closely is adaptation planning, which has been awarded five micro-grants (17%). The domains of food and agriculture have been allocated four micro-grants (13%), while flood management and health have received three grants each (10%). Additionally, coastal management, forest restoration, and water resources each have two grants. It's noteworthy that only a single grant is directed towards actions concerning climate resilient infrastructure (see Figure 6).

The cross-sectoral focus addresses a comprehensive spectrum of thematic areas, as elucidated by the grantees' descriptions. This category encompasses diverse topics, including the interplay of water, food, and energy; the principles of circular economy; climate mobility; nature-based solutions; urban planning; waste management; risk and disaster management. Moreover, this focus area is also directed towards harnessing climate change information to enhance building resilience and population well-being. Examples extend further to encompass aspects such as land and territory rights, agro-ecology, sustainability practices, educational and health practices, all intricately woven with traditions and spirituality. Thus, the panorama of cross-sectoral classified micro-grants is notably multifaceted.

Considering regional disparities (see Table 8), **Africa** has been awarded ten micro-grants, out of which four (40%) are aimed at fostering advancements in **food and agriculture**, and an equivalent four (40%) centre around **cross-sectoral themes**. Meanwhile, the **Asia-Pacific** region boasts the highest count of micro-grants targeting the **health** sector, with three (30%) micro-grants. This is trailed by **flood and coastal management**, each being the focus of two micro-grants, collectively representing 40% of the Asia-Pacific micro-grants. Notably, the **health-oriented** proposals spotlight a pronounced emphasis on menstrual health and management in the context of climatic changes and reproductive health. In the orbit of Latin America and the Caribbean, **cross-sectoral** issues have spurred the allocation of four micro-grants (40%), closely trailed by **water resources** and climate change planning, with two micro-grants each (40%).

Figure 6: Thematic focus of the ARA micro-grants



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

⁴ Cross-sectoral focus refers to micro-grants which target different thematic areas and are therefore multifaceted. Further description and examples are provided in the section.

Table 8: Thematic focus of the ARA micro-grants

Region	Thematic focus																	
	Climate change planning		Climate resilient infrastructure		Coastal management		Cross-cutting		Flood management		Food/Agriculture		Forest restoration		Health		Water resources	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	4	40%	0	0%	4	40%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Asia-Pacific	1	10%	1	10%	2	20%	0	0%	2	20%	0	0%	1	10%	3	30%	0	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	4	40%	1	10%	0	0%	1	10%	0	0%	2	20%
Total	5	17%	1	3%	2	6%	8	27%	3	10%	4	13%	2	7%	3	10%	2	7%

Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

3.2 Planned activities

The analytical process of scrutinising the activities encompassed the meticulous task of searching for and discerning categories within the information furnished in the application forms. This involved encoding the emergent activities, which consequently formed the basis for the analytical clusters. It is pertinent to note that due to the absence of data collected through a bespoke instrument tailored specifically for this baseline study, the consultant team encountered a diversity of responses. Consequently, the classification of these groups remains open to refinement, contingent upon the qualitative insights garnered during the forthcoming surveys planned for the subsequent phase.

The array of activities proposed by the grant recipients to address pressing concerns were collated and amalgamated into seven distinct categories. Each of these categories is succinctly expounded upon below and is accompanied by illustrative examples of corresponding projects.

1. Engagement of Affected Community: This involves actively engaging the impacted community in the process, fostering a collaborative approach towards the understanding of the issues.

Activities for engagement described in the micro-grants include, for instance, focus group discussions with local communities, community/traditional leaders, and local resource users [Zimbabwe], engaging representatives of grassroots organisations to plan and develop activities within the project [Brazil], among others.

2. Knowledge Co-Production with Primary Stakeholders/Community: It includes collaborative efforts to generate knowledge and insights along the primary stakeholders or local community.

Activities included in the micro-grant describe for example co-production of Nature-Based Solutions for the restoration of the mountain forest [Argentina], and participatory research, data collection and analysis, and citizen science involving youth groups [Thailand], among other initiatives.

3. Workshops, Trainings, Awareness Raising, Learning Exchanges, and Meetings: All activities related to workshops, training sessions, awareness campaigns, knowledge exchanges, and meetings to share and disseminate information through different platforms have been clustered together under this activity.

Different interventions across the portfolio include co-diagnostic workshops [Philippines], training workshops [Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan], educational campaigns [Argentina], stakeholder meetings, conferences [Ghana], virtual public events [Uruguay], masterclass [Colombia], among others.

4. Co-Production of Adequate Adaptation Measures: Adaptation measures are developed with relevant stakeholders, ensuring their appropriateness and effectiveness to address the issues.

Activities for co-producing adequate adaptation measures outlined in the micro-grant involve, for example, co-designing adaptation solutions and validation with key stakeholders [Somalia], co-designing of solutions engaging local actors, public and private sector [Madagascar], and other similar approaches.

5. Research-Oriented Piloting of Adaptation Measures: Adaptation measures are tested and refined through research-oriented pilot projects, allowing for evidence-based improvements.

The research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures activities delineated in the micro-grant projects, encompass activities such as planting pati patha as a nature-based solution to protect the island of waver erosion [Bangladesh] or establishing a biodiversity corridor to connect fragmented forest patches through the strategic cultivation of native plant species [Sri Lanka].

6. Knowledge Products: Tangible products like reports, publications, or digital resources are generated to document and share the knowledge acquired.

Examples of knowledge product activities within micro-grants projects include a pioneering study that will reveal the situation of pregnancy outcomes and document and develop their adaptation pathways in term of high saline water consumption induced by impacts of the climate change [Bangladesh], specific disability-inclusive training manuals to be reproduced in local languages and specific tools [South Sudan] or the publication of a position paper and redesign of climate information with the perspective of the informal city dwellers [Malawi].

7. Advocacy and Policy Recommendations: Insights gained from the activities are translated into actionable recommendations that advocate for informed policy decisions and changes.

The activities related to advocacy and policy recommendation include influencing the policy processes to take the empirical research findings and feed them into the processes of policy formulation and project development [Bangladesh], undertaking advocacy to place the project in broader planning processes and exploring future trajectories of action-oriented research by engaging authorities [Sri Lanka], among others.

Overview of activities uptake among ARA micro-grants

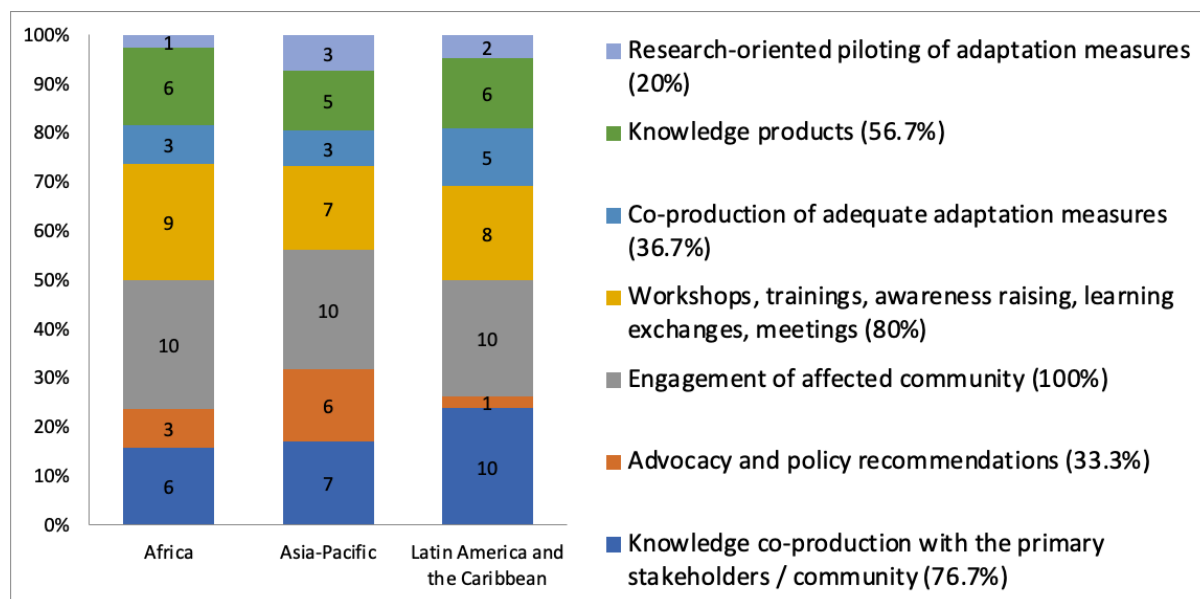
Each project integrates activities from no less than two of the delineated activities categories, showcasing an average of four distinct activities per micro-grant. Notably, the consistent thread across all 30 (100%) grants is the "Engagement of Affected Community" category.

Moreover, it is of significance that 24 micro-grants (80% of the total grants) aim to execute activities encompassing a spectrum of initiatives such as "Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings." Additionally, 23 micro-grants (77%) incorporate the element of "Knowledge co-production with the primary stakeholders/community." Within this framework, 17 micro-grants (57%) have planned for a research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures.

Integral to the strategic framework, advocacy and policy recommendations are inherent elements of 10 projects (30%). The distribution of these activities is harmonious across different regions, with one notable exception in the case of advocacy efforts. In this regard, Asia takes prominence with six projects, followed by Africa with three, and Latin America along with the Caribbean with a solitary project.

The thematic group that garners relatively less attention in the activities section pertains to the research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures, encapsulating a total of six micro-grants (20%). In terms of regional distribution, Africa features a solitary project, while the Asia-Pacific region boasts three such projects, trailed by Latin America and the Caribbean with two instances.

Figure 7: Activities uptake per region



Source: Viridia Projects elaboration based on the micro-grants application forms

Targeting of relevant intersections and invisible voices as part of micro-grant’s activities

As part of the application process, ARA grantees outline in their application forms how their research projects align with the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles. One of these Principles, Principle 5 revolves around addressing structural inequalities that limit the adaptive capacities of the most vulnerable populations. This Principle is rooted in the acknowledgment that “(...) *power relations manifest through intersectional, gender-based, economic, social, and political inequities, which are often the root causes of vulnerability. Research should encourage all sections of society, especially vulnerable and marginalised individuals, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decision-making for transformative action. Research should recognise and mitigate the differentials in power-relations, which often leave gender and sexual minorities as well as other marginalised groups less able to effectively engage in – and benefit from – action and research processes. Everyone must have an equal right to be heard*” (ARA, 2021)⁶.

⁵ Research processes address structural inequities that lead to increased, Principle 5. Adaptation Research for Impact Principles, October 2021, ARA

⁶ Adaptation Research for Impact Principles, October 2021, ARA

In this line, one of the eligibility criteria describes that gender equality and social inclusion considerations must be explained in the proposal, and applicants must show how demographics (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity, etc.) in the end-user community will be represented in the micro-grant team. This intersectional perspective aims to be reflected in a dedicated section to indicate gender and social inclusion aspects of the project as part of the application form.

However, for a more comprehensive understanding of how these aspects are integrated into the project, it's worth identifying how it is also included in the activity descriptions, and not only in an isolated section. This is based on what is commonly understood as mainstreaming of gender perspective, according to the definition of the UN Economic and Social Council: *"Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action (...) at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic, and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality"* (ECOSOC, 1997)⁷.

In the context of ARA and micro-grants, gender mainstreaming is reflected as a Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) approach, which is understood as an intersectional one that looks beyond inequalities between men and women and focuses also on other identities and invisible voices defined as important by grantees as targeted population (elderly, women with disabilities, migrants, youth, etc.)

While this baseline report contains a specific section analysing how the GESI approach is integrated in ARA micro-grants, here it can be identified how it is included in the description of activities.

Among the 30 micro-grants, 16 of them (53.3%) mentioned in some way how relevant intersectionalities are considered as part of their activities. The distribution among regions shows that more than half of grants in Africa and Asia-Pacific (60% in both cases, six micro-grants in Africa and six in Asia-Pacific) have some reference to gender, disabilities, youth, etc. as part of the activity's description, but micro-grants from Latin America and the Caribbean do the same in 40% of the cases (which means four projects).

Table 9: Number of micro-grants per region that include relevant intersections and other identities in their activities' description

Region	Activities description mentions relevant intersections and other identities			
	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Africa	4	40.0%	6	60.0%
Asia-Pacific	4	40.0%	6	60.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	60.0%	4	40.0%
Total	14	46.7%	16	53.3%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

The same analysis by thematic focus shows that micro-grants around adaptation planning (three micro-grants) and food/agriculture (three micro-grants) are those that include more references of GESI, in contrast with micro-grants that address topics like climate resilient infrastructure that have not any reference to gender and vulnerable people.

⁷ [Report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997, UN](#)

Table 10: Number of micro-grants per thematic focus that include relevant intersections and other identities in their activities' description

Thematic focus	Activities description mentions relevant intersections and other identities			
	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Adaptation planning	2	14.3%	3	18.8%
Climate resilient infrastructure	1	7.1%	0	0.0%
Coastal management	0	0.0%	2	12.5%
Cross-sectoral	6	42.9%	2	12.5%
Flood management	1	7.1%	2	12.5%
Food/Agriculture	1	7.1%	3	18.8%
Forest restoration	1	7.1%	1	6.3%
Health	1	7.1%	2	12.5%
Water resources	1	7.1%	1	6.3%
Total	14	46.7%	16	53.3%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

3.3 Contribution to the Adaptation Research for Impact Principles

Virtually all participating organisations (90%) adhere to the first Adaptation Research for Impact Principle, stipulating that "Research is needs-driven, solutions-oriented, and engenders a positive impact on the lives of those vulnerable to the effects of climate change." While a minority of projects do not explicitly emphasise alignment with this Principle, it is crucial to underscore that each organisation does, indeed, uphold this tenet. This is exemplified through the elucidation of how their chosen thematic focal points directly address the demands and necessities of stakeholders. For instance, initiatives from Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, South Sudan, and the Philippines are poised to empower local communities to effect change within grassroots organisations. By involving women, youth, indigenous groups, and individuals with disabilities, they contribute to social inclusivity, gender parity, and community-led adaptive strategies. Furthermore, projects from Argentina, Nigeria, and Uruguay are set to generate vital data and evidence that will inform both policy and action. Collaboration with universities and research institutions is integral to their efforts in developing knowledge and models for climate change adaptation.

A total of 23 micro-grants (77%) explicitly acknowledge the incorporation of the second Principle, which accentuates that research is intrinsically transdisciplinary and jointly crafted in conjunction with end-users. This Principle finds resonance in the extensive array of stakeholders enumerated, encompassing a spectrum that spans national governmental agencies and ministries responsible for disaster management, environmental protection, and public health at a national level. Municipal and city administrations, playing a pivotal role in implementing policies and actions at the community level, as well as educational institutions and research centres contributing expertise and innovative solutions, are also represented. Likewise, local communities, ward committees, grassroots organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations, and an assorted range of entities including UN agencies, policymakers, and educational institutions, all work collaboratively to bolster resilience, sustainability, and positive transformation.

The subsequent Principle endorsed by 18 grantees (60%), Principle 4, bolsters the concept that "research nurtures long-term capacity development through the enhancement of stakeholder capabilities" (Principle 4). Fourteen micro-grants (46%) have chosen to align with Principle 3, which underscores that research should deliver societal impact and underscores the significance of measuring outcomes. Notably, Latin American projects exhibit a preference for these Principles over their counterparts in other regions.

Table 11: Number of micro-grants per Adaptation Research for Impact Principle

Region	Adaptation Research for Impact Principles					
	Principle 1	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4	Principle 5	Principle 6
Africa	9	9	4	6	6	4
Asia-Pacific	9	7	4	3	3	3
Latin America and the Caribbean	9	7	6	9	3	4
Total	27	23	14	18	12	11

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Principle 5 addresses structural inequalities that limit the adaptive capacities of the most vulnerable populations. This principle is rooted in the acknowledgment that "(...) power relations manifest through intersectional, gender-based, economic, social, and political inequities, which are often the root causes of vulnerability. Research should encourage all sections of society, especially vulnerable and marginalised individuals, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decision-making for transformative action. Research should recognise and mitigate the differentials in power-relations, which often leave gender and sexual minorities as well as other marginalised groups less able to effectively engage in – and benefit from – action and research processes. Everyone must have an equal right to be heard". While 12 micro-grants (40%) align with this Principle, it is noteworthy that a slightly larger portion (53%) of projects specifically mention mainstreaming intersectionalities as part of their activities.

The principle that emerges less frequently, encountered in 11 projects, is "Learning-while-doing facilitates evidence-based and progressively efficient adaptation action" (Principle 6). This Principle underscores the significance of viewing adaptation as an ongoing learning process and accentuates the potential for iterative refinement guided by accumulated knowledge. By embracing a flexible approach, adaptive measures can be underpinned by evidence, thereby yielding more precise and efficacious outcomes over time. This Principle underpins the planned activities, although the relatively concise duration of the grants might contribute to this lesser occurrence.

3.4 Key national and local actors to engage

The key national and local actors outlined by the micro-grants were organised in six types of stakeholders: National government institutions, local government, research and academic institutions, community and grassroots organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders and civil society.

The table below summarises the key actors that were reported to be targeted for the micro-grants in the stakeholder engagement process at the application stage. Although the responses vary in term of specificity due to the open-ended nature of the question, they collectively identify **over 115 stakeholders to be engaged**. While some micro-grants offer a broad reference to national ministries without mentioning the specific portfolio, others explicitly mention the names of the individual departments operating within those ministries, which have been identified as relevant for the project.

Table 12: Type and name of the actors to be engaged

Type	Actor
National government institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Directorate of Aquatic Resources (Uruguay) 2. National Institute of Meteorology (INUMET) (Uruguay) 3. Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation (Ghana) 4. Environmental Protection Agency (Ghana) 5. Ministry for environment and climate change (Somalia) 6. Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (Bangladesh) 7. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (Bangladesh) 8. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Bangladesh) 9. Department of Women Affairs (Bangladesh) 10. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Colombia) 11. Ministry of the Interior (Haiti) 12. Ministry of the Environment (Haiti) 13. Risk and Disaster Department (Haiti) 14. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chile) 15. Climate Change Commission (Philippines) 16. Department of Health (Philippines) 17. Department of Disaster Management (Bangladesh) 18. Department of Disaster Management in the Office of President and Cabinet (Malawi) 19. Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) (South Sudan) 20. Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare (South Sudan) 21. National Institute of Agricultural Technology (Argentina) 22. National Council of Drinking Water and Sanitation (Honduras) 23. Regulatory Body of Drinking Water and Sanitation Services (Honduras) 24. Forest Conservation Institute (Honduras) 25. National government (Brazil) 26. Ministries (Madagascar) 27. Department of Marine and Coastal Resources under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand) 28. Community Organisations Development Institute under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (Thailand)
Local government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Municipalities of Alabat and Ajuy (Philippines) 30. Lasta Woreda government (Ethiopia) 31. Iloilo City Government (Philippines) 32. Songkhla Municipality (Thailand) 33. Muang Ngam Municipality (Thailand) 34. Lilongwe City Council (Malawi) 35. Mayor of San Jacinto (Uruguay) 36. Local governments (Uruguay) 37. Municipality of Durazno (IDD) (Uruguay) 38. Emergency Coordination Centre of the Department of Canelones (CECOED-Canelones) (Uruguay) 39. Local governments of 5 mountain localities (Argentina) 40. Metropolitan Regional Government of Santiago (Chile) 41. Union Parishad (Bangladesh) 42. Upazila Parishad (Bangladesh) 43. Haor Board (Bangladesh) 44. Local governments in Gujarat and Rajasthan (India) 45. Local Authorities (Haiti) 46. Provincial Action Program to Combat Desertification, Drought, and Land Degradation (Argentina) 47. Municipality of La Estrella (Colombia) 48. Local, regional, and federal government (Brazil) 49. District Department of agriculture (Zambia) 50. Area Parliament (Zambia) 51. Nairobi County (Kenya) 52. Local government (Madagascar) 53. Local authorities (Somalia)

Type	Actor
	54. Climate Change and Disability Departments (India)
Research and academic institutions	55. University of the Third Age (UNI3) (Uruguay) 56. University of Labour UTU (Uruguay) 57. University of Cordoba (Argentina) 58. CEPROCOR Scientific-Technological Centre of the Province of Cordoba (Argentina) 59. Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies (Ghana) 60. Federal Universities (Nigeria) 61. Daffodil International University (Bangladesh) 62. University of Dhaka (Bangladesh) 63. Jahangirnagar University (Bangladesh)
Community and grassroots organisations	64. Ward Disaster Management Committee (Bangladesh) 65. Union Disaster Management Committee (Bangladesh) 66. Upazila Disaster Management Committee (Bangladesh) 67. Village Development Committee (Bangladesh) 68. Community Action Groups (CAGs) (India) 69. JAA (Honduras) 70. Indigenous Authorities (Argentina) 71. Network of Ecological Restoration (Argentina) 72. Native Growers/Cultivators of Punilla Sur (Argentina) 73. Association of the girls of for climate adaptation for Dame-marie (Haiti) 74. Local COY (Haiti) 75. Teia dos Povos (Brazil) 76. Disabled peoples' organisations (DPOs) (South Sudan) 77. Women associations (Ethiopia) 78. Iloilo City Urban Poor Federation (Philippines) 79. Asociación de recicladores y recuperadores (Colombia) 80. Red de jóvenes de ambiente nodo Córdoba (Colombia) 81. Asociación de recicladores unidas del SINÚ (Colombia) 82. Local Fisheries Councils (Uruguay) 83. Cooperation Network of the Fisheries Sector (Uruguay)
NGOs	84. AWCC - Action for Women and Children Concern (Somalia) 85. Red de jóvenes de ambiente nodo Córdoba (Colombia) 86. Youth for the climate (Haiti) 87. You CAN (Haiti) 88. Youth Climate Council (Ghana) 89. Joyeeta Foundation (Bangladesh) 90. Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (Bangladesh) 91. Honduran Association of Water Management Boards (AHJASA) (Honduras) 92. Global Water Partnership (GWP) (Honduras) 93. Water For people (Honduras) 94. World Vision (Honduras) 95. Global Brigades (Honduras) 96. Para todos por Siempre (Honduras) 97. NGOs (Somalia) 98. Civil Society Organisations (Sri Lanka)
Other stakeholders and civil society.	99. UN agencies (India) 100. Yangon Neighbourhood Network (Myanmar) 101. Policymakers, academicians, and mid-career professionals (India) 102. Community leaders, women, and youth groups (India) 103. Traditional and community leaders (Zimbabwe) 104. Primary and secondary schools, volunteer community brigade corps, firefighters, and civil society (Argentina) 105. Metropolitan suburbs of Santiago (Chile) 106. Chilean Association of Municipalities (Chile) 107. Climate Champions Team for LATAM (Chile) 108. TekED (Haiti) 109. Women & Tech (Haiti) 110. Students of careers related to territorial planning and environmental topics in universities of Monteria and at the UPB (Colombia)

Type	Actor
	111. 6 cities- Monteria, Pasto, Villavicencio, Bucaramanga, Pereira and Yopal (Colombia)
	112. Community of Terra Vista (Brazil)
	113. Persons with disabilities (South Sudan)
	114. Health & agriculture extension workers (Ethiopia)
	115. Local community delegates from Mahajanga, Soalala, Boanamary and Mariarano (Madagascar)
	116. ICLEI Africa (Madagascar)
	117. Female-headed marginalised households (Zimbabwe)

3.5 Expected outcomes

The analysis of anticipated outcomes revealed limitations due to the absence of a section in the application form that requests grantees to clearly identify both short-term and long-term expected outcomes. As a result, it was not feasible to categorise and analyse all micro-grants based on their anticipated outcomes.

However, the section concerning the *Continuation of the grants* offers some insights into the aspects that grantees emphasise as prospective trajectories once the implementation of activities and related outputs is accomplished. This would be achieved as a result of reinforcing existing and **new relationships between the national and local governments, civil society, and the private sector**. This section discloses that projects place significant emphasis on:

- **Continued collaboration:** Most of the projects underscore the significance of reinforcing pre-existing relationships, harnessing well-established collaborations with key organisations to nurture enduring partnerships. They offer instances of their endeavours, showcasing the capacity inherent in these alliances, which encompasses training, support, and collaborative endeavours in adapting to climate change, reflecting shared goals. These relationships have exhibited their resilience over time, encompassing participants from diverse sectors and expanding their reach through engagement with grassroots organisations, thus broadening the networks' outreach. These partnerships also extend to local communities, authorities, and NGOs, fortifying cooperation on initiatives.
- **Upscaling and replication:** Many projects seek to secure further funding, collaborate with partners, and extend their activities to new areas or communities. They aim to build on their initial efforts, learnings, and scale up. The potential to replicate successful approaches in other regions, cities, or countries is highlighted as a means to amplify impact and address similar climate change challenges elsewhere.
- **Influencing policy and planning:** The grantees highlight the need to integrate project outcomes and recommendations into local policies, practices, and planning processes for lasting impact. Effective policy influence is underpinned by coordination with governments and partners.
- **Empowerment of communities:** Capacity building emerges as a consistent theme, centring on the empowerment of communities through the provision of knowledge, skills, and resources. This empowerment aims to foster the sustainability and expansion of climate resilience initiatives beyond the duration of the micro-grant period. The focus of many micro-grants is to enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in the face of climate-related changes such as flooding, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity.

The interviews and e-Survey at midline and endline will provide deeper insights about the expected and achieved short-term and longer-term outcomes.

3.6 Role and value of action-oriented research

To understand the role and value of action-oriented research as described by the grantees, the baseline study analysed the application forms and identified commonalities across micro-grants to aggregate categories. Through the voices of the grantees, action-oriented research is the synthesis of theory and practice, and emerges as a catalyst for innovative initiatives and transformative change. These micro-grants collectively portray the value and role of action-oriented research in investigating burning issues by highlighting the collaborative spirit that fosters learning and innovation, the empowerment of local communities to the direct impact of research findings on real-world scenarios, and the adaptability of interventions to the holistic understanding of complex issues.

Learning and collaboration: Action-oriented research promotes collaborative learning between researchers, practitioners, and communities. It encourages knowledge-sharing, dialogue, and the co-creation of solutions, leading to more effective outcomes. To depict this category, the micro-grant **‘Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in Ethiopia’**, highlights *“adaptation actions by communities and professionals, through creative and interactive co-production, which enable learning and provide hands-on practical experience in the implementation of ideas to help better understand issues and propose evidence-based solutions.”*

Direct Impact: Action-oriented research ensures that research findings are co-produced within and immediately applied to real-world situations. The interventions are developed based on research insights, tested in practical settings, and refined through iterative processes. Thus, as highlighted by one micro-grantee *“This action-research combination will ensure direct impact of research on the real world, while its on-the-ground implementation contributes to this growing science of climate and health.”*

Holistic understanding: Action-oriented research encourages a holistic understanding of complex issues by considering multiple dimensions, such as social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors. This comprehensive perspective leads to more informed and effective solutions. Thus, the **Project FRESH** in Thailand highlights *“The direct involvement of community members in the research equates to greater understanding of their contexts, e.g., forming connections between their vulnerabilities vis-a-vis their immediate physical surroundings; realizing the role they play as grassroots leaders in housing and disaster governance.”*

Local engagement: Action-oriented research engages local communities and stakeholders, allowing their active participation in identifying problems, co-designing interventions, and implementing solutions. This approach leverages local knowledge and ensures that solutions are contextually relevant. This has been highlighted by the **Community Climate Adaptation for Local Infrastructure in Myanmar**: *“Neighbourhood community groups have incredible resourcefulness, manpower, dedication, knowledge, and relationships. By anchoring the research through the active participation of these groups, solutions will be direct, impactful, flexible and adaptable across other areas and groups. The research will inform solutions to deliver direct impact, to both civil society and beneficiaries, and then extending outwards to their communities and local economies.”*

Enhanced adaptability: The iterative nature of action-oriented research allows for continuous improvement and adaptation of interventions based on real-time feedback and evolving circumstances. This dynamic approach ensures that solutions remain effective and relevant over time. The project **Building Climate-resilient Local**

Health Systems in the Philippines embodies this concept as follows *“This allows immediate evaluation, iteration, and refinement of the tools. This action-research combination will ensure direct impact of research on the real world, while its on-the-ground implementation contributes to this growing science of climate and health.”*

Policy and advocacy: Action-oriented research generates evidence that can inform policies, guidelines, and decision-making processes. The insights gained from implementing interventions and researching their impacts can be shared with policymakers, practitioners, and the broader community to influence positive change. There are several grants highlighting this, one of them is the project **Exploring Farmer Managed Seed Systems as an adaptation method** in Zambia, which highlights *“(...) This puts them in a vantage point in terms of advancing farmer’s rights with a focus on gender responsiveness and mainstreaming in policy formulation and implementation.”*

Community empowerment: By involving local communities and stakeholders in the research and action processes, action-oriented research empowers them to take ownership of the solutions and build their capacity to address challenges independently. The project **Engagement of Vulnerable and Marginalised Coastal Communities** in Thailand showcases this by referring *“Participatory research and knowledge co-production through engagement of vulnerable and marginalised community groups is critical for capacity building and empowerment.”*

Scalability and replicability: Successful interventions developed through action-oriented research can serve as models that can be adapted and replicated in other contexts, maximising the impact of the research and action. The project **Local Water Governance** in Honduras makes references to this *“The research will generate baseline information with the possibility of developing proposals for changes in water governance at a local level and the opportunity to become a scalable model in other localities of the country.”*

Participatory Decision-Making: Action-oriented research values the input and perspectives of all stakeholders involved, leading to more inclusive and equitable decision-making processes. This inclusivity contributes to the sustainability of interventions. The project **Finding Adaptation Solutions to Menstrual Health Risks** in India highlights *“Participatory action research works on the value that those affected by a problem should participate in the process of rigorous inquiry about it, to develop and enact action plans to improve their situation. Therefore, research, with an intersectional lens, on the social and gender dimensions of climate change and action would be meaningful so that the evidence base and argument can be strengthened and incorporated into global policies, plans, and programs.”*

3.7 Gender and Social Inclusion

As it was mentioned above, GESI was one of the selection criteria of the ARA micro-grants and it is understood as an intersectional definition to observe how women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants and refugees, among other marginalised groups are being part of micro-grants. This conceptualisation is part of the ARA since its foundation as it is highlighted in the Adaptation Research Alliance Concept Note: *“The ARA will champion the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion. The consideration of the rights of, and opportunities for, women and girls, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and migrants and refugees, among other marginalised groups, will be central in the conceptualisation and implementation of all ARA activities. These considerations will be shaped by relevant local or regional contexts”* (ARA, 2021)⁸.

⁸ Adaptation Research Alliance Concept Note, July 2021

The selection of projects was also done including GESI as a scoring criterion, under the question “Does the project approach address gender diversity and social inclusion in a manner which means they can appropriately implement the stated approach?” (Grantee has considered gender and social inclusion within project proposal) (ARA, 2022)⁹

Gender and Social Inclusion is a cross-cutting issue in the micro-grant Tracking Learning and Sharing strategy and how micro-grants include this approach is analysed at baseline, midline and endline phases.

The key question at baseline level is “Are micro-grantees planning to include gender and social equity considerations into their plan?”

This key question has been operationalised observing in each micro-grant application form i) micro-grants that mention gender/disabilities/inclusion of vulnerable people as part of the issue to be explored, ii) micro-grants that specifically target relevant intersections and invisible voices as part of their activities, and iii) micro-grants that provide specifications about how intersectionalities are targeted as part of the activities (gender and social inclusion section of the application form).

Inclusion of relevant intersections identified by grantees

While reviewing the total amount of micro-grants as part of the initial analysis, the consulting team identified that some projects consider women and other identities as part of their direct beneficiaries, so their target issues and population is included explicitly in the title or the initial description of the micro-grant: there were 18 such micro-grants (60%). In this line, the analysis of this dimension provides an initial picture of how many grants include relevant intersections, as detailed in the following table.

Table 13: Number of micro-grants per region that include relevant intersections and other identities as part of the issue to be explored

Region	Issue to be explored mentions relevant intersections and other identities			
	No		Yes	
	#	%	#	%
Africa	3	30.0%	7	70.0%
Asia-Pacific	3	30.0%	7	70.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	60.0%	4	40.0%
Total	12	40.0%	18	60.0%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

For example, the project led by Humanitarian and Development Consortium-HDC in South Sudan, “**Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to adapt with Climate Change in Jonglei state-South Sudan**”, mentions as part of the summary of issue to be explored that the initiative proposed will strengthen the disaster

⁹ Grassroots Action Research Micro-grants. Review guidelines. December 2022, ARA.

resilience of persons with disabilities and local community structures through improving the early warning systems and enabling the design of effective adaptation options with persons with disabilities. It also includes as part of their activities: i) capacity building of local Disabled Persons groups/Associations (DPOs), establishing an inclusive community response capability; ii) a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) of Persons with Disabilities including an accessibility assessment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to critical infrastructure. The VCA findings will provide inputs to the Local Disaster Management Committees to shape action plans for preparedness and mitigation measures that are disability-inclusive; iii) VCA findings will be shared and disseminated among local, sub-national and national actors through state level workshops on disability inclusion in DRR/CCA; iv) specific disability-inclusive training manuals will be reproduced in local languages and specific tools to assist in training Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) committees, DPOs, local authorities and community leaders on the issues related to persons with disabilities.

The micro-grant in Haiti, **“Building Strong and Sustainable Communities for Girls at Dame Marie, Grand’Anse Department”**, targets girls aged 15 to 25 as part of the capacity building activities on disaster risk reduction as the project aims to educate girls in vulnerable communities about climate change adaptation. The micro-grant application form also mentions that women and children will be included in different education sessions under Objective 3: Increasing knowledge and awareness about hazard risks to improve actions of preparedness, response, and recovery.

The micro-grant called **“Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb”** located in Bangladesh targets specifically pregnant women in the issue to be explored by the project, as one of the current consequences of climate change is affecting the level of salinity of drinking water which impacts directly on people’s health, particularly pregnant women living in coastal areas (hypertension, (pre)eclampsia and other complications from this salinity exposure). This project aims to provide solutions to the disadvantaged pregnant women of coastal regions by introducing a frugal technology and to develop a community led model that improves the health status of the hard-to-reach and marginalised pregnant women in coastal communities in Bangladesh.

Grants specifically target relevant intersections and invisible voices as part of their activities

As mentioned above, among the 30 micro-grants, 16 of them (53.3%) detail how relevant intersectionalities are targeted in activities to be implemented. 60% of micro-grants in Africa and in Asia-Pacific describe how gender, disabilities, youth, etc. are considered in their activities (see Table 8).

A micro-grant in India, **“Finding Adaptation Solutions to Menstrual Health Risks Induced by Climate Change Through Knowledge Co-creation”** (led by SaciWATERS, a research institution), specifically details that the study ‘Field-based Need Assessment’ will explore impacts of climate change on women’s menstrual health and management (MHM) and the linkages between climate action (adaptation and mitigation) and MHM. It is also mentioned that the study will use an intersectional lens, understanding how compounding crises and intersecting identities shape vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate change and MHM is necessary to make sure climate actions do not exacerbate inequalities.

Another micro-grant in India, but led by Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre, named **“Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response”** also targets women, in this case women with disabilities, as the title of the micro-grant indicates. The project underpins the importance of developing a conceptual framework for analysing adaptive capacity and multi-level learning processes in resource governance

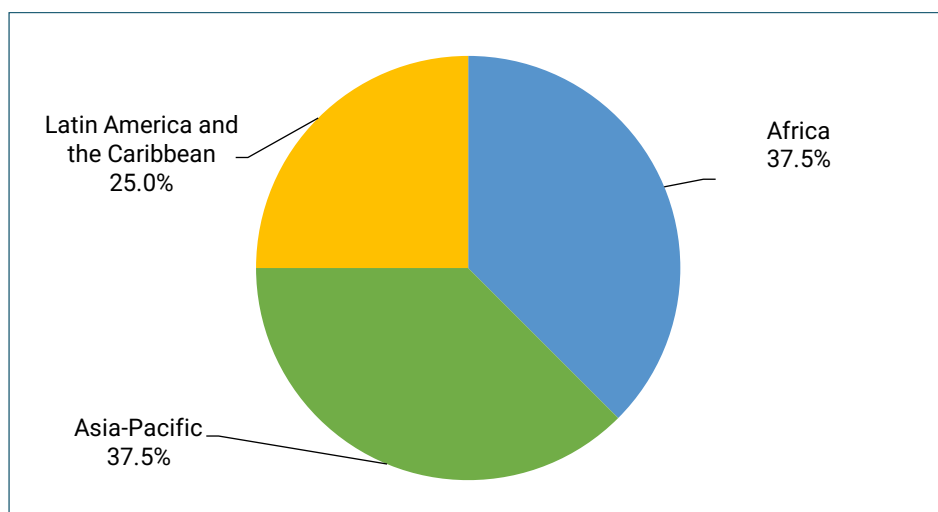
regimes, so that specific activities targeting women with disabilities in particular can be developed. Some of the activities that specifically target women in this grant are a baseline survey on collecting knowledge on adaptation by women with disabilities, training workshops with 150 women with disabilities on adaptation inventory and climate change, the preparation of an adaptation haring inventory with women with disabilities and other stakeholders, among others.

A micro-grant led by Society for Climate Action in Nigeria (SCAN) in Nigeria, “**Strengthening Rural Women Resilience to Climate Change through Targeted Advisory Service and Knowledge Building**”, targets not only rural women but also young people. The activities to be implemented include trainings for 400 agricultural extension students on gender responsive climate change adaptation. These students will be available to work with rural women as extension agents in capacity building activities around climate smart soil, crop, and water management practices.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, we found that only four micro-grants specify how relevant intersectionalities are targeted as part of project activities:

- “**Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests**” (Civil Association APUKUNTUR, Argentina) includes children & youth as part of their target population in the description of ‘Activity 4: Regional education campaign with emphasis on schools in the area. One regional workshop of three modules duration with local schools to train teachers, children and young people and prepare them to join community action (month five and six)’
- “**Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno, Uruguay**” (Vida Silvestre Uruguay) will conduct two workshops aimed at women in order to identify strategic actions that aim at the recovery of UES and increase community resilience, and two other workshops aimed at women on the importance of protecting urban ecosystems, with emphasis on the knowledge, management, and use of native flora in public green spaces and homes. One specific workshop is in an educational center aimed at girls and young adolescents about environmental awareness.
- “**San Jacinto prepares itself. Local Leadership and Community Resilience towards a Global Impact: Water Scarcity**” (Civil Society Amigos del Viento, Uruguay) includes inputs from vulnerable people and local population in a technical analysis about climate, hydrological and atmospheric threats in the study area, and in the design of actions and guidelines for local risk management and adaptation towards climate variability and change.
- “**Building strong and sustainable communities for girls at Dame Marie, Grand'Anse Department**” (Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE), Haiti) targets girls aged 15 to 25 as part of the capacity building activities on disaster risk reduction, as explained previously.

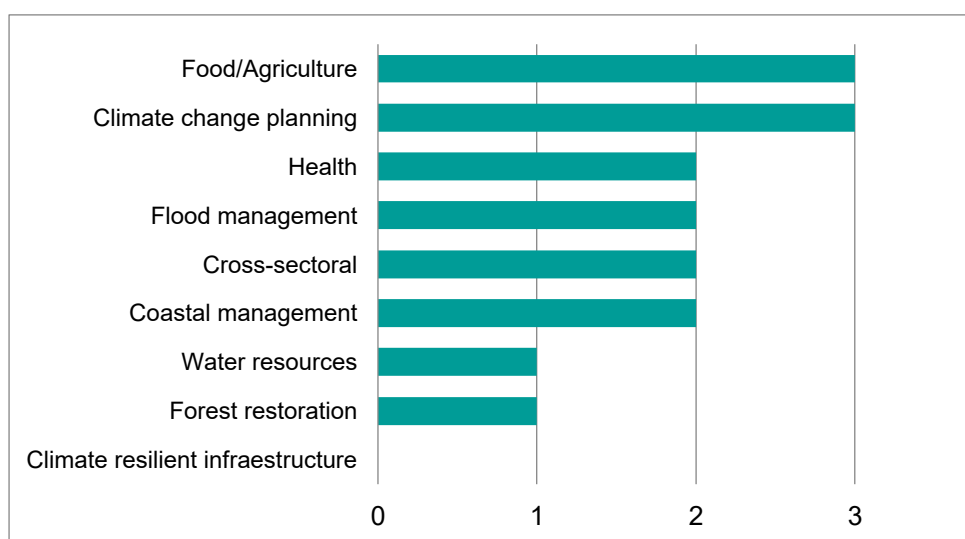
Figure 8: Distribution of micro-grants per region that mention relevant intersections and other identities in activities description



Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

As previously stated, upon examining the allocation of micro-grants that elucidate how their activities distinctly address pertinent intersections through thematic emphasis, it becomes evident that micro-grants centered on **adaptation planning** (three micro-grants) and **food/agriculture** (three micro-grants) exhibit a more **pronounced integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** considerations. A balanced distribution is also discernible across areas such as coastal management, flood management, and health.

Figure 9: Number of micro-grants per thematic focus that target relevant intersections and other identities in their activities.



Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

As it can be read in the following tables both groups of micro-grants - adaptation planning and food/agriculture - that target relevant intersections and vulnerable people are located mostly in Africa (four micro-grants), in Asia-Pacific (one micro-grant) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (one micro-grant).

Table 14: Detail of adaptation planning micro-grants that target relevant intersections and other identities

Thematic focus	Country	Project Name	Intersectionalities targeted
Adaptation planning	India	Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response (ccwdinr)	Women with disabilities
	Somalia	Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Induced Shocks in Somalia	Women, youth, PWDs
	Haiti	Building Strong and Sustainable Communities for Girls at Dame Marie, Grand'Anse Department	Women, girls and children

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Table 15: Detail of food/agriculture micro-grants that target relevant intersections and other identities

Thematic focus	Country	Project Name	Intersectionalities targeted
Food/Agriculture	Nigeria	Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building	Rural women, youth (students)
	Zimbabwe	Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises	Women
	Ethiopia	Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	Women

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Among the micro-grants that encompass pertinent intersections and incorporate vulnerable groups within the descriptions of their activities, it is feasible to discern specific groups and identities that are explicitly referenced, as demonstrated in the subsequent table.

Table 16: Relevant intersections targeted in micro-grants activities per region

Intersections	Number of micro-grants			
	Africa	Asia-Pacific	Latin America and the Caribbean	Total micro-grants
Women	3	3		6
Pregnant women		1		1
Rural women	1			1
Women with disabilities		1		1
Youth	3	2	2	7
Children			2	2
Persons With Disabilities	2			2
Vulnerable groups (unspecified)		1	1	2
Vulnerable groups (specified)		1		1

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Women and young people emerge as the groups most frequently mentioned within the activities' descriptions of the micro-grants. These micro-grants exhibit a distribution across the three regions, with Asia-Pacific and Africa being the regions with micro-grants that exclusively incorporate women within their activities' descriptions (three micro-grants in each region). The involvement of youth in the details of activities is highlighted in two projects within Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in three projects within Africa. Meanwhile, children are identified as the targeted population in two micro-grants within Latin America and the Caribbean, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) are featured in two micro-grants specifically within the African context.

Regarding relevant intersections targeted in micro-grants activities, women with disabilities are targeted in one micro-grant in Asia-Pacific region (**Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response (ccwdinr)**, India), as well as pregnant women in another micro-grant in the same region (**Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb**, Bangladesh) (a brief description of how these micro-grants include women with disabilities and pregnant women is mentioned on page 32 in this report).

We have also identified that 'vulnerable group' as a category is mentioned in three micro-grants, but only one of them clarifies what 'vulnerable' means in its specific context (informal settlement communities, as it is detailed). The project "**Engagement of Vulnerable and Marginalised Coastal Communities for Empowerment and Climate Adaptation**" located in Thailand (Asia-Pacific region), and led by Songkhla Community Foundation (SCF), a grass-roots action organisation, has the main objective to engage diverse coastal communities to build adaptive capacity to climate change and identify solutions using ecosystem-based adaptation approaches for coastal zone management. The project team will engage coastal indigenous fishing and informal settlement communities, particularly women groups, using the learning-by-doing and participatory approaches for capacity building and empowerment.

Gender and social inclusion specifications in micro-grants (Gender and equity considerations section of the application form)

A possible approach to comprehend the integration of GESI perspective within micro-grants' project methodologies revolves around the specifics outlined within the *Gender and equity considerations* section of the application form. Within this section, each micro-grant expands on the details of how they incorporate this criterion into their activities' implementation. While a more comprehensive understanding can be gleaned through individual interviews and surveys, an initial observation can be done by identifying those micro-grants that explain more explicitly how relevant intersectionalities and invisible voices are targeted in their activities and/or initiatives, as opposed to those projects that mention it generally without giving details.

One illustrative case of what is a general description of GESI inclusion is a micro-grant that mention the following, under the *Gender and equity considerations* section: *"HDC has critically understood that women and girls disproportionately affected by disasters as to men and boys due to gender inequalities caused by socioeconomic conditions, cultural beliefs, and traditional practices. As such, the design of this initiative is informed by gender analysis and participation during consultation with the local communities, older persons, and People with Disabilities, where women and men were consulted during the end term evaluation of the Building Resilience and Livelihood of conflict affected families in Jonglei state"* (**"Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Adapt with Climate Change in Jonglei state-South Sudan"**). Even though gender inequalities are mentioned, and there is also a reference on how this project was informed by a gender analysis, no specification nor activities are included about how this project will address those inequalities.

On the contrary, other micro-grant details that based on their own gender-sensitivity framework the data collected and analysed in this project will be disaggregated by age, gender, geographic location, educational achievement, income etc. to better understand how the implemented interventions may affect different people differently. Furthermore, this project will be implemented with a gender balanced project team, and the field verification FGDs will be gender inclusive to ensure that women, girls, men, and boys can freely discuss gendered conditions, challenges, barriers, and impacts (**"Exploring "Community Responsive Adaptation" to Flooding in Kenya and Regional Cities"**). This can be considered an example of how GESI specifications are included in micro-grants.

As per the following table, 23 micro-grants (76.7%) provide specifications about how they will target relevant intersections during implementation against seven micro-grants (23.3%) that do not go into detail on how to include these groups in their activities. The distribution among regions is equal in both cases.

Table 17: Number of micro-grants per region that provide general or specific description on how relevant intersections and vulnerable groups are targeted as part of their GESI approach

Region	General or specific description on how intersectionalities are targeted			
	General		Specific	
	#	%	#	%
Africa	3	30.0%	7	70.0%
Asia-Pacific	2	20.0%	8	80.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	2	20.0%	8	80.0%
Total	7	23.3%	23	76.7%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

For example, a micro-grant in Somalia, **“Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Induced Shocks in Somalia”**, led by Action for Women and Children Concern (AWCC), explicitly mentions that during the project a gender sensitive approach will be included to address different gender needs ensuring that women and men are comfortable with the tools/questionnaires, and structure of the action-oriented research, questions are gender sensitive, time for discussions, meetings, workshop, and interviews are appropriate to different gender roles and schedules, and locations for workshops, meetings, research interviews and focus groups discussions are easily accessible for both women and men (with/without disabilities) and have gender separated WASH facilities.

The micro-grant **“Building Climate-resilient Local Health Systems in the Philippines”** describes that special attention will be given to climate-sensitive health concerns affecting mothers, women, and girls (e.g., maternal and child health, adolescent health, reproductive health), as well as the vulnerable age groups, LGBTQ+, and indigenous communities. Explicit attention to these issues will ensure that the findings of vulnerability assessments and content of climate-health plans give priority to health services that address the health needs of these groups.

A Latin-American micro-grant **“Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests”** details that inclusive language will be used in the communication products; all research, training and restoration activities shall promote equal participation of men and women. The participation of women in the activities will be promoted by carrying out the same at times that are convenient for them, and childcare will be available. In the case of having to care for the elderly or children during the activities to be carried out, there will be assistants provided to help them understand concepts or perform activities at their own speed and level of difficulty.

Just as the micro-grants mentioning GESI in their activities are mostly concentrated around the thematic focus of food/agriculture and adaptation planning, the same is true when we look at how detailed the specific section of the forms referring to GESI is, broke out by thematic focus. Among those micro-grants who have a specific description on how to apply a GESI approach, five are about adaptation planning (21.7%) and five are about cross sectoral topics (21.7%), followed by three food/agriculture micro-grants (13%) and three health micro-grants (13%).

Table 18: Number of micro-grants per thematic focus that provide a general or specific description on how relevant intersections and vulnerable groups are targeted as part of their GESI approach

Thematic focus	General or specific description on how intersectionalities are targeted			
	General		Specific	
	#	%	#	%
Adaptation planning		0.0%	5	21.7%
Climate resilient infrastructure		0.0%	1	4.3%
Coastal management		0.0%	2	8.7%
Cross-sectoral	3	42.9%	5	21.7%
Flood management	3	42.9%		0.0%
Food/Agriculture	1	14.3%	3	13.0%
Forest restoration		0.0%	2	8.7%
Health		0.0%	3	13.0%
Water resources		0.0%	2	8.7%
Total micro-grants	7	100.0%	23	100.0%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Team composition

As different genders and intersectionalities often have different lived experiences, needs, perspectives, and expectations, having teams which represent the diversity of these lived experiences ensures a broader range of viewpoints, leading to more comprehensive and well-rounded solutions that consider the needs of all stakeholders. For example, in terms of addressing inequalities, teams that include women can better understand the specific challenges faced by this population group and work towards developing strategies that promote gender equality and empowerment for this particular category. Diverse gender representation in project teams also contributes to effective programme and project design, improved outcomes, enhanced innovation and increase ownership and participation.

In this line, the ARA has included a specific section in the micro-grants application form so grantees can detail how their teams are composed in terms of the gender diversity within the micro-grant team, including leadership roles. This was also part of the selection criteria.

All micro-grants that included details under this specific section, indicated 'gender diversity' detailing only men and women, with no non-binary or other gender identities listed. Other identities, such as young women or migrant women, were not detailed by micro-grants. Furthermore, eight micro-grants did not provide details about their team's composition.

Among those who did detail how the team is composed (22 micro-grants), we find that 19 micro-grants (63.3%) include more than 50% of women in their teams (see also distribution by region), and three micro-grants (10%) include less than 50%.

Table 19. Number of micro-grants per region with 50% (or more) females in their project teams

Region	50% female or more		Less than 50% female		n.a.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	5	50.0%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%
Asia-Pacific	6	60.0%		0.0%	4	40.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	80.0%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%
Total	19	63.3%	3	10.0%	8	26.7%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

The distribution by thematic focus reveals that micro-grants featuring more than 50% women in their teams are predominantly associated with cross-sectoral topics. This is followed by adaptation planning (three micro-grants), food/agriculture (three micro-grants), and coastal management, flood management, and health (two micro-grants each).

Table 20: Number of micro-grants per thematic focus with 50% (or more) females in their project teams

Thematic focus	50% female or more		Less than 50% female		n.a.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adaptation planning	3	15.8%		0.0%	2	25.0%
Climate resilient infrastructure	1	5.3%		0.0%		0.0%
Coastal management	2	10.5%		0.0%		0.0%
Cross-sectoral	4	21.1%	2	66.7%	2	25.0%
Flood management	2	10.5%		0.0%	1	12.5%
Food/Agriculture	3	15.8%		0.0%	1	12.5%
Forest restoration	1	5.3%		0.0%	1	12.5%
Health	2	10.5%		0.0%	1	12.5%
Water resources	1	5.3%	1	33.3%		0.0%
Total	19	100.0%	3	100.0%	8	100.0%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Micro-grants have also detailed the specific roles of each team member for the implementation of the project. This detail allows us to identify those grants that are led by women, as another indicator of gender equality in micro-grants following ARA's requirements.

Table 21: Number of micro-grants per region with females in lead positions

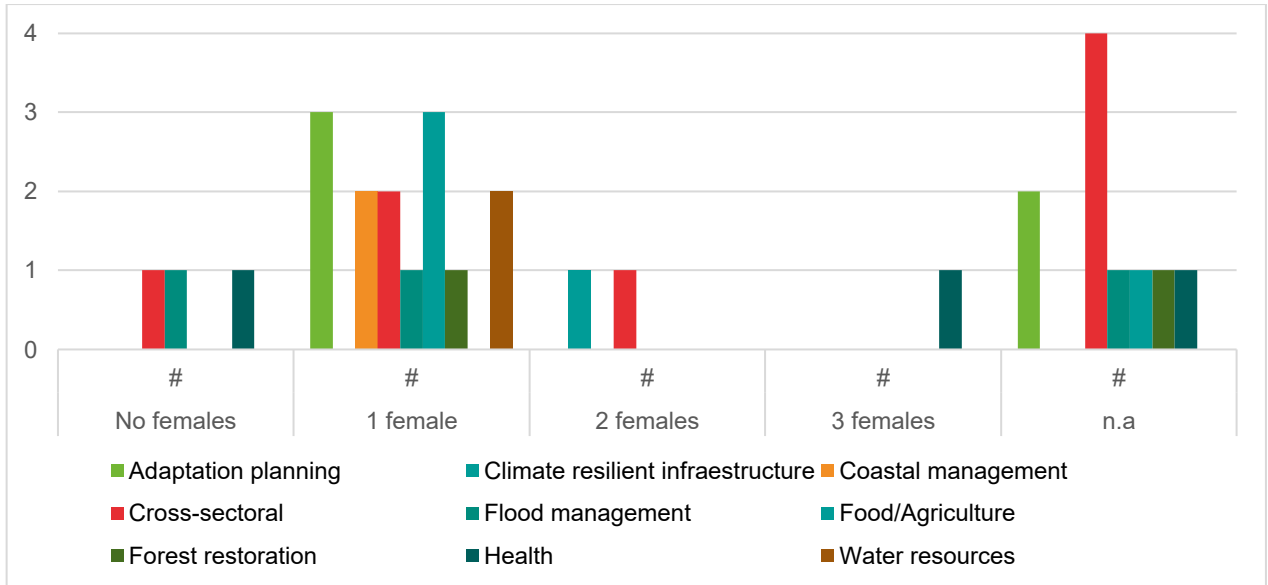
Region	No females		1 female		2 females		3 females		n.a.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Africa	1	10.0%	5	50.0%		0.0%		0.0%	4	40.0%
Asia-Pacific	2	20.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	3	30.0%
Latin America and the Caribbean		0.0%	6	60.0%	1	10.0%		0.0%	3	30.0%
Total	3	10.0%	14	46.7%	2	6.7%	1	3.3%	10	33.3%

Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

The table above presents information regarding the number of micro-grants led by women in various roles, such as project lead, research coordinator, field coordinator, team lead, and more. Although 10 micro-grants did not feature women in these roles (33.3%), it is noteworthy that only one micro-grant (10%) has more than three women in leadership positions. This micro-grant in particular focuses on the theme of health, specifically addressing "Finding Adaptation Solutions to Menstrual Health Risks Induced by Climate Change through Knowledge Co-creation." Furthermore, there are two micro-grants where two women lead the projects. One revolves around Climate Resilient Infrastructure ("Community Climate Adaptation for Local Infrastructure"), and the other covers a cross-sectoral thematic focus ("Autonomy, Sustainability, and Peoples' Buen Vivir: Catalyzing the Power of Community-led Adaptation and Nature-based Alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil"). Among the micro-grants, 14 (46.7%) are led by women, with six in Latin America and the Caribbean, five in Africa, and three in Asia. Additionally, there are three micro-grants (10%) that do not include women in any leadership position.

Figure 10 illustrates the diverse thematic focuses of the micro-grants and the presence of women in leading positions.

Figure 10: Number of grants per thematic focus with females in leading positions



Source: Viridia Team elaboration based on micro-grants applicant forms

Synopsis and Conclusions

The ARA micro-grant **portfolio** encompasses a total of 30 grants, with Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean each contributing 10 grants (33.3%). In terms of geographical coverage, the portfolio spans 23 countries.

Regarding **partner organisations**, grantees have identified a total of 56 collaborating institutions. Among these, 27 (48.2%) are research institutions, 19 (34%) are grassroots action organisations, 8 (14.3%) are governmental partners, while only one private institution and one intermediary are engaged as collaborators (see Figure 3).

Out of the total, 14 micro-grants (46.6%) are associated with a sole **partner institution**, with this trend being more pronounced in the Asia-Pacific region, where 60% of grants exclusively partner with one institution.

Applicant organisations for the implementation of ARA micro-grants are predominantly (20 micro-grants, 66%) grassroots action organisations across all regions. Notably, all micro-grant applicants from Africa exclusively involve grassroots organisations. Research institutions account for seven micro-grants (23.3%) applications. Conversely, only three micro-grant applicants are represented by intermediary organisations.

Out of the total 30 applicants who secured funding in this second round of the ARA micro-grants, six (20%) have previously enjoyed support from the first round. Notably, the Latin America and the Caribbean region hosts three of the second-round applicants.

The **thematic scope** of the grants encompasses nine distinct areas. Notably, the cross-sectoral focus has garnered the highest level of engagement, securing eight micro-grants (27%). Following closely is adaptation planning, which has been awarded five micro-grants (17%). The domains of food and agriculture have been allocated four micro-grants (13%), while flood management and health have received three grants each (10%). Additionally, coastal management, forest restoration, and water resources have each secured two grants.

The ARA micro-grants call for projects does not necessitate grantees to contribute co-funding for grant implementation. Nevertheless, 24 grantees have indicated their intention to allocate co-funding towards achieving the objectives outlined in the application form (refer to Table 6). A total of 19 (79%) micro-grant applications explicitly mention that counterpart funding will be allocated to achieve such objectives.

In terms of **planned activities**, each project integrates activities from no less than two of the delineated activity categories, showcasing an average of four distinct activities per micro-grant. Notably, the consistent thread across all 30 (100%) grants is the "Engagement of Affected Community" category. Moreover, 24 micro-grants (80% of the total grants) aim to execute activities encompassing a spectrum of initiatives such as "Workshops, trainings, awareness raising, learning exchanges, meetings." 23 micro-grants (77%) incorporate the element of "Knowledge co-production with the primary stakeholders/community." Additionally, 17 micro-grants (57%) have planned for a research-oriented piloting of adaptation measures. Integral to the strategic framework, advocacy and policy recommendations are inherent constituents of 10 projects (30%).

The projects underscore the value and role of action-oriented research, emphasising the collaborative spirit that fosters learning and innovation, the empowerment of local communities through the direct application of research

findings in real-world contexts, and the capacity of interventions to adapt to a comprehensive understanding of complex issues.

Concerning the ARA's guiding principles, 90% of the micro-grants adhere to the foundational principle, emphasising that research should address the needs of vulnerable communities and have a positive impact on their lives in the face of climate change. While some projects may not explicitly state alignment, all uphold this principle by focusing on thematic areas that directly address stakeholder demands. Additionally, a significant portion of micro-grants (77%) embrace the second principle, highlighting transdisciplinary research co-crafted with end-users, resulting in collaborations among a diverse range of stakeholders, from government agencies and educational institutions to grassroots organisations and UN agencies. The third principle, supported by 60% of grantees, underscores that research enhances long-term capacity development by improving stakeholder capabilities, with a notable preference for this principle observed in Latin American projects.

Although the micro-grants' application forms lack clear identification of short-term and longer-term outcomes, the *Continuation of Grants* section yields valuable insights into the envisaged pathways once the grant implementation concludes. Across the spectrum of micro-grants, a recurring theme emerges: a **commitment to ongoing collaboration and sustained partnerships**. The various micro-grants underscore their intention to **expand and replicate successful practices** and learning through the acquisition of new funding sources, **advocate project outcomes** with local and national decision-makers to **influence policy and planning and empower communities**.

The baseline analysis has revealed that out of 30 micro-grants, 18 of them (60%) make specific references to gender and diversity within the *summary of the issues to be explored* among the targeted population. Moreover, 16 micro-grants (53.3%) explicitly integrate considerations of relevant intersectionalities within their activities, demonstrating a commitment to inclusivity during implementation. Notably, both the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions exhibit this commitment, with 60% of micro-grants from each region elaborating on how they account for factors such as gender, disabilities, and youth within their activities.

Examining the distribution of micro-grants initially incorporating **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** principles within their activities, the study observed that those centred around climate change planning (3 micro-grants) and food/agriculture (3 micro-grants) exhibit more prevalent references to GESI. This is in contrast to micro-grants addressing subjects like climate-resilient infrastructure, which lack any mention of gender or vulnerable populations.

Within the descriptions of micro-grant activities, **women and youth** emerge as prominently featured groups. These micro-grants span all three regions, although the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions stand out, concentrating micro-grants that exclusively involve women within their activity descriptions (three micro-grants in each region). Youth inclusion is detailed in two projects within both the Asia-Pacific and Latin America, as well as the Caribbean regions, and in three projects within Africa. Similarly, two micro-grants in Latin America and the Caribbean target children as the focal population, while two micro-grants in Africa cater specifically to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Focusing on the relevant intersections targeted in micro-grant activities, the study finds that one micro-grant in the Asia-Pacific region (Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response - ccwdinr, India) specifically addresses women with disabilities. Additionally, another micro-grant in the same region (Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb, Bangladesh) targets pregnant women.

Out of the total, 23 micro-grants (76.7%) provide explicit specifications on how they intend to address relevant intersections during implementation, while seven micro-grants (23.3%) lack detailed plans for incorporating these groups into their activities. This information can be observed by reviewing the *Gender and Equity Considerations* section of the application form.

Concerning team composition, 22 micro-grants (73%) provide detailed insights into their team structures. Among these, 19 micro-grants (63.3%) comprise teams with more than 50% women, reflecting a commendable commitment to gender representation. In contrast, three micro-grants (10%) possess less than 50% female representation. Notably, leadership roles within 14 micro-grants (46.7%) are held by women— six in Latin America and the Caribbean, five in Africa, and three in Asia-Pacific. Conversely, three micro-grants (10%) lack any women in leadership positions.

In conclusion, this analysis underscores the variations in GESI integration across thematic areas, the prominence of women and youth within grant activities, and the diverse intersections being addressed. The report also emphasises the positive strides in gender representation within teams and leadership positions, while spotlighting areas for further improvement.

Annex 1: List of grants per Region, Country, and Partner Institutions

Region	Country	Project Name	Applicant organisation	Partner organisations
Asia-Pacific	Phillippines	Building climate-resilient local health systems in the Philippines	St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine - William H. Quasha Memorial	Municipality of Alabat, Quezon Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo
		Flood Risks, Environmental Sanitation and Health Research in Riverine Communities in Iloilo, Philippines (Project FRESH)	Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment, Inc. (TAMPEI)	Coastal Cities at Risk in the Philippines (CCARPH) Iloilo City Urban Poor Federation, Inc. (ICUPFI) KAISA-BESA Homeowners Association (HOA)
	Bangladesh	Piloting and knowledge co-creation on nature-based solution to protect wave erosion in haor areas of Bangladesh	Center for People and Environ (CPE)	SWAPNO Poribesh Unnayan Foundation
		Saving Mothers, Protecting the Womb	Institute of Sustainable Innovation for Communities - ISIC	Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), Daffodil International University
	Myanmar	Community Climate Adaptation for Local Infrastructure	Doh Eain	Yangon Neighbourhood Network
	Sri Lanka	Cloud Forest Restoration at Bopaththalawa, Central highlands of Sri Lanka	Earthlanka Youth Network	Olu Natural Water (Liquid Island (Pvt) Ltd) Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jaywardenepura
	India	Supporting India's national disaster management guidelines by developing community led templates for managing urban flood	Gujarat Mahila Housing SEWA Trust	Integrated Research for Action and Development (IRADe)
		Finding Adaptation solutions to Menstrual Health Risks induced by Climate change through knowledge cocreation	SaciWATERs	SOCIETY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (SEED)
		Climate Change, Women with Disabilities, Invisibility and Networking Response (ccwdinr)	Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation centre	Sansristi Women with Disabilities India Network (WWDIN)
	Thailand	Engagement of vulnerable and marginalised coastal communities for empowerment and climate adaptation	Songkhla Community Foundation (SCF)	Thailand Environment Institute (TEI)
Africa	Kenya	Exploring "Community Responsive Adaptation" to	Kounkuey Design Initiative Inc.	The Technical University of Kenya

		flooding in Kenya and regional cities		KTH Royal Institute of Technology
	Somalia	Enhancing Inclusive Community Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change induced shocks in Somalia	Action for Women and Children Concern (AWCC)	Insight Institute for Research, Resilience & Strategic Studies
	Nigeria	Strengthening Rural Women resilience to climate change through targeted advisory service and knowledge building	Society for Climate Action in Nigeria (SCAN)	University of Nigeria, Nsukka University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
	Zimbabwe	Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises Community adaptation to climate change through diverse and sustainable livelihood portfolios of nature-based enterprises	Pad Up Zimbabwe	National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe BIO-HUB Trust
	Madagascar	Unpacking the needs of Boeny coastal cities for adapting to climate change and building resilience	Tanjona Association	Doctoral School of Natural Ecosystem (EDEN) Governorate of Boeny Region
	Ethiopia	Women Empowerment and Local Climate Adaptation through Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	New Millennium Women Empowerment Organisation (NMWEO)	University of Cape Town, Ethiopian Economics Association
	Ghana	You Sustain (Sustaining Sub-Saharan African Cities Through Youth Leadership)	Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO)	Center for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies Youth Climate Council
	Zambia	Exploring Farmer Managed Seed Systems as an adaptation method	Women's Life and Wellness Foundation - WLWF	Zambia Agricultural Research Institute - ZARI
	South Sudan	Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to adapt with Climate Change in Jonglei state-South Sudan.	Humanitarian and Development Consortium-HDC	Voice of Disabled Organisations-(VoDO)
	Malawi	City-level Climate Information and Citizen Resilience and Adaptation Actions in Informal Settlements of Lilongwe	Centre for Community Organisation and Development (CCODE)	Equip Consulting Group Lilongwe City Council
Latin America and the Caribbean	Uruguay	Perceptions and actions to reduce the impact of floods on the community of Durazno, Uruguay.	Vida Silvestre Uruguay	Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC) Civil Association Barrios Unidos en Marcha - Centro CAIF Canikas (BUEM)

		Co-researching climate change adaptation opportunities in Uruguay's artisanal fishing sector	South American Institute for Studies on Resilience and Sustainability (SARAS)	<p>Single National Union of Sea and Allied Workers (SUNTMA)</p> <p>Municipality of Salinas</p> <p>Universidad de la Republica (University of the Republic),</p> <p>Central Service of Extension and Activities in the Environment (SCEAM -its initials in Spanish)</p> <p>Regional University Centre of the East (CURE -its initials in Spanish) - Udelar, Department of Statistical Data Modelling and Artificial Intelligence (MEDIA)</p> <p>Universidad San Francisco de Quito</p> <p>Humedal La Conejera Foundation (Colombia)</p> <p>En Comunidad y con los Ecosistemas, Grupo Ciudadano</p> <p>Universidad Tecnologica Metropolitana</p>
		San Jacinto prepares itself. Local Leadership and Community Resilience towards a Global Impact: Water Scarcity	Civil Society Amigos del Viento	Mburucuya Group of Rural Schools
	Brazil	Autonomy, Sustainability and Peoples' Buen Vivir: catalysing the power of community-led adaptation and nature-based alternatives in the Atlantic Rainforest, Brazil	Associação Territorial de Agroecologia dos Povos da Cabruca e da Mata Atlântica	<p>Grupo de Pesquisa Governança, Ambiente, Políticas Públicas, Inclusão e Sustentabilidade (GAPIS),</p> <p>Instituto de Psicologia (IP),</p> <p>Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).</p> <p>They mention 25 potential additional partners from the Network</p>
	Colombia	Building resilience with people and nature: from an ecosystem based adaptation approach	ICLEI Colombia	Research Group in Architecture, Urbanism and Landscape - Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana (UPB)

	Honduras	Local water governance: institutional and operational complexity of Water Management Boards (JAA) in Honduras.	Honduran Foundation for Environment and Development VIDA	Association for the Integrated Basin Management of La Paz and Comayagua (ASOMAINCUPACO) University of Manchester, England
	Argentina	Incorporation of the climate perspective into community strategies.	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)	Amaicha del Valle Indigenous Community (CIAV)
		Where there was fire, there will be forests. Nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountain forests	Civil Association APUKUNTUR	Network of Ecological Restoration of Argentina Centre of Excellence in Processes and Products of Cordoba (CEPROCOR) Vaquerias Natural Reserve belonging to the National University of Cordoba and the Civil Association of Argentine Ecosystems
	Haiti	Building strong and sustainable communities for girls at Dame Marie, Grand'Anse Department	Centre d'Innovation Technologique et d'Entrepreneuriat (CITE)	Les Amis d'Haiti (LAD'HA) TekED
	Chile	Local Urban Planning for Climate Change Adaptation in Chile.	ICLEI Argentina	UC – Centre for Global Change – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile Municipality of Vitacura Municipality of Renca Municipality of Independencia

TRACKING, LEARNING AND SHARING FOR THE ARA GRASSROOTS ACTION RESEARCH MICRO-GRANTS

Authors (in alphabetic order)

Moreiras, M. Soledad; Deambroggio Garrett, Cynthia; Malcolm, Clara; Abram Alberdi, Laura; Reibel, Sofia.



August 2023



The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) promotes sustainable development, linking local priorities to global challenges. We support some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in decision making.

www.iied.org

For more information on the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) please visit:



www.adaptationresearchalliance.org



secretariat@southsouthnorth.org



@Adapt_Alliance



Adaptation Research Alliance

This document is an output from a project led by the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA), primarily funded by the UK Government's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for the advancement of research for impact for adaptation to climate change. However, the views expressed and information contained in it are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by the ARA or FCDO, which can accept no responsibility for such views or information or for any reliance placed on them. This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice.

No representation or warranty (express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the ARA's members, UK FCDO, their advisors and the authors and distributors of this publication do not accept or assume any liability, responsibility or duty of care for any consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it.

Copyright © 2022, Adaption Research Alliance. All rights reserved.

